

# European Central Bank appointments

Role of the European Parliament





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### **Abstract**

The European Parliament plays an important role in the appointment processes of two European Central Bank bodies: the Executive Board and the Supervisory Board (Chair and Vice-Chair). This paper aims to: a) provide an overview of the relevant procedural provisions, b) present a selection of past appointments; and c) describe the evolving role of the European Parliament in these procedures.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>EBA</b>	European Banking Authority
<b>ECB</b>	European Central Bank
<b>ECOFIN</b>	Economic and Financial Affairs Council
<b>ECON</b>	European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs
<b>ESFS</b>	European System of Financial Supervision
<b>EMI</b>	European Monetary Institute
<b>EMU</b>	Economic and Monetary Union
<b>EP</b>	European Parliament
<b>ERM</b>	Exchange Rate Mechanism
<b>ESCB</b>	European System of Central Banks
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>HICP</b>	Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices
<b>MEP</b>	Member of the European Parliament
<b>SGP</b>	Stability and Growth Pact
<b>SSM</b>	Single Supervisory Mechanism
<b>TFEU</b>	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Background

The European Parliament is involved in the appointment procedures of **two key bodies of the European Central Bank (ECB)**: the Executive Board, which is responsible for implementation of the euro area monetary policy, and the Supervisory Board, which is at the centre of the Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM). While the Parliament provides only an opinion in Executive Board appointment procedures, for Supervisory Board appointments it is involved to a much larger extent.

The **Executive Board** appointment procedure is set out in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), Article 283(2). The European Council has the power to appoint the board, after consulting the European Parliament and the ECB's Governing Council. The Parliament adopted its own rules to define internal procedures leading up to the adoption of a formal opinion (Rule 130, Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament). The Parliament has used this opinion-giving power to convey its positions on the candidates and the process itself. It has raised several points of concern in the past, including:

- Political compromises surrounding the nomination process, seen as encroaching upon the independence of the ECB;
- Gender balance in the Executive Board and Supervisory Board;
- Prior occupation and political independence of the candidates; and
- Constraints in the appointment process.

In some cases, these opinions have had a strong impact, despite the limited 'consultation' role that the Treaty provides for.

The **Supervisory Board** is a central body within the SSM and is composed of a Chair, Vice-Chair, four ECB representatives and representatives of national supervisory authorities. Key provisions on the appointments procedure are defined in several legal documents: Council Regulation (EU) No 1024/2013, the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament and the ECB, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the ECB, the ECB Rules of Procedure, and the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament. The Parliament is involved in the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair. In the initial stages of the procedure, the ECON Committee is informed and may ask questions about the selection criteria, the composition of the pool of candidates and the screening method used to arrive to a balanced shortlist of at least two candidates. The ECB Governing Council then sends the shortlist to the ECON Committee at least three weeks before it makes the formal proposal. Once the Governing Council adopts the formal proposal, the ECON Committee organises a hearing with the candidate. It then adopts a report which is later voted on in plenary. This report constitutes the Parliament's approval. The Council of the EU then finalises the appointment through an implementing decision.

Both bodies will see **significant changes in 2019**. Most relevantly, the term of office of the current President of the ECB, Mr Mario Draghi, expires on 31 October 2019. The European Council of 30 June - 2 July 2019 considered Ms Christine Lagarde to be the appropriate candidate for President of the European Central Bank<sup>1</sup>. On 9 July, the Council adopted a recommendation to the European Council on the nomination of Ms Lagarde<sup>2</sup>. Ms Lagarde resigned as Managing Director of the International

<sup>1</sup> European Council. (2019). [Special meeting of the European Council \(30 June, 1 and 2 July 2019\) – Conclusions](#).

<sup>2</sup> Economic and Financial Affairs Council, 9 July 2019, [Main Results](#).

Monetary Fund (IMF) with effect from 12 September 2019<sup>3</sup>. This is the first time that the timing of the appointment of the President of the ECB coincides with that of the other top EU jobs. The Vice-Chair of the Supervisory Board is also to be appointed. Mr Yves Mersch, as a member of the Executive Board, was nominated by the ECB in April 2019. These two appointment procedures are likely to be dealt with by the ECON Committee in the first months of the 9<sup>th</sup> legislative term. Later in the year, another appointment procedure will be launched, as the term of office of Mr Benoît Cœuré, Executive Board member, expires on 31 December 2019.

## Aim

The aim of this study is to:

- provide an overview of all the relevant **procedural provisions** applicable to ECB appointment procedures;
- present a selection of **past appointment procedures**; and
- describe the evolving **role of the European Parliament** and the positions it adopted in the past.

This paper has been prepared for the ECON Committee by the Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies.

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<sup>3</sup> International Monetary Fund. (2019). [Statement by the IMF's Executive Board: Managing Director Lagarde Resigns with Effect from September 12; Executive Board Indicates Selection Process to Start Promptly](#), July 16, 2019.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The ECB's top decision-making bodies have a major reshuffle happening in 2019. On the **Executive Board**, Mr Peter Praet was replaced as 'Chief Economist' of the ECB by Mr Phillip Lane in June 2019. The most important change at the ECB will take effect on 1 November, when Mr Mario Draghi's term as President expires. On 2 July, as part of the package of nominations for top EU positions, the European Council agreed to propose Ms Christine Lagarde, at the time the Managing Director of the IMF, for the position of President of the ECB. By the end of the year, another member of the Executive Board will need to be appointed as Mr Benoît Cœuré's term of office expires on 31 December 2019.

Concerning the **Supervisory Board**, Mr Andrea Enria started his term as Chair on 1 January 2019. The Vice-Chair has yet to be appointed following the end of Ms Sabine Lautenschläger's term in February. The Governing Council has nominated Mr Yves Mersch for the position, pending approval by the incoming Parliament.

This, together with the **start of the 9<sup>th</sup> legislative term of the European Parliament** in July 2019, marks a good moment to take stock of ECB appointment procedures and the role of the European Parliament and its Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON Committee).

There is a 20-year history of ECB Executive Board appointments since the ECB was established and took over the responsibility of conducting euro area monetary policy as part of the third stage of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). On the other hand, Supervisory Board appointments form a much smaller sample. The ECB obtained supervisory tasks as of November 2014 with the introduction of the Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM).

The two functions of the ECB (monetary and supervisory) are **organisationally separate**. This paper is thus also divided along these lines: [Section 2](#) covers monetary policy appointments whereas [Section 3](#) deals with supervisory positions. The aim is to provide an overview of the key procedural steps as well as to present a selection of past appointments which reflect the role of the European Parliament and how this role has evolved. Some concluding remarks are given in [Section 4](#). The annexes provide an overview of current Executive Board and Supervisory Board members, together with key information about all past appointment procedures.

## 2. MONETARY POLICY

### 2.1. Background

The ECB is responsible for conducting the **monetary policy of the euro area**<sup>4</sup>. Euro area membership has grown from the initial 11 Member States to the current 19. All EU Member States have a legal obligation to join the euro area, with the exception of Denmark and the United Kingdom, which have opt-outs defined in the TFEU.

The main decision-making bodies for ECB monetary policy are:

- **Executive Board:** consisting of the President, Vice-President and four other members;
- **Governing Council:** comprising the members of the Executive Board and the governors of the national central banks of Member States that have adopted the euro; and
- **General Council:** consisting of the ECB President, the Vice-President and the governors of the national central banks of all EU Member States.

The Governing Council has the main decision-making responsibility for formulating euro area monetary policy while the Executive Board is tasked with implementing it. The General Council of the ECB is viewed as a transitional body in light of the obligation for all EU Member States to join the euro area.

The ECB is **institutionally independent**, as established in the Treaty.

Box 1: TFEU, [Article 130](#):

*'When exercising the powers and carrying out the tasks and duties conferred upon them by the Treaties and the Statute of the ESCB and of the ECB, neither the European Central Bank, nor a national central bank, nor any member of their decision-making bodies shall seek or take instructions from Union institutions, bodies, offices or agencies, from any government of a Member State or from any other body. The Union institutions, bodies, offices or agencies and the governments of the Member States undertake to respect this principle and not to seek to influence the members of the decision-making bodies of the European Central Bank or of the national central banks in the performance of their tasks.'*

Apart from being institutionally insulated, other forms of independence are granted to the ECB<sup>5</sup>:

- **Personal:** Executive Board members' security of tenure by means of a long, non-renewable term (8 years), subject to removal only in case of serious misconduct;
- **Functional and operational:** exclusive competence for monetary policy in the euro area and a prohibition of monetary financing;
- **Financial and organisational:** own financial resources and discretion with respect to internal organisation; and
- **Legal:** having its own legal personality, the ECB may take actions before the European Court of Justice.

