



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

The Director-General

Brussels, **24 JUL. 2015**  
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Mr Kuba Gogolewski  
CEE Bankwatch Network Mundo-B Building  
Rue d'Edimbourg 26  
1050 Brussels  
Email: [kuba.gogolewski@bankwatch.org](mailto:kuba.gogolewski@bankwatch.org)

**Subject: R/Southern Gas Corridor - Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP)**

Dear Mr Gogolewski,

Thank you for your message of the 9 April. We take note of your concerns regarding the potential European Investment Bank's involvement in financing of the Trans-Adriatic gas pipeline project and of the precarious human rights situation in Azerbaijan. Let me first assure you that TAP, like all other projects supported by the Commission, is under obligation to comply with all relevant EU legislation on safety, environmental assessment and public participation. The Commission is also closely monitoring the development of human rights in all countries we cooperate with, including Azerbaijan, and raises any issues with the Governments concerned during our frequent meetings.

The Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) project as part of the Southern Gas Corridor is one of the projects aiming at fulfilling the EU policy goals of diversification of natural gas supply. TAP is indeed a Project of Common Interest in the current list and a candidate for the list to be published at the end of this year. As you may be aware, a rigorous assessment of candidates for the new PCI list is underway.

Answering your requests, the EIB has confirmed, that there has been no submission for the TAP project under Article 19 yet. Hence, no consultation has taken place with the Commission. The EIB assured us that once the submission is made, the Commission services will be duly informed. The consultation aims at ensuring the conformity of the projects to be financed by the EIB with EU policies and regulations. The outcome of the consultation is not public. However, in line with the EIB transparency policy, details of projects recommended to be financed are publicised on the EIB website before the signature of a loan.

Yours/sincerely,

  
Dominique Ristori