

Kazakhstan civil society letter to EIB requesting disclosure of the EIB's Framework Agreement with the Republic of Kazakhstan and further discussion with civil society about its investment strategy in the country

TO:

President Phillipe Maystadt
European Investment Bank
98-100, Boulevard Konrad Adenauer
L-2950 Luxembourg

CC:

Hakan Lucius, Head of Division, Communications Office

CC:

Giorgio Chiarion-Casoni
European Commission
Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs
L-2920 Luxembourg

April 20, 2010

Dear President Maystadt:

We are writing to request the framework agreement concluded between the European Investment Bank and the Republic of Kazakhstan on 10 April, 2010 (Kazakhstan Today, April 12, 2010). According to point 4.2.1 of the EIB Transparency Policy (2010), the bank discloses agreements on request.

The leadership of Kazakhstan has suggested framing "road-map" of cooperation between the country and the bank, and targeting perspective projects for EU investments, including energy and infrastructure sectors (Kazakhstan Today, April 12, 2010).

As we wrote in our letter of 28 October 2009 to you, we are concerned that the EIB funds may be used in projects related to energy and transportation infrastructure in Kazakhstan. EU support for hydrocarbon development will wreak environmental havoc, contribute to climate change and worsen the human rights situation for Kazakhstani citizens.

Therefore we request that the EIB inform and discuss with civil society organizations the methods and timeline the bank plans to use to discuss its investment strategy in Kazakhstan since it involves environmental issues. In accordance with Article 7 of the Aarhus Convention, to which both Kazakhstan and the European Union are parties, the public has the right to participate in discussions related to the programs and policies from the very earliest stages of development.

We look forward to hearing from you, and thank you for consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

Sergey Solyanik, consultant of Crude Accountability, Kazakhstan

Vera Tkachenko, Legal Policy Research Centre, Kazakhstan

Inara Aldybayeva, Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human rights, Kazakhstan

Sergey Kuratov, Ecological Society Green Salvation, Kazakhstan

Dana Sadykova, Center for Introduction of New Environmentally Safe Technologies, Kazakhstan

Dmitry Kalmykov, Karaganda EcoMuseum, Kazakhstan