

DRV Deutscher ReiseVerband e. V. | Schicklerstraße 5 7 | 10179 Berlin

Ministerio de Industria, Energía y Turismo
Ministro
D. José Manuel Soria López
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España

Copy:

- Cabildo Insular

Jürgen Büchy
Präsident
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Oil Exploration – Canary Islands

Dear Minister,

We were recently advised by some of our members that the Spanish government has been given permission to prospect for oil near Lanzarote and Fuerteventura and that exploration may begin in 2014 to verify the area's potential.

Representing the interests of tour operators and travel agents of the world's largest outbound tourism market, The German Travel Association (DRV) expresses serious concerns regarding this plan. Drilling could affect tourism and wildlife along the famous coastlines, particularly if there were an oil spill. This might permanently spoil the Canary Islands' reputation as a holiday spot.

A constantly high number of more than 7 million guests visit the Canary Islands every year of which 1.9 million visitors are from Germany. Without doubt the Canary Islands are one of the major tourist destinations for the German Market and we certainly would appreciate to remain so for the foreseeable future. The DRV fears that oil production and oil rigs near the coast of Lanzarote and Fuerteventura could lead people to decide against the Canary Islands in favour of other destinations.

The Canary Islands have high environmental qualities and some of them are declared Biosphere Reserves for their wealth in marine life and different biodiversity. In recent years, the Canaries have implemented various strategies to bring forward sustainable forms of development which hold the environment of the islands in great respect. One of the Canary Islands, El Hierro, even is on track to be fully independent on fossil fuels. This is a very welcome development and definitely worth supporting.

The prospect of erected oil rigs only 60kms from the shorelines is contrary to the islands' steps taken over the past few years ~~towards~~ towards more renewable energy and environmental protection. Oil production is ~~not~~ compatible with these efforts concerning a sustainable development centered on tourism and the forward-looking initiatives that have already been made in this area.

We are well aware of the financial advantages oil production could bring to the Spanish economy. But we also kindly ask you to weigh up these benefits against a vital tourism economy and an intact environment which is the basis of a relaxing holiday experience. Advantages and drawbacks should therefore be weighed up extremely carefully.

On behalf of our members, we would be grateful if you keep us informed on the current status of the planning and development of the project and take our raised concerns into consideration.

Yours sincerely



Jürgen Büchy
President of
The German Travel
Association



Andreas Müseler
Chairperson of the
DRV Sustainability Committee