The **concept of central bank independence**, within a rule-based (price stability-oriented) framework, emerged following the stagflation period of the 1970s. The academic literature at the time identified

<sup>4</sup> Formally, the Eurosystem is the monetary authority of the euro area. It consists of the ECB and central banks of the countries that have adopted the euro, which are jointly responsible for the conduct of monetary policy in the euro area. The European System of Central Banks (ESCB) includes the ECB and central banks of all EU Member States. The ECB is at the heart of both the Eurosystem and the ESCB. It has a legal personality and its decision-making bodies govern the Eurosystem and ESCB.

<sup>5</sup> ECB. (2017). [Why is the ECB independent?](#).

that by disentangling politics and central banking the inherent inflation bias would be removed, thus addressing the issues of time inconsistency and credibility of monetary policy<sup>6</sup>.

Modern central banks enjoy varying degrees of independence. The underlying principle that has guided the expansion of central bank independence is the **separation of the implementation of monetary policy from the political process**. Generally, the main monetary policy goals are determined politically, together with the appointments of governors/board members, while the central bank exercises operational independence in deciding on the strategy and action it takes to implement the policy<sup>7</sup>.

**The ECB is arguably more independent** than comparable central banks (Federal Reserve, Bank of England, Bank of Japan)<sup>8</sup>. This may be explained by two elements: (i) the ECB was created at a time when central bank independence had already gained a strong foothold in advanced economies and was hence an integral part of its set-up, and (ii) it was 'modelled' on the Bundesbank which was the world's first truly independent central bank (1957) and was often seen as an ideal manifestation of the theory that price stability can only truly be achieved only with central bank independence.

The primary objective of the ECB is laid down in the Treaty. However, the practical definition of that objective is set by the ECB itself, making it one of the main pillars of its independence. The Governing Council decided in October 1998 that price stability means a 'year-on-year increase in the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) for the euro area of below 2 %'. In May 2003, it further clarified that the ECB seeks to 'maintain inflation rates **below, but close to, 2 %** over the medium term'<sup>9</sup>.

This high degree of independence does not mean that monetary policy is completely isolated from instruments of **democratic accountability**<sup>10</sup>. The ECB is accountable to the European Parliament through the following mechanisms:

- Quarterly [Monetary Dialogue](#) with the European Parliament's ECON Committee;
- [Annual reports](#) on the activities of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB), based on which the European Parliament usually adopts resolutions<sup>11</sup>; and
- [Written questions](#) from Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to the ECB.

Another important feature of the accountability framework, where the European Parliament has influence, is the procedure for the **appointment of members of the Executive Board, which includes the President, the Vice-President and four other members**. Historically, as will be shown in section 2.2.3, the Parliament has used the appointment procedure to state its position on a number of issues of principle.

<sup>6</sup> See Kydland, F. and Prescott, E. (1977), "Rules Rather than Discretion: The Inconsistency of Optimal Plans", *Journal of Political Economy* 85(3), pp. 473-491.; and Barro, R. and Gordon, D. (1983), "Rules, Discretion and Reputation in a Model of Monetary Policy", *Journal of Monetary Economics* 12(1), pp. 101-121.

<sup>7</sup> See, for instance, Balls, E., Howat, J. and Stansbury, A. (2018), "Central Bank Independence Revisited: After the financial crisis, what should a model central bank look like?", *Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government Associate Working Paper Series 87*. The authors show that central banks in advanced economies have been given almost full operational independence while political independence remains limited. They also claim that operational independence is correlated with price stability while they fail to find such correlation for political independence.

<sup>8</sup> Dincer, N.N. and Eichengreen, B. (2014), "Central Bank Transparency and Independence: Updates and New Measures", *International Journal of Central Banking* 10(1), pp.189-253.

<sup>9</sup> ECB. (2003). "[The ECB's monetary policy strategy](#)". Press Release, 8 May 2003.

<sup>10</sup> For an assessment of the evolution of the ECB's accountability practices, see Fraccaroli N., Giovannini A. and Jamet J.-F. (2018). "[The evolution of the ECB's accountability practices during the crisis](#)". ECB Economic Bulletin, Issue 5/2018.

<sup>11</sup> See, for instance, European Parliament. (2019a). [European Parliament resolution of 16 January 2019 on the ECB Annual Report 2017](#).

## 2.2. Executive Board

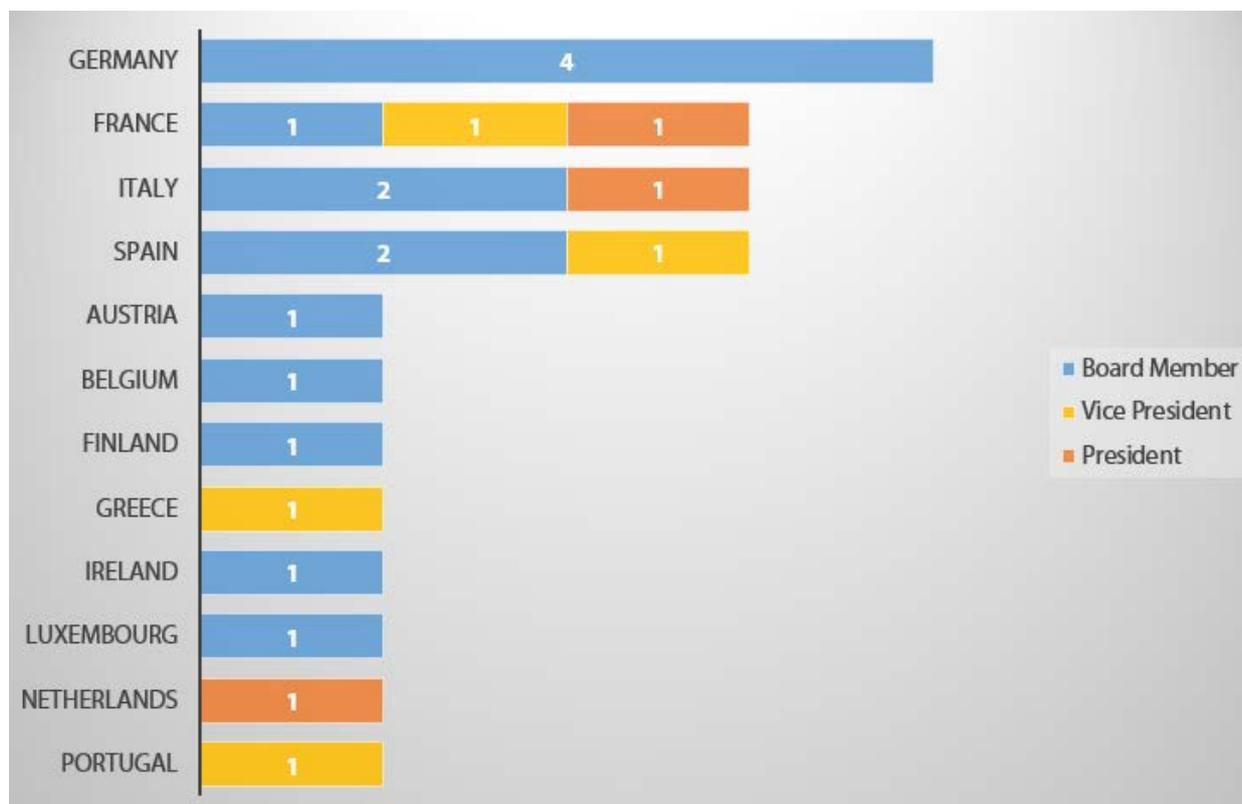
### 2.2.1. Role and composition

The Executive Board is the ECB's **main operational body** responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the single monetary policy in the euro area. It is composed of the President, the Vice-President and four other members. The President of the ECB is the 'face' of the institution and is in charge of communication activities and external representation, in addition to chairing the Governing Council and Executive Board meetings. Each Executive Board member has clearly defined responsibilities (see **ANNEX I - Executive Board: terms of office and responsibilities (as of July 2019)**).

