

Philippe Maystadt
President of the European Investment Bank

Brussels, 24 July 2009
Ref: B 893

Dear Mr. Maystadt,

Public consultation on the European Investment Bank Transparency, Public Disclosure and Complaints Mechanism Policies

Amnesty International welcomes the European Investment Bank (EIB) public consultation on its revised Transparency, Public Disclosure and Complaints Mechanism Policies.

This review offers an important opportunity for the EIB to ensure that its principles and policies explicitly recognise the founding principle of the European Union (EU) to respect human rights. Since the EIB plays an increasingly important role in the implementation of EU development aid, EIB operations should reflect and be fully consistent with the EU's commitment to place human rights at the core of sustainable development.

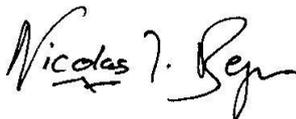
Amnesty International urges the EIB to demonstrate leadership in promoting a culture of respect for human rights, through policies of maximum disclosure, transparency, and a genuine possibility for those people whose human rights may be negatively affected by EIB-funded projects to seek remedy and redress.

In this context access to information must be recognised as a key element in the effective protection of human rights, being a basis for the possibility of meaningful consultation and participation of affected people, and for ensuring accountability for human rights abuses.

Attached is Amnesty International's written contribution to this public consultation, giving specific comments and recommendations on each of the three revised EIB Policies.

We remain at your disposal to provide any further information which might be helpful to you, and we look forward to the foreseen second round of public consultation on the Transparency, Public Disclosure and Complaints Mechanism Policies in the second half of 2009.

Yours sincerely,



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