

Philippe Maystadt
President of the European Investment Bank

Brussels, 13 November 2009
Ref: B918

Dear Mr Maystadt,

Public consultation on revised drafts (Draft II) of the European Investment Bank's (EIB) Complaints Mechanism Principles, Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure and of its Transparency Policy

Amnesty International welcomes the EIB's second round of public consultation on revised drafts (Draft II) of the European Investment Bank's (EIB) Complaints Mechanism Principles, Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure and of its Transparency Policy, and is encouraged by the positive amendments in relation to human rights in the second draft of the documents. However, some critical gaps remain in the revised drafts in terms of addressing human rights, as outlined in our written contribution.

As stated in our comments to the first draft public consultation on 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 the second round of public consultation, giving specific comments and recommendations on revised Transparency Policy and Complaints Mechanism Principles, Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure.

We remain at your disposal to provide any further information which might be helpful to you.

Yours sincerely,



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