The Executive Board members have an **8-year term of office**. An exception was the first Executive Board, appointed in 1998, whose members had varying terms of office ranging from 4 years (Mr Noyer, Vice President) to 8 years (Mr Issing), in order to avoid a situation whereby their successors all had to be appointed at the same time.

Since 1998, **21 Executive Board members from 12 Member States have been appointed**. Three board members were women. In most cases, Board members have served their full term, the exceptions being Mr Duisenberg (first President, June 1998-October 2003), Mr Lorenzo Bini Smaghi (Board member, June 2005-December 2011), Mr Jürgen Stark (Board member, June 2006-December 2011) and Mr Jörg Asmussen (Board member, January 2012-January 2014).

Figure 1: Past and current Executive Board members by nationality, as of 12 July 2019



The current Executive Board members, their terms of office and responsibilities are shown in **ANNEX I - Executive Board: terms of office and responsibilities (as of July 2019)**.

## 2.2.2. Appointment procedure

The key provisions related to the Executive Board appointment procedures can be found in:

- TFEU, [Article 283\(2\)](#);
- Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, [Rule 130](#).

Box 2: TFEU, [Article 283\(2\)](#):

*'The Executive Board shall comprise the President, the Vice-President and four other members.*

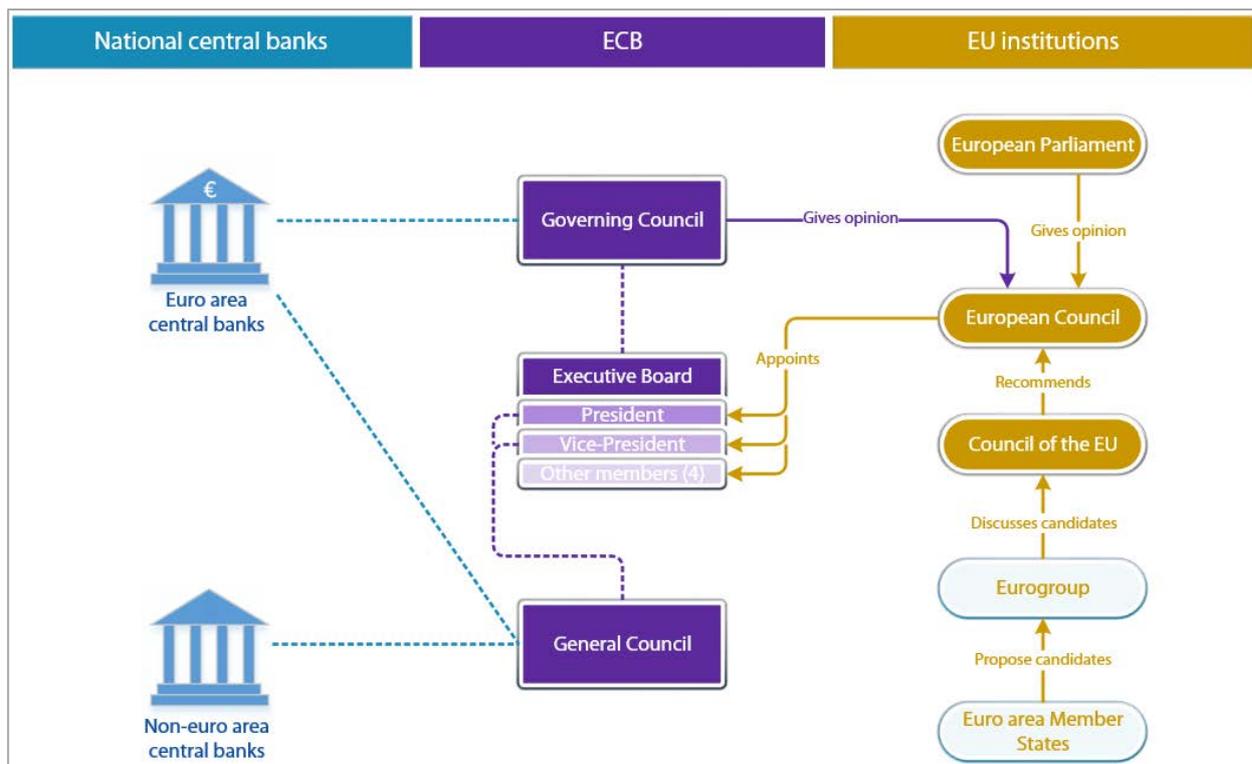
*The President, the Vice-President and the other members of the Executive Board shall be appointed by the European Council, acting by a qualified majority, from among persons of recognised standing and professional experience in monetary or banking matters, on a recommendation from the Council, after it has consulted the European Parliament and the Governing Council of the European Central Bank.*

*Their term of office shall be eight years and shall not be renewable.*

*Only nationals of Member States may be members of the Executive Board.'*

The nomination process usually starts in the Eurogroup with euro area Member States proposing candidates. The Eurogroup then decides, usually in a consensual manner, on the candidate it will put forward to the Council. The Council, acting by qualified majority, adopts a formal recommendation, which it forwards to the European Council for decision. Before the European Council formally appoints the new member of the Executive Board, it must consult the European Parliament and the ECB Governing Council. The **Parliament contributes to the process by issuing an opinion (consultation procedure)**.

Figure 2: ECB governance structure and Executive Board appointment process<sup>12</sup>



<sup>12</sup> Own illustration.

The Parliament has its **own rules** on how to organise and prepare the appointment opinion (see **Box 3**). After the Parliament receives the official letter from the Council recommending a candidate for an Executive Board appointment, the ECON Committee takes charge of the preparatory work for the subsequent adoption of a resolution in plenary. A rapporteur is appointed, usually the Chair of the ECON Committee, to lead the preparation of a draft report. The Committee sends a questionnaire to the candidate nominated asking for written replies ahead of a formal public hearing. The CV of the candidate is also provided before the hearing. The CV and the answers to the questionnaire are made public as they are attached to the ECON reports (see **Annex III** for links to all reports). Based on this input and the hearing itself, the Committee holds a vote on the draft report and submits it to plenary, which delivers a final opinion. There have been instances, for example for Vice-President nominees, where informal exchanges of views were held with potential candidates prior to the Council's formal appointment recommendation.

According to the wording of the Treaty, the European Council can make its decision **only after the European Parliament has delivered its opinion**. As it happens, the European Parliament delayed the adoption of its opinion in at least one instance (see section 2.2.3.c), leaving one of the top positions at the ECB unfilled for a period.

Giving an **unfavourable opinion** would mandate the President of the Parliament to write to the Council and ask for the nomination to be withdrawn and a new one submitted. This has no binding effect on the decision of the European Council, but it does put political pressure.

Box 3: Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, [Rule 130](#):

*'1. The candidate nominated as President, Vice-President or Member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank shall be invited to make a statement before the committee responsible and to answer questions put by its members.*

*2. The committee responsible shall make a recommendation to Parliament as to whether the nomination should be approved.*

*3. The vote shall take place within two months of receipt of the nomination unless Parliament, at the request of the committee responsible, a political group or Members reaching at least the low threshold, decides otherwise. Parliament shall vote on each nomination separately, by secret ballot.*

*4. If the opinion adopted by Parliament on a nomination is unfavourable, the President shall ask for the withdrawal of the nomination and for the submission to Parliament of a new nomination.'*

The following section provides a selection of case studies with the aim of giving an insight into the role of the European Parliament in the Executive Board appointment procedure.

### 2.2.3. Notable appointment procedures

#### a. First ECB Executive Board appointment (1998)

ECB Executive Board appointments usually involve a large degree of **political considerations**. The appointment of the first Executive Board and its President, Mr Willem Frederik Duisenberg, was no exception.

During the Euro Summit of 2-3 May 1998, the then 11 euro area Member States reached a political compromise on a set of nominations for the ECB Executive Board. Reportedly, the most controversial part of the agreement was that Mr Duisenberg, the incumbent president of the European Monetary

Institute (EMI)<sup>13</sup>, would be appointed as president of the ECB, with the understanding that he would **step down at the mid-point of his 8-year presidency** to make way for a French candidate, Mr Jean-Claude Trichet, then governor of the French central bank<sup>14</sup>.

