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Mr. Werner Hoyer
President of the European Investment Bank

Brussels, 11 January 2018

Dear President Hoyer,

I am writing to you with regard to the European Investment Bank's USD 10mn investment in Cepheus Growth Capital Fund, an Ethiopia-focused private equity fund, founded in 2016 by Mr. Kassahun Kebede and Ms. Berhane Demissie.

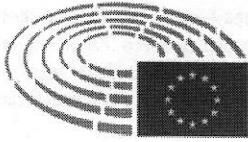
The EIB's participation was announced on 12 October 2017¹, as part of an USD 100mn equity investment whose aim, per EIB Vice President Ambroise Fayolle, is to "help Ethiopia, the second largest country in Africa, to meet key sustainable development goals and contribute to its impressive economic growth". The Head of the EU Delegation to Ethiopia, Ambassador-Designate Johan Borgstam, also stated that the EIB's venture will "strengthen the growth of leading companies in Ethiopia [...] and support economic growth across the country in the years ahead". The EIB Vice President is also quoted saying "the fund manager's significant financial experience and understanding of Ethiopia will ensure companies can unlock their true potential".

What both persons forgot to mention is that Mr. Kebede's "significant financial experience" involves being the Founder and Managing Partner of PANTON Capital Group, LLC, a New York-based hedge fund firm and, more importantly, Director of PANTON Alternative Fund, Ltd, an offshore firm registered in the Cayman Islands, according to a Notice of Exempt Offering of Securities published by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission². The notice discloses that PANTON Alternative sold securities to 110 unnamed investors for USD 941mn between 2004 and 2009³.

¹ <http://www.eib.org/infocentre/press/releases/all/2017/2017-270-ethiopian-companies-to-benefit-from-eib-backing-for-usd-100m-private-equity-fund>

² <http://www.secinfo.com/ds2zp.s5mv.htm>

³ <http://abbaymedia.info/paradise-paper-expose-of-the-king-of-poverty-bonos-offshore-investment-is-the-tip-of-iceberg-by-teshome-debalke/>



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I would therefore ask you to elaborate on the EIB's due diligence process that concluded in a USD 10mn investment in a firm created in 2016 and co-headed by a so-called financial expert, whose businesses were registered in one of the most well-known tax havens. And, in addition, what merited such a large investment from the EIB in an infant company like Cepheus Growth Capital?

Best regards,

Ana Gomes

Member of the European Parliament