

Open letter to
The Prime Minister of Republic of Tajikistan
His Excellency Kokhir Rasulzoda

Copy to
The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan
His Excellency Aslov Sirodjidin Muhridinovich
The Head of administration at the President's Office
The honourable Rahmon Ozoda Emomali

Your Excellency,

With this open letter I would like to draw your attention to the very difficult situation that the Tajik mobile operator Tcell finds itself in. Tcell, which is jointly owned by the Swedish telecommunications operator Telia Company and to the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED), is not alone in its plight. As you will be very well aware of, many internationally owned companies are facing a difficult judicial and regulatory situation in Tajikistan. We have clearly expressed our view in dialogue with your government, officials and publicly. In January we issued a statement saying that Tcell has appealed what we view as unlawful tax claims, claims which are a consequence of a deteriorating business environment.

In September Telia Company announced that it had signed an agreement to sell its 60 percent holding in Central Asian Telecommunications Development B.V. (CATD), which controls CJSC "Indigo Tajikistan" (Tcell), to AKFED, which currently holds 40 percent. Tcell is part of our Business Region Eurasia, a region which Telia Company is leaving as a consequence of a strategic shift which was announced in September 2015. The closing of the sale of Tcell to AKFED is subject to local Tajikistan Anti-Monopoly Commission Approval. As of today, we have still not received a clear response on our application, even though the legislated time period lapsed on November 29, 2016.

We find it unworthy and unsustainable that a decision of this importance is delayed without a formal response citing credible reasons. As a matter of course we have done what we can to find out why a decision from the Anti-Monopoly Commission has not been announced. As we have not received a clear response we see no other option than to escalate this issue to you.

In addition to the tax issue and the lack of response from the Anti-Monopoly Commission, the state owned operator Tajik Telecom is not paying its debt to Tcell. Taken together, this puts a very severe financial strain on the company, which means that a vital part of the communications of Tajikistan is in jeopardy. Now we ask you to do all in your power to work together with AKFED and us to resolve this situation. Along with AKFED representatives we are available for meeting(s) with you, or someone you appoint, to continue this most urgent dialogue.

Sincerely,



Johan Dennelind
President and CEO, Telia Company