On 2 May 1998, the Council forwarded an official recommendation letter to the European Parliament for consultation, proposing six candidates for the ECB Executive Board:

- Mr Wim Duisenberg (NL), President, 8-year term;
- Mr Christian Noyer (FR), Vice-President, 4-year term;
- Ms Sirkka Hämäläinen (FI), 5-year term;
- Mr Otmar Issing (DE), 8-year term;
- Mr Tommaso Padoa Schioppa (IT), 7-year term; and
- Mr Eugenio Domingo Solans, (ES), 6-year term.

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy was the competent committee. **Ms Christa Randzio-Plath**, chair of the Sub-committee on Monetary Affairs, was appointed rapporteur for all six recommendations. Written questions were sent to the candidates, with a request to respond before the hearings in the ECON Committee. The questionnaire included 19 questions divided into four groups (personal and professional background; monetary and economic policy; functioning of the ECB; and democratic accountability).



Individual hearings with the candidates were held on 7 and 8 May 1998, lasting either three hours (ECB President-designate), one hour and 45 minutes (Vice-President-designate) or one and a half hour (other Executive Board nominees). In his written response and during the hearing, Mr Duisenberg reiterated that the **decision on how long he will remain in the post would be entirely his own** and not a result of pre-agreed political arrangements.

The ECON Committee delivered its recommendations<sup>15</sup>, which were adopted in plenary on 13 May 1998. The European Parliament gave a favourable assessment of the competences of the six proposed candidates and adopted separate resolutions. The candidates' willingness to hold regular monetary dialogues with the European Parliament was seen as an important commitment. However, the Parliament did express **strong reservations about the political bargaining that led to the nominations**. The resolution on the appointment of Mr Duisenberg as the first President of the ECB identified the requirement for unanimity in the Council as the main shortcoming of the appointment procedure. This was seen as the reason behind the politicised debate in the Council leading up to the nominations and the related concessions included in the agreement at political level.

With this, the European Parliament gave a clear signal from the onset that it would not merely 'rubber-stamp' Executive Board appointments without a **meticulous review of the candidates and the circumstances surrounding their nominations**.

On 25 May 1998, the ECB's first Executive Board was formally appointed by a decision of the governments of the participating Member States at the level of the Heads of State or Government. Mr Duisenberg went on past the mid-way of his term as ECB President, nevertheless **stepping down on 31 October 2003**, almost three years short of the full 8-year term. He was replaced by Mr Trichet.

<sup>13</sup> Predecessor of the ECB, in charge of preparing the launch of the common currency. In operation between January 1994 and June 1998.

<sup>14</sup> Pank, P. (1998), "European leaders settle on ECB compromise, with Duisenberg as chief", *Agence France-Presse*, 2 May 1998.

<sup>15</sup> ECON Recommendations: [Mr Duisenberg](#); [Mr Noyer](#); [Ms Hämäläinen](#); [Mr Issing](#); [Mr Padoa Schioppa](#); and [Mr Solans](#).

The Treaty of Lisbon, which entered into force on 1 December 2009, introduced **qualified majority voting** in the European Council for the appointment of ECB Executive Board members, thus addressing a long-standing concern of the European Parliament.

### b. Appointment of Mr Mario Draghi as President (2011)

The term of office of Mr Jean-Claude Trichet, the second President of the ECB, was due to expire on 31 October 2011, at the height of the euro area sovereign debt crisis.

On 17 May 2011, the Council decided to recommend Mr Mario Draghi, the Governor of the Bank of Italy since December 2005, as President of the ECB<sup>16</sup>. The discussions in the Council did not go smoothly, however. According to reports, the problem lay in the fact that if Mr Draghi were appointed, Italy would have had two nationals on the Executive Board (the second being Mr Lorenzo Bini Smaghi) while France would have been left with none. This was apparently solved by Mr Bini Smaghi's offer to vacate his post by the end of the year<sup>17</sup>. Mr Bini Smaghi did indeed resign in November 2011, with effect from 31 December 2011<sup>18</sup>. Mr Benoît Coeuré (FR) was appointed as of 1 January 2012.



The ECON Committee held a hearing with Mr Draghi on 14 June 2011, which lasted 2.5 hours. Prior to the hearing the committee sent a list of 39 questions to the candidate to which he replied<sup>19</sup>. On 15 June, the ECON Committee adopted its report with 33 votes in favour, 2 against and 4 abstentions<sup>20</sup>. The Parliament confirmed this and adopted a favourable decision on 23 June 2011<sup>21</sup> with 499 votes in favour, 72 against and 89 abstentions<sup>22</sup>.

The following day, the European Council adopted a decision to appoint Mr Draghi as President with a term of office from 1 November 2011 to 31 October 2019<sup>23</sup>.

### c. Appointment of Mr Yves Mersch as Executive Board member (2012)

The most contentious procedure and perhaps the best demonstration of **the role and the power of the European Parliament** was that of the appointment of Mr Yves Mersch to the ECB Executive Board in 2012. Mr Mersch was nominated to replace Mr José Manuel González-Páramo, whose term expired on 31 May 2012. This remains, to date, the only case of **outright rejection** by the European Parliament of a candidate proposed by the Council. Mr Mersch was **ultimately appointed** after a decision of the European Council, ignoring the Parliament's rejection. Due to the protracted appointment procedure, the Executive Board post was left unoccupied for 6.5 months.

<sup>16</sup> Council of the EU (2011) [Council recommends the nomination of Mario Draghi as President of the European Central Bank](#). Press Release 10237/11.

<sup>17</sup> Belke A. (2011). [Change of guard from Trichet to Draghi Watch or not to watch money under political constraints](#). Study for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies, European Parliament, Luxembourg.

<sup>18</sup> ECB. (2011). [Lorenzo Bini Smaghi leaves the ECB for Harvard University](#). ECB Press Release, 10 November 2011.

<sup>19</sup> European Parliament. (2011a). [Report on the Council recommendation for appointment of the President of the European Central Bank](#), Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs.

<sup>20</sup> See footnote above.

<sup>21</sup> European Parliament. (2011b). [European Parliament decision of 23 June 2011 on the Council recommendation on the appointment of the President of the European Central Bank](#).

<sup>22</sup> European Parliament. (2011c). [Parliament backs Mario Draghi's appointment as ECB President](#). Press Release, 23 June 2011.

<sup>23</sup> European Council. (2011). [European Council appoints Mario Draghi President of the European Central Bank](#). Press Release EUCO 30/11.

Since the establishment of the ECB Executive Board in June 1998 until the end of term of Ms Tumpel-Gugerell (31 May 2011) there had always been one female Executive Board member. Mr Peter Praet replaced Ms Tumpel-Gugerell on 1 June 2011 and three subsequent Executive Board appointment procedures produced male candidates (Mr Draghi as President in November 2011, Mr Cœuré and Mr Asmussen in January 2012). The Parliament had been raising the issue of gender balance for over two years, both in plenary and in the ECON Committee, notably at the hearings of nominees for several posts<sup>24</sup>. The appointment of Mr Mersch would have meant that there would be **no female Executive Board member at least until June 2018**, when the term of office of the Vice-President, Mr Constâncio, was due to expire<sup>25</sup>.

On 8 May 2012, the Chair of the ECON Committee, Ms Sharon Bowles, wrote a letter to the president of the Eurogroup, Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, requesting that it consider **at least one candidate of each gender** before making its recommendation for the replacement of Mr González-Páramo<sup>26</sup>. No formal reply to the letter was received before the Parliament adopted its opinion.

In the meantime, Mr González-Páramo's term of office expired on 31 May. The **Council was late in proposing a candidate** because of lengthy discussions. On 10 July, the Economic and Financial Affairs Council finally agreed to recommend Mr Mersch for the Executive Board member post and, on 13 July, the Council sent a letter to the European Parliament asking for an opinion.

On 6 September, the ECON Committee coordinators decided to postpone the hearing of Mr Mersch 'after it became evident that no female candidate had been considered for the position before the official Council recommendation was made'<sup>27</sup>. The hearing was finally held on 22 October but, following the vote taken immediately after the hearing, **ECON decided to propose to the plenary a rejection of the Council's recommendation to appoint Mr Mersch**<sup>28</sup>. The report was adopted with 20 votes in favour, 13 against and 12 abstentions. While there was overall consensus that Mr Mersch **had the required professional competence, he was rejected because of the lack of gender balance his appointment would bring to the Executive Board**.



