

The Green 10. A group of leading environmental NGOs active at EU level.

Philippe Maystadt, President European Investment Bank 100 boulevard Konrad Adenauer L-2950 Luxembourg

Brussels February 8th 2008

Re: Consultation of the EIB transport policy

Dear President Maystadt,

We have learned that the European Investment Bank has renewed its transport lending policy and made it public. We appreciate that the EIB is moving towards the elaboration of sectoral policies together with a review of its safeguard policies (for example, the Public Disclosure Policy and planned review of the Environmental Statement) and that the EIB is putting its policies into the public domain, something environmental public interest organisations across Europe have been consistently calling for. We believe that the EIB, as the EU's house bank, needs to elaborate its sectoral policies in order to translate EU policy objectives into the EIB's lending priorities.

While welcoming the publication of the EIB's revised transport policy as an important step towards increasing the transparency of the EIB's lending activities, we note with regret that the EIB did not consider the broader involvement of different stakeholders before issuing the policy. According to the spirit and letter of the Aarhus Convention on Access to information, public participation and access to justice translated into Regulation (EC) No 1367/ 2006 which covers the EIB, the bank should provide early and effective opportunities for public participation in the preparation of its policies (according to article 9 of the Regulation).

In order for the EIB to fulfil its obligations enshrined in the Regulation mentioned above we would like to ask you to commit your staff to organising a participative review of bank's transport lending policy, starting with a stakeholders' consultation and use the published policy as a first draft. Similar consultation processes should accompany any policy elaboration or review in the EIB.

Contact: Anelia Stefanova, CEE Bankwatch Network Email: <u>anelias@bankwatch.org</u> Tel: + 393338092492 Please note that Anelia Stefanova from CEE Bankwatch is available for all communication on this matter on behalf of the undersigning organisations.

Yours sincerely,

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Magda Stoczkiewicz Policy Coordinator CEE Bankwatch Network

Also on behalf of Green 10 Directors:

Dr. Clairie Papazoglou, BirdLife International, European Division Matthias Duwe, Climate Action Network Europe John Hontelez, European Environmental Bureau Dr. Christina Stadlbauer, International Friends of Nature Paul de Clerck, Friends of the Earth Europe Jorg Riss, Greenpeace European Unit Genon Jensen, Health and Environment Alliance Jos Dings, European Federation for Transport & Environment Tony Long, WWF European Policy Office