EIB Environmental and Social Statement Review 2008

Consultation Report

Introduction

This report outlines how the consultation process on the EIB’s Environmental and Social Statement (the Statement) was conducted, which stakeholder submissions were received, and to which extent these were taken into account.

The EIB’s Management Committee decided on 18 March 2008 to hold a public consultation on the review of the EIB Statement of Environmental and Social principles and Standards.

The Bank adopted a flexible approach in terms of timetable and procedures to allow as full a consultation as possible, and to respond to issues raised by stakeholders during the process.

The consultative process focused on a revised version, Statement on Environmental and Social Principles and Standards, which replaces the Bank’s Environmental Statement of 2004.

A Review Panel was set up within the EIB to consider all stakeholder contributions, and to examine the extent to which they could be taken into account. Its members represented the Bank’s Directorates having a particular interest in environmental and social issues. The Director General of the EIB’s Projects Directorate chaired the Panel and its Secretariat was managed by the Sustainable Development Unit. The Panel’s evaluations of the stakeholder contributions provided the framework for re-drafting and editing the draft Statement.

The consultation process

The web-based public consultation was launched on 25 March 2008 with a draft Statement published on the Bank’s website in English, French and German. The consultation was divided into 2 rounds, the first round taking place between March 25 – June 20, 2008 and the second round between October 2 – November 17, 2008. In addition, the Bank held three Public Consultation Meetings to discuss the Statement with interested stakeholders. The meetings were announced on the EIB’s website and invitations were sent to 200 organizations and individuals on the consultation mailing list. The consultation process was completed on 17 November 2008.

First Round: A first round of consultation of 45 working days, including public and stakeholder meetings, started on 25 March 2008 and was planned to end on 28 May 2008. However, at the request from a number of NGOs, the 1st round was extended from 28 May until 20 June 2008. A first public consultation meeting was organised in Brussels on 14 May 2008 and was chaired by Philippe de Fontaine Vive, EIB Vice-President with responsibility for external communication and relations with the civil society; it brought together some 19 people from NGOs, representatives of
EU institutions and International Financing Institutions (IFIs), amongst others. At the request of some NGOs based in Eastern and Central Europe, a second public meeting was held in Warsaw on 12 June 2008, allowing interested stakeholders from the region to actively participate in the process. The Bank’s Head of the Sustainability and Development Unit made a presentation on the changes in the new Statement and on the consultation process. Many of the interventions focused on human rights, labour standards, conflict sensitivity and the need to strengthen the social dimension of the Statement. A request to improve the clarity of the language and to remove specific unclear phrases was repeated by several participants. The stakeholder views and proposals voiced during the two meetings were submitted in writing to the Review Panel.

The EIB also received 25 written contributions from external stakeholders, including NGOs, EU institutions and International Financing Institutions. The Review Panel discussed the documents in its various meetings of June and July on the basis of a Table of comments prepared by the Panel’s Secretariat. The Table, attached to this Report, includes the stakeholder contributions, references to relevant sections of the existing statement, and the Bank’s position or comment with respect to the individual stakeholder contributions. The Panel’s evaluations were introduced in a re-edited version of the draft Statement (Draft II), which was discussed by the Review Panel in its meeting on 24 July 2008.

Additional meetings were held with other IFIs, the European Commission, students from Oxford and Venice and the Club Banks.

**Second Round:** The second round of 20 working days started on 2 October 2008. Given the importance of the Environmental and Social Statement and taking into consideration stakeholder suggestions, the EIB decided to extend the second round from 30 October to 17 November 2008. The second round focused on a modified/revised version of the Statement (Draft II) that took into account public contributions from the first round. A third public consultation meeting was held in Brussels on 27 October 2008, chaired by EIB Vice-President Philippe de Fontaine Vive. The Bank’s Head of the Sustainability and Development Unit gave a presentation highlighting the changes introduced to the Statement after the first round of public consultation. Of the 22 attendees at the meeting, 3 came from the European Commission (DG ECFIN, DG TREN, and DG DEV), and 19 represented NGOs.

There were a number of comments on the revised Statement and suggestions for further amendment, i.e. the need for a more explicit reference to Human Rights laws; a stronger sense of urgency regarding Climate Change and Biodiversity loss is required; the language on the standards, and the requirements and the accountability of the promoter need to be clearer; to clarify precisely whether and how it applies to all EIB operations; how will the Statement be implemented in view of resource constraints at the EIB, and will the Statement affect and change the culture of the EIB.

