

Press release from Alianza Humboldt

Major defeat for Dominga

Antofagasta Appeals Court upholds rejection of mining and port project

- The ruling highlights the unlawful actions of the First Environmental Court of Antofagasta, which had attempted to force the Ministerial Committee to approve the project

- Dominga is rejected, as determined by the Ministerial Committee. Lawyers for Alianza Humboldt welcome the ruling

Santiago, February 21, 2026. The Antofagasta Court of Appeals dealt a serious blow to the Dominga mining and port project by upholding the Ministerial Committee's rejection of the mining company. In its ruling, the court found that the First Environmental Court of Antofagasta had exceeded its authority when it attempted to force the Ministerial Committee to approve the Andes Iron project.

"The Antofagasta Court of Appeals has informed us that the Committee of Ministers' rejection decision from January of last year is the final decision in this case," said Ezio Costa, Oceana's lawyer and executive director of the NGO FIMA. "We know there will be attempts to reopen the case and revive Dominga, but this is an important milestone and a cause for celebration," he added. The ruling was announced after more than five months of waiting. The case was brought before the Antofagasta Court of Appeals after the First Environmental Court instructed the Ministerial Committee to approve the project, which is illegal and not provided for in the legal system, as the ruling now shows.

Controversies surrounding the project

Let us remember that the Dominga mining and port project was involved in various conflicts of interest. Recently, the media outlet Reportea revealed payments made by Andes Iron to lawyers Lagos and Vargas, both of whom are in custody for buying judgments from Supreme Court judges, known as the "Belarusian aspect of the Audios case."

Previously, Dominga was also involved in the Penta case, which ended with Carlos Alberto Délano, one of the project's owners, being sentenced to ethics classes. In the Pandora Papers case, which revealed former President Sebastián Piñera's relationship with the mining company, and also in the Audios case, which involved lawyer Luis Hermosilla.

Alianza Humboldt Coquimbo Atacama

translated by Claudia Fawer