The European Parliament plenary **confirmed the rejection** of the Council recommendation, albeit by a rather slim margin (325 votes for the rejection, 300 against, 49 abstentions)<sup>29</sup>.

In such a situation, the Parliament's rules require its President to ask for the withdrawal of the candidate and the submission of a new nomination. In this context, it is worth recalling an important resolution adopted by the Parliament in 1998, before the ECB was established, calling on 'the governments of the Member States not to appoint candidates that do not have the approval of the European Parliament'<sup>30</sup>. Nevertheless, the **European Council went on to appoint Mr Mersch** to the Executive Board, despite Parliament's non-binding rejection.

<sup>24</sup> European Parliament. (2012a). "[Men only' ECB rejected by MEPs](#)". Press Release, 25 October 2012.

<sup>25</sup> Mr Jörg Asmussen, whose 8-year term was due to expire on 31 December 2019, decided to leave his post on 8 January 2014. On 27 January 2014, Ms Sabine Lautenschläger was appointed to replace him.

<sup>26</sup> European Parliament. (2012b). "[Hearing of ECB executive board candidate Yves Mersch postponed](#)". Press Release, 7 September 2012.

<sup>27</sup> See footnote 24.

<sup>28</sup> European Parliament. (2012). [Report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs on the Council recommendation for appointment of a Member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank](#). 22 October 2012.

<sup>29</sup> See footnote 24.

<sup>30</sup> European Parliament. (1998a). [Report on Democratic Accountability in the 3rd Phase of EMU](#). Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy.

However, the Parliament's opinion did have significant **political implications**. The European Parliament has established its firm position and support for **gender balance in the top positions at the ECB and other EU bodies in the area of economic, financial and monetary affairs**. In the meantime, Ms Danièle Nouy was appointed as Chair of the Supervisory Board in December 2013 and Ms Lautenschläger as Executive Board member in January 2014.

Partly due to this and similar experiences, the ECB had an internal reflection about gender balance issues. In 2013, the ECB launched an internal gender diversity action plan, aiming to increase the share of women in its own management positions<sup>31,32</sup>. In 2019, the ECB started a scholarship programme for women in economics<sup>33</sup>.

#### d. Appointment of Mr Luis de Guindos as Vice-President (2018)

The appointment of Mr de Guindos as Vice-President in 2018 was significant not only because it passed the vote in plenary by a **narrow margin** (331 in favour, 306 against and 64 abstentions<sup>34</sup>). Mr de Guindos is also the first candidate to come directly from a **national ministerial post** (Spanish Minister of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness), something which prompted concerns about political independence<sup>35</sup>.

Already in November 2017, the ECON report on the European Central Bank Annual Report for 2016 referred to the need to receive a shortlist of candidates in the appointment procedures for ECB Executive Board members<sup>36</sup>. Eventually, **two candidates** were proposed by euro area Member States: Mr Luis de Guindos (ES) and Mr Phillip Lane (IE, Governor of the Central Bank of Ireland)<sup>37</sup>.

The European Parliament held **informal exchanges of views** with the two candidates on 14 February 2018, thus pre-empting the Council's recommendation. The Chair of the ECON Committee issued a statement which said that the majority of political groups in the ECON Committee found Mr Lane's performance in the hearings 'more convincing'<sup>38</sup>.

On 19 February 2018, **the Eurogroup decided unanimously to recommend Mr de Guindos** for the ECB Vice-President post after Mr Lane's candidacy had been withdrawn<sup>39</sup>. ECOFIN confirmed the recommendation the next day. On 22 February, the Council formally requested an opinion from Parliament. The public hearing with Mr de Guindos took place on 26 February. The day after, the ECON Committee adopted a favourable opinion with 27 votes in favour, 14 against and 13 abstentions<sup>40</sup>.



On 14 March, the Parliament adopted its resolution giving a **favourable opinion** on the appointment of Mr de Guindos. The resolution voiced the Parliament's concerns about 'gender balance, the selection procedure, the timing of the appointment and political independence'. It also included a request that the Council and Parliament engage in a dialogue on how to improve the appointment process in the future<sup>41</sup>.

<sup>31</sup> ECB. (2013b). "[ECB aims to double share of women in high-ranking positions](#)", Press Release, 29 August 2013.

<sup>32</sup> ECB. (2018a) "[ECB releases progress on gender targets](#)", Press Release, 8 March 2018.

<sup>33</sup> ECB. (2019a). "[ECB launches scholarship for women in economics](#)", Press Release, 29 May 2019.

<sup>34</sup> European Parliament. (2018d). "[Parliament endorses Luis de Guindos as new ECB Vice-President](#)", Press Release, 14 March 2018.

<sup>35</sup> European Parliament. (2018c). [Report on the Council recommendation for appointment of the Vice-President of the European Central Bank](#). Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs.

<sup>36</sup> European Parliament. (2017). [Report on the European Central Bank Annual Report for 2016](#). Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs.

## 3. SUPERVISION

### 3.1. Background<sup>42</sup>

The global financial crisis revealed the **need to strengthen oversight of the banking sector**. Globally, central banks have consolidated their position as banking supervisors in the post-crisis reform environment<sup>43</sup>. In the euro area, the first response to the crisis and fragmented (national) supervision of the financial sector, was the establishment of the **European System of Financial Supervision (ESFS)** in 2011<sup>44</sup>. A new EU-level banking regulator and supervisor was established in the form of the European Banking Authority (EBA)<sup>45</sup>. It became clear rather soon that this framework was not enough to ensure effective bank oversight. In 2012, the Banking Union initiative was launched, based on three main pillars: a **Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM)**, a common deposit guarantee system and an integrated crisis management framework<sup>46</sup>.

In November 2013, the SSM legal framework was established with the entry into force of **two regulations**: one giving supervisory powers to the ECB ('SSM Regulation'), and the other amending the existing EBA regulation<sup>47</sup>. The former was a Council regulation, in which the Parliament gave an opinion under the consultation procedure, while the latter was a co-decision procedure where the Council and Parliament were on equal footing<sup>48</sup>. The SSM became operational on 4 November 2014.

The SSM applies to all euro area countries and is optional for non-euro area Member States that wish to participate (so called 'participating Member States')<sup>49</sup>. The ECB assumed **direct supervisory responsibilities of significant banks** (114 at the time of writing<sup>50</sup>) while supervision of less significant credit institutions remained with national supervisors, subject to the ECB's oversight. The ECB is also

<sup>37</sup> Council of the EU. (2018a). "[Statement by the Eurogroup President on the nominations for the post of ECB Vice-President](#)", Press Release, 7 February 2018.

<sup>38</sup> European Parliament. (2018a). "[Informal exchanges of views with candidates for ECB Vice-President](#)", [Statement by Roberto Gualtieri, Chair of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs](#).

<sup>39</sup> Council of the EU. (2018b). "[Remarks by M. Centeno following the Eurogroup meeting of 19 February 2018](#)", Press Release, 19 February 2018.

<sup>40</sup> European Parliament. (2018b). "[MEPs back Luis De Guindos for ECB Vice-President, but want rules overhauled](#)". Press Release, 27 February 2018.

<sup>41</sup> European Parliament. (2018c). [Report on the Council recommendation for appointment of the Vice-President of the European Central Bank](#). Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs.

<sup>42</sup> For other short overviews of the SSM and the scrutiny function of the European Parliament, see the following EGOV notes: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/note/join/2014/528750/IPOL-ECON\\_NT\(2014\)528750\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/note/join/2014/528750/IPOL-ECON_NT(2014)528750_EN.pdf); and [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2017/497742/IPOL\\_ATA\(2017\)497742\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2017/497742/IPOL_ATA(2017)497742_EN.pdf).

<sup>43</sup> Calvo, D., Crisanto J.C., Hohl S. and Gutiérrez O.P. (2018). "Financial supervisory architecture: what has changed after the crisis?", *FSI Insights on policy implementation No 8*, Bank for International Settlements, p. 11.

