

101ST MEETING OF THE WORKING PARTY ON EXPORT CREDITS AND CREDIT GUARANTEES
20-21 April 2004

1. The OECD Working Party on Export Credits and Credit Guarantees (ECG) met in the afternoon of 20 and morning of 21 April 2004. The main issues for discussion were officially supported export credits in the context of the environment, the fight against corruption and Heavily Indebted Poor Countries.

2. It was agreed, *inter alia*, to make publicly available information, after further verification, on (1) the 2003 reporting of projects reviewed under the voluntary Common Approaches on Officially Supported Export Credits and Environment, (2) the updated survey responses on Members' policies and practices in respect of officially supported export credits and the environment, (3) transactions in 2003 to Heavily Indebted Poor Countries and (4) the updated survey responses on Members' policies and practices in respect of officially supported export credits and bribery. Some ECG Members presented their export credit systems for fighting corruption and the Secretariat was asked to look at any international standards that might inform further consideration of the ECG's published Action Statement. Another annual consultation with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) was foreseen.

Export Credits and Environment

3. The Common Approaches voluntarily implemented by most ECG Members from 2002 through to 2003 encompassed procedures for identifying and evaluating the environmental impacts of projects and exports of capital goods and services destined to projects when taking decisions on officially supported export credits. Whilst the voluntary Common Approaches was succeeded by the OECD Recommendation adopted by the OECD Council on 18 December 2003 (details of which are available on this website), ECG Members have reported their Category A and B projects reviewed in 2003 under the voluntary arrangement and at their 101st Meeting agreed that the information will be made available on the OECD website following verification of some data.

4. ECG Members also agreed to enhance the ongoing survey on their export credit policies and practices to accord with the OECD Recommendation. Meantime, the updated responses to the current survey will be made available on the OECD website.

Export Credits and Measures to Detect and Deter Bribery

5. The work in the ECG on officially supported export credits and bribery complements the work undertaken by the Working Group on Bribery in respect of the OECD Convention and latterly, and more specifically, the Phase 2 Review process, in which often export credits is an element.

6. ECG Members agreed to make available the latest update of responses to the ongoing survey of their policies and practices to deter bribery. The Secretariat was requested to use the information in the survey as a tool to inform the possible enhancement of the ECG's Action Statement on Bribery and Officially Supported Export Credits published in 2000.

Unproductive Expenditure to Heavily Indebted Poor Countries

7. In the G7 Finance Ministers Report from Genoa in July 2001, it was noted that "*at Okinawa G-8 Leaders highlighted the importance of responsible lending by donors. We note the work of the OECD on strengthening measures to ensure that export credit support to HIPCs and other low-income countries is not used for unproductive purposes and welcome the agreement to a Statement of Principles in relation to HIPCs. We call on the OECD to consider further measures to enhance transparency in this field, including a published review of national rules and regulations.*". Resulting from these statements, ECG

Members agreed in 2001 to a Statement of Principles (on the OECD website) and a transparency exercise to report officially supported export credits to the HIPCs.

8. The reporting of transactions to the HIPCs from the year 2001 through 2003 shows that HIPC countries represent a small but consistent portion of Members' official export credit business. ECG Members agreed that the 2003 reporting would be made available on the OECD website, as was the case for information related to 2001 and 2002.

9. Finally, ECG Members agreed to a further annual consultation with CSOs, e.g. NGOs, BIAC and TUAC, on export credit issues and this is expected to be held towards the end of June 2004.