

February 12, 2018

Mrs. Ella Skybenko
Eastern Europe/Central Asia Researcher & Representative
Mrs. Christen Dobson
Senior Project Lead & Researcher
Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

**Dear Mrs. Skybenko,
Dear Mrs. Dobson,**

We highly appreciate that your authoritative institution asked about the point of view of Investbank JSC for the forthcoming publication : Greenpeace – “The Financial Mines – Murky banking interests in the Bulgarian coal industry drain public funds, destroy thousands of human lives and heavily contaminate the environment”, January 2018. Regarding the issues raised, the Management of Investbank JSC considers its obligation to state the following:

Investbank JSC is a Bulgarian commercial bank with a transparent shareholding structure and foreign participation that operates in strict compliance with Bulgarian legislation, meets all the regulatory requirements for banking activity in Bulgaria and as part of the banking system contributes the banking sector being a sustainable factor of economic stability.

We are surprised that you associate the results of Asset Quality Review (AQR) to the activities of the companies subject to the article. Investbank managed to meet all the requirements imposed on it in relation to the AQR. We state that no legal or individual person among the mentioned companies has received funding from Investbank JSC for its privatization deals.

Energy sector, in which these companies are operating, has a structuring effect for the Bulgarian economy and there is hardly to find a financial institution in the country with no exposures in it. Observing that these companies comply with environmental and safety standards lies within the competence of state institutions.

Investbank JSC has a diversified loan portfolio and provides financing to a large number of socially beneficial and significant companies and projects, such as state and municipal hospitals, projects for implementation of modern medical equipment and many others.

We are convinced that, all the facts and circumstances relevant to the issues raised in the above-mentioned material will be duly and independently investigated, correctly and objectively interpreted in the public domain in the interests of objectivity and journalistic ethics and professionalism.

Respectfully yours,

**Press-Center of
Investbank JSC**

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