

CEE Bankwatch Network
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Czech Republic
Email: main@bankwatch.org
http://www.bankwatch.org

Bulgaria:

Centre for Environmental
Information and Education
(CEIE)

Za Zemiata, For the Earth

Croatia:

Green Action

Czech Republic:

Centrum pro dopravu a
energetiku (CDE)

Hnutí DUHA

Estonia:

Estonian Green Movement–FoE

Georgia:

Green Alternative

Hungary:

National Society of
Conservationists – Friends of
the Earth Hungary (MTVSZ)

Latvia:

Latvian Green Movement

Lithuania:

Atgaja

Macedonia:

Eko–svest

Poland:

Polish Green Network (PGN)

Russia:

Sakhalin Environmental Watch

Serbia:

Center for Ecology and
Sustainable Development
(CEKOR)

Slovakia:

Friends of the Earth – Center
for Environmental Public
Advocacy (FoE–CEPA)

Ukraine:

National Ecological Centre of
Ukraine (NECU)

CEE Bankwatch Network's
mission is to prevent
environmentally and socially
harmful impacts of
international development
finance, and to promote
alternative solutions and public
participation.

TO:

Dominique Ristori
Director–General
DG Energy

Sent via Email on April 9, 2015

Dear Mr Ristori,

I am writing in reference to the Southern Gas Corridor and more specifically to Trans–Adriatic Pipeline (TAP). As a representative of CEE Bankwatch Network I would like to express my concern with the potential European Investment Bank's involvement in financing of TAP gas pipeline project.

According to statements by the senior EIB staff during the meeting of the EIB Directors with the Civil Society in Luxembourg at the beginning of February 2015 TAP is one of the priorities for the EIB operations in 2015.

There are serious concerns that the project will effect the democratic space in Azerbaijan and also contribute to the further human rights violations in Azerbaijan. The joint staff working paper "Implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy in Azerbaijan Progress in 2014 and recommendations for actions" published by the HIGH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY POLICY on the 25th of March provides a good overview of the current state of the civil society in Azerbaijan among others pointing to the fact that: "[...] conditions for civil society organisations in Azerbaijan (CSOs) deteriorated considerably and a more restrictive legal framework was introduced. As a result, many CSOs suspended their activities. A number of prominent human rights defenders were detained, travel bans were issued and ban accounts of CSOs were frozen."

Given the size of the Southern Gas Corridor project it is important that its effects on the environment and especially nearby Natura 2000 sites are duly accessed and that the necessary time to conduct public consultation both in the EU–28 countries and outside of the EU–28 as indicated to the Commission during various meetings related to the second list of PCIs preparation.

In light of all the above mentioned I would like to request:

- a) information about the state of the consultation process of the EIB with the European Commission that is an obligation on the basis of Art. 19 point 2 of the EIB Statute

- b) disclosure of all the documents relating to TAP provided by the EIB in the consultation process on the basis of Art 19 point 2 of the EIB Statute.

Yours Sincerely,

Kuba Gogolewski

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