The 14 written stakeholder contributions from the second round, as well as the oral contributions from the public meeting, were considered by the Review Panel in its meetings in November 2008. The Panel’s evaluations were introduced in a new re-edited draft (Draft III), which was discussed by the Panel in its meeting on 27 November 2008.

The final draft Statement and Consultation Report were submitted to the Management Committee for decision on 17 December 2008.

**Internal consultation**

As part of the consultation process, internal stakeholders were also encouraged to comment. The draft Statement and details about the consultation process were widely distributed within the Bank. EIB Directorates had an opportunity to submit contributions to each new draft of the Statement including Draft I prior to the launch of the public consultation process. EIB staff
including the College of EIB Staff Representatives was also consulted and provided constructive comments at the presentation of the Statement made to the staff on 11 April 2008.

The Board of Directors was informed of the consultation process on 7 May 2008.

Approval and publication of the new Statement and Consultation Report

The Management Committee approved the final draft Statement and Consultation Report on 17 December 2008. On 13 January 2009, 15 working days prior to consideration by the Board of Directors, the draft documents were posted, for information, on the EIB-website. The Statement and the Consultation Report is scheduled for approval by the Board of Directors on 3 February 2009. The full texts of stakeholder contributions and comments to the Statement were available electronically for consultation by the Board Members.

The new Statement will be published on the EIB’s website after approval, in English, French, and German. The Consultation Report, available in English, will be kept on the website for six months and after that period will be available on request. In addition, notifications were sent directly to stakeholders who had shown an active interest in the Statement review. To those who actively contributed to the consultation process, a letter was sent summarising the Bank’s evaluations of their comments.
### Timetable of the consultation process

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>20 December 2007</td>
<td>First announcement on the EIB website of the Statement review and public consultation process. Targeted mailing to interested organisations and individuals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 March 2008</td>
<td>Launch of a 45 working days public consultation process on a revised Statement (Draft I).</td>
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<td>14 May 2008</td>
<td>Public Consultation Workshop, Brussels, Belgium.</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 May 2008</td>
<td>Completion of the 45 working days consultation process. Extended until 20 June 2008.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 June 2008</td>
<td>Public Consultation Workshop, Warsaw, Poland.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 June 2008</td>
<td>End of the (extended) first round of public consultation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 September 2008</td>
<td>Public comments from the first consultation round published, for information, on the EIB website.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 October 2008</td>
<td>Launch of second round of the consultation process on the re-edited draft Statement (Draft II) taking into consideration stakeholder comments from the first round of public consultation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 October 2008</td>
<td>Public Consultation Meeting, Brussels, Belgium.</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 October 2008</td>
<td>Completion of the 20 working days public consultation process (extended until 17 November 2008).</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 November 2008</td>
<td>End of the (extended) second round of public consultation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 December 2008</td>
<td>Approval by the Management Committee of the (Draft III) final Statement as well as the Consultation Report.</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 December 2008</td>
<td>Public comments from the second round of consultation published, for information, on the EIB website</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 January 2009</td>
<td>Publication of the draft documents, for information, on the EIB website, 15 working days prior to Board consideration.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 February 2009</td>
<td>Approval by the Board of Directors of the new Statement and the Consultation Report.</td>
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<td>[ ] 2009</td>
<td>Completion of the Review by publishing the Statement and Consultation Report on the EIB website.</td>
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Stakeholder contributions

First round of consultation

The EIB received twenty five written contributions from external stakeholders:

