



REGERINGSKANSLIET

**Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
Sweden**

*International Trade Policy Department*

*Birgitta NYGREN*

*E-mail: birgitta.nygren@foreign.ministry.se*

Mr. Bruce RICH  
Environmental Defence  
1875 Connecticut Ave. N.W.  
Suite 1016  
Washington, D.C. 20009  
UNITED STATES

24 March 2004

TD/ECD2004.019

Dear Bruce,

I am writing to you about the two letters dated 3 February and 8 March 2004 I have received from several NGOs and would ask if you could share my reply with them as the only signed letter of the two was from you.

In the two letters, it is indicated that NGOs are interested in participating in consultation processes on several export credit issues, in particular discussions on Renewable Energy and the implementation of the 2003 Common Approaches on Export Credits and the Environment.

The Participants to the Arrangement on Officially Supported Export Credits met on 4-5 March and your first letter, which had previously been circulated, was discussed. I should explain that the forum for some of the issues in which you have expressed an interest, *e.g.* Renewable Energy, would be addressed by the Participants to the Arrangement (not the Working Party on Export Credits and Credit Guarantees - ECG), insofar as any amendment to the rules of the Arrangement are concerned. The discussion showed that, at this juncture, the Participants considered that the issue of a possible need for special treatment of Renewable Energy projects had not been explored in such detail as to give Participants a sufficient basis for a decision on whether to put it on the agenda, although for some individual Participants it may be an important issue in a broader context. Consequently, the issue of Renewable Energy is not likely to be discussed in substance at the April 2004 Meeting of the Participants.

... / ...

With regard to the 2002 Common Approaches, implemented voluntarily between January 2002 and December 2003, as things stand now, the ECG Members have reported to the Secretariat the official support they provided to Category A and B projects for the year 2003 - as required by the Common Approaches - and at an aggregated level this information will be publicly disseminated once the ECG has had the opportunity to consider the collective information. Since these 2002 Common Approaches are not the prevailing ones, substantive discussion on these is somewhat academic.

As to the implementation of the OECD Recommendation adopted on 18 December 2003, the ECG Members are in the process of adjusting their export credit systems to take account of the elements of the Recommendation which were not in the 2002 Common Approaches.

Nevertheless, I understand your wish to be more informed about implementation generally of the Common Approaches and in this regard, two elements may be useful to mention: first, the document called "Members' Procedures and Practices regarding Officially Supported Export Credits and the Environment" which is on the OECD website will be updated later this year to take account of any adjustment that ECG Members will have made over the last six months to their systems. Second, as it was the case over the past several years, the ECG will hold a meeting later this year with Stakeholders, most likely in November (possible dates are being explored by the Secretariat) to exchange views on a range of export credit issues. In due time for such a meeting, you will of course be invited.

Against this background, the Participants and the Members of the ECG consider that it would not be appropriate to hold a Consultation with Stakeholders prior to their April 2004 Meetings.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet West". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "W".

for: Ms. Birgitta NYGREN  
Chairman of the Working Party of Export Credits and Credit Guarantees (ECG)  
and the Participants to the Arrangement

cc: Ms. Janet WEST, Head, Export Credits Division, Trade Directorate, OECD  
Mr. Jean LE COCGUIC, Principal Administrator, Export Credits Division, Trade Directorate, OECD