

ANDRIS PIEBALGS

MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Bruxelles, - 8. 02. 2011
Cab Piebalgs/PL/an (2011)sv148000

Dear all,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 25 January 2011, expressing your appreciation for the involvement of the European Commission in the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and aid transparency in general.

In my joint letter to you of 27 January 2011 with Commissioner Georgieva, I underlined that mutual accountability and transparency are indeed a central issue within the international aid effectiveness agenda. The EU Foreign Affairs Council adopted a set of conclusions on 9 December 2010 which are 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.

As for the IATI Steering Committee on 9 February, DG DEVCO will represent the European Commission and contribute to the objective of promoting transparency, not only for quantitative data, but also on non-financial aid related issues (for instance disclosure of country strategy papers).

I believe that transparency and mutual accountability are indeed prerequisite for aid effectiveness and the Commission has, from the start, been involved in the IATI process. I also believe that we need to ensure consistency and coherence between the various fora where the issue is being discussed. At a time where budgets are put at strains, we all need to be able to report to citizens the result and the impact of the aid. I strongly count on your proactivity, as civil society and grassroots organizations, to raise awareness both on the "success stories" of EU aid on the ground and room for improvement. We all work for the same objectives, eradication of poverty and better life for people in developing countries, hence we must partner in ensuring accountability and information.

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On our side, my services are working hard to ensure that the Commission can demonstrate more comprehensive and timely information on its work for development cooperation in an accessible way for partner countries and the wider public.

I look forward to continue working with civil society organizations on this important issue ahead of the Busan High Level Forum IV.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name 'Andris Piebalgs'.

Andris PIEBALGS