**Atradius response to “Dredging in the Dark”**

*Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited companies involved in the Challenge Consortium and the Export Credit Agency Atradius to respond to a report by SOMO, “*[*Dredging in the Dark*](http://www.somo.nl/publications-en/Publication_4279)*”. The response by Atradius is below.*

*Additional responses* [*are available here*](http://business-humanrights.org/en/dredging-in-the-dark-report-calls-for-human-rights-due-diligence-from-firms-that-were-involved-in-suez-canal-project-companies-respond)*.*

14 April 2016

The Government of The Netherlands follows a balanced export policy in which Dutch export is promoted and responsible business conduct is stimulated. For the Government’s export credit insurance facility a thorough risk based due diligence process is in place ensuring that, export transactions and foreign investments are only supported if they are not associated in any way with bribery or the violation of core labor standards and have no unacceptable environmental and/or social impacts. As an Export Credit Agency, Atradius Dutch State Business executes environmental & social due diligence in accordance with national policies and the OECD Common Approaches on environmental & social due diligence for officially supported export credits.

The report ‘Dredging in the Dark’ by SOMO & Both ENDS contains factual inaccuracies and misunderstandings both on project and on policy level. For a response on this report by the Dutch Government , we would like to make reference to two recent letters to the Dutch Parliament from resp. the State Secretary for Finance and the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation:

* <https://zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/ah-tk-20152016-2210.html> (d.d. 10 February 2016)
* <https://zoek.officielebekendmakingen.nl/kst-26485-218.html> (d.d. 7 April 2016)

For more information on the CSR policy & our environmental and social diligence process in the framework of export credits, please see our website: <http://www.atradiusdutchstatebusiness.nl/dsben/cr/index.html>