

European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI): Management appointments

The European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) is backed by a guarantee from the EU budget to stimulate investment across the Union. The regulation governing EFSI sets out that the European Parliament, which is one arm of the EU budgetary authority, has to approve the appointments of the managing director and deputy managing director of EFSI. Parliament's Committees on Budgets and on Economic and Monetary Affairs jointly recommend approving the re-appointment of the current managing director and deputy managing director. Parliament's consent will be subject to a vote planned for the October II plenary session.

Background

Backed by an initial guarantee of €16 billion from the EU budget and a €5 billion contribution from own resources of the European Investment Bank (EIB), EFSI leveraged total investment of €335 billion across the EU according to [July 2018 data](#) from the EIB Group, which manages it. Established in July 2015 to tackle an investment gap still persistent in the Union several years after the financial crisis, EFSI has exceeded its initial objectives. Following an extension of its duration and an increase of its resources to €26 billion for the guarantee from the EU budget and to €7.5 billion for the EIB contribution, EFSI is now set to run until the end of the EU's current Multiannual Financial Framework in December 2020, with an overall investment target of €500 billion.

[Regulation \(EU\) 2015/1017](#) sets out the governance structure of EFSI, which is composed of a steering board, a managing director and an investment committee. The managing director of EFSI, assisted by the deputy managing director, is in charge of the Fund's daily management, and prepares and chairs the meetings of the investment committee. A consent-like procedure applies to both positions, with the European Parliament having to approve candidates before the EIB's President appoints them.

Proposal of the EFSI steering board

In July 2018, the steering board that governs EFSI and sets its strategic orientation proposed that the EIB renews the mandates of the current [managing director](#) and [deputy managing director](#) of the Fund, whose appointments were approved by Parliament in October 2015. The mandates for both positions cover a fixed term of three years and are renewable once. [Wilhelm Molterer](#), who has been managing director of EFSI since 1 November 2015, was a member of either the Austrian Federal Parliament or government for more than 20 years up to 2011, including as Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister of Finance, and was then Vice-President of the EIB from 2011 to 2015. Before becoming deputy managing director of EFSI in January 2016, [Iliyana Tsanova](#) held various positions at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and was Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria in two caretaker governments in 2013 and 2014.

European Parliament position

In September 2018, the European Parliament's Committees on Budgets (BUDG) and on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) jointly held hearings in which the two candidates made an opening statement and replied to questions from members of the two committees. On 9 October 2018, the BUDG and ECON committees jointly adopted by a large majority two reports recommending that Parliament give its consent to the re-appointment of the current [managing director](#) and [deputy managing director](#) of EFSI.

Non-legislative procedure: [2018/0903\(NLE\)](#), [2018/0904\(NLE\)](#); Committees responsible: BUDG and ECON (jointly under Rule 55); Rapporteurs: Jean Arthuis (ALDE, France) and Roberto Gualtieri (S&D, Italy).

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