



**MEDEF Meeting on 'Fighting Corruption' with M. Petkoski, Head of the Business, Competitiveness, and Development team, World Bank Institute**

29 March 2010

The French Business Confederation (MEDEF) on 29 March organised a meeting with M. Djordjija Petkoski, Lead Specialist at the World Bank (WB) and Head of the Business, Competitiveness, and Development team at the World Bank Institute (WBI).

According to Mr. Petkoski, companies must face corruption as a development challenge. In the fight against corruption, taking incremental steps is more productive than attempting to tackle the entire issue at once. For example, identifying government leaders with the power to fight corruption in their sphere of influence, such as a ministry, will likely bring more results than attempting to root out corruption across an entire national government in one step. The WBI can help these government leaders in its capacity as Global Facilitator of Capacity Development for Poverty reduction, as it is focused on building governance. Mr. Petkoski further indicated that the WBI organizes modular courses for capacity building, practitioner dialogues, and innovation platforms (such as the Marketplace for innovative development projects, a competitive grant program that identifies and funds innovative, early-stage projects with high potential for development impact.). He also emphasized that one has to go beyond the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention to put pressure on non-OECD members to fight corruption in their home countries.

Mr. Petkoski applauded the efforts of Egypt's Transparency Centre, which was established by the Ministry of Investment with a mandate to combat corruption and mismanagement of public resources. The importance of such institutions is highlighted by the fact that, according to World Bank estimates, corruption costs Africa nearly \$150bn per year and represents a major constraint for all business operations. Mr. Petkoski warned that funds that will be freed up to help fight climate change may be subject to corruption if no preventative measures are put in place.

During the discussion period, representatives from French industry expressed concern with the emerging actors on the global scene, many of whom do not have strong sanctions against corruption in place. In these countries the demand side of corruption – when public officials ask directly for bribes - is very pertinent and needs to be addressed by international institutions. Participants encouraged the WBI to raise awareness about corruption by highlighting facts and figures such as the amount of money spent on corruption annually (equivalent to the amount of annual development assistance).

There was a consensus among the participants that the World Bank Group has to take on a leadership role in fighting corruption directly in the countries in which it operates. Mr. Petkoski explained that the World Bank treats corruption cases in its projects very seriously and takes direct action if Bank officials are involved. He called on participants to align behind collective action to add pressure on local governments to act, and to provide the Bank with elements that can be used as training tools in its countries of operation.

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