



Please check against the spoken words

The bank of the European Union

Luxembourg, 13 June 2012

Dr. Werner Hoyer
President
European Investment Bank
Opening Remarks
MoU with *Université du Luxembourg*

Dear Rector Tarrach,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to have this opportunity to sign a **Memorandum of Understanding** reinforcing cooperation between the European Investment Bank and the University of Luxembourg.

Our two institutions have, of course, “understood” each other long before this formal signature. Together, we have created the “European Studies Library” at the Walferdange Campus containing a historic collection of documents mapping the development of the EIB and of the European Union in general. This collection is now available to students, academics and researchers alike.

We also cooperate on an ad-hoc basis in other fields. The EIB has hosted graduate students as interns, and we have co-organized various academic events and exchanged teaching staff.

But the Memorandum gives a new impetus to our collaboration and at the same time confirms that the EIB is now firmly integrated into its host country. We are glad to be part of everyday life in Luxembourg.

The document envisages a number of exciting opportunities for UL and EIB staff. Teaching collaboration and joint scientific activities will be expanded; EIB traineeship opportunities will be extended to UL candidates, while the University will grant priority access to EIB candidates to some of its courses. Both institutions will provide the opportunity for short-term secondments.

Forging ties with academia is important for the EIB. We have supported educational activities for 15 years now, investing over 20 billion euro in some 200 projects since 1997 and actively supporting the development of the knowledge economy in the EU.

Lifelong learning has a very real meaning for us at the EIB. We invest in pre-school, primary and secondary schooling, technical education, universities and colleges, as well as distant and adult education. But EIB activities in the field are not limited to pure financial products. Investment in education may also take place at the work place and in communities, for example through apprenticeship training or close ties with local educational establishments – and that’s exactly the case here, in Luxembourg.

Rector Tarrach, once again, I am delighted at the opportunity to develop our cooperation.