



Mid-term review of EIB external lending activity

Introduction

Although around 90% of European Investment Bank lending is within the European Union, the EIB has been an important actor outside the EU since 1963, financing projects in more than 130 countries that have signed cooperation or association agreements with the EU or its Member States. The EIB finances projects outside the EU either at own risk to its balance sheet (under Article 16 of its Statute, annexed as a “Protocol” to the Treaty of Lisbon), or on the basis of the EIB external lending mandate decided by the European Parliament and the Council (granting a Community guarantee for EIB operations in Pre-Accession, Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood, Asian and Latin American countries, and South Africa). It also operates in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries under the ACP-EU Cotonou partnership agreement. The mid-term review of the EIB external lending mandate, which started at the end of 2008, is currently ongoing.

Why is the review taking place now?

The external lending mandate decision¹, which lists the countries in which the EIB lends on the basis of an EU budget guarantee, fixed a ceiling of EUR 27.8bn on EIB financing operations in the period 2007-13 but set aside EUR 2bn of this amount in an optional reserve pending the outcome of the mid-term review. The Decision says: “This review will draw on an independent external evaluation, which will also be transmitted to the European Parliament and the Council. The review will provide the basis for the decision of the European Parliament and the Council as to whether and to what extent to release any optional mandate to top up the guarantee foreseen in this Decision, for the period following 2010, as to whether to make other amendments to the mandate, and as to how to ensure maximum added value and efficiency in the EIB’s operations”. The Cotonou² agreement, determining EIB relations with ACP countries, is also undergoing one of its quinquennial reviews, and a mid-term evaluation of EIB operations in ACP is also ongoing.

Who carried out the independent evaluation?

The independent evaluation was conducted by a Steering Committee of “wise persons” chaired by former International Monetary Fund Managing Director Michel Camdessus³. The Steering Committee recently provided its final report and recommendations to the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission and the EIB, and published its report on 24 February 2010.

What happens next?

The European Commission will present to the European Parliament and Council any proposals for amendment of the EIB external mandate, following the independent evaluation of the “wise persons”, by 30 April 2010. Following the European Court of Justice ruling in case C-155/07⁴, the European Parliament will have co-decision powers alongside the Council on the revision of the EIB external mandate.

For further information on the EIB, visit its website www.eib.org

Press contacts:

Press Office Secretariat

E-mail: press@eib.org; Tel.: (+352) 43 79 – 21000; Fax: (+352) 43 79 – 61000

General questions:

EIB Infodesk

E-mail: info@eib.org; Tel.: (+352) 43 79 – 22000; Fax: (+352) 43 79 – 62000

¹ Council Decision 2006/1016/EC, OJ L 414 of 30.12.2006; superseded by Co-Decision 633/2009/EC, OJ L 190, 22.7.2009

² OJ L 317, 15.12.2000

³ For other members of the panel, see EIB press release 2008-088 (<http://www.eib.org/about/press/2008/2008-088-eib-and-european-commission-launch-review-of-external-lending.htm>)

⁴ OJ C 327 of 20.12.2008