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Shamrock makes its clash with Gecamines official

As *Africa Mining Intelligence* had anticipated ([AMI n°401](#)), South African firm **Shamrock Global Group** filed for an emergency arbitration hearing against Congolese state-owned mining concern **Gecamines** before the **International Chamber of Commerce** (ICC) in Paris on November 3.

Shamrock is seeking for the ICC to block Gecamines from passing an agreement that would prevent the performance of the joint venture contract the two companies reportedly signed in 2016. Shamrock confirms that it had signed a partnership with Gecamines under the terms of which the state-run firm, chaired by **Albert Yuma Mulimbi**, a close friend of Congo-K president **Joseph Kabila**, is said to have undertaken to grant it the right to mine tailings from the Lubumbashi slag heap. However, the

transaction has not yet been validated and Shamrock cannot access the site. This is largely due to the on-going conflict between Gecamines and the company that has been operating the Lubumbashi tailings since the early 2000s, **George Forrest International** (GFI). Gecamines has been blocking GFI's access to the slag heap since March this year. In retaliation, GFI filed for court action against the state-own firm in Belgium ([AMI n°391](#)).

Shamrock will be represented at the ICC by Parisian law firm **Fischer, Tandeau de Marsac, Sur & Associes**. The head of the firm's arbitral practice is led by French lawyer **Cedric Fischer**. When contacted by *Africa Mining Intelligence*, **Orrick Rambaud Martel**, the law firm that has worked with Gecamines for many years, confirmed that it had not been informed about the arbitral proceedings.

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