



European
Investment
Bank

Philippe Maystadt
President

Mr Nikiforos Diamandouros
The European Ombudsman
1, avenue du Président Robert Schuman
F - 67001 Strasbourg

Dear Mr. Diamandouros,

I refer to your letter of 5 December 2007, in which you communicated the European Ombudsman's willingness to begin discussions with the EIB on the key issues to be addressed by a Memorandum of Understanding between yourself and the Bank.

I am very pleased with your invitation and I have instructed the competent services of the Bank accordingly, with a view to contacting your services. In that context, an EIB delegation, headed by our Secretary General is already scheduled to visit the European Ombudsman's office in Strasbourg in February 2008. The objective will be to reach agreement on the terms and conditions of such a Memorandum of Understanding on the basis of the analysis provided in your letter.

Moreover, I would like to emphasise that from the EIB's perspective the Memorandum of Understanding with the European Ombudsman will be a pivotal complement to an internal policy review dedicated to strengthening the internal handling of complaints against the EIB. In that regard, we view the European Ombudsman, as our fully independent recourse mechanism, a second level of recourse if a complainant is not satisfied with the outcome of an internal review.

Finally, I am delighted to express the Bank's support for your intention of communicating the opening of the discussions on the Memorandum of Understanding to the President of the European Parliament and for the issuance of a common press release to be agreed between our services. I fully endorse your efforts to ensure maximum transparency and appropriate communications coverage to this new initiative, which will contribute to achieving the objective of good administration within the EIB.

Yours sincerely,

Philippe Maystadt



Luxembourg, 8 January 2007

BEI - EIB

000117 09 JAN 2008