



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate –General for Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid
 Directorate-General Enlargement
 Directorate-General Economic and Financial Affairs

The General Directors

Brussels, **08 AOUT 2011**

Subject: EU Platform on External Cooperation and Development

Excellency, Sir/Madam,

In the framework of its legislative proposal following the mid-term review of the EIB external mandate, the Commission intends to set up a Group of Experts (GoE) to assess the costs and benefits of an EU platform for External Cooperation and Development with a view to optimising the functioning of mechanisms for the blending of grants and loans in the external regions and promoting synergies and mutual reliance arrangements.¹

The GoE will be composed of the European Commission, Member States, European External Action Service and the European Investment Bank. Other relevant actors will be consulted, notably European multilateral and bilateral finance institutions. The GoE will be chaired by the Commission (DG DEVCO and ECFIN). Based on the findings of the GoE, the Commission should report to the European Parliament and the Council by mid-2012.

In order to have this GoE operational after the summer break we would like to ask you to **nominate by 9 September 2011** up to two experts, should you wish to participate. In view of the objectives of the Group, expertise on financing of external cooperation and development is envisaged. Please send the names and contact details of the nominated experts to Bart Van Uythem (Bart.Van-Uythem@ec.europa.eu) and Caroline Gaye (Caroline.Gaye@ec.europa.eu).

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To the

*Permanent Representation of EU Member States, Brussels
 European External Action Service (EEAS)
 European Investment Bank (EIB)*

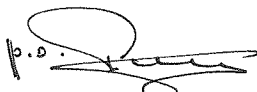
¹ Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council granting an EU guarantee to the European Investment Bank (EIB) against losses under loans and guarantees for projects outside the European Union for the period 2007-2013.(COM(2010)174 final of 21 April 2010)

The first meeting of the GoE is foreseen for early autumn; the precise date will be communicated to the nominated experts. This first session will be devoted to discuss the Terms of Reference for the GoE and its work programme. Draft Terms of Reference, which will be based on the non-paper already distributed to financial and development counsellors of Member States, will be circulated in due course before the first meeting of the GoE.

Yours sincerely,



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Cc: Development counsellors
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