

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

**EIB GROUP CLIMATE BANK
ROADMAP PHASE 2
2026-2030**

AND ENERGY SECTOR ORIENTATION



European
Investment Bank | Group

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Stakeholder Engagement: EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap Phase 2 2026-2030 and Energy Sector Orientation

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Disclaimer

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STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS

Stakeholders such as civil society, industry associations, institutional partners and the wider public showed their support for the EIB Group as it entered a new phase of climate leadership. They called for clear targets, a stronger focus on biodiversity and food systems, and support for local governments, small businesses and communities. During the engagement process, these groups highlighted several priorities, including clean energy, low-carbon transport, adaptation and resilient food systems, with a focus on Ukraine and vulnerable regions. Stakeholders also asked for easier access to finance, clearer communication and better advisory support. This feedback has been reflected in the second phase of the Climate Bank Roadmap (2026–2030) and the Energy Sector Orientation.

BACKGROUND

As part of its commitment to openness and transparency, the EIB Group invited external stakeholders to contribute to the development of the second phase of its Climate Bank Roadmap and its Energy Sector Orientation.

A dedicated meeting took place in Brussels on 17 July 2025, in hybrid format. It gave EIB Group representatives the opportunity to present and clarify the key elements of the new Climate Bank Roadmap and the Energy Sector Orientation, the proposed areas of impact, and the high-level principles that will guide the implementation of the roadmap.

With more than 160 registrations from external groups, the event saw strong engagement from civil society, partners and the wider public, in person and online.

The presentation and recording are available on the EIB [event website](#) and a dedicated [consultation page](#) was set up to bring together information about the engagement process and related materials.

The EIB Group invited stakeholders to submit written feedback on three guiding questions, structured around the main pillars of the Climate Bank Roadmap. The consultation remained open until 7 August 2025. The contributions received were integrated into the roadmap and Energy Sector Orientation proposal to the EIB Group's decision-making bodies.

On 22 September 2025, the EIB Group held a follow-up virtual meeting with external stakeholders to discuss the feedback received, explain how it planned to address these points and outline the next steps. Additional issues raised during the meeting were flagged to the EIB Group's decision-making bodies ahead of the final discussion on the policy documents.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

Stakeholders were invited to submit written feedback on three guiding questions:

1. **Ambition:** Given the multiple challenges currently facing Europe (security, competitiveness, affordability), what considerations should inform the EIB Group’s ambition on climate action and environmental sustainability for the 2026–2030 period?
2. **Policy impact:** As a public bank and multilateral development bank, on which areas of the green transition should the EIB Group focus its financial and advisory support in the next phase, both inside and outside the European Union?
3. **Robust and simple:** How can the EIB Group strike the right balance between simplifying access to finance and maintaining strong frameworks to support climate action and environmental sustainability?

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED

On the top of the feedback received during the stakeholder engagement events, the EIB Group received 14 written contributions, representing views from NGOs, think tanks, industry associations and members of the broader public. Most contributions came from stakeholder organisations based in the European Union.

Table 1: List of stakeholders that submitted written contributions

	ORGANISATION (in alphabetical order)	TYPE	COUNTRY
1.	Airports Council International (ACI) Europe	Industry association	Belgium
2.	CEE Bankwatch Network – Ukraine	Non-governmental organisation	Ukraine
3.	Clean Air Task Force	Non-governmental organisation	United States of America/Europe
4.	Climate Strategy	Consultancy	Germany
5.	Counter Balance + partner NGOs* (*ReCommon, CEE Bankwatch Network, Jamaa Resource Initiatives (Kenya), Urgewald, MenaFem Movement for Economic, Development and Ecological Justice, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Climate Action Network Europe) ¹	Non-governmental organisations	Belgium
6.	E3G	Think tank	Belgium
7.	European Geothermal Energy Council	Industry association	Belgium

¹ An updated joint position involving 19 civil society organisations and labour unions is available here: [Joint Position Climate Bank Roadmap 2.0 | Counter Balance](#) (24 September)

