

To:
Jean-Louis Six
BelgiumOffice@ebrd.com

Irena Sodin
SloveniaOffice@ebrd.com

Ljubljana, 18 November 2013

Letter from Slovenian civil society groups regarding the EBRD Energy Sector Strategy

Dear Mr. Jean-Louis Six, dear Mrs. Sodin,

At this moment, the EBRD is reshaping its energy strategy and as far as we are aware, Slovenia is one of the few countries on the board of EBRD defending bank's support for coal investments. It is a shame to see that Slovenia can still provide support to coal investments, after the disastrous experiences in the Thermal Power Plant Šoštanj (TEŠ 6) case. We are contacting you as the representatives of Slovenia in the EBRD to urge you to use the lessons learned in the Thermal Power Plant Šoštanj case and support the EBRD in ending coal investments.

As is becoming clear now in the TEŠ 6 case, the investment's profitability is highly questionable and the latest analysis shows that it is very likely that the project will create a loss from its first day of operation. Similarly, many coal based power plants are facing serious economic challenges. We therefore appeal to you to demand an end to EBRD's further support to coal investments.

It has been clearly demonstrated in the past few years that a large section of Slovenian society does not wish to be exposed to the environmental, health and financial risks of lignite burning in Šoštanj. Nor do we wish any other society to continue to be exposed to those risks. Hence we urge you to use the opportunity, which is open with the review of the EBRD's energy strategy, and withdraw your support for coal investments.

We would also like to use this opportunity to urge you to support the introduction of strict Emission Performance Standards for energy related investments and a shadow carbon price set at least at the same level as those of the European Investment Bank. This would contribute to the global wave of progressive action towards decarbonisation, already demonstrated by several shareholding countries and financial institutions.

Kind regards,

Živa Gobbo
Chair, Focus Association for Sustainable Development

Nina Štros
Head of Greenpeace CEE in Slovenia

Vida Ogorelec
Director, Umanotera, The Slovenian Foundation for Sustainable Development

Gorazd Marinček
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Director, Institute for Sustainable Development

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David Limon
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Jan Peloza
President, The Youth Association No Excuse Slovenia

Matjaž Ugovšek
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Director, Centre for Sustainable Rural Development Kranj, Institute for Rural Development