

Brussels, Thursday 11, May 2006
Venue: Hotel Silke Berlaymont, (11-19, Boulevard Charlemagne) De Gasperi Room
Working languages: English and French

PROGRAMME

08:50 Registration & Coffee

09:00 Welcome by EIB Vice-President **Peter Sedgwick**, Chairman of the Workshop

09:15 **Session 1: Supporting EU's efforts in R&D and Innovation**

The EIB Group supports the Lisbon Strategy through its i2i - "Innovation 2010 Initiative". The Bank finances private and public sector investment in research, the development of centers of excellence and academic research centers. It assists the creation of communication networks, the development of electronic commerce platforms and the roll-out of fixed and mobile broadband networks and access technologies. The EIB Group also supports entrepreneurship by financing innovative SMEs and investing in venture capital funds.

- **Guy Clause**, Associate Director, Operational Lending Policies, Policy Support Department, Projects Directorate, EIB
- **Philippe Vanrie**, Programme Manager, European Business & Innovation Centre Network (EBN)
- **Patrice Liauzu**, EIF Brussels office representative, European Investment Fund

Discussions

10:30 **Coffee Break**

11:00 **Session 2: Improving competitiveness through Human Capital formation**

The EIB Group supports university training by improving access to training as well as life-long training, integration of research into tertiary education projects, helping to finance upgrading of IT infrastructure, digital literacy and e-learning.

- **Olivier Debande**, Senior Adviser, Operational Lending Policies, Policy Support Department, Projects Directorate, EIB
- **Lidia Borrell-Damian**, Senior Programme Manager, European University Association (EUA)

Discussions

12:00 **Session 3: The role of Civil Society in the EIB project cycle**

This session will discuss the Bank's project cycle and the role of CSOs in this process. In this framework, the Aarhus Convention and (draft) Regulation will also be discussed.

- **José Frade**, Head of Division, Water & Wastewater Department, Projects Directorate, EIB
- **Klaus Schilder**, Project Manager, World Economy, Ecology & Development (WEED)

Discussions

13:30 **Closing and wrapping up** by Chairman Peter Sedgwick

13:45 **Buffet lunch**