

SURVEY**on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits Projects****REPORTING COUNTRY INFORMATION**

AUT-OeKB-SURVEY-APR-10

Reporting Country	<input type="text" value="Austria"/>	Reporting Institution	<input type="text" value="OeKB"/>
Submission Date	<input type="text" value="01 April 2010"/>	Version number	<input type="text" value="Apr-10"/>

I GENERAL PRINCIPLES**Objectives**

1 In general, please describe the policies and practices that you have established to support the objectives of the Recommendation.

OeKB's environmental guidelines and procedures were reviewed and updated to incorporate the changes resulting from the OECD recommendation. External reporting and ex-ante and ex-post transparency requirements are set up.

For a detailed description of the environmental review procedure, we refer to our website:

<http://www.oekb.at/control/index.html?id=12975>

For the environmental policy refer to: <http://www.oekb.at/control/index.html?id=1350637>

AUT-OeKB-SURVEY-APR-10**II SCREENING AND CLASSIFICATION OF PROJECTS****Exemptions**

2 Are all applications screened?

Information requirements

3 What information is required for the screening process?
Please provide details of information required.

1.) Pre-screening: Questions within the application form covers basic project information and specifically ask for sensitive sector or location.
2.) Screening: Identify environmental and social impacts with separate environmental questionnaire (5 different types covering, thermal power plants, dams and hydroelectric power plants, iron and steel, pulp and paper mills and one of a general nature)

Responsibilities

4 Who is responsible for providing the information required to screen applications?

Any other comments.

5 Who within your Export Credit Agency (ECA) is responsible for screening applications?

Env. Practitioners are responsible while underwriters are trained on environmental matters related to screening. Applicants are also encouraged to check environmental impacts of their project, including preliminary categorisation in order to predict the required documentation at an early stage.

Timing

6 At what stage does screening occur in the risk assessment process?

As early as possible after OeKB is in principle prepared to proceed with the processing of the application:
1.pre-screening at the stage of receiving an application for cover
2.screening usually after obtaining the environmental questionnaires

Scope and criteria of screening

7 Please provide details of how the screening process considers, where appropriate, operational links with associated operations.

Based on the process and kind of project we tend to consider, where appropriate, the operation as a whole. This information is taken into account on a case by case basis. It might effect the environmental classification and the scope of the environmental review of a project.

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8 Please specify any particular practices followed in screening applications in cases of:

a) Co-insurance/co-finance with other ECAs or International Financial Institutions (IFIs).

Would always conduct own screening

Any other comments.

We would consult and cooperate with other ECAs and IFIs involved.

b) Re-insurance as lead ECA.

Would always conduct own screening

Any other comments.

We screen according to our own procedure and share the results with other ECAs.

c) Re-insurance as re-insurer.

May take account of screening by lead ECA

Any other comments.

We generally align our own screening with the result of the lead ECA.

Scope and criteria of screening

9 What procedures and practices do you have in place to help identify exports of capital goods and services to existing operations[1]?

The application form and the environmental questionnaire include questions to identify exports of capital goods or services to existing operations or greenfield projects. If necessary we request further information.

New projects

10 What procedures and practices do you have in place to help identify exports of capital goods and services to projects[2]?

see comments under question 9.

Other exports

11 How do you screen exports of capital goods and services that are neither to existing operations nor to projects?

They are screened according to their potential environmental impact, if any. So far, examples were rolling stock, trucks, rails etc.

Classification system

12 Does your classification system vary from that of the Recommendation?

No

Some transactions are classified as "non projects"; see answer to the question 13. Some transactions are classified as "non projects"; see answer to the question 13.

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Scope of classification

13 Do you classify exports of capital goods and services

a) that are to existing operations?

Yes

Please provide details.

Modification/extension are evaluated on the potential impact case-by-case. As they really always employ modern technology, positive effects can be expected. However, other effects (such as increase in production, heavy pollutant equipment) have to be taken into account as well.

b) that are neither to existing operations nor to projects?

