



European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development

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CEE Bankwatch Network
WWF Russia
Greenpeace Russia
Biodiversity Conservation Center
The Russian Birds Conservation Union
The Social-Ecological Union
The Movement to Defend Khimki Forest

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Dear Ms Bacheva McGrath,

Thank you very much for your letter to President Mirow dated 17 December 2010 regarding the Moscow St-Petersburg motorway, to which he has asked me to respond.

As far as EBRD is aware, the project does not require additional funds from EBRD or other IFIs and EBRD has not been involved in substantive discussions with the project parties since financial close was achieved by the project parties in April 2010.

In the unlikely event that the EBRD should at some future stage be invited to participate by the sponsors, the Bank would carry out a full assessment of the project regarding its compliance with the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy before any decision would be made.

Since we have not been involved in any substantive discussions with the project parties, it is not possible for us to comment on the impact, which the review ordered by President Medvedev has on the proposed new environmental footprint of the project. We would of course welcome any efforts to reduce environmental impacts including the reported plans to upgrade the protection status of the remaining parts of the Khimki Forest or a proposal to compensate for the trees which will have been cut down or will be cut down to clear a route for the highway by setting aside areas of land for the planting of new trees. However, as said before, we have not been involved in the project for the last 11 months and therefore are unable to comment.

Yours sincerely,