

Commissioner Andris Piebalgs
European Commissioner for Development
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

cc. Dr Fokion Fotiadis,
Director General, EuropeAid Development and Cooperation Directorate-General

17 March 2011

Dear Commissioner Piebalgs,

Subject: Congratulations on IATI and delivering aid transparency for the Fourth High Level Forum in November in Busan

Thank you for your letter of 8 February outlining your support for the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) in the lead up to the recent meeting on 9 February 2011. We would like to congratulate you on the agreement of a common standard for aid information at that meeting and thank you for all your hard work with this Initiative.

This historic agreement will ensure that the wider goals on aid effectiveness are achievable, particularly those relating to results, mutual accountability and donor division of labour. It also provides a consistent and coherent framework for meeting the aid transparency commitments of the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA).

In the run up to the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF-4) in Busan at the end of this year, donors have an opportunity to demonstrate where progress has been made. By agreeing and implementing a common aid transparency standard for HLF-4, you are at the forefront of efforts to achieve a new consensus on aid and development, underpinned by improved effectiveness and impact of aid.

With eight months to go until Busan, the focus on implementation is critical, starting with implementation schedules published by 31 March and ensuring that systems (financial, operational and IT) are made ready to deliver the information.

We are pleased that the Commission has already made a commitment to implementing IATI prior to HLF-4 and we look forward to working with you to build on the momentum of IATI's success.

We believe that aid transparency is an area in which donors will be able to demonstrate real progress at Busan, with implementation of IATI being crucial to that success. As a lead donor on aid transparency, we would like to enlist your support in promoting the topic as a key theme, and as a cross-cutting issue at HLF-4. In practice this means that:

- Aid transparency remains a **core principle** of further implementation of the Aid Effectiveness principles or political outcome document at Busan;
- The IATI standard is **recognised as the international common standard** for sharing timely, comprehensive and comparable aid information;
- The principles and standards developed by IATI are **actively promoted** as the best mechanism for stakeholders to deliver on improved aid transparency and greater aid effectiveness at Busan.

Once again we would like to thank you for your continued support of IATI. We greatly welcome the role the European Commission has assumed on aid transparency and hope that Europe as a whole can lead the way

by ensuring that aid transparency remains firmly embedded in a common European consensus on aid effectiveness in the lead up to Busan.

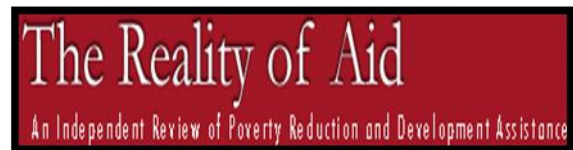
Yours sincerely,

Gerry Barr, President of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation and Better Aid, Reality of Aid and the Open Forum on CSO Development Effectiveness and member of the IATI Steering Committee.

Karin Christiansen, Director, Publish What You Fund and member of the IATI Steering Committee.

Warren Krafchik, Director, International Budget Partnership and member of the IATI Steering Committee.

Cobus de Swardt, Managing Director, Transparency International and member of the IATI Steering Committee and signatory of the International Non-Governmental Organisations Accountability Charter.

The logo for BetterAid, with 'Better' in black and 'Aid' in green.The logo for CCIC CCCI, featuring a stylized circular icon. Below the text, it reads: 'CANADA'S COALITION TO END GLOBAL POVERTY' and 'ENSEMBLE POUR ÉLIMINER LA PAUVRETÉ DANS LE MONDE'.The logo for the International Budget Partnership (IBP), featuring a stylized circular icon. To the right, it reads: 'INTERNATIONAL BUDGET PARTNERSHIP' and 'Open Budgets. Transform Lives.'The logo for the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness, featuring a stylized circular icon. To the right, it reads: 'Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness'.The logo for Publish What You Fund, featuring a speech bubble icon. To the right, it reads: 'Publish What You Fund' and 'The Global Campaign for Aid Transparency'.The logo for 'The Reality of Aid', featuring a red rectangular background with white text. It reads: 'The Reality of Aid' and 'An Independent Review of Poverty Reduction and Development Assistance'.The logo for Transparency International, featuring a stylized circular icon. To the right, it reads: 'TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL' and 'the global coalition against corruption'.