



European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development

Thomas Mirow
President

Mr Sergey Tsyplenkov
Greenpeace of Russia
Build.1
26 Leningradskiy Prospect,
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23 November 2009

Dear Mr Tsyplenkov,

Thank you for your letter dated 24 September 2009, bringing to the EBRD's attention your concerns about the Moscow-St Petersburg highway project and its impacts on Khimki forest.

As you know, the EBRD has been requested to consider financing of the proposed road investment. Please be advised that the EBRD is carrying out environmental and social due diligence of the project and that the process is ongoing. To date, the EBRD has undertaken initial environmental and social due diligence, consisting of an independent assessment of the existing OVOS studies, other relevant project documentation and past consultation activities against the EBRD Environmental Policy requirements for category A projects. The assessment showed that additional due diligence is required to investigate possible alternative alignments for the road as well as to assess biodiversity impacts and land acquisition issues associated with the proposed alignment. Additional public disclosure and consultation is also required. The EBRD will ensure that the subsequent environmental and social impact assessment process, including stakeholder engagement and disclosure, will be conducted in accordance with the EBRD Environmental Policy requirements.

Thank you for sharing with us your concerns regarding the beating of local journalist Mikhail Beketov. The EBRD is very concerned of this tragic event and is following closely the course of investigation.

The EBRD's support for the Project will be conditional on the relevant EBRD Environmental Policy requirements having been met and all of the issues identified in the EBRD due diligence, including those brought to our attention by stakeholders, having been adequately addressed. Therefore, we greatly appreciate you sharing your concerns regarding this project with the Bank.

Yours sincerely,