

**Unofficial translation of the letter for French EU Presidency – 05 March 2008**

To the attention of Jean-Pierre JOUYET, State Secretary for European Affairs

Subject: Priorities of French European Union (EU) Presidency in 2008

Dear Sir,

I am contacting you on behalf of Transparence-International (France) and the EU Advocacy Working Group (EUAWG), chapter and network of the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Transparency International (TI), because we have noted, with interest, that the French EU Presidency's priorities in 2008 include the transparency of financial markets and the promotion of European citizens' participation.

We take this opportunity to highlight issues such as encouraging access to information, strengthening financial markets regulations, and promoting judicial cooperation in criminal matters at the European level, especially in fighting against tax havens and off shore centers. These issues, in which our organization has developed recognized expertise, are necessary to address in efficiently implementing the priorities.

In particular we consider that a consistent implementation of corporate social responsibility at the European level is essential for effectively informing citizens and for improving financial transparency. Two specific measures are critical in this sense: including information on ethics in annual corporate reports and including ethical benchmarks in annual funds reports. More generally, we call on the private sector to comply with the Global Reporting Initiative disclosures standards in relation to bribery and corruption.

In addition, our work on monitoring the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions shows the need for more effective prosecutions of EU based bribery and corruption cases.

We also understand that the French EU Presidency foresees the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty. We would like to emphasize the need to establish a structured anti-corruption monitoring system in EU accession countries, in EU member states, and in European neighborhood countries, in order to ensure that they become and remain democracies on the basis of rule of law and human rights.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information or for a meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Lebègue  
President of TI (France)