



DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
(Joint Ministerial Committee
of the
Boards of Governors of the Bank and the Fund
on the
Transfer of Real Resources to Developing Countries)

NINETY-THIRD MEETING
WASHINGTON, D.C. – APRIL 16, 2016

DC/S/2016-0009
April 16, 2016

Statement by

Mr. Pim Van Ballekom
Vice President

European Investment Bank

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

Statement by

Mr. Pim Van Ballekom
Vice President, European Investment Bank

93rd Meeting of the Development Committee

April 16, 2016
Washington, D.C.

The forced migration and refugee crises that are currently taking place in various countries around the globe are part of a more general and longer term challenge. The EIB shares the conclusions of the recent report by the Secretary General of the United Nations on “One Humanity Shared Responsibility” that will require a global response to address the root causes of these crises as they are being driven by a combination of conflict, failed states, exceptional economic difficulties and in certain cases natural disasters. The EIB shares the view of this report that the humanitarian and development aid programs, should work hand in hand to establish a longer term perspective and a more effective approach overall. EIB supports the consideration being given in the preparation of the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul the need to go beyond crisis management and crisis response towards investing in crisis prevention and building up of economic resilience.

The current widespread forced migration and refugee crises are a major socio economic challenge as well as major legal and political challenges. They are particularly difficult to resolve both for countries of origin as well as for host countries even if both are impacted in different ways. Whereas countries of origin are frequently directly affected through economic destabilization and loss of population, host countries, whether the temporary or final destination of forcibly displaced groups, are also severely impacted due to the cost and demands of integrating the newly arrived groupings.

The EIB, as the EU Bank, and its partner MDBs view the joint deployment of our expertise and experience as well as our convening power as necessary to contribute to the resolution of problems that are beyond the scope of any single institution to resolve. Longer term economic and social development as well as immediate measures to mitigate the impact of the forced migrations and refugee crises are required in the countries of origin, countries of transit and in the host countries; a holistic approach is required.

Humanitarian agencies that address short-term emergencies need to be buttressed by long term financial and institutional arrangements capable of supporting development to address the root causes of these crises. The SDG Framework agreed by the Member States of the United Nations and endorsed by all the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) provides a strong and clear framework both internationally and nationally. The IFIs that work towards the successful implementation of the SDGs and of the 2030 Agenda are providing an important contribution to a longer term solution, as by doing so, they share responsibility with the humanitarian activities of the United Nations and Member State governments and other parties for finding a sustainable solution.

The IFIs are already heavily committed to this task and will continue to address various aspects of the humanitarian and development challenges caused by the current crises. The IFIs aim to use to best effect

their expertise; their experience, policy knowledge and resources by working in partnership with Member State governments at a national and at a regional level. IFIs are prepared to deepen this commitment by collaborating even more with each other and by working in partnership with national institutions and countries as well as with public and private organisations where this is possible.

The UN Secretary General's report has shown that there is an established consensus that it will be necessary to mobilize increased resources in order to address the scale of current crises on a long term basis; also that is necessary to organize the response across the globe of all institutions concerned in a way that allows existing resources to be used as effectively as possible as well as to contain the overall cost of migration crises.

The European Investment Bank, as the EU Bank, is prepared to take the lead where we have the means and comparative advantage to do so and to give support to others to lead where they are best positioned. EIB, as the largest IFI lender in the affected MENA region and as the main development partner of the EU (the principal source of donor finance for development purposes globally) stands ready to use EIB's specific technical and financial expertise, drawing on its experience in the countries of origin, countries of transit and host countries by building on our strengths of proven cooperation with public and private sector bodies. EIB is ready to collaborate on the development of partnerships and programs with individual countries as well as across regions with the aim of identifying and implementing the required solutions.

As an IFI, EIB is also prepared when the requisite budgetary and donor contributions are available, to develop appropriate financial instruments to increase the impact and results that can be achieved by development programs. The EIB, already combines public sector budgetary and donor resources with its own resources. EIB has demonstrated that blending can be an additional technique to manage the use of public resources in the most effective way possible; also that it can optimise the use of public resources by mobilising the private sector.

Such an approach, if more widely applied, should enable the IFIs to enhance their impact on the real economy by accelerating the speed and scale of their response to development challenges and crises. IFIs collectively are aiming, as part of their undertakings to implement the SDGs, to increase their policy support and technical advice so as to facilitate project management and implementation. IFIs are also aiming to design appropriately innovative financial instruments, using blending where necessary, to channel financial resources where they can be most effective by creating the needed economic resilience and generating job opportunities in the affected countries.

EIB will continue to work in close collaboration with other IFIs in support of the implementation of the SDGs and in response to the forced migration and refugee crises currently being experienced.