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## WHY SEND THIS STATEMENT ?

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In this video, we want to provide the background that led us to write this statement.

For years, we have been feeling a lack of trust from Smart Be towards our cooperative. This has resulted in various instances where the work we've done to take care of the Smart brand has been discredited.

The lack of trust was so significant that in February 2020, Grégory and Víctor, auditors from Smart Belgium, came to audit the project and verify the information we had sent to Smart Be. It was proven that we were being honest, and from that meeting arose Smart Be's discontent with the former director and their support for the team. In seeking the collective interest of Smart Iberia and understanding the importance of Smart Be's support, we initiated the entire process of changing the management team.

Personally, it was a tough and difficult moment because my relationship with him was not bad. This was an internal matter that we managed following the steps and tools provided by the law. This is more than just changing the management team; it's about demonstrating through actions that we take the notes and comments from Smart Be very seriously, but we will never do anything that harms the collective interest of the cooperative.

During the General Assembly of Smart Be in 2022, we received a multitude of negative comments about our project. These comments were based on erroneous information about Smart Iberia.

This has been repeated in 2023.

A member of Smart Be (Isabel) approached Emek to ask what was happening with Smart Iberia and to recount not only what had been said but also the manner in which the project was discussed. The following day, I received an email from a member of both Smart Be and Smart Spain. They were perplexed by the comments they were receiving from their Smart Be colleagues and what was said at the General Assembly about Smart Iberia, without us being present to defend ourselves. We have always treated the Smart brand with great respect and a sense of responsibility, and we expect the same respect for Smart Ibérica.

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We want to clarify that the guidelines provided by Smart Belgium have been implemented by Smart Ibérica:

- Smart Belgium cannot be the sole source of funding.
- Increase in Smart's margin.
- Automation.
- Budget cuts.

On the website we have created, we will discuss each of these points and explain how all the decisions have been made. This information will be accompanied by the evidence that supports it because we are not acting on intuition but on objectivity. Throughout this learning process, we have not only studied our context but also what our colleagues in Smart Europe have shared. We have studied whether we can apply what they are doing in Spain.

All of this process has been shared in numerous reports and documents with Smart Belgium.

We have always been transparent, honest, and respectful. We have debated when we disagreed because we believe it is the way to build a project, and great solutions are found in the diversity of opinions. These discussions are healthy for projects, as they value all opinions and help us better understand both projects.

In conclusion, no decisions have ever been made without prior study because we know that any wrong action costs our partners time and money. It is our responsibility to ensure they have the necessary guarantees and the services promised to them on the day they joined Smart Iberia. We are here for the more than 4,860 people who have been part of Smart Iberia at some point. We work for, with, and alongside them. That's what a cooperative is.

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