<sup>44</sup> For more information, see [European Parliament Fact Sheet on the ESFS](#):

<sup>45</sup> The EBA took over the existing responsibilities of the Committee of European Banking Supervisors (CEBS), a body advising and coordinating on banking regulation and supervision.

<sup>46</sup> European Commission. (2012). [Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: A Roadmap towards a Banking Union](#). COM/2012/0510 final. For more information about the Banking Union, see [European Parliament Fact Sheet on the Banking Union](#).

<sup>47</sup> [Council Regulation \(EU\) No 1024/2013](#) of 15 October 2013 conferring specific tasks on the European Central Bank concerning policies relating to the prudential supervision of credit institutions; [Regulation \(EU\) No 1022/2013](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 amending Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010 establishing a European Supervisory Authority (European Banking Authority) as regards the conferral of specific tasks on the European Central Bank pursuant to Council Regulation (EU) No 1024/2013.

<sup>48</sup> The Council and Parliament treated the two proposals as a package for which an overall agreement had to be reached.

<sup>49</sup> To date, no non-euro area Member State made use of this possibility. However, recent examples of Bulgaria's and Croatia's application to join ERM II suggest that prospective euro area countries are to join ERM II and the Banking Union simultaneously. See respective Eurogroup statements: [Bulgaria](#) and [Croatia](#).

<sup>50</sup> Information available at: <https://www.bankingsupervision.europa.eu/banking/list/who/html/index.en.html>.

responsible for issuing and withdrawing bank licenses, setting capital requirements, implementing enforcement measures and sanctions.

The SSM Regulation requires a **strict separation of monetary and supervisory functions** within the ECB, including separate meetings and agendas of the Governing Council and organisational separation of the staff involved in the SSM. These internal rules were further elaborated in an ECB Decision<sup>51</sup>.

## 3.2. Supervisory Board

### 3.2.1. Role and composition

The Supervisory Board is the central body within the SSM, while the ultimate decision-making authority lies with the ECB Governing Council under the so-called 'non-objection procedure'. The Supervisory Board meets every three weeks to implement and operationalise the ECB's supervisory responsibilities. It is composed of a **Chair, Vice-Chair, four ECB representatives** and representatives of **national supervisory authorities**.

The Chair has a non-renewable 5-year term of office. The Vice-Chair is selected among the members of the Executive Board. The four ECB representatives also have a 5-year, non-renewable term of office. Exceptionally, the first four ECB representatives appointed after the establishment of the Supervisory Board had terms ranging from three to five years.

Besides the SSM Regulation, concrete working arrangements of the Supervisory Board are defined in its rules of procedure<sup>52</sup>. The Supervisory Board takes decisions by simple majority where each member has one vote and the Chair holds the casting vote in case of a draw. The Supervisory Board prepares **draft supervisory decisions**, which are deemed adopted unless the Governing Council objects within a defined period (non-objection procedure). The ECB adopted a regulation establishing the mediation panel and its rules of procedure<sup>53</sup>, for cases where national supervisory authorities have different views concerning a Governing Council objection to a draft decision of the Supervisory Board.

The **Steering Committee** is another important body in the SSM organisational framework. It supports the work of the Supervisory Board and prepares its meetings. The Steering Committee is composed of eight members of the Supervisory Board: the Chair and Vice-Chair, one ECB representative and five representatives of the national supervisory authorities. The ECB representative is chosen by the ECB President among the four ECB representatives on the Supervisory Board. The Supervisory Board appoints the five representatives of national authorities following a rotation system while ensuring a balance between Member States, taking into account the size of their banking sector<sup>54</sup>.

The SSM Regulation gives the members of the Supervisory Board a level of **independence** comparable to that of the Executive Board (see **Box 4**).

<sup>51</sup> [Decision of the European Central Bank of 17 September 2014](#) on the implementation of separation between the monetary policy and supervision functions of the European Central Bank (ECB/2014/39).

<sup>52</sup> See [Rules of Procedure of the Supervisory Board of the European Central Bank \(unofficial consolidated version, for information purposes only\)](#).

<sup>53</sup> [Regulation \(EU\) No 673/2014](#) of the European Central Bank of 2 June 2014 concerning the establishment of a Mediation Panel and its Rules of Procedure (ECB/2014/26).

<sup>54</sup> This is ensured by allocating national competent authorities into four groups according to a ranking based on the total consolidated banking assets in their respective countries. The allocation key as of 31 December 2014: Group 1 (DE, FR), Group 2 (ES, IT, NL), Group 3 (BE, IE, EL, LU, AT, PT, FI), and Group 4 (EE, CY, LV, LT, MT, SI, SK). Each group has one representative at all times, apart from Group 2, which has two. The rotation of representatives within the four groups follows the alphabetical order. The term of office of each national representative in the Steering Committee is one year. Source: Supervisory Board Rules of Procedure (see footnote 50).

Box 4: [Council Regulation \(EU\) No 1024/2013](#), Article 19:

*'1. When carrying out the tasks conferred on it by this Regulation, the ECB and the national competent authorities acting within the SSM shall act independently. The members of the Supervisory Board and the steering committee shall act independently and objectively in the interest of the Union as a whole and shall neither seek nor take instructions from the institutions or bodies of the Union, from any government of a Member State or from any other public or private body.*

*2. The institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the Union and the governments of the Member States and any other bodies shall respect that independence.'*

The ECB, in its supervisory function, is **directly accountable to the European Parliament and the Council**. The SSM Regulation and the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament and the ECB<sup>55</sup> include provisions on reporting, *in camera* and public hearings, access to information and answers to parliamentary questions<sup>56</sup>.

More relevantly for this paper, the regulation sets out detailed rules on the Parliament's **involvement in the appointment process** for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Supervisory Board. The following section explains the procedure and legal basis. For the appointment procedure of the four ECB representatives on the Supervisory Board, in which the Parliament is not involved, see the relevant ECB Decision in the footnote<sup>57</sup>.

### 3.2.2. Appointment procedure

The key provisions related to the Supervisory Board appointment procedures can be found in:

- [Council Regulation \(EU\) No 1024/2013](#), Article 26;
- [Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament and the European Central Bank](#) on the practical modalities of the exercise of democratic accountability and oversight over the exercise of the tasks conferred on the ECB within the framework of the Single Supervisory Mechanism, Section II (Selection Procedures);
- [Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of the European Union and the European Central Bank](#) on the cooperation on procedures related to the Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM), Section 2 (Selection and Appointment Procedures);
- [Rules of Procedure of the European Central Bank](#), Article 13b;
- Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, [Rule 131](#).

The SSM Regulation is the main legal basis for the appointment procedure. Relevant provisions are shown in **Box 6**.

<sup>55</sup> [Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament and the European Central Bank](#) on the practical modalities of the exercise of democratic accountability and oversight over the exercise of the tasks conferred on the ECB within the framework of the Single Supervisory Mechanism.

<sup>56</sup> For an overview of hearings organised during the 8<sup>th</sup> parliamentary term and expertise provided to support the scrutiny activities of the ECON Committee, see [ECON homepage](#).

<sup>57</sup> [Decision of the European Central Bank of 6 February 2014](#) on the appointment of representatives of the European Central Bank to the Supervisory Board (ECB/2014/4).

Box 5: [Council Regulation \(EU\) No 1024/2013](#), Article 26:

*'2. The appointments for the Supervisory Board in accordance with this Regulation shall respect the principles of gender balance, experience and qualification.*

*3. After hearing the Supervisory Board, the ECB shall submit a proposal for the appointment of the Chair and the Vice-Chair to the European Parliament for approval. Following the approval of this proposal, the Council shall adopt an implementing decision to appoint the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Supervisory Board. The Chair shall be chosen on the basis of an open selection procedure, on which the European Parliament and the Council shall be kept duly informed, from among individuals of recognised standing and experience in banking and financial matters and who are not members of the Governing Council. The Vice Chair of the Supervisory Board shall be chosen from among the members of the Executive Board of the ECB. The Council shall act by qualified majority without taking into account the vote of the members of the Council which are not participating Member States.*

*Once appointed, the Chair shall be a full-time professional and shall not hold any offices at national competent authorities. The term of office shall be five years and shall not be renewable.'*

The Regulation gives the Parliament **formal power of approval** in the appointment of **the Chair and the Vice-Chair** of the Supervisory Board. It is worth noting that the initial Commission proposal for a Council Regulation made no provision for a role for the European Parliament in the appointment procedure. Complete responsibility lay with the Governing Council of the ECB. The Parliament's proposed amendment was incorporated in its entirety in the final text of the Council Regulation. This includes the principle of gender balance, introduced as a formal requirement in the appointment procedure, on an equal footing with experience and qualification.

