

RECEIVED

#RES(2014)193924

ANDRIS PIEBALGS
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

FFR - 6 2014
14-01027
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Brussels, 28/01/2014
CAB/11/MA/us SV(2014)98134

✓ **Regarding: 2013 Progress update on the '2012 Sanitation and Water for All'
High Level Meeting**

ACTION LM

COPY

DSG
CJC
AJM
RO

Dear President Kufuor,
Dear Mr Eliasson,

Thank you very much for letter dated on 26 November 2013.

As spelled out in the European Agenda for Change, the focus for the 2014-2020 framework of the EU development policy has shifted to energy and agriculture, as the foundations for sustainable growth.

However, the adoption of the new framework does not at all mean that our efforts in the sector of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) will cease. In fact, in order to stimulate inclusive and sustainable growth for human development, we propose, among other things, to increase focus on basic needs (health, education and social protection). Under this new framework, water and sanitation, being essential basic needs, will be part of the agenda.

The EU will continue its commitment to water initiatives in those countries that need it the most and that identify water as a focal sector when jointly elaborating their National Indicative Programmes (NIPs) to be funded by the 11th European Development Fund (EDF). So far, 16 countries have pre-selected water as a focal sector. Water is also expected to be a focal sector for several regional programmes (i.e. Neighbourhood, East Africa, and Central Asia).

Moreover, WASH will also be mainstreamed in other focal sectors, such as regional integration, environment and peace and security.

*Mr Jàn Eliasson
Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
First Avenue at 46th Street
New York, NY 10017, USA*

Copy: info@sanitationandwaterforall.com

*Mr John Agyekum Kufuor
Sanitation and Water for All
c/o UNICEF
Three United Nations Plaza
New York, New York, 10017, USA*

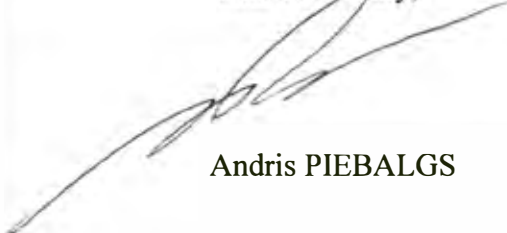
DEV/03/0010 DEV/03/0021 DEV/03/001

Furthermore, pursuing the water-energy-food security nexus approach, WASH will be covered through its inter-linkages with other sectors, such as food security and nutrition, agriculture, energy. As an example of the implications for WASH of implementing the nexus approach, since food security is a priority sector for more than 50 countries, WASH interventions will directly be mainstreamed into food security programmes, in order to impact on the under-nutrition problem of the developing countries.

As I have mentioned in my speech at the Global Hunger Event in London in 2012, the EU and myself personally are strongly committed to catalysing real and permanent change in this area. I have announced that €3.5 billion will be committed between 2014-2020 to improve nutrition in developing countries; out of them €400 million will be spent on boosting nutrition through specific nutrition programmes in the health sector, whereas the other €3.1 billion will be invested in making sure programmes in other areas do more to reduce under-nutrition. I am aware that Water, Sanitation and Hygiene play a fundamental role in that respect and this is confirmed by the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which suggested amongst the different goals a specific **one to achieve** universal access to Water and Sanitation.

✓ Regarding your invitation to attend the 'Third Sanitation and Water for All' High Level Meeting that will take place alongside the World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington D.C., I will do my utmost to be able to participate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Andris Piebalgs', written over a light blue rectangular stamp.

Andris PIEBALGS