International Financial Institutions and the Aarhus Convention

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1. IFIs

2. EBRD Shareholders/Board of Directors

3. Transparency, accountability

4. Commitment to Aarhus Convention

5. Public comment process
1. IFIs

- Owned by governments and/or institutional shareholders
- EBRD is owned by 64 countries, the European Union, and the European Investment Bank
  Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, European Investment Bank, European Union, Finland, FYR Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea (Republic of), Kosovo, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uzbekistan

- World Bank Group—188 countries
- ADB—67 countries
- BSTDB—11 countries
- AfDB—77 countries
- IADB—48 countries
2. EBRD Shareholders/Board of Directors

- The EBRD shareholders sit on a Board of Directors
  - Larger shareholders have individual seats; smaller shareholders may collectively have a seat
  - Board committees
- Board of Directors reports to the Board of Governors—mainly comprising Ministers of Economy, Finance, Treasury
- Note that the ministries which sit on the boards of IFIs are not going to be the ones directly involved with the Aarhus Convention or environment
3. Transparency/Accountability

- IFIs all have policies about transparency and accountability and environmental and social issues
- Governance policies, such as Public Information Policies, Disclosure of Information Policies, Transparency Policies and complaint mechanisms
- Policy revision benchmarking exercise to increase harmonisation between IFIs
- Individual commitments, such the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) or the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)
4. Commitment to Aarhus Convention

- EIB is an EU institution, and the EU has ratified the Aarhus Convention
- EBRD commits to the *spirit and principles* of the Aarhus Convention in its Public Information Policy and Environmental and Social Policy
- Other banks may not refer to the Aarhus Convention, or national requirements (including obligations under international law), but rely on country systems
- Although different approaches, IFI requirements are largely harmonised
- Observation status at meetings of working groups/MOP; assistance when a project financed is subject of complaint to the Compliance Committee
5. Policy/Strategy comment process

- Most IFIs have public comment processes for many draft strategies and policies—as required by their transparency policies.
- Shareholders always have the right to comment, even if something is not subject to public comment, and can comment via official channels, request meetings with staff, send written lists of questions, etc. (Also can comment up until the date of Board consideration—not limited to official consultation periods)
- Some shareholders routinely send environmental information to other governmental authorities.
### Governance Policies

1. **2008 Environmental and Social Policy.** Comments on existing policy until 30 May. Draft revised ESP policy later this year. Stakeholder Engagement Plan also available for comment.

2. **2011 Public Information Policy.** Comments on existing until 30 May. Draft revised PIP later this year. Stakeholder Engagement Plan also available for comment.

3. **2009 Project Complaint Mechanism Rules of Procedure.** Comments on existing document until 30 May. Draft revised mechanism later this year. Stakeholder Engagement Plan also available for comment.

### Sector Strategies


### Country Strategies

1. Draft strategy for **Croatia** for comment until 31 May 2013.

2. 2013 Board schedule also posted and includes country strategies on **Mongolia** and **Georgia** in June/July.

### Projects

1. Project draft ESIAs available for active comment posted on website. 5 **ESIAs** disclosed in May 2013 and available for comment. Several more planned for June disclosure.

2. Board schedule of projects to be discussed in May/June posted on website.
# May/June Other Disclosure examples

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<th>Details</th>
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<td><strong>IFC</strong></td>
<td>• WBG Energy Directions Paper in preparation.</td>
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| **EIB**      | • 17 ESIAs disclosed in January - May 2013 for comments. Several more planned for June disclosure.  
   • EIB Energy Lending Policy – under preparation.  
   • Updated version of Environmental and Social Practices Handbook is under consultation (civil society workshop 14 June) |
| **World Bank** | Currently significant initiative on Safeguard Policy revision  
| **ADB**      | • No policies or programmes under consultation presently.  
   • Draft Country Partnership Strategies (CPS) are shared with in-country stakeholders for local consultations, but are not mandated to be posted on the ADB website. |
| **BSTDB**    | • Draft new Environmental and Social Policy open for comments until May 31, 2013.  
   • Updated Public Information Policy drafted to replace 2005 PIP. Approval pending June 2013. |
Multiple opportunities for comment

Country Strategies

Policies

Sector Strategies

Projects

Technical Cooperation
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 HAVE YOUR SAY

The EBRD invites the public to give its views on our policies and strategies. New proposed institutional and operational policies as well as strategies for the countries of operations and sectors in which we invest are made available for public comment. The Bank's management reviews all public comments and advises the Board of Directors accordingly. The Bank takes this consultation into account in shaping its assessments and decisions on policies and strategies, alongside feedback by shareholder governments, clients and other interested parties, and draft policies and strategies may be amended accordingly.

Currently available for public comment

Country Strategies

Draft Country Strategy for Georgia

Send comments to georgiastrategy@ebrd.com by 26 July 2013.

Sectoral strategies

None currently under review.

Policies
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