Dear Mrs Roggenbuck,

We refer to the letter of 3 March 2017 sent on behalf of several non-governmental organisations to the European Investment Bank (EIB) and other International Financial Institutions (IFIs), setting out your understanding of the situation regarding the Olkaria I, IV and V projects in Kenya. We also refer to our acknowledgement of receipt of the same date, and would appreciate if you could share this response with the other signatories of the letter.

We thank you for taking the time to raise the issues mentioned in your letter to the Bank’s attention. Along with our co-financiers in the Olkaria I and IV projects (AFD, KfW) and with the other development partners engaged with KenGen in Olkaria, we share your concerns and agree that any potential retaliation against project affected communities would be unacceptable. While the Bank is not involved in Olkaria V, we are committed to helping resolve the issues on the ground and to ensuring that the Mediation Agreement signed between members of the community and KenGen is implemented without further delay.

We agree that the EIB must fully respect the rights of indigenous people and project affected persons in all the projects that it finances, including their legitimate right to express their concerns about those projects. These rights are fully acknowledged and detailed in the Bank’s relevant policies and standards which are applied to all EIB operations and are publicly available.

Within this context, we are in contact with KenGen and the IFIs supporting recent and ongoing Olkaria projects (World Bank, JICA, AFD, KfW) to ensure we understand the issues and the approach to addressing them. We also understand that KenGen and the community have been in dialogue to find a resolution to the issues raised in your letter, and that the court injunction was withdrawn already on February 28th against all persons originally sued and on an unconditional basis.

Jointly with colleagues from AFD and KfW, the EIB project team is engaged with the ongoing monitoring of the Olkaria I-IV project, having in fact concluded a joint mission only last month. Staff from EIB’s Complaints Mechanism (EIB-CM) and World Bank’s Global Redress Service (WB-GRS) will also undertake their separate joint monitoring mission of the Mediation Agreement in early May.
2017. On both fronts, the teams seek to have meetings with community representatives and KenGen on the agreement’s implementation progress and other issues, as these may arise.

Naturally, the EIB will continue to monitor these issues and the project’s compliance with its policies and standards, in close cooperation with all the stakeholders involved, including through direct engagement with the project affected communities.

We hope this addresses your concerns and remain at your disposal should you need further clarifications.  

Sincerely,

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

[Signatures]

Hakan Lucius  
Head of Division

Juan Manuel Sterlin Balenciaga  
Deputy Head of Division

Civil Society Division  
Corporate Responsibility Department  
General Secretariat