



Centar za ekologiju i održivi razvoj (CEKOR)

Center for Ecology and Sustainable Development, Belgrade

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Koordinator za CEE Bankwatch Network za Srbiju: ZVEZDAN KALMAR

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Subotica, Wednesday, September 02, 2009

To: Mr Hakan Lucius, Head of Division
CC: Matilde del Valle Serrano, Communication Officer
Civil Society Unit, Communication Department
EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

email: h.lucius@eib.org,

Cc. to: infopol@eib.org

Subject: urgent request for information re. Gazela resettlement

Dear Mr Lucius,

I have not yet received a reply to my last letter to you dated June 27th, however, the recent developments with the Gazela Bridge project raise urgent questions about the fate of the Project Affected Persons (PAPs) and the position that the EIB will take regarding disbursing of the loan to the Roads of Serbia Public Enterprise.

On Monday, August 31st, the community living in the slum under the Gazela bridge was physically resettled. 114 families were moved to five different places in and around Belgrade and another 64 families were sent back to their towns of origin outside of the capital. The former have been provided with shipping container 'houses' in peripheral parts of Belgrade, and it is not yet clear if these are seen as a temporary solution or a final one. It is also not clear to what extent assistance, such as job provision or skills training, will be provided to enable the resettled people to make a living.

The City of Belgrade claims that a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) was approved at the start of the year. However, the resettled PAPs have not seen the RAP and have not been consulted as the World Bank's involuntary resettlement policy and international best practice require.

In view of the above, I would very much appreciate a reply to the following questions:

1. Has the EIB received the RAP that the City of Belgrade approved in the start of 2009?
2. If yes, can this RAP be made public by the EIB?
3. Does the EIB consider this RAP satisfactory and compliant with the World Bank's Operational Policy 4.12 on Involuntary Resettlement and with international best practice?

Last but not least, we request from the EIB to not disburse the loan for the Gazela Bridge rehabilitation project until it is assured that a sustainable and adequate solution for the resettled PAPs is found.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Zvezdan Kalmar

National coordinator for CEE Bankwatch Network,

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