**Main quotes of Malika Ghendouri speech in press conference**

27th of January, 2016

* Despite our excellent track record, we had no choice but to file a petition for international arbitration with the ICSID [International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes] in Washington, D.C yesterday. Veolia is claiming compensation for Lithuania’s unfair treatment and expropriation of Veolia’s Lithuanian assets. Initial estimation of our damages could amount to more than 100 million euros.
* I am here to set the record straight and respond to the unjust accusations, attacks and personal maneuvers by certain politicians, over quite some years. This has tarnished the reputation of our businesses and employees in Lithuania and paved the way to the expropriation of our assets.
* We, the first French investor in Lithuania have become a perfect scapegoat for certain local politicians.
* The problem is not the cost of heating services but indeed the cost of the fuel, the cost of gas.
* The cost of gas is a major component in the price of heating over which Vilniaus Energija has no influence or leeway for any action. The price for heating is not set by Vilniaus Energija nor Litesko. The price of heating is set by the Lithuanian public authorities.
* We have been caught in the political infighting in Lithuania. For some reason there have been numerous attempts to involve us in political fights by feeding public opinion with the idea that Veolia and the local company ICOR are one and the same. This is simply not true.
* When laws and their interpretation constantly and repeatedly change with the resultant effect of assets and investments being undermined, without any consideration for compensation, what company can work within a context of such a level of regulatory instability?
* Under the provisions of bilateral treaties that protect investments, any decision taken by Lithuania may be reviewed in international arbitration.
* We had tried many times to establish constructive dialogue with the authorities. As of today, we still have had no response.

* It is regrettable that this dispute has arisen within the European Union and happens to be a breach of an international treaty between two nations that otherwise maintain excellent bilateral relations, all this because of the personal maneuvers of a handful of politicians.
* We are the best partner to help countries achieve energy independence, we are European, and we are the best ally for Lithuania’s anchorage within Europe.