Further details on the involvement of the Parliament are defined in the **interinstitutional agreement** with the ECB, which was concluded in November 2013 and is subject to review every three years. Key provisions related to the appointment procedure for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Supervisory Board are given in **Box 6**. Relations between the ECB and the Council in the context of the SSM were agreed in December 2013<sup>58</sup>.

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<sup>58</sup> [Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of the European Union and the European Central Bank](#) on the cooperation on procedures related to the Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM).

Box 6: [Interinstitutional Agreement between the Parliament and the ECB](#), Section II (Selection procedures):

'- The ECB shall specify and make public the criteria for the selection of the Chair of the Supervisory Board, including the balance of skills, knowledge of financial institutions and markets, and experience in financial supervision and macro-prudential oversight. In specifying the criteria, the ECB shall aim at the highest professional standards and take into account the need to safeguard the interest of the Union as a whole and diversity in the composition of the Supervisory Board.

- Parliament's competent committee shall be informed two weeks before the ECB's Governing Council publishes the vacancy notice of the details, including the selection criteria and the specific job profile, of the 'open selection procedure' that it intends to apply for the selection of the Chair.

- Parliament's competent committee shall be informed by the ECB's Governing Council of the composition of the pool of applicants for the position of Chair (number of applications, mix of professional skills, gender and nationality balance, etc.) as well as of the method through which the pool of applicants is screened in order to draw up a shortlist of at least two candidates and eventually to determine the proposal by the ECB.

- The ECB shall provide Parliament's competent committee with the shortlist of candidates for the position of the Chair of the Supervisory Board. The ECB shall provide that shortlist at least three weeks before submitting its proposal for the appointment of the Chair.

- Parliament's competent committee may submit questions to the ECB relating to the selection criteria and the shortlist of candidates within a week from receiving it. The ECB shall respond to such questions in writing within two weeks.

- The approval process shall comprise the following steps:

- The ECB shall convey its proposals for the Chair and the Vice-Chair to Parliament together with written explanations of the underlying reasons.

- A public hearing of the proposed Chair and Vice-Chair of the Supervisory Board shall be held in Parliament's competent committee.

- Parliament shall decide on the approval of the candidate proposed by the ECB for Chair and Vice-Chair through a vote in the competent committee and in plenary. Parliament will normally, taking into account its calendar, aim at taking that decision within six weeks of the proposal.

- If the proposal for the Chair is not approved, the ECB may decide either to draw on the pool of candidates that applied originally for the position or to re-initiate the selection process, including elaborating and publishing a new vacancy notice.'

A number of more detailed provisions relating, for instance, to the term of office of the Vice-Chair of the Supervisory Board are given in the Rules of Procedure of the European Central Bank (**Box 7**).

Box 7: [Rules of Procedure of the European Central Bank](#), Article 13b:

*'13b.1. The Supervisory Board is composed of a Chair, a Vice-Chair, four representatives of the ECB and one representative of the national competent authority in each participating Member State. All members of the Supervisory Board act in the interest of the Union as a whole.*

*13b.2. Where the national competent authority of a participating Member State is not a central bank, the respective member of the Supervisory Board may bring a representative from the central bank of its Member State. For the purpose of voting, the representatives of one Member State shall be considered as one member.*

*13b.3. After hearing the Supervisory Board, the Governing Council shall adopt the proposal for the appointment of the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Supervisory Board to be submitted to the European Parliament for approval.*

*13b.4. The terms and conditions of employment of the Chair of the Supervisory Board, in particular his/her salary, pension and other social security benefits, shall be the subject of a contract with the ECB and shall be fixed by the Governing Council.*

*13b.5. The term of office of the Vice-Chair of the Supervisory Board shall be five years and shall not be renewable. It shall not extend beyond the end of his/her mandate as member of the Executive Board.*

*13b.6. The Governing Council shall appoint the four representatives of the ECB to the Supervisory Board, who shall not perform duties directly related to the monetary policy function, on a proposal by the Executive Board.'*

To complete the procedural provisions, **Box 8** provides an extract from the Parliament's **Rules of Procedure** dealing with the appointment procedures for several bodies, including the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Supervisory Board.

Box 8: Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament, [Rule 131](#):

*'1. This Rule shall apply to the appointment of:*

- the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Supervisory Board of the Single Supervisory Mechanism;*
- the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the full-time members of the Single Resolution Board of the Single Resolution Mechanism;*
- the Chairs and Executive Directors of the European Supervisory Authority (European Banking Authority, European Securities and Markets Authority, European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority); and*
- the Managing Director and Deputy Managing Director of the European Fund for Strategic Investments.*

*2. Each candidate shall be invited to make a statement before the committee responsible and to answer questions put by its members.*

*3. The committee responsible shall make a recommendation to Parliament on each proposal for appointment.*

*4. The vote shall take place within two months of receipt of the proposal for appointment unless Parliament, at the request of the committee responsible, a political group or Members reaching at least the low threshold, decides otherwise. Parliament shall vote on each appointment separately, by secret ballot.*

*5. If the decision adopted by Parliament on a proposal for appointment is unfavourable, the President shall ask for its withdrawal and for the submission to Parliament of a new proposal.'*

The process of appointing the **Chair** of the Supervisory Board can be split in two phases: selection and approval. A visual overview of the procedure is shown in **Figure 3**.

In the first phase, the ECB decides on the **selection criteria** and **publishes the vacancy**, keeping the ECON Committee and Council informed. The ECON Committee may ask questions at this stage. Being an open selection procedure, any EU citizen who fulfils the selection criteria may apply. The 2018 vacancy notice for the Chair of the Supervisory Board<sup>59</sup> included, among others, the following criteria:

<sup>59</sup> ECB (2018b) [Vacancy notice: Chair of the Supervisory Board, European Central Bank](#).

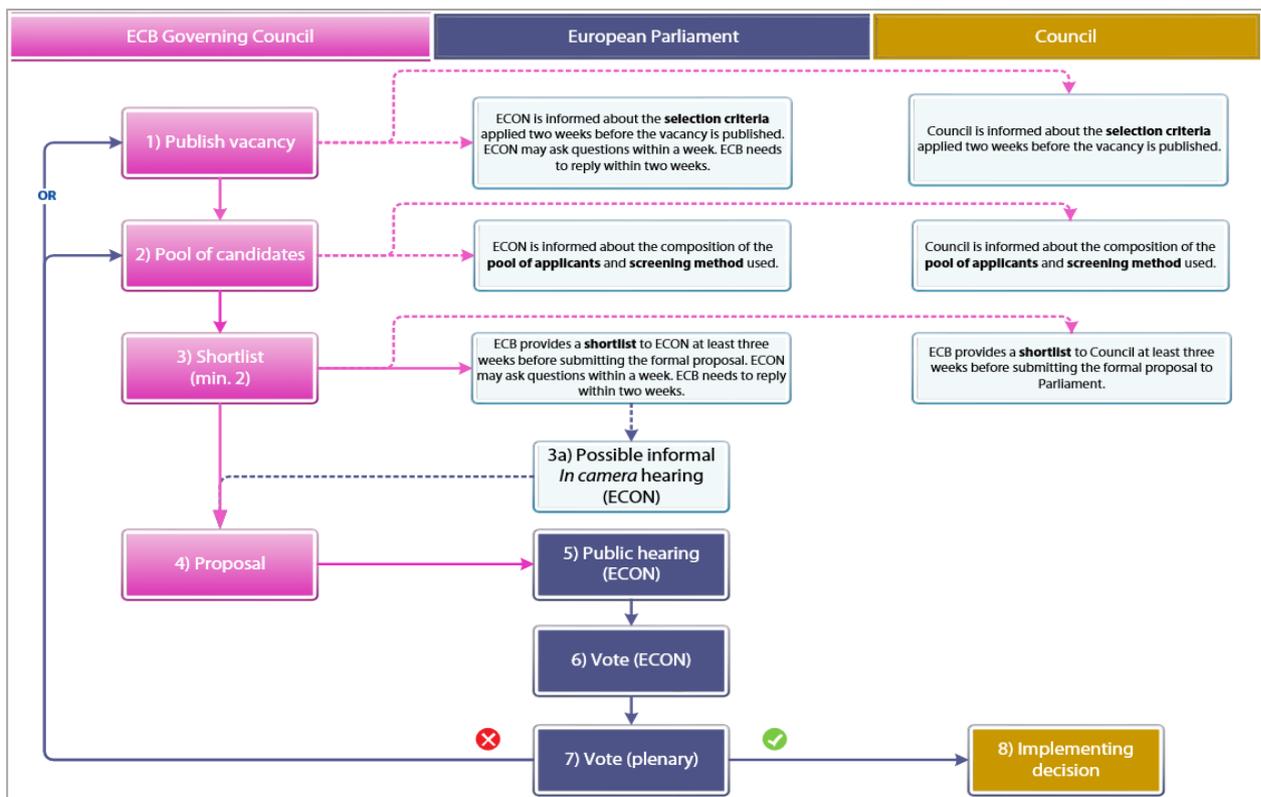
'recognised standing and experience in banking and financial matters, including considerable professional experience in financial supervision or macro-prudential oversight or in both' as well as extensive managerial experience. Members of the ECB Governing Council are not allowed to apply.

