

Courtesy translation

Berlin, 2 April 2018

Fredrik Reinfeldt
Chair of the EITI International Board
EITI International Secretariat
Skippergata 22
0154 Oslo
Norway

D-EITI Validation Process

Dear Mr Reinfeldt,

I am writing to you in my function as D-EITI Special Representative with regard to the ongoing D-EITI validation process.

The D-EITI validation process has been progressed by the D-EITI MSG in close and constant cooperation with the International Secretariat and is now about to enter its crucial final phase. A positive outcome of the validation is of considerable political importance for Germany, which has displayed great commitment over many years as a supporter of the EITI and since 2016 as a country implementing the EITI Standard.

However, the response that has been sent by the Independent Validator to the D-EITI MSG regarding the detailed comments by the D-EITI MSG on the draft validation report is a cause of concern not only to the MSG, but also to me.

It goes without saying that we respect the role of the Independent Validator in the validation process. However, appropriate consideration should be given to the input of the MSG, and also to the detailed preparatory work by the International Secretariat in the context of the validation process.

In particular, the validation report should offer the EITI Board a good and solid basis for its decision, so that it can assess whether Germany has fully implemented the EITI Standard. The initial assessment by the International Secretariat has provided an

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adequate basis for this. The comments by the D-EITI MSG have supplemented this with important explanations, and the MSG would like to continue to support the Board as it arrives at its decision.

We are afraid that, rather than moving things forward, the current report by the Independent Validator will represent a set-back in the validation process. We have already raised these fears with the International EITI Secretariat regarding specific statements by the Independent Validator.

Nevertheless, I am confident that both the Validation Committee and the EITI Board will give careful consideration to the reports and comments produced in the context of the D-EITI validation process, and will arrive at an assessment of Germany's overall conformity with the EITI Standard which is satisfactory for all sides. I would like already like to express my thanks to you for the outstanding support provided by the International Secretariat during the validation process.

Yours sincerely,

[signed:] Oliver Wittke

Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy