

Good morning,

We, the EIB are very pleased today to be able to provide an update on our developments, and achievements and some of the challenges we have faced over the recent months.

The coronavirus pandemic has brought difficulties and struggles for all, in one way or another and we have learnt to adapt to new ways of living, working and new ways of interacting together.

In spite of the challenges, we are pleased to inform you that the EIB has successfully carried out public consultations in virtual format on three key topics.

In March 2020 the EIB started a Stakeholder Engagement process through a series of webinars on the key elements of its Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025. The Roadmap provides the EIB with a framework to meet our commitments towards climate action and environmental sustainability over the next five years.

Feedback and suggestions were rich and diverse and thanks to this engagement process, the Climate Bank Roadmap was approved by the EIB's Board of Directors in November 2020 and is now available on our website.

Furthermore, in December 2020, EIB launched its public consultation of the EIB Group Transparency Policy. The public consultation process ended in March this year after taking written submissions from almost 100 organisations and individuals.

The EIB Group Transparency Policy is important to the EIB Group because it is inspired by the guiding principles of openness, the need to safeguard sensitive information and the willingness to listen to and engage with all stakeholders.

We hope to be able to share with you soon our new revised Transparency Policy via our website.

Additionally, in June this year, we began our public consultation on the EIB Group's Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework.

Over a two-month period, we consulted on three elements: firstly, we consulted on the new EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy. The Policy lays out the Group's vision on how we will actively contribute to sustainable development and inclusive growth.

Secondly, we consulted on the EIB's 11 Environmental and Social Standards. These define the requirements that the EIB's promoters must meet when assessing and managing environmental, climate and social impacts and risks. Thirdly, we invited views on some crosscutting themes, such as gender.

To facilitate the consultations, and so that members of the public and interested stakeholders in all EIB regions of operations could participate, the details of the consultation process and a calendar of the webinars were posted on a dedicated website. We also made our documents available in English, French and some in Portuguese, as well as providing interpretation into these languages during the meetings.

The public consultation process comprised of 13 virtual meetings over 63 days and was completed in August this year. We received 55 submissions.

We have published on our website, all comments received during these public consultations, as well as EIB's responses. We invite you to consult these at your ease.

We are pleased that in spite of the challenges brought about by COVID restrictions, we have been able to guarantee effective participation of our numerous stakeholders on these key documents. We would like to thank all those who took part.

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Access to information is one of the key priorities of the EIB and we recognise the importance of going beyond disclosure of information upon request by proactively publishing environmental information.

To this avail, the EIB set up its Public Register in 2014. The Public Register is an electronic database that now contains over 6000 documents.

We proactively publish, for example, our Environmental and Social Data Sheets, which detail the environmental and social aspects of our projects at time of appraisal.

Additionally, we publish the Environmental and Social Completion Sheet at the stage of project completion to provide information on the implementation of key environmental issues and risks and the outcomes of any mitigation or compensation carried out.

We also proactively publish, when applicable to the project, the Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, Social Impact Studies and any specific environmental studies we receive as part of our appraisal process.

Furthermore, we now proactively publish annually our Carbon Action Data, which contain information on our climate action financing at project level.

The EIB is fully committed to progress with the ongoing developments of the Public Register and we look to improve the database, and proactively publish additional documents where possible in the near future.

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To conclude, we would like to express our appreciation to all Parties, NGOs and all stakeholders for the interest they show in the EIB and their support in helping us maintain and improve our processes.

The EIB would like to extend its thanks and gratitude to the Secretariat and the Chair of the Aarhus Convention for their continued efforts in promoting and strengthening the implementation of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention.

Thank you