European Investment Bank

Access to Information and Public Participation into EIB Policy Review Process

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Legal framework

- EIB is the European Union's bank, being the only bank owned by and representing the interests of the EU Member States, and working closely with other EU institutions to implement EU policy.

- Regulation EC/1367/2006 on the application of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters to Community institutions and bodies.
Key Policies

2009 Statement of Environmental and Social Principles and Standards – publicly consulted document in 2008 and approved by EIB Board in 2009. A revision of the statement is not currently foreseen, however an updated version of Environmental and Social Practices Handbook developed under the Statement is subject of public consultation – a workshop being organised on 14th of June to collect comments from civil society.
2010 Transparency Policy publicly consulted document in 2009 and approved by EIB Board in 2010. The transparency policy was up-dated in May 2011 in order to reflect administrative changes in the references made in the policy.
Key Policies

2010 Complaint Mechanism Principles, Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure publicly consulted document in 2009 and approved by EIB Board in 2010. The EIB Complaints Mechanism was up-dated: in April 2012 in order to reflect administrative changes in the references made in the document and in October 2012 in order to reflect the text clean-up and the update.
Environmental and Social Practices Handbook

Draft updated document available – the new draft provides clarifications of the structure, revised environmental and social standards (such as: integration of human rights considerations) and coordination with other IFIs.

Two workshops were organised on 14 June 2013, to present and discuss the Bank’s Handbook with relevant stakeholders – one on environmental matters and one on social/human rights matters.
What is new

Performance Standards:
- Assessment and management of Environmental and Social Impacts and Risks;
- Pollution Prevention and Abatement;
- Biodiversity and Ecosystems;
- Climate related standards (mitigation and adaptation);
- Cultural heritage standards;
- Involuntary Resettlements;
- Rights and Interests of Vulnerable Groups;
What is new

Performance Standards:

- Labour Standards;
- Occupational and Public Health and Safety;
- Stakeholder Engagement.

Internal deadline for submitting to EIB Board for approval – end of July.
In 2009, the EIB - Complaints Mechanism has proposed to the Bank's Management Committee that the Bank engages in a formal process of public consultation regarding Bank's sector lending policies with a high potential environmental impact.

This consultation must be compliant with the Aarhus Regulation.
Furthermore, the EIB - Complaints Mechanism considers that it would be appropriate for the EIB to establish guidelines for Public Consultation that could define the different levels of “public engagement”. The Bank’s management Committee accepted the EIB-CM recommendation (PV CD-001-SG-01-2009);

Guidelines preparation – on-going, drafts available by the end of the year, beginning of 2014.
Sector Policy

- EIB Transport Lending Policy publicly consulted document in March – November 2011 and approved by EIB Board in December 2011. It was the first sector policy the Bank consulted upon publicly.

- EIB Energy Lending Policy – under preparation, the draft was publicly available for consultation end of 2012 – March 2013.