- Public consultation on EIB’s Environmental and Social Statement, submitted on 9 May 2008 by Mr Alex Murray;
- Public consultation on EIB’s Environmental and Social Statement, submitted on 17 June 2008 by Mr A Colantonio and Mr T. Dixon;
- Remarks to the EIB Statement of Environmental and Social Principles and Standards, submitted on 19 May 2008 by MEP Marusya Lyubcheva;
- Propositions et commentaires, submitted on 27 May 2008 by International Consultancy and Management Consultancy, Yaoundé;
- EIB's Environmental and Social Statement submitted on 28 May 2008 by International Finance Corporation (IFC);
- Comments on the EIB Statement of Environmental and Social Principles and Standards, submitted on 12 June 2008 by National Ecological Center of Ukraine;
- Comments on the Environmental and Social Statement, submitted on 15 June 2008 by Save Yuntolovo, Russia;
- Submission to public consultation on draft EIB statement submitted on 16 June 2008 by The Corner House;
- Consultation sur Déclaration des Principes et Normes, submitted on 17 June 2008 by Secours Catholique/Caritas France;
- Submission on EIB’s Environmental and Social Statement, submitted on 17 June 2008 by Fatal Transactions/IPIS;
- Submission on EIB’s Environmental and Social Statement, submitted on 18 June 2008 by WWF European Policy Office;
- Comments on EIB public consultation on Environmental and Social Statement, submitted on 19 June 2008 by Amnesty International (AI);
- Environmental & Social Statement, submitted on 19 June 2008 by BirdLife International/RSPB;
- Consultation de la BEI, submitted on 19 June 2008 by Les Amis de la Terre, France;
- Contribution to the EIB Statement on Environmental and Social Principles and Standards, submitted on 20 June 2008 by European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO);
- Contribution to EIB consultation: Environmental and Social Standards, submitted on 20 June 2008 by Transparency International (TI);
- Contribution to EIB consultation: Environmental and Social Standards, submitted on 20 June 2008 by Polish Ecological Group, International Coalition to protect the Polish Countryside and Greenpeace;
- Comments on EIB public consultation on Environmental and Social Statement, submitted on 21 June 2008 by Countdown 2010-IUCN;
- Submission on EIB's Environmental and Social Statement, submitted on 20 June 2008 by Polish Green Network;
- Contribution - Déclaration des principes et normes adoptés par la BEI, submitted on 20 June 2008 by Fondation Danielle Mitterrand – France Libertés;
- Comments on the EIB Statement of Environmental and Social Principles and Standards, submitted on 20 June 2008 by National Association of Professional Environmentalist (NAPE) Uganda;
- Submission on EIB’s Environmental and Social Statement, submitted on 20 June 2008 by Counter Balance;
- Comments on EIB public consultation on Environmental and Social Statement, submitted on 20 June 2008 by WWF Poland;
• Comments on EIB public consultation on Environmental and Social Statement, submitted on 20 June 2008 by European Commission (EC);
• Comments on EIB public consultation on Environmental and Social Statement, submitted on 20 June 2008 by Mr Roderick Dunnett.

Second round of consultation

During the second round of consultation, the Bank received fourteen written contributions from stakeholders:

• Submission on EIB’s Environmental and Social Statement, submitted on 25 June 2008 by Environmental Investigation Agency;
• Submission on EIB’s Environmental and Social Statement, submitted on 13 November 2008 by Fatal Transactions/IPIS;
• Environmental & Social Statement comments second draft, submitted on 14 November 2008 by BirdLife International/RSPB;
• Contribution to EIB public consultation on Environmental and Social Statement, submitted on 15 November 2008 by SHERPA;
• Comments on the second draft of public consultation on Environmental and Social Statement, submitted on 17 November 2008 by Amnesty International;
• Comments on EIB public consultation on Environmental and Social Statement, submitted on 17 November 2008 by Kray, Ukraine;
• Contribution second draft Environmental and Social Statement, submitted on 17 November 2008 by WWF European Policy Office;
• Contribution to EIB consultation: Environmental and Social Standards, submitted on 17 November 2008 by International Coalition to protect the Polish Countryside and Gliwiczanie dla Gliwicz;
• Contribution to EIB consultation: Environmental and Social Standards, submitted on 17 November 2008 by Center for Environmental Initiatives, Russia;
• Contribution to the EIB Statement on Environmental and Social Principles and Standards, submitted on 17 November 2008 by European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO);
• Comments on the Environmental and Social Statement, submitted on 15 June 2008 by Save Yuntolovo, Russia;
• Comments on EIB public consultation on Environmental and Social Statement, submitted on 17 November 2008 by Mr Roderick Dunnett.
• EIB Environmental and Social Statement submitted on 17 November 2008 by the European Commission
• 2nd draft of the EIB Environmental and Social Statement submitted on 17 November 2008 by Counter Balance

Attachment 1: Table of Comments from First Round of Public Consultation and the EIB’s reasoned comments

Attachment 2: Table of Comments from Second Round of Public Consultation and the EIB’s reasoned comments