



**Second Meeting of the Signatory Countries to the Escazú Agreement (9-10 December 2020)**

**Special session - The Escazú Agreement: An instrument for cooperation**

(9 December, 11:30-13:00 / 16:30-18:00 CET)

**Adina Relicovschi, Head of Environmental Policy, European Investment Bank (EIB)**

*(~ 3 minutes (approx. 400 words))*

Good morning, good afternoon,

it is a great pleasure to share the perspective of the European Investment Bank on the importance of cooperation in the context of the Escazú Agreement.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Secretariat as well as all the Signatories on the great news that as of November, a critical mass of countries have ratified the Escazú Agreement, opening the door for its entry into force in early 2021. This is a landmark decision in terms of environmental governance and public participation in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

The EIB is very privileged to have been part of the journey and provide advice on the work plan as well as the relevant Environmental and Social aspects. As you may know, the EIB as the EU Bank is subject to the Aarhus Convention as implemented by Aarhus Regulation, which puts specific requirements on us in terms of access to information and public participation in the field of environment. Since 2006, we operate a Transparency Policy, which puts these requirements into practice and which is revised regularly, in consultation with different stakeholders.

Our new Climate Bank Roadmap, adopted in November 2020, charts the way towards ambitious climate and environmental targets in the years to come. It also features very highly our commitment to transparency and accountability as well as the value of partnerships. As part of our journey as the EU Climate (and Environment) Bank, we are further developing our Environmental and Social Framework

to address the new policy developments, emerging environmental and social issues, incorporating lessons learned and meeting the changing needs of our clients and promoters. And we do it by listening and cooperating with a broad range of interested stakeholders across the world.

The EIB Group Transparency Policy, as well as the new Environmental and Social Policy and E&S Standards, will be subject to public consultation in early 2021. We cordially invite you all to participate. Details will be announced in due course on the EIB Public Consultations website.

Coming back to the Escazú Agreement: its ratification and entry into force is a major milestone but it is now essential to ensure a proper implementation. This requires appropriate legal frameworks that promote transparency and encourage real participation. Cooperation will be crucial. The EIB will be very happy to continue supporting you in this journey, to promote access rights, environmental protection and sustainable development with greater wellbeing, inclusion and equality in the region.

Thank you.