

February 27, 2003

Ms. Ketil Dgebuadze
Director of the International Information Center
of Social Reforms
Executive Secretary
of the Second ECA NGO WG on the World Bank
Tbilisi 380086, Georgia #5, Mindeli Str

Dear Ms. Dgebuadze:

Thank you for your letter of Feb. 13, attaching a letter from Georgian NGOs in support of the Baku Tbilisi Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline. The pipeline is a major project which will have significant impacts on Georgia and the other countries of the region, both in the immediate area of the construction, and in its overall economic benefits. It is therefore important that governments and civil societies in all three countries have a full understanding of the likely costs and the benefits of the pipeline project and can engage in an open and informed debate.

For this reason we value our dialogue with you and your colleagues on both sides of this issue, and we count on active participation of civil society in the pipeline-related consultations as the project develops.

Sincerely,



Peter Nicholas
Acting Country Director for Georgia
South Caucasus Country Unit
Europe and Central Asia Region

cc: Ms. Carole Brookins, Executive Director, EDS01, World Bank
Mr. Ad Melkert, Executive Director for Georgia, World Bank
Mr. Pietro Veglio, Executive Director, EDS24, World Bank