

ANDRIS PIEBALGS
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Bruxelles, 27 01. 2011
Cab 11/PL/an Ares /(2011)

Dear Ms. Christiansen,

We would like to thank you for your letter of 17 November 2010, expressing concern about the EU position on aid transparency and the High Level Forum IV on Aid Effectiveness in Busan 2011. We appreciate and need your strong commitment to aid transparency and mutual accountability and we read with great interest AidWatch's recent position paper "EU Aid Transparency: Stepping up to the challenge".

Mutual accountability and transparency is indeed a central issue within the international aid effectiveness agenda. Enhancing donors' and partner countries' mutual and domestic accountability is essential for maximising the impact of aid. These themes are also related to issues of governance and democracy in the partner countries, and thus, are highly important for us.

On the basis of the proposal made by the Commission, the EU Foreign Affairs Council adopted a set of practical joint steps to accelerate the implementation of existing aid transparency and mutual accountability commitments on 9 December 2010 (cf. annex). We consider it a step in the right direction as part of the EU collective approach to the implementation of Paris and Accra commitments, and the Operational Framework on Aid Effectiveness adopted November 2009. The European Commission is also highly committed to implement the agreed standards of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and to promote the work of IATI in the EU-context.

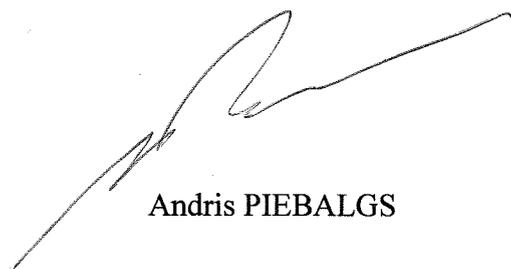
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As you also underlined in your letter, the EU position on mutual accountability and transparency will be an important element for our approach towards the High Level Forum in Busan. The EU and its Member States will work on a common position, based on a proposal by the Commission by July 2011, as stated in the Council Conclusions of 9 December 2010.

We are looking forward to your active participation in formulating an ambitious EU position towards Busan.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected strokes that form the name 'Andris Piebalgs'.

Andris PIEBALGS

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected strokes that form the name 'Kristalina Gueorgieva'.

Kristalina GEAORGIEVA