



16 May 2018

Dear Albert,

We, as organizations, would like to respond to the recent developments..

For a few weeks now we have witnessed a shift in the way how we communicated with each other. During discussions, not everyone respects the other as that should be and we all made mistakes in doing so. When we started this adventure for the 3 lionesses all of us were totally committed to saving the three girls and bring them to Emoya. But we are now in a situation where the tables are turned and that there is a status quo on who is going to sign an agreement or not.

Emoya Europe was created because Minunette asked us to do so, and Conny and I, spent a lot of money to get a foundation raised through all the legal channels so we can work for the 3 lionesses. In the beginning of this adventure we learned to know Lionel de Lange in Ukraine as the one who was responsible for finding the 3 lionesses. During our visit in the Ukraine everything was okay and went smoothly. The way of commitment from all the organizations was heartwarming. Emoya Europe and LAEO Ukraine were responsible for the logistical part and Emoya SA for the South African part including a complete presence on social media on behalf of the 3 lionesses and the cooperating organizations.

Due to a few incidents during bad communication from all sides, we are now in a situation that we have to decide if we are getting the operation to the next level or if our ways are going to separate. Thinking of our last Skype conference, last Monday, we felt immediately attacked for something that was never on the website of Emoya Europe. There were only concerns of the political situation in South Africa, the same as other animal welfare organizations have placed on their website to bring it to the public's attention.

For a few weeks there is zero attention for the 3 lionesses from Emoya SA and Emoya even stopped with the special donation website for them on the Emoya SA website. Minunette pulled herself out of this rescue several times but is still posting strange messages by using the Emoya account on Facebook. Our followers and donators are sending us messages asking what is going on and why there is silly stuff posted instead of communication about the 3 lionesses. They want to know what is happening.

Albert, during the Skype conference you asked us to make a discussion and sign an agreement on sending the lionesses to Emoya and the cub to Stichting Leeuw.

In the mean time a question for funds by Lionel is refused by Emoya SA and Minunette only want to post about the 3 lionesses if an agreement is signed. Until that is done then Emoya SA will not keep themselves to the part of the agreement that we made with each other at the start of this rescue.

So here we are, standing against each other instead of standing next to each other:

As organizations we have decided to, to stop working with Emoya South Africa immediately.

This is not an easy decision for us but due to the lack of trust, commitment, cooperation and threats we have received it is time to end this. We have to look at the bigger picture and stop all the negativity that is going on right now because it is not good for the lions, the community and Emoya itself. We could have taken the easy way out to send the lionesses to South Africa and be done with it. But as we are fully committed to their lives and safety, it does not feel right to send them due to the negativity and lack of professionalism from the South African part.

So what does this mean for the 3 lionesses, the young male cub and EEF?

First of all they will stay in the Ukraine for the time being until CITES is ready. The cub is in the best place where he can be and there is no need for him to move him somewhere else.

For the 3 lionesses we have ordered materials are to build a temporary shelter for them and to get them out of the hell hole they are in now. We will make a new plan and start new donations to take care of all of them and maybe more.

For the Emoya Europe Foundation this decision means that the Foundation will be ended. We began this foundation with other hopes and means than there are now in place and we regret that things did not work out the way the where supposed to work out. As owner of the Paypal account of the 3 Lionesses we will donate the money for the goal it was raised for, namely the 3 lionesses. We will publish the amount of money that is on the account and where the money is going to be used for. This is in compliance with the Dutch law were the foundation is registered.

With regards to the funds raised for the 3 lionesses through Emoya SA and Emoya Youth we request that these funds be immediately transferred to Emoya Europe either via PayPal or transfer to our Foundation account. The funds collected by Emoya Europe, Emoya SA & Emoya Youth and any other crowdfunding being done belongs to 3 lionesses for their care and relocation. These funds were collected for the 3 lionesses and Nathan and are to be used only for them. Any requests by donors for refunds will be done through Emoya Europe once all funds have been received from Emoya SA.

Kind regards,

Conny & Mike
The Netherlands

Lionel de Lange
LAEO Ukraine

NB. with sending this letter we have also informed all of the donors in a personal message.