

CONFERENCE ON NATURAL RESOURCES OF WESTERN SAHARA

Organization:

Association des Amis de la République Arabe Sahraouie Démocratique (AARASD)
(Friends of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic Association)

Partners:

City of Gonfreville l'Orcher - Twin City and International Exchanges
Committee of Gonfreville l'Orcher -Solidarity Platform towards Western
Sahara population

Venue:

Cultural Centre of la Pointe de
Caux Avenue Jacques Eberhard
76700 Gonfreville l'Orcher

10 km from « Le Havre » and near the « Pont de Normandie ».

Access: A131 motorway and A29, RD 6015
Le Havre Train Station (12 km) Le
Havre Octeville Airport (14 km)

Practical Info:

- This conference is open to all those interested in issues related to
decolonization, self-determination and the effective application of
international and European law.

- Simultaneous translation: speeches and debates will be translated
simultaneously into three languages: French, English, Spanish.

Registration: free access upon registration with the AARASD, by mail
to the following address: bur.aarasd@wanadoo.fr, indicating your
Surname, first name and quality.

Restoration (offered by the City of Gonfreville l'Orcher):

- Friday evening: Shelter, rue René Cance
- Saturday noon: Cultural Centre of la Pointe de Caux
- Saturday evening: Shelter, rue René Cance

Further info: City of Gonfreville l'Orcher (Tel.: 02 35 13 18 86)

International Conference Sovereignty over natural resources and international law application in Western Sahara

October 19th, 20th, 2018
Cultural Centre of la Pointe de Caux
Gonfreville l'Orcher



Opening
friday the 19th at 6 PM
Saturday the 20th, whole day
starting at 9.30 AM



Word from the Mayor:

It is with great pleasure that the Gouffrevillaise municipality invites you to this international conference devoted to the sovereignty over natural resources in Western Sahara.

Our city, twinned with the daïra of J'Réfia since 1993, has always fought in many ways for the recognition of the Saharawi people, the last colonized people of Africa. This Conference brings a new stone to this building, since it brings together, in addition to NGOs and committed Parliament members, a panel of academics, researchers and jurists who demonstrate that the Saharawi topic, beyond the militant struggle, is based first and foremost on objective facts.

I warmly thank the International University Observatory of Western Sahara and the Association of Friends of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic for offering us such a high quality stage.

We hope this helps to advance this just cause.

Alban Bruneau,
Mayor and Departmental Advisor

Friday, October 19th, 2018

4 PM: Arrival and installation of guests and speakers

6 PM: Opening of the conference by Mr. Alban Bruneau, Mayor and Departmental Advisor.

6.20 PM: Opening of the works by Mr. Mohamed Khadad, President of Polisario Front's external relations and coordinator with the UN: The struggle on natural resources in the context of the application of the self-determination referendum.

7 PM: Debate and interventions by politicians concerned.

8 PM: Buffet dinner.

Saturday, October 20th, 2018

9.30 to 11 AM: First panel - university research vision on Natural resources.

Moderator - **Bruno Lecoquierre**

- **Victoria Veguilla del Moral**, Pablo de Olavide University of Seville: Fishing in Western Sahara after judgment by the EU Court of Justice: documenting stakeholders strategies at different scales.

- **Moisés Ponce de León**, geologist, University of Rennes: Water resources of Western Sahara: Which ecological, socio-economic and political challenges?

Professor Nasir Fagge ISA, Bayero University of Kano, Nigeria: Protecting natural resources of Western Sahara: the role of the African Union.

- **Lehbib Nayem Saleh**, geologist, University of Barcelona
Moisés Ponce de León, geologist, University of Rennes: Mineral resources, exploitation and protection.

11.20 to 1 PM: Second panel: Resources as a legal challenge in view of the latest decisions of the CJEU and their political repercussions.

Moderator - **Anne-sophie Denolle**

- **Gilles Devers Esq.** attorney: Will decisions by the CJEU create a new European law on Western Sahara?

- **Hélène Legeay**, jurist: International humanitarian law view on looting of natural resources.

- **Isaías Barreñada Bajo**, Professor of International Relations, Faculty of Political Science and Sociology of the University of Murcia: Challenges of delimitation of maritime territory in the context of the Western Sahara conflict between SADR and Morocco.

Lunch

2.20 to 4 PM Third panel: Natural resources confronted with actions initiated by NGOs, observatories and civil society.

Moderator - **Régine Villemont**

- **M. Eric Hagen**, Western Sahara Resource Watch: The role of the Western Sahara Resource Watch plays in fostering and enforcing CJEU decisions.
- **M. Meriem Naïli**, University of Exeter and Western Sahara Campaign: Presentation of Western Sahara Campaign's approach towards the European Court, as an example of legal intervention in Europe.

- **UJSARIO and Saharawi Associations of Encampments and Occupied Saharawi**: Role of Saharawi civil society in defending national wealth, another determination struggle.

16.20 to 6 PM Forth and final panel: Conclusions and adoption of a declaration to be proposed to the next EUCOCO (Madrid, November 2018): **Régine Villemont**, AARASD President and **Oubi Bouchou**, Polisario front's spokesperson in France.