



Evropská investiční banka
Den Europæiske Investeringsbank
Europäische Investitionsbank
Euroopa Investeerimispank
Ευρωπαϊκή Τράπεζα Επενδύσεων
European Investment Bank
Banco Europeo de Inversiones
Banque européenne d'investissement
Banca europea per gli investimenti
Eiropas Investīciju banka

Europos investicijų bankas
Európai Beruházási Bank
Bank ta' l-Investment Ewropew
Europese Investeringsbank
Europejski Bank Inwestycyjny
Banco Europeu de Investimento
Európska investičná banka
Evropska investicijska banka
Euroopan investointipankki
Europeiska investeringsbanken

Mr. Jeremy Wates
Secretary
Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Environment, Housing and Land Management Division - Bureau 332
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Luxembourg, 27 June 2007

OpsA/MA-3

**Your Ref.: Draft Findings and Recommendations of the Aarhus Convention
Compliance Committee with regard to communication
(ACCC/C/2005/12)**

Dear Mr. Wates,

Thank you for your letter of 29 March 2007 and the Draft Findings and Recommendations of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee with regards to the Vlore Power Plant project in Albania (ACCC/C/2005/12; version 23 March 2007). The European Investment Bank has taken note of the document. We apologize for the delay in responding to you.

The EIB is co-financing the Vlore Power Plant project with EUR 40m, with the balance coming from the EBRD, the World Bank (IDA) and the Borrower. The project concerned is of great importance for the Albanian energy sector, which is suffering from significant power supply disruptions, and the economic development of the country. Power generation is almost entirely hydro-based and hence the addition of new thermal capacity will diversify and reduce the risk of power shortages. In addition, the project is located in the south-west of the country close to an important centre of consumption and will therefore reduce the load on the already over-stretched transmission system.

If located in the EU the project would fall under Annex 2 of the EU Directive 85/337/EEC (as amended by Directives 97/11/EC and 2003/35/EC) on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), leaving it to the national environmental authority to determine whether a full EIA is required. Although Albania is not an EU Member State, it is Bank policy to require that projects outside the EU comply with the appropriate Community environmental principles and standards subject to local conditions and law. Therefore, on the request of the Albanian government and the three co-financing banks, consultants prepared a detailed site selection report and an environmental impact assessment, covering the issues required by the above-mentioned directive, including an environmental management plan (EMP). The documents were subject to an independent review by another consultant. The



general public was consulted on three occasions and additional meetings were held with ministries, government agencies, local businesses, NGOs and others.

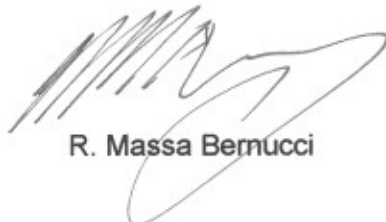
As part of its standard appraisal procedures, the EIB carries out a due diligence on the environmental assessment in order to be able to confirm that a project is acceptable for financing by the Bank in environmental terms. In this context, it is EIB policy not to finance projects that are in conflict with EU environmental legislation. As such the project has been designed to comply with the relevant environmental EU directives such as fuel quality, large combustion plants and air quality in order to satisfy the EIB and make the project eligible for an EIB loan. According to the EIA, the construction and operation of the project will have acceptable or no impacts on the nearby lagoon vegetation or ecosystem. Selection of the route for the transmission line will also be carried out with a view to minimise the environmental impact. There will be no resettlement of affected people and no impact on nature conservation areas.

We are pleased to inform you that the EIB has reviewed your Draft Findings and Recommendations and has no particular comments in addition to the ones already provided by the EBRD and the World Bank.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to confirm our full support for and strong attachment to the objectives pursued by the provisions of the Aarhus Convention. As you may know, as far as the Community institutions and bodies are concerned, these provisions have been implemented through the Aarhus Regulation (EC) N° 1367/2006 which will be fully applicable to the EIB as from 28 June 2007.

Yours faithfully,

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK



R. Massa Bernucci



C. Gómez de la Cruz

Cc: Ms. Narin Panariti, Director of Policy, Integration and Legislation, Ministry of Environment of Albania

Mr. Gjergj Bojaxhi, Director General, KESH