8.	FAIRR Initiative	Network (researchers/investors)	United Kingdom
9.	Future Matters	Think tank	Germany
10.	Lylia Coelho	Individual	Unknown
11.	Negative Emissions Platform	Network/project developers, suppliers, investors, service providers	Netherlands
12.	Transport & Environment (T&E)	Non-governmental organisation	Belgium
13.	VNG International	Network/local governments	Netherlands
14.	Wild Europe	Foundation	United Kingdom, Belgium, Hungary

SUMMARY

Question 1: Ambition

Stakeholders support maintaining and even increasing the EIB Group’s commitment to climate action and environmental sustainability, seeing it as an effective way to address European and global challenges.

ISSUE RAISED		EIB GROUP RESPONSE
1	<p>Set ambitious targets: most contributors call for ambitious quantitative targets and for a reinforcement of the EIB Group’s focus on adaptation. Stakeholders also encourage the Group to lead more boldly on nature, biodiversity, food and agriculture and circularity. Some asked for closer alignment with the Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>The second phase builds on the ambition of the first phase (see section 2.3). A new quantitative target on adaptation has been introduced (see second priority under resilience).</p> <p>Reaction noted on need to lead more boldly on nature, biodiversity, food and agriculture and circularity. Section 2.4 sets out the priorities for the second phase, with specific references under levers 2 and 3.</p> <p>The second phase reaffirms the commitment to align with the objectives and goals of the Paris Agreement (see mission statement in section 2.1). Chapter 3 sets out the key principles to be adopted by the Group, ensuring that requirements are fair and match the size and impact of each project.</p>

2	<p>Support local and inclusive delivery: the roadmap should highlight the role of local governments, small businesses and communities in driving climate action. It should provide tailored advisory and financing, promote inclusive models, and support a just transition and regional cohesion.</p>	<p>Phase 2 of the roadmap recognises the central role of local governments and communities, with specific references under several priorities under levers 2 and 3 in section 2.</p> <p>The roadmap also focuses on the decarbonisation and resilience of small businesses, particularly in section 2.4, under the first priority on energy efficiency for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in lever 1, in the box on the EIF, and under the second priority on the resilience of those firms in lever 3.</p>
3	<p>Strengthen strategic instruments and partnerships: stakeholders call for wider use of InvestEU, innovative tools like the EU Renovation Loan, and stronger engagement with retail banks and public-private partnerships to unlock private finance and accelerate the use of clean technologies.</p>	<p>During Phase 2 of the roadmap, the EIB Group will continue to develop innovative financing products and advisory initiatives, including through mandate resources, such as InvestEU and the next Multiannual Financial Framework, and by engaging with financial intermediaries to deliver impact across priority areas, including the faster deployment of clean technologies. An example is the Energy Efficiency for SMEs (EE for SMEs) initiative, a flagship programme under the EIB Group Strategic Roadmap 2024–2027. It aims to accelerate the green transition and improve the competitiveness of European SMEs and mid-caps.</p>
4	<p>Strengthen global leadership: the EIB should play a stronger role, especially in Ukraine and the least developed countries, by increasing concessional finance, supporting climate resilience and piloting scalable solutions for clean energy, water and sustainable infrastructure.</p>	<p>EIB Global is developing a new strategic orientation focusing on climate action, environmental sustainability and advisory services. Ukraine remains central, in line with EU priorities. The least developed countries are a priority for finance that strengthens climate and economic resilience and will continue to receive dedicated support in Phase 2 of the roadmap. See the box on EIB Global and the relevant priorities under section 2.4, levers 2 and 3.</p>
5	<p>End engagement with companies that do not phase out fossil fuels. Ensure that supported counterparties have strong transition plans in place.</p>	<p>Under the Paris Alignment of counterparty framework (PATH) the EIB Group will continue to focus on firms and financial intermediaries from a physical and transition climate risk perspective. The EIB will assess the quality of corporate transition plans, leveraging on more mature EU regulation. The concept of incompatible activities will be retained in the new Roadmap.</p>

Question 2: Policy impact

Stakeholders recommend that the EIB Group focuses its support on sectors and regions where it can have the greatest impact on the green transition.

