

## A Comment on Lempert's "Why Government and Non-Governmental Policies and Projects Fail Despite 'Evaluations'"

Hellmut Eggers

Dear Mr. Lempert!

I have read your article with great interest, and I would have done my best to learn all I could from your critical observations, had it not been for the fact that you chose to stick to the slanderous accusations you level against me and my colleagues. This made me suspect that your reasoning is designed, at least in part, to lend credibility to these accusations.

You say that the evaluations of the development aid managed by the European Commission (EU) are "corrupt." It is clear that those who are responsible for such corrupt work, that is to say my colleagues and myself, are considered by you to be corrupt as well.

Corruption is the use of public power to obtain private gain. You will be fully conscious of that meaning, and you confirm it by maintaining that our evaluation work served, and was designed, to improve the image of our aid and thus our chances to increase the EU development aid budget.

Never have I or any of my colleagues (that is to say my predecessor, a Belgian, or my successors, a Spaniard, an Italian, an Irishman, and a Frenchman), pursued

any other purpose with the evaluations of our aid interventions than the improvement of the quality of that aid in favour of its intended beneficiaries, the target groups in developing countries, NEVER! You seem to imply that we were the naive victims of a system we did not understand, designed to serve the image/budget purposes mentioned above. That, let me assure you, is simply ridiculous.

You say (and do not hesitate to publish), that we are corrupt. I demand, in my name as well as in that of my colleagues, your apology.

Dr. Hellmut W. Eggers

(former Head of the Evaluation Division for DGs Development and External Relations, European Commission)