The Dean’s Editorial

Here and now

With the opening of the EIB Institute, I am taking this opportunity to clarify the initial goals revolving around economic and social development.

It took the European project decades to build a single market with a single currency while preserving substantial political freedoms and social security. The protracted economic and financial crisis is testing this construction the hard way. In order to create growth and jobs our Governments are focusing on assembling the instruments of a coherent economic policy. It is a daunting task to overcome short-term national interests when unemployment is at historical highs in many member States bringing with it ever-increasing social exclusion.

Social development through…

In this context, while the European Investment Bank (EIB) mobilises its financial resources for targeted investment projects, the newly born EIB Institute augments the EIB’s mission through community engagement in favour of economic and social development.

education…

In the EIB institute, we believe that lack of education and unemployment feed one another. We have therefore developed, as a matter of priority, an important knowledge programme. The Knowledge Program aims in particular at channelling support, mainly through grants and sponsorship, to higher education and research activities, particularly in the field of applied economics. In the first semester 2012 research on the financing of technology transfer (Università de Bologna), on microfinance (Université Paris I) and on investment needs in infrastructure sectors (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven) were selected for sponsorship of up to EUR 100,000 per year and for three years following an open competition.

The Supervisory Board, which is to meet for the first time on Monday, June 11 2012, will in addition examine the creation of an EIB Institute prize to stimulate excellence in economic and social research, which should be of special relevance for development and integration in Europe.

innovation…

The recent crises have also highlighted gaps in our member States social policies. Although the EIB Institute doesn’t have ambitions of a global nature it can and will act concretely through the Social Programme. Proposals will be made to the Board on the organisation of a social innovation tournament to promote the generation of innovative ideas in the social field. Courses to improve the financial literacy of vulnerable groups are also being implemented.

and arts

Finally, the approach of the Institute to the arts aligns with the same objective of economic and social development. With the artist development program, the Board will examine a new initiative associating an emerging artist with an established artist or two established practitioners from different fields. This outreach will take place in the premises of the Abbaye de Neumunster in Luxembourg.
Here and now

While Europe is struggling with the crisis it is more than ever the responsibility of a public institution to develop its community engagement efficiently and transparently.

That is the here-and-now goal of the European Investment Bank Institute. When the eminent personalities of the Institute’s Supervisory Board will meet on June 11 they will discuss these very real proposals, which have evolved in the first five months of the European Investment Bank Institute.

Rémy Jacob
May 29, 2012

The Supervisory Board

Chaired by EIB Vice-President Magdalena Alvarez Arza, it consists of:

- Her Royal Highness the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg;
- Claude Frisoni, Director of the Centre Culturel de Rencontre Abbaye de Neumunster;
- Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, Mayor of Warsaw;
- Laurent Le Bon, Director of the Centre Georges Pompidou Metz;
- Christopher Pissarides, Norman Sosnow Chair in Economics at the London School of Economics and Nobel prize laureate in 2010.