

Dr José Manuel Soria López
Minister of Industry, Energy & Tourism
Ministerio de Industria, Energía y Turismo
Paseo de la Castellana 160
E-28046 Madrid
Spain

September 2014

Oil Exploration off Canary Islands

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you on behalf of our members who are worried about the fact that the Spanish government has given the permission to explore for oil off the Canary Islands.

On behalf of the Swiss travel industry with more than 800 members, we want to express our serious concerns regarding this decision and the potential impacts it may have on tourism, the local population, the environment and marine life. In the worst case, the oil drilling might spoil the Canary Islands' reputation as a favorite holiday destination.

The Canary Islands are now among the most popular tourism destinations for the European market as a whole as well as for the Swiss tourism market. Oil exploration and drilling could result in major damage to the region and its tourism sector. Oil production is also counteracting the islands' sustainable tourism strategies which have been developing in a very positive direction over the past years.

Thus, we are afraid that oil production will cause big losses for the tourism sector. We would be grateful if you could keep us informed on the status of the project, and hope you will take our concerns into consideration.

Looking forward to your answer,
Yours sincerely,



Walter Kunz
Executive Director