

Ad spm. nr. S 4596

Fra udviklingsministeren er modtaget supplerende besvarelse af et af Anne Grete Holmsgaard til udenrigsministeren stillet spørgsmål. Spørgsmålet, der sammen med det foreløbige svar er optaget i Folketingstidende 2003-04, forhandlingerne side 12208, lød således:

Til udenrigsministeren (30/6 04) af:

Anne Grete Holmsgaard (SF):

»Vil udenrigsministeren oversende det nordisk-baltiske bestyrelsesmedlems indstillinger vedrørende »Extractive Industries Review« til Folketinget, samt oplyse på hvilke punkter Danmark har været uenig i indstillingen?«

Supplerende svar (8/9 04)

Udviklingsministeren (Bertel Haarder):

Som opfølgning på skriftlig besvarelse af spørgsmål nr. S 4596, oversendt til Folketinget den 16. juli 2004, fremsendes vedlagt i 80 eksemplarer til orientering de nordisk-baltiske landes holdning til »Extractive Industries Review«. Der vedlægges endvidere pressemeddelelse fra verdensbankgruppen (ikke optrykt her) udsendt efter Bestyrelsens behandling af forslaget den 3. august 2004.

Bilag

August 26, 2004

Information Note

The Nordic-Baltic Constituency at the World Bank – A Joint Position on the Extractive Industries Review and the World Bank Group's Response

The Nordic and Baltic countries welcome the timely Extractive Industries Review and the internal evaluations on the past and future World Bank Group role in the extractive industries sector. We note that the three reports conclude that extractive industries can contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction provided that appropriate conditions are in place, notably commitment to good governance, and high environmental and social standards. We also take note of the conclusion that the World Bank Group, in order to add value to extractive industries development, needs to engage more selectively in extractive industries projects and shift

its focus from the mere economic aspect of development towards the more social and human aspects. To the largest extent, the World Bank Group acknowledges this and we commend Management for its draft response and recommendations for improving its extractive industries involvement.

The primary objective of World Bank Group engagement in extractive industries must always be to promote poverty reduction through sustainable means, guided by state of the art environmental and social safeguards and best practices. Here, coherence between policy areas is of significant importance. Hence, the Nordic and Baltic countries strongly support Management's intention to engage in the extractive industries sector on a more selective basis than before, with a stronger emphasis on good governance and social and environmental safeguards.

Practice must follow good intentions and commitments to systematically address extractive industries in future World Bank's Country Assistance Strategies, establish additional extractive industries specific governance indicators, and increase transparency and reporting on World Bank Group management and development outcome of extractive industries-related projects are important in this respect – to ensure that all extractive industries projects contribute to poverty reduction.

The Nordic and Baltic countries emphasise the paramount importance to actively consult and listen to the people affected by extractive industries projects, and that the outcomes of the consultation processes are duly taken into account in any decisions. In addition, we stress the need for the relevant guidelines and Operational Policies on the various social and environmental safeguards to be revised according to the World Bank Group's proposed extractive industries approach. Notably, we look forward to the revision of the Operational Policy on Indigenous Peoples and encourage the World Bank Group to incorporate all core labour standards, as stipulated by the ILO, into its labour guidelines. We also look forward to a review of the Bank's »natural habitats« policy.

In general, the respect for human rights is intrinsic to development and sustainable progress. The draft Management response recognises this, and the extractive industries discussion is an opportunity for the World Bank Group to more firmly establish its position on human rights. However, we recognise that the human rights