

IZZIVI TRANSPARENTNOSTI IN ODGOVORNOSTI V EIB

Kako EIB si v prihodnje zeli Evropski
Parlament?

Izzivi Transparentnosti in Odgovornosti v Evropski Investicijski Banki

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Professional experience:

-Public Procurement Adviser for the Slovenian Government,

-State Auditor (Performance assessments) for the Court of Auditors of the RS,

-VFM and the public adm. reform adviser for the Irish Government,

-Political Adviser for the EU Budget Control in the EP

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- The EIB is one of the strongest players in the EU when talking about investments in a big scale projects, providing direct funds and guarantees to governments, private and public owned enterprises.
- But a state of play where the EIB hides who the ultimate beneficiaries or the beneficial owners are, is financing through intermediaries using the tax heavens or companies that use aggressive tax planning or continues to fund projects under OLAF or national authorities investigations for fraud or corruption can't be further tolerated.

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- In the EIB Annual Reports in 2015 and 2016 the EP has demanded that the EIB finally end those practices, implement the highest transparency in their operations and focus on investments into an environmentally friendly and sustainable industry/projects.

Transparency, Corruption and Fight Against the Fraud

• ***Underlines the importance accorded by the EIB to its policy of zero tolerance of fraud, corruption and collusion and its commitment to strong integrity and ethical rules***; welcomes, in this context, the approval by the EIB Board of an updated anti-fraud policy and the EIB Group Annual Report on Anti-Fraud Activities – 2014; ***expects the EIB to stop further loan disbursements to projects under ongoing national or European corruption investigations***;

• **Reading between the lines**

• Large scale highway project in Italy and a coal-powered thermo-plant Sostanj in Slovenia (both funded by 700 mil € EIB money) are under current national investigations for fraud and corruption. With the implementation of the financing policy from our paragraph above such cases would become much harder to pull through. Slovenian project has only received some 400 mil € until this point – imagine the further money tranches from the EIB would now stop...



- PAR 56 we also managed to include the text asking the EIB to better prevent the conflict of interests in its governing bodies and potential revolving doors issues - also referring to the Ombudsman's letter.

Tax Avoidance, Tax Justice

- The journalists and the NGOs have been fighting for years to learn who the actual – ultimate beneficiaries of the EIB funds are.
- Financing through the intermediaries... Affecting and / or allowing for transparency, fraud, corruption, organised crime, money laundering...
- Prevention of transactions to anyone registered in offshore financial centres or tax havens which resort to aggressive tax planning,
- Disclosure of country-by-country tax-relevant data and beneficial ownership information.



•Reiterates that the **EIB should reinforce its due diligence** activities so as to improve the quality of information **on ultimate beneficiaries and** to more effectively **prevent transactions with financial intermediaries with a negative record in terms of transparency, fraud, corruption, organised crime, money laundering and harmful social and environmental impacts or registered in offshore financial centres or tax havens which resort to aggressive tax planning**; calls on the **EIB not to use the Project Bond Initiative to fund activities infiltrated by organised crime**; stresses once again the need to establish a stringent public list of criteria for selection of financial intermediaries by the EIB, jointly with the

Environment and the support to the Sustainable industry

• *“EIB should re-assess its specific attention to gas infrastructure projects, especially as gas demand in Europe is declining while new large-scale plans to build new pipelines and LNG terminals are emerging; expresses concern that the EIB investments in gas infrastructure could lead to investments in stranded assets;”*

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• The EP called upon the EIB to “systematically pay attention to mid- and long-term **economic, social and environmental** effects when defining investment actions and its funding decisions;”

Main Demands

- STOP to further financing of projects under fraud or corruption investigation, Access to info on Beneficial Ownerships and the Ultimate Beneficiaries,
- STOP financing beneficiaries who use aggressive tax planning or use tax-heavens,
- A new BOOST to the investments onto the environment-friendly and sustainable industry...



Thank you.