



Emily O'Reilly

European Ombudsman

Mr Ernest Urtasun
Member of the European Parliament
Greens/EFA group

ernest.urtasun@europarl.europa.eu

Strasbourg, 27/07/2022

Complaint 1016/2021/KR

Subject: Decision in the above case on how the European Investment Bank (EIB) handled the move of a former vice-president to an energy utility company that had received EIB loans

Dear Mr Urtasun,

You made a complaint to the European Ombudsman against the European Investment Bank (EIB) concerning the above issue.

After a careful analysis of all the information submitted to me, I have decided to close my inquiry with the following conclusions:

The EIB did not properly manage the risk of conflicts of interest, which arose from the request of the former VP to take up a position with the company during her cooling-off period.

However, as the EIB has in the meantime made improvements to the relevant ethics rules, the Ombudsman closes her inquiry with the conclusion that no further inquiries are justified

The EIB should take a more robust approach to revolving door moves of its most senior staff to private sector jobs related to matters on which they worked while in the service of the EIB.

In addition, I have considered it useful to make the following suggestions for improvement to the EIB:



To improve monitoring and enforcement of the compliance with conditions imposed by the ECC in relation to the post-mandate activities of senior EIB staff members, the EIB should make ECC decisions public shortly after they are adopted.

As a minimum, the EIB should require former senior staff members whose post-mandate activities are subject to conditions, to submit evidence that the restrictions imposed in the ECC's decision were in fact shared with their new employer.

The EIB should consider broadening the membership of the ECC to include members with valuable experience from outside the EIB (for example former judges of the Court of Justice of the EU or former members of the Court of Auditors).

The EIB should amend its record-keeping practice for meetings of the MC, so that, where MC members recuse themselves from decisions taken using the tacit approval procedure because they consider themselves to be at risk of a potential conflict of interest, such recusals should be formally recorded, as they are for recusals in other procedures.

Please find enclosed my decision on your complaint¹.

Yours sincerely,

Emily O'Reilly
European Ombudsman

Enclosure: Decision on complaint 1016/2021/KR

¹ Full information on the procedure and rights pertaining to complaints can be found at <https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/document/70707>