No

See answer 11.

14 In what circumstances do you classify projects in respect of which your share is below SDR 10 million?

We tend to classify all applications where appropriate, especially if a project is located in a sensitive area or related to a sensitive sector.

Responsibilities for classification

15 Who is responsible for the classification of projects?

Environmental Practitioner (always)

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III ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Information requirements

- 16 Do your procedures prescribe the type of information necessary for the review process, or are projects reviewed on a case-by-case basis? Please provide details.

Prescribed procedures

Please provide details.

In the five separate environmental questionnaires, the exporter must provide general and specific information. For a project with category A an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required. The EIA report shall include the items referred to in Annex 2 of the Common Approaches.

For category B projects; in addition to information asked in the questionnaires further questions or studies will be requested on a case by case basis, depending e.g. on amount, potential leverage of the applicant, regulatory environment of the project, etc.

For category C projects: no environmental studies are normally required. However, some further information might be required on a case-by-case basis

Responsibilities

- 17 Who is responsible for providing the information required to review projects?

Applicant (in most cases)

- 18 Who within your ECA is responsible for reviewing projects?

Environmental Practitioner (always)

The project and environmental department is in charge of environmental and social assessment of the project. In some cases, external experts may be consulted.

Scope and criteria

- 19 Please provide details of how your review process considers, where appropriate, operational links with associated operations.

We tend to focus firstly on the environmental impact of the delivered good and service and secondly on the environmental impact of the whole operation including associated operations.
For greenfield projects and in any case for applications > EUR 10 million, the whole project is identified to which the application is related.

- 20 Please specify any particular practices followed in reviewing projects in cases of:

- a) Co-insurance/co-finance with other ECAs, IFIs or your Development Agency.

Would always conduct own review

Any other comments.

We would coordinate assessment with the respective ECA partners involved including sharing of information; in case of a minor part we might reduce the depth of our assessment and base the decision to a major extent on the co-insurer's assessment.

- b) Re-insurance as lead ECA.

Would always conduct own screening

Any other comments.

Review according to our procedures and share the results of the scrutiny process with the ECA involved.

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- c) Re-insurance as re-insurer.

May take account of review carried out by lead ECA

Any other comments.

We rely on analyses carried out by lead ECA, if it is an OECD-ECA. While we in general try to avoid double work, we have to understand the quality and the outcome of the assessment by our partner.

Category A projects

- 21 Under paragraph 9 of the Recommendation, Members should require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be undertaken for Category A projects. Are there any circumstances in which you might accept to review a Category A project for which an EIA has not been undertaken or for which either an EIA report is not available for review or does not adequately address all the issues set out in Annex II of the Recommendation?

No

Generally no; in circumstances where one or very few individual issues of Annex II are not adequately addressed we might accept this EIA for review under the condition that these issues are delivered at a later stage of the review process.

- 22 a) Who is responsible for
i) Commissioning an EIA?

Project Sponsor (in most cases)

Any other comments.

- ii) Carrying out an EIA?

Independent Consultant (in most cases)

Any other comments.

- b) Who is responsible for providing you with a copy of an EIA report?

Applicant (in most cases)

Any other comments.

It is always the applicant who is responsible for providing an EIA

- c) Who is responsible for reviewing an EIA report?

Environmental Practitioner (always)

Category B projects

- 23 Under paragraph 10 of the Recommendation, the review of Category B projects should examine a project's potential negative and positive environmental impacts.
Please provide details of your general approach to reviewing Category B projects.

Information from environmental questionnaires and additional documents demanded from the applicant are taken for evaluation of the projects under Category B. Additionally we may ask for input from official Austrian representative in the buyer's country.

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Which, if any, of the items listed in Annex II of the Recommendation and which key environmental factors, such as those listed in paragraph 8 (tired 1) of the Recommendation, are taken into consideration?

Annex II:Executive Summary Policy, legal and administrative framework Project description Baseline data Environmental impacts Analysis of alternatives Environmental Management Plan Consultation Paragraph 8 (tired 1):significant air emissions, effluents, waste or noise significant use of natural resources involuntary resettlement impacts on indigenous peoples cultural property Existing operations

- 24 What procedures and practices do you have in place to review the environmental risks associated with existing operations?

Same environmental questionnaire is required to be filled out by the supplier. In case no material change in output and/or no negative environmental impact is expected a condensed procedure - "Watchful eye approach" - is conducted.

In case the project is undergoing material change in output with relevant environmental impact or located in a sensitive area the full comprehensive procedure is applied.

Other exports

- 25 Do you review the environmental risks associated with Exports of capital goods and services that are neither to existing operations nor to projects?

 See answer 11.Standards

- 26 How do you ensure that a project is compliant with host country standards?

Host country standards (e.g. air, water emission limits) are asked for in env. questionnaires and are normally also included in the EIA. Construction and operating permits are part of the information we use in the assessment. These permits are usually issued only if the local standards are fulfilled.

- 27 Paragraph 12 of the Recommendation sets out the general circumstances in which various international standards should be used for the purposes of evaluating the potential environmental impacts of projects. Please provide details of when, in practice, you would use the following international standards for Category A projects:

- a) World Bank Safeguard Policies.

Please provide details.

WB safeguard policies are used when they are relevant for the project.

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- b) International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards.

Please provide details.

- c) Regional Development Bank standards.

Please provide details.

- d) Other relevant internationally recognised standards, such as European Community standards.

- 28 Please provide details of the circumstances, if any, in which you use the following technical international standards for the purposes of evaluating the potential environmental impacts of Category A projects (*i.e.* for sovereign, public / non-sovereign, corporate, limited or non-recourse project finance transactions).

- a) The Pollution Prevention and Abatement Handbook.

Any other comments.

Sovereign Public/non-sovereign Corporate Limited or non-recourse project finance transaction

- b) IFC Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines.

Any other comments.

Sovereign Public/non-sovereign Corporate Limited or non-recourse

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- 29 Paragraph 12 of the Recommendation sets out the general circumstances in which various international standards should be used for the purposes of evaluating the potential environmental impacts of projects. Please provide details of when, in practice, you would use the following international standards for Category B projects:

- a) World Bank Safeguard Policies.

Other

Please provide details.

WB safeguard policies are used when they are relevant for the project.

- b) International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards.

For private sector limited or non-recourse project finance cases (case-by-case basis)

Please provide details.

depending on documentation available and partners involved in the project

- c) Regional Development Bank standards.

Other

Please provide details.

when coinsuring or cofinancing with RDB occurs

- d) Other relevant internationally recognised standards, such as European Community standards.

- BREF, BAT documents
- World Commission on Dams
- WHO Standards

- 30 Please provide details of the circumstances, if any, in which you use the following technical international standards for the purposes of evaluating the potential environmental impacts of Category B projects (*i.e.* for sovereign, public / non-sovereign, corporate, limited or non-recourse project finance transactions):

- a) The Pollution Prevention and Abatement Handbook.

Any other comments.

Sovereign

Rarely

For applications where the processing of the assessment has started within the validity of the 2005 Recommendation and within the first couple of months after April 2007

Public/non-sovereign

Rarely

Corporate

Rarely

Limited or non-recourse

Rarely

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- b) IFC Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines.

Any other comments.

Sovereign

In most cases

Public/non-sovereign

In most cases

Corporate

In most cases

Limited or non-recourse

In most cases

- 31 Please provide details of any circumstances in which you might apply more than one set of international standards or guidelines.

Case-by-case sector specific guidelines (e.g.BAT documents) are taken into account additional to IFC guidelines. That is the case if it is required, that supplied goods have to comply with BAT technology.

