



Mining Exploration - Samuel Douarre

Rob Earlier this year Spotlight on Brittany reported on the plans by International Mining Company, Variscan, to prospect for semi-precious metals in Central Brittany and at that time we were able to speak to a member of the collective Mines de Rien based in Silfiac, Samuel Douarre, who told us about the campaign to publicise this project and Sam's back with us again today. Hello Sam.

Sam Hello.

Rob And maybe you can tell us about what's been happening since we spoke in April.

Sam So, we know that now, the twenty-five of September, Mr Macon from the Ministry of Economical and Industrial gives the authorisation for Variscan Mine to start the exploration but before, in mai, end of mai, during three weeks we have a con.. a public consultation to ask for the advice of population about the project.

Rob So there was a public consultation back in the spring?

Sam Yeah, just before July and it was very, very, is only for by the web in agricultural countries with a lot of people, a lot, very old, so they are not used to use this tool. So, it was very difficult to, to collect the advice of the people but..

Rob The, the sorry, the, the enquiry, the consultation, was all done by internet?

Sam Yes.

Rob So, some people don't have internet.

Sam No, but we and it was a Collective Droit de Daoul and Mines de Rien who inform the Mayor, local Mayor that consultation start by the web (laughs)

Rob Because the Mayors didn't know.

Sam No, the Prefecture sends them a mail one week after the consultation start. So, we understand that all is paid to pass this project very, under..

Rob Quietly.

Sam Yes. And, in the same time we, we, we start a petition, start in April and at the end of consultation we send all the petitions and the advice of the people to the Ministry and we have the bilan, the synthèse, of this consultation. Only one hundred sixty-five people send an advice, only one people approve this project and all the other people were against this project.

Rob There were a hundred and sixty-five replies

Sam Yes

Rob And only one person was for the project?

Sam Yes. And fifteen people don't know really what to say, or they was between

Rob And was this, did this include the mayors of the communes involved?

Sam It was a consultation to the two projects of Loc Envel and Permis Silfiac and we collect five thousand signatu.. petition

Rob Five thousand signatures.

Sam Yes, signatures

Rob Ah, Ah.

Sam Only in two month. So, it was good for us but Mr Macon against this petitions give the authorisation for the exploration.

Rob Okay, So the permission has been given by Government?

Sam Yes.

Rob So what can collectives I like Mines de Rien and the one at Loc Envel, what can they do now?

Sam Now we have to continue, to inform the population, because if people don't react to this project, the project will continue and we can do nothing against him, against it. So we have to continue to, ... to inform people and to explain the objective of this project. That's why last week we try again to make a meeting in Gouarec and a lot of people come to us. It was good because the thanks our, they thanks us to make this job.

Rob So what will the Mines de Rien do in the future?

Sam Uh, we try to continue to make this meeting and uh, now with Collective Droit de Daoul we try to make connection in justice, in just ice, to make a spalne in the works. (laughs)

Rob A spanner in the works.

Sam A spanner in the works. So.

Rob Are you going to appeal against the decision of the Minister?

Sam Because we see that there is failings, studies, impact studies and we try to go in the stoors? to, to make this project slow.

Rob To slow it down.

Sam To slow it down. So, I mean, we need popular reaction of people. It's the first solution for us to stop this project.

Rob So publicity is the important thing.

Sam Yes, more, more, people react and make this project down.

Rob A lot of our listeners will be a little worried that, it's all been, up to now, a lot of the campaign been done in French.

Sam That's why Mines de Rien tried to build a team, an English team, to make this job to inform the English population living in Brittany, to inform them and you see, you can see that my English is not so perfect that I and, we used to have a technological world. So it's more easy to have English people to help us to inform the people.

Rob Okay, so maybe soon there'll be a meeting, a public meeting, of information that's all given in English, in to the benefit of people, who have come to settle in Central Brittany?

Sam Yes, we try, We're maybe in one month we can start to make an English meeting.

Rob Well, we'll look out for those Sam. That's great.

Sam We will inform you. (laughs)

Rob And we will inform our listeners. Thank you very much indeed for coming in today.

Sam Okay thanks.

