



P. NIKIFOROS DIAMANDOUROS

Mr Philippe Maystadt
President
European Investment Bank
100, boulevard Konrad Adenauer
L-2950 Luxembourg
LUXEMBOURG

Strasbourg, 05 DEC. 2007

Dear Mr Maystadt,

On 15 March 2007, a delegation from the European Investment Bank met with me in Strasbourg and expressed the willingness of the EIB to agree a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Ombudsman concerning complaints relating to the EIB's lending activities outside the European Union (extra-EU lending).

During that meeting, I informed the delegation of the inclusion in my Annual Report for 2006 of a paragraph stating that, subject to possible future resource constraints, the Ombudsman envisages using the own-initiative power whenever the only reason not to inquire into a complaint alleging maladministration by the EIB in its extra-EU lending is that the complainant is not a citizen or resident of the European Union.

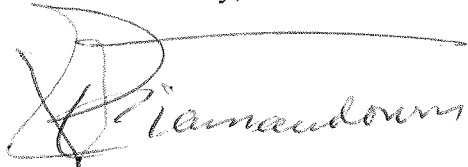
I also indicated that I thought it appropriate to await the European Parliament's adoption of a Resolution concerning my Annual Report for 2006 before opening discussions about a Memorandum of Understanding.

In its Resolution of 25 October 2007 on my Annual Report for 2006, the European Parliament welcomed the above-mentioned declaration of intent. I therefore instructed my services to draw up an internal note concerning the key issues that would need to be addressed, from the perspective of the European Ombudsman, during discussions on a Memorandum of Understanding. Please find a copy of this note enclosed.

I would now like to invite the EIB to begin discussions on the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding. If you accept this invitation, I would propose to inform the President of the European Parliament of the opening of discussions, as well as to issue a press release, in order to ensure maximum transparency.

Your services could contact my Secretary-General, Ian Harden, by e-mail (ian.harden@ombudsman.europa.eu), or by telephone (+33 3 88 17 2384) in order to carry this matter forward .

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P. Diamandouros', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

P. Nikiforos DIAMANDOUROS

Enclosure: Note to the European Ombudsman concerning a possible Memorandum of Understanding with the European Investment Bank.