

**EIB response to Bankwatch's letter regarding violent clashes in the Khimki forest connected to the Moscow - St.Petersburg motorway**

Date: Mon, 9 Aug 2010

From: Viviana Siclari, Communication Officer, European Investment Bank

To: Olexi Pasyuk, NECU/CEE Bankwatch Network

Subject: Bankwatch on Khimki Forest developments

Dear Mr Pasyuk,

Thank you for your letter of 26 July addressed to Mr. Philippe Maystadt, President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), and to Mr. Thomas Mirow, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and concerning the Moscow-St Petersburg Motorway project in the Russian Federation. President Maystadt has asked us to reply to you.

The EIB is aware of recent clashes at Kimki Forest from numerous press reports. We have also received e-mail correspondence from several individuals and NGOs, who have signed up to the on-line petition launched by CEE Bankwatch on this same matter (<http://bankwatch.org/involved/index2.shtml?x=2237867>). We would like to stress that the EIB strongly supports the rights of freedom of expression and condemns the use of physical harassment.

We also would like to inform you that no decision has been taken to date on the financing of this project, which is still under appraisal.

We would be grateful if you could kindly forward this letter to the petitioners.

Kind regards,

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

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