ISSUE RAISED		EIB GROUP RESPONSE
1	<p>Support strategic infrastructure and the energy transition: several stakeholders recommend that the EIB prioritise financing for grid modernisation, clean heating and cooling and decentralised renewable energy, especially in Ukraine and vulnerable regions.</p>	<p>The Energy Sector Orientation supports the transition to a low-carbon and cost-efficient energy system. This includes further developing renewable and low-carbon energy sources, making more use of electricity across sectors and strengthening grid and storage infrastructure. The orientation also recognises the importance of a just energy transition that supports vulnerable regions and communities.</p> <p>Ukraine is fully covered by the Bank's investments. Energy is a crucial sector, with high impact on the Ukrainian population.</p>
2	<p>Accelerate clean technologies and industrial decarbonisation: stakeholders call for broader support for next-generation clean technologies, such as geothermal, nuclear and hydrogen power and carbon capture and storage. This is to expand biotechnologies and green steel and to tackle bottlenecks through tailored instruments and advisory services.</p>	<p>The Energy Sector Orientation highlights the need to accelerate industrial transformation, with more investments in research and development, and greater production and use of clean technologies.</p> <p>Under lever 1 in section 2.4, the roadmap also makes competitiveness a priority through clean technologies and industrial decarbonisation.</p>
3	<p>Diverging views on clean transport and mobility: one industry association calls for support to decarbonise aviation through sustainable fuels and airport infrastructure upgrades. Other stakeholders, especially NGOs, argue for more investment in public transport, walking, cycling and other active travel.</p>	<p>The roadmap confirms the Group's support to decarbonise the transport sector, including aviation and shipping, and to build resilience of critical transport network infrastructure. Sustainable fuels are identified under the second priority of lever 1, in section 2.4. The transport sector is also included in the inclusive transition under the second priority of lever 2, and infrastructure resilience is also addressed under lever 3 in section 2.4.</p> <p>The Energy Sector Orientation also supports transport decarbonisation, in line with the EIB Transport Lending Policy. Efforts include electrification and the development of low-carbon fuel alternatives, especially sectors with high emissions that are hard to cut, such as long-distance aviation and shipping.</p>

<p>4</p>	<p>Strengthen adaptation and systemic resilience: some stakeholders stress the need to develop tailored financial products to strengthen adaptation and resilience. Suggestions include an EU resilience mission to coordinate national adaptation plans and link them to investable projects, along with more advisory support for regional and local entities to cut bureaucracy and improve access to EU funds.</p>	<p>Security and preparedness (lever 3, section 2.4) recognises the need for adaptation and resilience measures tailored to specific sectors and target groups. To address this, the Climate Bank Roadmap has set a €30 billion adaptation finance target for 2026-2030. The focus will be on: (i) a new water resilience programme, (ii) targeted support for SMEs, farmers and sectors most exposed to climate risks, and (iii) support for cities and regions.</p> <p>The call for stronger advisory is addressed through the EIB Group’s ADAPT platform, which provides technical and financial expertise throughout the project cycle, from early support and preparation to implementation and building knowledge and skills. This helps speed up financing for climate adaptation investments.</p> <p>On the proposed EU resilience mission it should be noted that the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change already provides the coordination mechanism that stakeholders proposed. The EIB is working closely with the European Commission and mission signatories to identify and finance adaptation investments.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Build greener and more resilient food systems: stakeholders urge the Group to support a just transition in agriculture, by helping farmers and smallholders adopt agroecology and regenerative practices. Investment in sustainable protein alternatives, aquaculture and waste management is crucial to cut emissions and build more resilient food systems.</p>	<p>In the agriculture and the bioeconomy sectors, the Bank focuses on operations that (i) benefit farmers, private enterprises and society as a whole, (ii) promote environmental sustainability, and (iii) cut greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture.</p> <p>This includes developing sustainable activities, such as organic production, soil and water conservation and improving resource efficiency along the value chain to ease pressure on the environment. The Bank also welcomes operations that support the shift to more sustainable and efficient practices, seeing sustainable protein alternatives, aquaculture and better waste management as an integral part of this approach.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Lead globally on a just transition and resilience: recommendations include strengthening EIB Global’s role through concessional finance, climate debt swaps and local currency tools. Stakeholders also call for investment in education, public services and regional cohesion to support a just transition and resilience.</p>	<p>In the 2026–2030 period, increasing climate finance for developing countries will remain a priority for EIB Global. The aim is to support their low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development pathways and implement their nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans. These include using grants and concessional funds to support innovative products such as climate-resilient debt,</p>

