



ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

DIRECTION DES ECHANGES
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Exports Credits Division

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Paris, 6 May 2004

Dear Ms. Hawley
Mr. Ugolor
Mr. Wiertsema
Mr. Tricarico
Mr. Norlen,

Thank you for your letter of 15 April 2004 addressed to Janet West and myself which enclosed a copy of a letter addressed to the UK Minister for Trade about the Bonny Island LNG Plant in Nigeria.

Let me first say that I am very happy that bribery and officially supported export credits is on the Agenda of the ECG as one of the main issues. There is a firm commitment to press on with the work and the recently initiated presentations of national systems will inform Members in their fight against corruption. However, I do not think that, at this time, there is much interest in discussing actual cases and indeed this may not be appropriate in some instances. Maybe, at a later stage it could be worthwhile to look at individual cases in which the judicial process is complete.

With regard to your proposal for keeping a database of allegations, I also do not think that this would be appropriate. In this connection, a parallel could be drawn to a proposal made by BIAC to use the CIME National Contact Points to discuss allegations of solicitation: while Members of the CIME and the Bribery Group had welcomed the initiative of BIAC to find ways to fight corruption, they also thought it rather difficult to use the National Contact Points for collecting allegations of solicitation. Some have argued that there is no legal basis for keeping records of allegations and also there is a perceived risk that false allegations could be made for commercial purposes.

Yours sincerely,

for: Chairman of the Working Party on Export Credits and Credit Guarantees (ECG)
and the Participants to the Arrangement

cc: Members of the ECG and the Participants to the Arrangement