

THE CORNER HOUSE

Station Road
Sturminster Newton
Dorset DT10 1YJ
UK
Tel: +44 (0)1258 473795
Fax: +44 (0)1258 473748
Email <cornerhouse@gn.apc.org>
Website: www.thecornerhouse.org.uk
Company No: 3892837

Ms Nicole Bollen,
Chair
Working Party on Export Credits and Credit Guarantees (ECG)
c/o OECD Export Credit Secretariat
Paris
Fax: 01 44 30 61 58
Email: Xcred.Secretariat@oecd.org

8 November 2008

Dear Ms Bollen,

Thank you for your letter of 25 September 2008, the content of which has been noted.

We appreciate your report regarding ECG discussions on the modalities for future consultations with civil society organisations (CSOs) and on peer review. However, we regret that the ECG has not provided more exhaustive responses to the constructive proposals that ECA-Watch has made, both for improving the process of information exchange between NGOs and the ECG as a body, and for peer review of ECG members.

With regard to consultation modalities, you explain that all parties are invited to provide agenda items and written submissions, in an attempt to make the consultations as interactive and effective as possible. ECA-Watch has consistently provided such input in the past yet consultations have been almost completely non-interactive and ineffective. Clearly a different approach is needed if we are to foster meaningful exchange. ECA-Watch had hoped that our feedback on these issues would stimulate reflection and proposals from ECG members regarding the conditions that would allow more active government participation in consultation discussions.

Without such a response from ECG, the process issues raised by ECA-Watch remain, and we do not believe that it would be a productive use of our members' time and energy to attend the November consultation with ECG.

We would, however, take this opportunity of informing ECG members that ECA-Watch

plans an international seminar in 2009 to review the role of ECAs regarding environmental protection and sustainable development. ECA representatives and practitioners will be invited and we very much hope that they will be able to attend. The meeting will be held under Chatham House rules. We have understood that this format also applies to ECG consultations. We would appreciate that you inform ECG members of this opportunity.

Yours Sincerely,

Nicholas Hildyard
On behalf of ECAWatch