



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Andris PIEBALGS

European Commissioner for Development

Speech on the occasion of the signing of the EU Caribbean Investment Facility co-financed IDB loans for the Water Supply and Sanitation Infrastructure Improvement Programme and the Power Utility Upgrade Programme

Washington, 10 October 2014

Mr Alberto Moreno, President of the Inter-American Development Bank

Honourable Minister of Finance of Guyana, Mr Ashni Singh

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed my honour and privilege to address you today on the occasion of the signing of these Legal contracts between the IDB and the Government of Guyana which signals the commitment of USD 80.9 Million to the Government of Guyana for the Energy and Water sectors.

The EU recognises the need to assist Guyana's further development through investments in the energy and water sectors. We have therefore allocated USD 40.4 Million in grant funding through the Caribbean Investment Facility to address the priority needs of the sectors. This represents 60% of the total 10th European Development Fund [EDF] national allocation for Guyana of USD 68.3 Million.

In the energy sector, we will be focusing on strengthening the management capacity of GPL, increasing operational efficiency and reducing energy losses. This will necessitate the rehabilitation of 830 km of distribution lines network in Georgetown and Region IV and will benefit the population living in the coastland Regions IV and V.

In the water sector we will work on strengthening the performance of the Guyana Water Incorporated, improving water pressure, quality and continuity of supply as well as reducing water losses. An important aspect will be an improved access to sanitation for low-income households. Works will include rehabilitating 25 km of water transmission mains and 39 km of distribution networks. Sanitation improvements will positively affect 1000 families.

The two programmes are being co-funded by the Caribbean Investment Facility and the Inter-American Development Bank. The EU grant funds of USD 40.2 Million will leverage substantial additional loan funds from IDB so that USD 37.6 Million will be provided to the electricity sector while USD 16.8 Million will be provided to the water sector.

With this in mind we should soon begin seeing further improvements in these two sectors.

Thank you.