

# **Light at the End of the Tunnel?**

## **Participation and Transparency in Export Credit Agencies**

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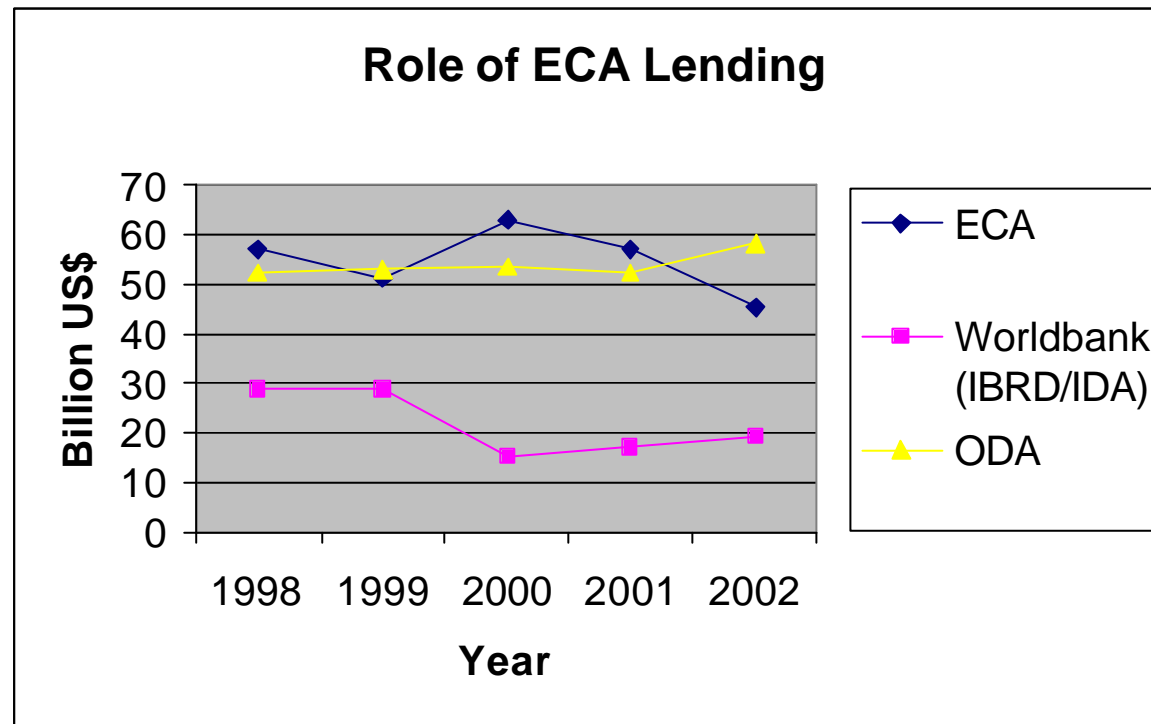
- **ECAs defined**
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# ECAs defined

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- **Present in all OECD countries**
- **Promotion of Exports**
- **Ambiguous setting of ECAs**
  - **State mandate**
  - **Tax-Funds**
  - **Not in competition with the private market**
  - **Profit-driven**
  - **International competition**

# Significance of ECAs





# Different types of ECAs

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- **Organisational setting**
  - section of ministry or government department
  - independent government agency
  - private institution operating under agreement
- **Objectives**
  - Export promotion
  - Job Creation
  - Development
- **Instruments**
  - Insuring
  - Financing



# Criticism of ECAs

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- **Large infrastructure projects**
  - Environmental Impacts
  - Re-Settlements
  - Cultural Heritage
- **No Common International Standards**
  - Financial agreement since 1970s
  - “Common Approaches” since 2004
- **Secrecy and low level of participation**



# Transparency & information disclosure

- **Environmental impact assessments**
  - standard routine for “category A”-projects
  - availability of EIAs differs
- **Information disclosure on projects**
  - ex-ante (30 - 45 days ahead of decision)
  - ex-post (after cover decision is taken)
  - Full EIA or only selected information
- **Changed by OECD Common Approaches**



# Participation in ECAs

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## Different types of participation

- **in setting up guidelines**
  - stakeholder involvement e.g. in US, Canada, Japan, France
- **in projects, by local people**
  - mandatory in EIAs
  - actual implementation questionable
  - legal and cultural obstacles
- **in projects, by civil society “at home”**
  - limited capacities - few high-profile projects
  - allegation of “destructive dialogue”





# Impacts of transparency & participation

## **Greater role for civil society in ECAs:**

- + Transparency itself leading to better projects and better EIAs?**
- + More flexibility, quicker reaction to internat'l developments and new topics?**
- High burden for NGOs? Outsourcing of monitoring?**
- Legitimacy?**
- Transparency as a substitute for standards?**



## ECAs - example of policy integration?

- **Explicit references to policy integration**
  - **UK (environment),**
  - **Australia and Japan (information disclosure)**
- **Ambivalent role btw. state and private sector**
- **Conflicting objectives**
  - **competitiveness vs.**
  - **sustainable development / dev't assistance**
- **Win-win-solutions: e.g. renewables & CDM?**

# Thank you for your attention

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