

Outgoing correspondence, No. 14, 27 January 2017

To the Chairman of the Validation Committee
of the EITI International Board
Mr Mark Pearson

Dear Mr Pearson,

We hereby inform you that the International Business Council has made a study of the Validation Report for the Kyrgyz Republic dated 9 January 2017. Having considered the Report, the International Business Council has the following comments regarding some of the conclusions of the Independent Validator.

Regarding paragraph 1.2 of the Validation Report, "Participation by Companies", we would inform you that, since the International Business Council joined the EITI Supervisory Board, intensive work has been carried out to engage and involve the members of our Association in the EITI process. The work has involved the inclusion of EITI issues in meetings of the Mineral Resources Committee of the International Business Council (the members of the Mineral Resources Committee are the largest representatives of the mining industry in the Kyrgyz Republic). In addition to working with the Committee, information about the EITI has been published in the weekly news bulletin of the International Business Council in order to attract a larger audience to the EITI. So, work with the members of the International Business Council has helped to attract more companies to the EITI and to spread awareness of EITI standards among subsoil users.

Further, the Validation Report mentions that the initial assessment of the International Secretariat expressed concern related to insufficient access for companies to membership of the Supervisory Board. The International Business Council studied EITI issues using open-access resources, including the website of the State Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources geology.kg. After familiarization with the activities of the EITI Supervisory Board, on 31 March 2016 four representatives of the mining industry from the International Business Council entered the Supervisory Board.

Therefore joint activities of the Supervisory Board and the EITI Secretariat in the Kyrgyz Republic with business associations has significantly expanded understanding of the EITI process among representatives of the mining industry.

Yours sincerely,

Executive Director

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Askar Sydykov