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Mr. Angel Gurría  
Secretary General  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development  
2, rue André Pascal  
F-75775 Paris Cedex 16

Paris, 18th November 2008

Dear Mister Gurría,

We, a broad coalition of international non-governmental organisations, are protesting outside the OECD today because we are very concerned about the lack of progress of export credit agencies in implementing strict sustainability guidelines and conducting meaningful consultations with civil society. We especially address you as head of the OECD since the Export Credit Working Group (ECG) is a unit of the OECD and its failure to live up to the OECD's standards severely damages the reputation of your organisation as a whole.

While you have expressed the importance of combating poverty and environmental degradation and have insisted that the OECD should be the "house of best practice", the ECG members support projects that cause great harm to people and environment in affected regions. These include the Sakhalin II oil and gas project in Russia, the Ilisu hydropower project in Turkey, the Nam Theun 2 hydropower plant in Laos and the BTC pipeline from Azerbaijan to Turkey, and the Olkiluoto Nuclear Power Plant in Finland. Although the OECD aims to lead on combating corruption, many ECA backed projects are corruption ridden, like the Bonny Island LNG plant in Nigeria (see attached Flyer for more details).

The failure of the ECG and its Members to prevent environmentally destructive projects reflects very badly on the OECD as a whole.

The members of ECA Watch have been working for years to address their national ECAs and the ECG as a group, coming up with constructive proposals, including the proposal for a peer review mechanism to ensure the implementation in practice of the *Recommendation on Common Approaches on Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits*. The ECG has rejected this proposal, maintaining that existing procedures already serve as a peer review, something which is substantively not true. Current procedures lack the minimum of independence and transparency associated with any credible peer review process. Moreover, OECD ECG consultations have been almost completely non-interactive and ineffective. ECA Watch therefore has declined to take part in today's consultation with the OECD's Export Credit Working Group and takes its protest to the streets.

We urge you, Mr. Gurría, as the Secretary General of the OECD, to see that actions of OECD units contradicting the OECD standards come to an end.

We very much hope that you will be able to address these concerns and we look forward to your response to them.

Yours sincerely,

Sébastien Godinot, Les Amis de la Terre

On behalf of:

Berne Declaration – Switzerland

Both Ends – Netherlands

Campagna per la Riforma della Banca Mondiale – Italy

Counter Current – Germany

ECA Watch Austria - Austria

Environmental Defense Fund – USA

Pacific Environment – USA

The Corner House – UK

Urgewald – Germany