

EIB

EBRD Annual General Meeting 1 July 2021 – London

Board of Governors' Plenary Session – Strategic Matter

Preparatory work for the strategic review – STATEMENT FOR EIB GOVERNOR

First of all, I regret that we could not meet in person but I would nevertheless thank EBRD's management and staff for the excellent arrangement of this second virtual Annual Meeting under difficult circumstances.

Dear Madam President, I would like to congratulate you to your election in October and the successful start of your office. The cooperation between our banks has increased since you joined and we appreciate that. In particular, our joint High-Level Working Group achieved significant progress to foster our cooperation. The ECOFIN Council has recently recognized its value as well. Let me also congratulate you to your contribution to the economic recovery. EBRD performed extremely well in 2020 and the implementation of the Solidarity Packages is impressive.

This is a very special Governors meeting as it marks the 30th anniversary of EBRD and I would like to congratulate the Bank and thank you for your achievements. Please continue to perform on this very high level and I encourage you to uphold your support for your Countries of Operation.

The focus of today's discussion shall be "Building Back Better" and "Climate Ambition" and you have asked us to provide guidance in this context.

Firstly, EIB supports to strengthen delivery in existing countries of operations, within the limits of financial sustainability. We supported the Solidarity-Packages and welcome that the SCF puts a focus on supporting EBRD's existing countries of operation, which have been hit hard by the pandemic. The development of this crisis is unpredictable and for quite some time our focus might have to be on economic recovery. The three topics proposed as focus for EBRD's contribution to "Building Back Better" (Low Carbon Economy, Addressing Inequality of Opportunity and Digital Transition) have been chosen well and EIB will be happy to work jointly with EBRD to support them.

Secondly, we welcome EBRD's climate ambition. Beyond Covid-19, climate change will remain one of the main political topics and IFIs play an important role here. We therefore support the proposal to achieve alignment with the Paris Agreement by 2023. EIB and EBRD should join forces and I hereby offer to strengthen the cooperation between our banks even further in order to promote climate financing for our shareholders and partner countries. A first milestone in our cooperation will be a joint EIB-EBRD-conference on climate financing on 20 September 2021.

And thirdly: we must treat EBRD's resources cautiously. EBRD's contribution to economic recovery, as well as the Bank's climate ambition, are challenging tasks that will require significant resources. We therefore welcome that the Resolution preparing next year's discussion about a potential expansion to new regions foresees a careful analysis of the risks linked to and the resources needed for this challenging step in the development of EBRD's business model. These topics deserve to be carefully reviewed before we discuss the potential expansion of EBRD's Transition-concept to SSA in 2022. We must also consider the topic of

graduation – the ultimate aim of the transition process and on which shareholders do not seem to have a common understanding.

Madam President, let me conclude by expressing my congratulations to the successful organization of your first Annual Meeting. The EIB is looking forward to join forces with EBRD to strengthen cooperation in order to support your climate ambition and contribution to “Building Back Better”.
Thank you!