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Subject: Suggestions arising from CEE Bankwatch Network's fact-finding mission to Belgrade Bypass, Serbia

Dear Madame/ Sir,

We are writing to thank the EBRD for the meeting held with its representatives in Belgrade about the Gazela Bridge and Belgrade Bypass on 27th June 2007 and to inform the bank of the conclusions and recommendations arising from our fact-finding mission, of which the meeting was a part.

The conclusions and recommendations from our fact-finding mission are summarised in the attached document. We have continuing concerns about the resettlement aspects of the Gazela Bridge and Belgrade Bypass projects and would like to ask the EBRD to outline what steps it intends to take to ensure that the quality of the resettlement of the informal Roma settlement underneath the Gazela Bridge, and if applicable, unregistered dwellings on Section A of the bypass, is not compromised.

Several sources have indicated that reconstruction works on the Gazela Bridge will begin in October 2007. However, it is clear that the resettlement plan is still at an early stage of development. Whilst some allocations have been made for measures such as education, the host locations for the physical resettlement are still unknown. It therefore seems unlikely that the

relocation can proceed within the planned time frame if it is to respect transparency and participation standards on involuntary resettlement as dictated by the World Bank's Operational Directive 4.30 on involuntary resettlement.

There are indications that the reconstruction works will start in October on one side of the Bridge while the Roma population continues living on the other side of it. If this is the case, we request that the EBRD ensures that no preparatory or building works on either side of the Bridge go ahead until all the resettlement plans and documentation are fully prepared, and adopted by relevant national and city authorities.

With regard to this we would like to ask you:

1. Does the EBRD regard a time-bound resettlement action plan and budget as a precondition for approving loans for the Gazela Bridge and, if applicable, bypass Section A projects?
2. What is the division of responsibilities between the EIB and EBRD with regard to the Gazela community resettlement and how do they coordinate their approach with other parties involved (such as EAR and the City Council)?
3. What is the planned timeframe for each phase of the Gazela Bridge project (the resettlement, rehabilitation of the approach roads, the R 251, the bridge itself)? Can the Gazela Bridge rehabilitation commence while the rehabilitation of the Pancevo Bridge is also taking place?
4. We have recently been informed that the EBRD is considering a loan of EUR 25 million for the Gazela Bridge project, in addition to the proposed loan for Section A of the bypass. Could you confirm whether this is the case and what is the purpose of the loan?
5. During its visit to Belgrade in June did the EBRD team conclude that there are any issues regarding resettlement and compensation of unregistered dwellings on Section A of the Belgrade Bypass?
6. Will new public hearings be held for the Belgrade Bypass project once the final route of Section A of the Bypass has been decided and is it clear which properties will be affected?
7. Will the resettlement action plan(s) for the Gazela Bridge and Section A of the Belgrade Bypass be publicly available? If so when do you expect to release them?

We look forward to hearing your response to our questions and suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

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