



European Ombudsman

Emily O'Reilly
European Ombudsman

Dr Werner Hoyer
President
European Investment Bank
98-100, boulevard Konrad Adenauer
2950 LUXEMBOURG
LUXEMBOURG

Strasbourg, **21 -10- 2014**

Re: The revision of the EIB Transparency Policy

Dear Mr President,

Following our meeting in Luxembourg on 14 July 2014, the EIB sent to the Ombudsman a copy of the Bank's draft revised Transparency Policy, stating that you wish to profit from the Ombudsman's expertise during the ongoing process of reviewing the EIB's transparency standards.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for inviting the Ombudsman to contribute to the revision of the EIB Transparency Policy and to salute the open and engaging manner in which you have conducted the review. I understand that this process has, to date, involved a public consultation and two meetings with interested stakeholders. I have drawn the attention of relevant EU agencies to the EIB process as a model when they consider developing their own policies in the area of transparency.

My thinking about the EIB's Transparency Policy reflects my engagement with the Open Government Partnership (OGP), in which 20 EU Member States now participate. Although the EU as such does not participate, my intention is do whatever I can to help the EU administration to meet and set the highest global standards in openness, accountability, and citizen participation, in line with the provisions of the Union Treaties. For this reason, I very much welcome the EIB's declared aspiration to achieve "*the highest possible level of transparency*". Moreover, I note that the Policy also reflects, especially in relation to social and environmental standards, the EIB's high aspirations as regards citizen participation and accountability to stakeholders. I would therefore encourage you to see the OGP both as a source of inspiration¹ and as a way of engaging with the global policy communities, involving State and non-State actors, that the OGP brings together.

¹ See, in particular, <http://www.opengovguide.com>



Against this background, I am happy to relay to you, in annex, our reflections on this important subject. Members of my staff had occasion to share some of these thoughts with your staff at a meeting on 7 October in Luxembourg.

Should you require any further information or clarifications concerning the points raised in the attached paper, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Emily O'Reilly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Emily O'Reilly

Enclosure: Ombudsman's input on the EIB's draft revised Transparency Policy