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IFI Advisory Group – Working Group Meeting on Environment April 17, 2008 Chairman's Conclusions

The Environment Working Group of the IFI Advisory Group (IFI-AG) met for the second time on April 17, 2008. There was a very productive atmosphere and a wide participation of sector experts from each of the IFIs. The meeting provided a useful opportunity to exchange information (eg, project pipelines, the Infrastructure Projects Facility) and to coordinate activities.

The following conclusions were reached:

- Participants reached a first agreement on a letter to be sent by DG Environment to two or more pilot countries to encourage ministries of environment, in cooperation with ministries of finance, to organize regular 'in country' coordination meetings with IFIs. It was agreed that it would be important first to ascertain what donor coordination mechanisms were already in place in the candidate and pre-candidate countries, and to what extent they provided sufficient coverage of the environmental sector. DG Environment will liaise with Commission delegations and put together a quick overview of these existing coordination mechanisms. On the basis of this work, pilot countries will be proposed, along with a draft of the letter. The letter will be circulated to members of the group for comments.
- There was a useful discussion on climate change adaptation¹, which will form the basis for future positive activities. Three areas emerged for consideration: i) the need for an awareness raising campaign in the countries of the region on the issue of adaptation to climate change; ii) the need for participating IFIs to work with the EC on defining common methodologies, approaches and standards in the field of adaptation to climate change (for example on "climate-proofing" of infrastructure); and, iii) the need to exert influence at the national level to ensure that countries in the region develop national strategies to deal with climate change issues.
- Participants also to note that a meeting on "Energy and Climate in SEE" will be organized in Brussels on 22nd-23rd May 2008. The meeting is organized under REReP; IFIs will be invited to the meeting.
- Concerning waste management, participants agreed that countries (both new members and candidates/potential candidates) need to make considerable progress to meet the acquis. IFI financing is available if the demand increases, and experience is increasing despite the obstacles. On the basis of the presentation made by the World Bank, a short document/presentation will be drafted which outlines the key drivers for the establishment of good waste management programs, as well as the key obstacles. This presentation will be tabled at the next plenary meeting of the IFI Advisory group and future action can be taken at the country level as noted in the first point above.
- Concerning the question of leadership of issues on the group, participants agreed to take a flexible approach in which participating IFIs will be invited to take the lead on specific meeting agenda items on the basis of their expertise and interest.

¹ Mitigation is addressed under the Energy and Transport working groups

- The Environment Working Group will be represented by DG Environment at the next Energy Working Group meeting (May 6, 2008), and by the Joint Office at the following Energy meeting later in the year.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 2008.