

Dear Ms Roggenbuck,

We refer to your message of 27th November 2009 requesting an explanation on the EIB assessment of the ArcelorMittal's Steel Product and Processing R&D Facility project. We also refer to our acknowledgment of receipt on the same date.

Regarding your question of whether the Bank considers that this project is for modernising undertakings or a project for common interest to several Member States, we would like to inform you that the Bank considers that this is a project of common interest.

More specifically, the project conforms to the Common Interest criteria retained under article 267 of the EC Treaty (now Article 309 of the Treaty on the functioning of the EU) as it falls in the scope of the EU policy orientations regarding (i) the Knowledge Based Economy (research, development and Innovation); (ii) the Protection of the Environment (improving the Environment) and (iii) Tackling Climate Change (mitigation and adaptation of industrial activities).

As regards your question as to how the EIB assessed the compatibility of its financing decision with the above mentioned Article of the Treaty and Article 18 of its Statute (now Article 16), we would like to inform you that for every project the Bank finances, its services carry out a due diligence in order to evaluate the Bank's contribution to the project. This due diligence assesses the value added to be achieved through the Bank's involvement, which also takes into consideration the availability, terms and conditions of other sources of funding.

The Bank's strategy identifies three pillars for measuring the value added to beneficiaries of the Bank's lending activities, which are; (i) the consistency between each operation and the priority objectives of the EU; (ii) the quality and soundness of the project, focusing on identifying the economic and environmental sustainability of the operation; and (iii) the contribution made by the EIB, both financial and non-financial.

Yours sincerely,

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

Hakan Lucius
Head of Division

Juan M. Sterlin Balenciaga
Head of Unit