		<p>climate and nature debt swaps or local currency hedging instruments.</p> <p>EIB Global will continue to work with the European Commission, EU Member States and other donors to support new initiatives linked to its just transition and resilience approach.</p> <p>See the box on EIB Global and the relevant priority actions, especially under levers 2 and 3 in section 2.4.</p>
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Question 3. Robust and simple

Stakeholders agree that the EIB must simplify access to its financial instruments while maintaining strong environmental and climate standards.

ISSUE RAISED		EIB GROUP RESPONSE
1	<p>Simplify access to finance with tailored tools and procedures: expanding digital tools like the Green Checker and Green Gateway can help make applications and eligibility checks simpler. Stakeholders also recommended clearer guidelines to reduce complexity and transaction costs, especially for small applicants.</p>	<p>As set out in the roadmap, especially in sections 3.2-3.3 and the box under lever 2 in section 2.4, the Group will continue to develop online tools to make access to EIB green finance simpler.</p>
2	<p>Adopt a balanced approach based on risks: several stakeholders stress the need to apply climate alignment and taxonomy rules in a way that is proportionate, especially for small entities and emerging technologies, so that requirements match the scale and risk of each entity without weakening environmental standards. They also warned that oversimplification could reduce monitoring and data collection, undermining policy credibility and long-term impact.</p>	<p>As set out in section 2.2 (objective 3) and sections 3.2-3.3, the Group will apply a balanced and risk-based approach, especially when assessing the alignment of the EIB Group's funds for small entities.</p>
3	<p>Strengthen advisory and training support: expand technical assistance, training and digital advisory platforms in local languages to help municipalities, SMEs and enterprises led by women. This support is essential to help applicants meet requirements without reducing the quality of implementation or monitoring.</p>	<p>As set out in section 2.4 under lever 2, the Group will strengthen lending and advisory to support a green transition that creates inclusive prosperity.</p> <p>For example, the Bank will develop an integrated climate-gender investment and advisory package that targets SMEs and women entrepreneurs. It will also continue to support regions and municipalities in implementing territorial just transition plans through lending and advisory and explore ways to support the Social Climate Fund and related national climate social plans.</p>

<p>4</p>	<p>Strengthen transparency and leadership: the Bank should clearly communicate the reasoning behind its lending decisions. This includes improving visibility of climate methodologies, publishing risk assessment frameworks and strengthening carbon accounting. Stakeholders also called for automated reporting tools to ease monitoring, especially for SMEs and global clients.</p>	<p>Information on individual projects financed by the Bank is published on the Bank's website, including the justification for financing in terms of added value and impact. Environmental and social information is published on the environmental and social data sheets. The website also provides methodologies, for example on the carbon footprint of projects, and green finance definitions. The Climate Bank Roadmap confirms that this transparency will continue (see section 3.1). Section 3 of the roadmap stresses that simplification for clients will be a core focus, particularly for SMEs.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Build expertise across sectors: a major barrier to effective climate action is the lack of expertise in specific areas such as conservation, land use and finance. The EIB Group could strengthen its role by supporting a comprehensive training strategy that includes mentoring and qualifications to improve project outcomes and attract private sector funding.</p>	<p>The EIB Group recognises that green investment is often held back by a lack of expertise across economic sectors and cross-cutting areas such as resilience, biodiversity and finance. It offers a tailored range of advisory services, technical assistance and training, as outlined in the box under lever 2 of section 2.4.</p> <p>The Group will continue to develop its approach throughout the roadmap implementation period, working with the European Commission and the wider advisory and development community.</p>

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