

Michel Wurth's response

ArcelorMittal is open to dialogue and transparency

ArcelorMittal puts its hopes on transparency and dialogue. This was the message conveyed yesterday by board member Michel Wurth to the activists who demonstrated in front of the company's headquarters. To show his good will, the same day, Michel Wurth had received a delegation to "listen to them and explain what the company is doing".

Although ArcelorMittal management concedes that improvements are necessary, it also defends itself against the claim that it has never taken steps regarding safety and the environment. Michel Wurth maintains that the latest inquiry shows that the Kazakhstan mine accident occurred during a "non-production", implying that the ventilation system was off. Thus, the methane could not be evacuated and during a rockfall, rocks hitting one another produced the fatal spark. Meanwhile, ArcelorMittal has decided to invest nearly \$300 million to improve mine safety.

Concerning the Cleveland mill, Michel Wurth emphasized that the mill is almost 150 years old and that the company just bought it in 2005. "The question is not what have you done but what was not done previously? We cannot change a century of history in one day." The same for the Czech facilities.

ArcelorMittal intends to take advantage of their experience at more developed facilities to make the most of all their steel mills. Luxembourg is leading the way since its blast furnaces are among the most modern ones. “We must also look at the results. Luxembourg has undergone the most profound possible change. Since the 1990s, we have reduced dust emissions by over 90%.” Regarding soil contamination, Michel Wurth emphasizes that ArcelorMittal is working hand in hand with the authorities to solve the problem.

Aware of their responsibilities, ArcelorMittal managers have decided to create a “corporate responsibility team” which is currently writing a report (to be published in June) analyzing improvements to be made in matters of sustainable development policy within the group of company facilities.