

Thank you for your message of 27 June 2025 to the Complaints Mechanism of the European Investment Bank (EIB) which was transferred to the relevant services of the Bank, and for your interest in the EIB operation referenced in your message^[1].

The events mentioned in your message seem to pertain to the Promoter's activities in the UK which are not to be financed and hence assessed by the EIB as part of its due diligence.

The EIB-financed operation, which is yet to be signed, is located in the EU and involves RDI (Research, Development, and Innovation) investments in Germany and Poland, focusing on food quality, health ingredients, packaging solutions, and product portfolio expansion. Additionally, it includes investments in Germany for:

- The construction and operation of a new production line for plant-based beverages in Leppersdorf (Saxony);
- The replacement of two outdated dairy production lines in Aretsried (Bavaria) and Leppersdorf, aimed at achieving energy savings.

Supporting agriculture and the bioeconomy is one of the eight policy priorities outlined in the EIB Group's 2024–2027 Strategic Roadmap^[2]. This objective aligns with broader EU policy goals, as reflected in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the 2023–2027 programming period and the European Commission's Vision for Agriculture and Food.

The EIB uses EU legislation on animal welfare as a reference framework. The Bank is committed to integrating any new legislative developments, including scientific opinions from EFSA, as indicators for improving animal welfare conditions into its operations.

As indicated in the project's Environmental and Social Data Sheet (ESDS)^[3], it is important to note that the EIB operation does not include milk production.

All facilities associated with the project are located within the European Union and therefore the Promoter is subject to EU and national legislation. The responsibility for compliance with such laws and any project applicable standards lies with the Promoter and the respective national and regional authorities.

On a more general perspective, the Promoter has an established animal welfare policy within its CSR framework, which includes third-party assessments and a commitment to continuous improvement. While the issues that you describe do not concern an EIB financed activity and are therefore out of the scope of the framework where the EIB can legally act, we encourage you to bring your concerns to the attention of the Promoter, who should be able to address them in line with its CSR commitments.

We hope you find this information useful and remain at your disposal should you require further information.