

The EIB would like to thank the Secretariat and the Chair of the Aarhus Convention for their continued efforts to strengthen the implementation of the Convention's provisions on access to information and public participation. We all recognise that the COVID-19 crisis has disrupted many of our usual practices and we have had to adapt. We are therefore particularly appreciative of efforts made to continue to promote exchange of information, experiences, challenges and good practices.

Access to information is one of the key priorities of the EIB and we recognise the importance of setting our approach to transparency and stakeholder engagement to go beyond disclosure of info upon request by proactively publishing environmental information and by listening and engaging with our stakeholders.

We, the EIB are very pleased herewith to be able to provide an update on our developments since the 23rd meeting of the Working Group of the Parties, which took place in Geneva from 26-28 June 2019.

EIB's Transparency Policy

We are proud to say that the EIB has had a policy on access to information since 1997. Our commitment to openness is currently enshrined in the EIB Group Transparency Policy, which was adopted by the EIB's Board of Directors in March 2015.

The Transparency Policy sets out the EIB Group's approach to transparency and stakeholder engagement. It goes well beyond disclosure of information upon request: it sets out ambitious standards for the proactive dissemination of information regarding our institutional role, policies and operations. It provides a framework for stakeholder engagement and constructive dialogue, including through stakeholder consultations on relevant policies.

In this regard, we are currently in the process of reviewing our Transparency Policy to take stock of the lessons learned over the last five years and intend to launch a public consultation on the review before the end of 2020. Any member of the public is entitled to contribute to the public consultation. The EIB will consider all of the comments received before taking a final decision on the revised Transparency Policy.

EIB's Climate Bank Roadmap: turning ambition into reality!

In March this year, the EIB Group started a stakeholder engagement process through a series of webinars on the key elements of its Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025. The Roadmap will provide a detailed strategic and operational framework for the EIB Group to meet its commitments towards climate action and environmental sustainability over the first five years.

The process is still ongoing and will be finalised in quarter four of this year when we will publish the approved Climate Bank Roadmap on our website.

EIB's Environmental and Social Standards

Engagement on the Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025 complements future public consultations, particularly that of the EIB's Environmental and Social Framework that includes the relevant Policy and Standards, which will begin in quarter four of this year.

Statement from the European Investment Bank
WGP-24: Update on EIB Stakeholder Engagement Policy and Access to Information Policy
October 2020

The EIB adopted in 2009 its Statement on Environmental and Social principles and Standards, followed by an update of its comprehensive set of Environmental and Social Standards in 2013. The E&S Standards describe the requirements that promoters must meet in the development and implementation of EIB-financed projects, as and when relevant. Central to the Standards is the assessment and management of environmental, climate and/or social (positive and negative) risks and impacts and the application of the mitigation hierarchy and international good practice.

In January this year, we began the process of reviewing and updating the Environmental and Social Framework that includes a Group Policy and the Standards. At the EIB, we attach particular importance to being open and actively listening to and engaging with those interested in what we do. For this reason, we will launch an extensive public consultation process on the draft Policy and revised Standards in early 2021. As usual, the public consultation will have a dedicated web page, on which all the relevant information, including contributions from stakeholders and the EIB's responses to the contributions received, will be made publicly available.

Once the public consultation of the Environmental and Social Framework is finished, we will publish the final version of the E&S Policy and the E&S Standards.

We would like to express our appreciation to all Parties, NGOs and all stakeholders for the interest they show in the EIB and their support in helping us maintain and improve our processes and performance on the promotion of the principles of the Convention.

Thank you