- 32 Please provide details on the circumstances in which you would use other internationally recognised sector specific or issue specific standards that are not addressed by the World Bank Group.

World Commission on Dams Recommendations are taken into consideration in large hydropower projects, as well as guidance from the International Hydropower Association (IHA). RDB standards are used if a RDB is already in the project and has started to use their environmental standards.

- 33 Please provide details of your procedures and practices in cases where projects do not meet the international standards or guidelines against which they have been benchmarked.

We try to assess reasons behind the deviations, evaluate possible consequences and propose or negotiate adequate remedies to the supplier, which he can fulfil. Other conditions, which can be met by the buyer or country authority are sought to be fulfilled in advance (e.g.commitment to EAP).

Site visits

- 34 Please specify in what circumstances you might carry out a site visit as part of the review process.

Usually site visits are carried out for category A projects. The final decision whether or not a site visit is carried out is made case-by-case based on quality and findings of the EIA and received information. For category B projects site visits are carried out when also justified from buyer's risk assessment point of view.

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IV EVALUATION, DECISION AND MONITORING

Conditions to official support

- 35 How are conditions related to the environment incorporated into documentation prior to or after the decision on official support? Please provide details.

The results of environmental assessment are incorporated in the condition for cover. Normally only such conditions are imposed which the exporter can fulfil. Other conditions are negotiated with the buyer or buyer country authorities which should be fulfilled in advance or fulfillment shall be secured by a written commitment before official support is made.

Please provide examples of any environmental covenants used.

- Compliance with environmental management action plan, compliance with Resettlement Action Plan
- Compliance with WB/IFC standards

Denying official support

- 36 Under what circumstances would you consider denying support on account of the environmental impacts of a project? Please provide details.

If, after comprehensive assessment, there is sufficient evidence that the project has considerable negative impact which is not expected to be properly mitigated.

Please provide any examples of experience.

Monitoring

- 37 Please provide details of your procedures for monitoring, as appropriate, the implementation of a project, regardless of its classification, to ensure compliance with the conditions of your official support, including monitoring frequency/period, content and reporting method.

OeKB normally rely on the sponsor or third parties (e.g.bank) to be responsible for proper environmental monitoring including providing documentation.

Monitoring frequency/period:

Depending on the project, for instance: for projects with environmental impact only:
- once during construction period
- once after commissioning
- yearly during operation phase;
for projects with environmental and major social impact (e.g. resettlement) more frequently

Content:

Content as agreed in the monitoring conditions. Monitoring results may include for example:
- quantitative measurement data related to air, water, ground in comparison with relevant limits (local permits, int'l standards, etc.)
- compliance with environmental action/management plan
- results of site audits by external parties or expert groups

Reporting method:

In agreed written format.

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- 38 i) Who is responsible for undertaking monitoring of projects, including, if appropriate, site visits and preparing monitoring reports?

Other

Please provide details.

Depending on the project: normally Client/Sponsor; external third parties, e.g. environmental authorities, expert groups etc.

- ii) Who is responsible for reviewing monitoring information and deciding on compliance?

Other

Please provide details.

ECA practitioners, possibly with expert support

Non-compliance measures

- 39 What actions are available to you in cases where monitoring reveals that conditions are not being complied with?

Such actions are related to the incorporation of monitoring conditions in the guarantee agreement or in the commitment from the buyer or buyer country authorities. Therefore this will be on a case by case basis, e.g. negotiations with project sponsors, buyer or authorities on actions to achieve compliance.

Who is responsible for deciding what actions are appropriate in order to restore compliance?

Other

Please provide details.

ECA practitioners, environmental experts

Please provide any examples of experience.

No experience yet.

Disclosure of monitoring reports

- 40 i) In what circumstances do you encourage project sponsors to make *ex post* monitoring reports and related information publicly available?

OeKB generally encourages project sponsors to make ex-post monitoring reports publicly available.

- ii) In what circumstances, if any, does your ECA require project sponsors to make such information publicly available or itself seek to make such information publicly available?

