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Response to Open letters from Mr. Danushi, Dr. Nesturi, and Mr. Boçari

In response to recent open letters by Mr. Danushi on May 27, Dr. Nesturi on May 30, and Mr. Boçari on June 1, 2013, the World Bank would like to note that it has provided comments and responses to the Bregdeti Association and the "Property with Justice" Association through several written communications and meetings over the past two years. Due to the importance of immovable property rights and the lingering issues related to the land reform process, the World Bank prepared an Issue Brief "*Governance in the Protection of Immovable Property Rights in Albania: A Continuing Challenge*" in 2011. The purpose of the Issue Brief was to inform the public debate and highlight the importance of engaging in dialogue with all interest groups in order to resolve the outstanding issues related to privatization, restitution/compensation, legalization, and development of an effective land market. The second edition of the Issue Brief was posted on our website <http://www.worldbank.org.al> in April 2012, following discussions with the above associations and other stakeholders. It acknowledges widely diverging views on the issues among Albania stakeholders, including the views of the associations representing expropriated owners.

While appreciating the viewpoints of the expropriated owner associations, the World Bank remains of the opinion that the Issue Brief provides an impartial and balanced assessment of the situation. The Brief presents a range of options and examples of approaches that other countries have followed in similar situations; it does not recommend a blue print for action. The Brief was vetted by an extensive review process and endorsed by the World Bank management. The World Bank is a premier multilateral development institution that works with and for its member countries, like Albania. We will continue an open, professional, and pragmatic dialogue on this and other development challenges in Albania with all key stakeholders to help the country move faster towards ending extreme poverty, promoting shared prosperity, improving governance, and advancing EU integration.

Sincerely,



Kseniya Lvovsky