

Ms. Birgitta Nygren, Chair  
Working Party on Export Credits and Credit Guarantees  
Ms. Janet West, Head  
Export Credits Division  
OECD  
2 Rue Andre Pascal  
F-75775 Paris Cedex 16,  
France

15th April 2004

Dear Ms Nygren and Ms West

**Bribery Allegations in ECA-backed project in Nigeria**

We enclose a letter that a group of NGOs has recently sent to the ECGD about allegations of bribery in the Bonny Island LNG Plant in Nigeria. Similar letters have been sent to Exim in the US, Sace, and Gerling-NCM.

As you will see from the letter we believe that how ECAs respond to the allegations of bribery in this project is a key test of their commitment to the OECD Action Statement on Bribery and Officially Supported Export Credits of December 2000, and to enforcing their own individual anti-corruption procedures. In the run up to the discussion of the OECD ECG paper on Best Practices on Deterring and Combating Bribery in Officially Supported Export Credits, these particular allegations are a reminder that fine words and good paper policies are not enough to combat bribery. The political and institutional will to take action on bribery allegations must be encouraged among ECAs.

Real-life examples of bribery cases are central to understanding how ECAs apply their anti-corruption policies in practice and to highlighting differences of approach by ECAs. Crucially they are also an opportunity for ECAs to learn from each other about the best ways to deal with such allegations, and to move forward together. We would therefore encourage the OECD ECG to initiate discussion between ECAs on particular case studies, including the Bonny Island LNG Plant, to see what can be learned from concrete situations. We would also encourage the OECD ECG to consider a more active role in monitoring how well ECAs are implementing the Action Statement, by keeping a database of allegations on projects supported by ECAs, which can then form the basis for specific case studies to be drawn up.

We look forward to your suggestions concerning the role of the OECD ECG in this regard.

Yours sincerely

Susan Hawley  
The Corner House  
UK

David Ugolor  
African Network for Economic and Environmental Justice (ANEEJ)  
Nigeria

Wiert Wiertsema  
Bothends  
Holland

Antonio Tricarico  
Eyes on SACE  
Italy

Doug Norlen  
Pacific Environment Network  
USA