In cases of projects deemed critical and showing substantial interest/awareness by civil society. Requests under the Austrian Environmental Information Act.

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V EXCHANGE AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

Environmental procedural guidance

41 Have you published national ECA environmental policy statements and procedural guidance?

Yes	Environmental procedures and questionnaires as well as links to OECD, WB and IFC environmental related issues can be found on OeKB's website.
Where can they be found?	
Please provide web address if relevant.	http://www.oekb.at/control/index.html?id=235804

Exchanging information

42 Please provide details of your procedures and practices in exchanging information with other ECAs and IFIs in situations of

a) co-insuring/co-financing.

OeKB demands prior consent by the exporter at the start of the environmental assessment to exchange environmental information deemed necessary. Principally OeKB is eager to cooperate with others in environmental assessments, both in co-financing and as much as possible also in a competitive situation.
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b) competition.

Same answer as to the question 42 a)

Disclosure of project information

43 Please provide details of your procedures and practices for disclosing publicly information on Category A projects before a final commitment to grant official support, including:

a) The scope and content of information released.

OeKB requires the permission from sponsor of the project or from the supplier before publishing environmental impact information of Category A projects. Typically, the following information is available on the website: category, sector and type, country, contact for further information, general project information

b) The form and language of the information released.

The project information is released in German, reports and additional information are in German or English on our website.
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including website address, if relevant. <http://www.oekb.at/control/index.html?id=1213270>

c) The required number of days the information should be made available prior to commitment.

At least 30 days

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d) Any legal constraints to *ex ante* disclosure of such project information (*i.e.* is your ECA legally precluded from making such information publicly available).

Neither the Ministry of Finance nor OeKB are legally precluded from requiring the client to disclose environmental information as far as the client is owner of the information.
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e) Any circumstances in which project information relating to Category A projects is not disclosed prior to commitment.

no experience yet

f) Any comments not covered by sub-sections (a)-(e) above.

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Disclosure of environmental impact information

44 Please provide details of your procedures and practices for requiring that environmental impact information on Category A projects be made publicly available before a final commitment to grant official support, including:

a) Responsibility for making such information publicly available. [ECA](#)

OeKB may provide environmental information by establishing a web-link to a website with the project's environmental information. OeKB may also provide a comprehensive summary of the environmental impact information.

b) If the ECA or Guardian Authority is not responsible for such disclosure, please provide details of

i) how third parties are required to make such information publicly available;

OeKB normally expects the project owner to disclose environmental information and will - via the applicant - make sure that the information will be kept available for the necessary period.
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ii) how this is monitored;

regular checks

iii) what measures are available in cases of non-compliance:

encouragement to do

iv) please provide any examples of experience.

none

c) The scope and content of information that should be released.

The scope of the information released should cover all relevant impacts of the project and the mitigation measures (e.g. EIA, environmental management plan).

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- d) The form and language of the information that should be released (including website address, if released by ECA or Guardian Authority).

Form: Full text original, link to original documents, comprehensive summary of environmental information.
Language of the documents or project releases are in German or English on OeKB-website.

website address, if relevant.

<http://www.oekb.at/control/index.html?id=1213270>

- e) The required number of days the information should be made available prior to commitment.

30 days minimum

- f) Any legal constraints in *ex ante* disclosure of environmental impact information (*i.e.* is your ECA legally precluded from requiring the project sponsor to provide the disclosure as a condition of receiving ECA support).

If environmental information is to be considered confidential based on Austrian and European legislation.

- g) Any circumstances in which environmental impact information relating to Category A projects is not disclosed prior to commitment.

Legal restraints as stipulated in the Environmental Information Act (based on EU-law) which include business confidentiality, substantial damages encountered by the project sponsor or supplier (e.g. insight in protected technology; possible misuse of data, etc.)

- h) Any comments not covered by sub-sections (a)-(g) above.

