

To
European Commission
DG Enlargement
Mr. Gerhard Schumann-Hitzler,
Director, Directorate D - Financial Instruments & Regional Programmes

25.3.2011

Subject: Consultation process for the future of Pre Accession assistance post 2013

Dear Mr. Schumann-Hitzler,

Thank you very much for your reply and the information about the consultation for the future of the pre-accession assistance post 2013.

We very much appreciate the efforts of the European Commission to undertake the process of consultation with stakeholders and to gather as much input as possible. However, we are concerned that the process has not been publicised enough and in an organised manner in order to achieve the goal. The process has other deficiencies in terms of *non-existing support documentation* and unclear *procedure of informing the stakeholders about this process*. Support documentation is crucial in these consultations as the local governments give very little and badly summarised performance information of IPA.

Few examples will illustrate the above mentioned. In some countries, beneficiaries of IPA, the call for consultations was sent directly from the DG Enlargement, in some, from the offices of various non-governmental organisations, and in some, like Macedonia for example, it has not been distributed at all. Information in Croatia has been published on 17th of March on the main EU accession webpage (www.strategija.hr) leaving Croatian public only 11 working days for submitting the questionnaire which is aside from being formed as logic matrix is also asking for evidences and suggestions. ***This inconsistent approach will not provide sufficient results and we as individual organisations and as CEE Bankwatch Network by this mean express our great concern with the process.*** At the same time we express our willingness for future direct involvement into evaluation and planning of IPA.

The Commission needs to ensure that this call for consultations reaches as much as stakeholders as possible in all IPA beneficiary countries, and therefore, must publicise the call in the unified, organized manner. We would like to propose that the deadline for gathering the input is postponed, in order to allow for wider and proper distribution of the call for consultations especially in countries where it hadn't been officially distributed to all stakeholders for an acceptable period of time.

Additionally, the call mentions possibility of meetings with stakeholders. We would like to use this opportunity and ask for a meeting with the consultants group responsible for gathering the input from stakeholders in any/all of the IPA beneficiary countries: Albania, Croatia, Macedonia and Serbia, and possibly in Brussels, Belgium.

Sincerely,

Ana Colovic Lesoska
Center for environmental research and information "Eco-sense"
Skopje, Macedonia

Anisa Xhitoni
EDEN Center
Tirana, Albania

Zvezdan Kalmar
CEKOR,
Subotica, Serbia

Markus Trilling
EU Funds Coordinator
CEE Bankwatch Network
Brussels, Belgium