

A Bolloré Group subsidiary is under investigation regarding the payment of provisions for communication services in Guinea and Togo that were provided in 2009 and 2010. This investigation is the result of a claim filed against Bolloré Group by a former employee who has been sentenced by a court to 3 years and 9 months in prison without parole and around 10 million euros of damages to the Bolloré Group for misappropriation of assets.

Its former subsidiary, SDV Africa, did not engage in any illegal actions and the Bolloré Group reaffirms that these communication services were conducted in full transparency.

The hearing of its executives should provide the judicial authorities with useful clarification regarding these issues that have been assessed by an independent expert. This expertise led to the conclusion that these transactions fully complied with all laws and regulations.

The Bolloré Group would like to emphasize that :

- For more than 50 years, Havas has brought its expertise in communications to political campaigns around the world in full compliance with the law and regulation and transparency standards.
- The transport and logistics division of Bolloré Group has been investing in Africa and in port concessions long before Bolloré Group took control of Havas. Success in port concession bidding requires huge investment and a high level of expertise.

Facing strong competition, Bolloré Group success is based on its renowned expertise, its financial capacities, its industrial network, its expertise in port operations for over 30 years and its investments in Africa (more than 2 billion euros over the past 8 years of which 360 million euros in 2017 alone).

Bolloré Group won the concession in Togo in 2001 long before it started to invest in Havas. In Guinea, Bolloré Group won the concession in 2011 following the failure of the winner of the tender (Bolloré Group came in second in the bidding process) which was recognized before the presidential election.

Attempting to link the attribution of a port concession with communication services translates a great misunderstanding of this economic sector and economic activity in general.

Bolloré Group executives welcome this opportunity to fully cooperate with the judicial authorities to restore the truth about those facts.

Created 195 years ago, Bolloré Group is among the 200 largest companies in the world employing 80.000 persons.