Ex post disclosure

- 45 Please provide details of your procedures and practices for making available to the public information on projects classified in Category A and Category B for which you have made a final commitment to provide official support, including:

- a) How often you make publicly available *ex post* information on projects classified in Category A and Category B.

Shortly after the decision for official support has been made and the exporter has given his consent.

- b) What is the scope and content of such information, including environmental information.

Project description, name of exporter, category, approximately volume, credit maturity, country, environmental summary reports.

- c) Who is responsible for disclosing such information.

ECA

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- d) The form and language of the information released

Information is released on OeKB website.
Description or summary is available in German
Environmentally reports, EIA are mostly in English

including website address, if relevant.

<http://www.oekb.at/control/index.html?id=1213270>

- e) How long the information remains publicly available.

Currently at least 5 years.

- f) Any comments not covered by sub-sections (a)-(e) above.

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VI REPORTING AND MONITORING OF THE RECOMMENDATION

Accountability of your guidelines

- 46 Please provide details of any appropriate measures and mechanisms in place to ensure compliance with your policies and procedures.

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Compliance with environmental procedures is ensured as OeKB is certified according EMAS and ISO 14001. Internal and external audits are executed annually and an extensive audit takes place every 3 years. The results are published in the "Sustainability Report" of OeKB.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- 47 a) Please provide details of any procedures and practices in place to monitor and evaluate your experience of the Common Approaches at a national level.

see 46)

- b) Please provide details of any procedures and practices in place to share experiences with other Members.

Training, case-by-case exchange of information, Practitioners Meetings

Revising procedures :

- 48 i) When was the last review or update of your environmental procedures conducted? (mm/yy)

July 2007

- ii) What was the motivation for the last review or update of your environmental procedures?

Update to incorporate the new Common Approaches of 6/2007

- 49 Are any modifications foreseen in the near future?

No

Resources

- 50 i) What resources have been required as a result of the implementation of your environmental procedures?

additional Staff trainings, more administrative work

- ii) if appropriate, please provide the number of dedicated Environmental Practitioners

- iii) if appropriate, please provide the number of external consultants employed by your ECA.

Cost-sharing

- 51 What costs are shared both during the risk assessment process and after the financing agreement has been concluded?

Based on the originator principle OeKB specifically charges the applicants the costs of the assessment. OeKB does not share with the sponsors.

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Reporting

- 52 How frequently do you report *ex post* to the ECG, in accordance with paragraph 22 (tired 1) of the Recommendation, all Category A and Category B projects for which a final commitment has been issued?

On-going basis

(as much as possible, but at least semi-annually)

Body of experience

- 53 Do you have any practices and procedures in place to collate experience and/or knowledge from individual cases? If so, please provide details.

1) A database to store all relevant documents and informations to each assessed project
2) Discussion during Jour-Fixe Sessions
3) Internal circulation of assessment results within the project and environmental department
4) Annual workshop with all relevant departments within OeKB
5) Exchange with Environmental Practitioners of other ECAs on specific projects as well as on general interpretation

- 54 How do you store and transfer knowledge on environmental issues between Environmental Practitioners and between Environmental Practitioners and Underwriters?

- Storage through a comprehensive database
- knowledge transfer via internal case-by-case discussion, trainings, meetings

- 55 Do you produce any reports on environmental issues in addition to those required by the Recommendation?

Yes

Please provide details.

We provide a report about environmental issues for the annual Sustainability report of OeKB.

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VII OTHER COMMENTS**Scope**

- 56 How are environmental issues relating to exports of capital goods and services and the locations to which these are destined addressed for officially supported export credits with a repayment term of less than two years?

When screening all project related application, short term business is included. To identify potential reputation risks, projects in sensitive sectors/location and larger projects (>EURO 10 million) are scrutinised. Type of projects, sector, buyer country play a role in selection under our "Watchful eye approach".

Any Additional Comments

- 57 Please provide any additional comments.