

Malargüe, 14 September 2024  
Michel Dugast, Deep Space Station (DS3) manager  
European Space Agency (ESA)

**To: Subsecretaría de Ambiente  
Ministerio de Energía y Ambiente  
Provincia de Mendoza**

**Ref.: Convocatoria Audiencia Publica MDMO**  
Resolución Conjunta N°64/24 Dirección de Minería  
y 14/24 Dirección de Protección Ambiental.

As Responsible Manager of the Deep Space Station (DS3), located in La Batra, RP186 km 22, south of Malargüe city, I would like to raise a concern related to the Exploration zone proposed by the Project MDMO (Malargüe Distrito Minero Occidental). This proposed zone conflicts with the protected area around the DS3 Antenna. This protected area has been declared “Parque Provincial de observación del Espacio” in 2014 (Law 8514 regulated by the decree 339/13) to ensure the safe operation of the Antenna.

This provincial Park operates under a Management plan approved by Resolution 19 of the Ministry of Land, Environment and Natural Resources of the Province of Mendoza. The plan clearly defines the boundaries and permissible activities within the park limits. The restrictions of the activities that are carried out within these limits are crucial for ensuring the correct functioning of the station. Even a minimal soil disturbance, vibration or the generation of suspended solids particles would affect the communications between the Antenna and the various missions that are operating in different locations and planets of our solar system.

To recall, the establishment of this protected area is explicitly included in the Implementing Arrangement concluded between the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Government of the Argentine Republic for the Establishment of Ground Tracking, Command and Data Acquisition Facilities, including a Deep Space Antenna at Malargüe (Argentina), which entered into force on 16 November 2009, guaranteeing to ESA that no new buildings, installations or mining and extraction activities shall be established within such area.

I have no objection against the Project MDMO which allows the development of Malargüe activity by generating stable work as far as it is not in the detriment of the established agreements and laws. This implies that the zone proposed by the Project MDMO shall not conflict with the boundaries of the Provincial park for Space observation.

Sin otro particular, les saluda atentamente,

Michel Dugast





**Gobierno de la Provincia de Mendoza**  
República Argentina

**Hoja Adicional de Firmas**  
**Anexo**

**Número:**

Mendoza,

**Referencia:** AUDIENCIA PUBLICA (DIEGO PAZOS) ESA

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