After the deadline for applications expires, the ECB conducts a **pre-selection**. The 2013 vacancy notice for the Chair of the Supervisory Board clearly stated that the pre-selection committee would be composed of one Executive Board member, two other Governing Council members and two experienced external members<sup>60</sup>. The 2018 notice did not specify the composition of the pre-selection committee<sup>61</sup>. In both cases, an external provider helped the ECB in the pre-selection process.

The outcome of the pre-selection must be a **shortlist of at least two candidates, respecting the principle of gender balance**, which is then communicated to the European Parliament and the Council. The Parliament may also ask questions at this stage. Before making its final proposal, the Governing Council consults the ECON Committee and its Supervisory Board. The Governing Council then makes a **formal proposal**, which it submits to the Parliament for approval.

In the second phase, the ECON Committee organises a **public hearing** with the candidate nominated after which it adopts a **report** and tables it to plenary. Before the hearing, the committee usually sends a questionnaire to the candidate. If the **plenary vote** on the nominee produces a positive outcome, the final step of the process is appointment by the Council by an **implementing decision**. The Council decides using qualified majority voting, excluding Member States not participating in the SSM. If the plenary results in a negative decision on the candidate, the ECB may choose either to draw on the pool of original applicants or to re-start the selection process.

Figure 3: Appointment procedure for the Chair of the Supervisory Board<sup>62</sup>



<sup>60</sup> ECB (2013b) [Vacancy notice: Chair of the Supervisory Board, European Central Bank](#).

<sup>61</sup> ECB (2018b) [Vacancy notice: Chair of the Supervisory Board, European Central Bank](#).

<sup>62</sup> Own illustration.

The appointment of the **Vice-Chair** of the Supervisory Board follows a similar approval process, as from step 4 in the figure above. The Governing Council selects the candidate among the Executive Board members. The ECON Committee then holds a public hearing with the candidate and prepares a report for plenary. In case of a positive decision, the Council adopts an implementing decision. If the Parliament's decision is negative, the Governing Council should propose another candidate.

On 9 April 2019, the ECB Governing Council decided to propose Mr Yves Mersch for the Vice-Chair of the Supervisory Board. The Parliament will finalise its approval process at the beginning of the new legislative term. At the same time, the Governing Council decided to open selection procedures for the three remaining ECB representatives on the Supervisory Board. The deadline for applications was initially set for four weeks, later extended to 12 June. The positions have been filled on 11 July 2019<sup>63</sup>.

The following section provides two recent examples of appointment procedures, describing the role of the European Parliament in practice.

### 3.2.3. Notable appointment procedures

#### a. Appointment of Ms Danièle Nouy as Chair of the Supervisory Board (2013)

The newly-established Supervisory Board of the ECB needed its first Chair to be appointed. The ECB published the vacancy<sup>64</sup> on 27 September 2013 with a closing date to submit applications on 21 October. On 6 November, the Governing Council approved the shortlist of candidates proposed by the pre-selection committee and sent it, as foreseen in the interinstitutional agreement and memorandum of understanding, to the Parliament and the Council. On 22 November, the ECB submitted a proposal to the Parliament to appoint Ms Danièle Nouy, the Secretary General of the French Prudential Supervision and Resolution Authority, as the Chair of the Supervisory Board for a term of office of five years.



The public hearing in the ECON Committee was held on 27 November 2013. Ms Nouy provided written answers to a set of 23 questions sent to her prior to the hearing<sup>65</sup>. ECON adopted its report on 5 December with 29 votes in favour, none against and 1 abstention<sup>66</sup>. On 11 December, the Parliament adopted its final decision<sup>67</sup> to approve the proposal to appoint Ms Nouy as the first Chair of the Supervisory Board of the ECB.

On 16 December, the Council adopted an implementing decision formally appointing Ms Nouy as the Chair of the Supervisory Board, with effect from 3 January 2014<sup>68</sup>.

<sup>63</sup> ECB. (2019b). "[New members of the Supervisory Board appointed](#)", Press Release, 11 July 2019.

<sup>64</sup> ECB (2013a) [Vacancy notice: Chair of the Supervisory Board, European Central Bank](#).

<sup>65</sup> European Parliament. (2013b). [Report of 6 December 2013 on the proposal of the European Central Bank for the appointment of the Chair of the Supervisory Board of the European Central Bank](#), Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs.

<sup>66</sup> See footnote above.

<sup>67</sup> European Parliament. (2013c). [European Parliament decision of 11 December 2013 on the proposal of the European Central Bank for the appointment of the Chair of the Supervisory Board of the European Central Bank](#).

<sup>68</sup> Council of the EU. (2013). [Danièle Nouy appointed head of ECB supervisory board](#). Press Release 17857/13.

**b. Appointment of Mr Andrea Enria as Chair of the Supervisory Board (2018)**

The term of office of the first Supervisory Board Chair, Ms Danièle Nouy, expired on 31 December 2018. The vacancy notice for her successor was published on 16 July 2018<sup>69</sup>.

The ECB Governing Council made the proposal to appoint Mr Enria on 7 November. The ECON Committee then proceeded with a public hearing with the candidate on 20 November. On 23 November, the ECON Committee voted in favour to appoint Mr Enria. The Parliament gave its final approval on 29 November<sup>70</sup>. Finally, the Council adopted its implementing decision on 6 December<sup>71</sup>, enabling Mr Enria to take office on 1 January 2019.



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<sup>69</sup> ECB (2018b) [Vacancy notice: Chair of the Supervisory Board, European Central Bank](#).

<sup>70</sup> European Parliament. (2018e). [European Parliament decision of 29 November 2018 on the proposal for the appointment of the Chair of the Supervisory Board of the European Central Bank](#).

<sup>71</sup> [Council Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2018/1958](#) of 6 December 2018 on the appointment of the Chair of the ECB Supervisory Board.

## 4. CONCLUSION

Since the inception of EMU, the European Parliament has continuously supported the EMU project while, at the same time, decisively advocating for enhanced democratic accountability mechanisms to counterbalance the high degree of independence of the ECB. An essential document indicating the initial position of the Parliament is its resolution of 4 May 1998 on democratic accountability in the third phase of EMU<sup>72</sup>. The resolution recognises the importance of involving the Parliament in the appointment procedures as a means of ensuring democratic accountability. It 'calls on the governments of the Member States not to appoint candidates that do not have the approval of the European Parliament' and for 'legal consolidation of this practice at a later stage'.

20 years after the start of EMU, it is worthwhile assessing whether and to what extent the Parliament's original stance has materialised in practice. Appointment procedures for ECB's Executive Board and Supervisory Board differ substantially **in terms of the formal involvement of the European Parliament**. The Parliament is only consulted when Executive Board positions are filled. On the other hand, the Parliament plays a very important role in the appointment procedure for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Supervisory Board, by giving its formal approval.

The Treaty gives the European Parliament a limited role in **Executive Board** appointment procedures. Nevertheless, the Parliament made incremental strides to gradually assume a more important role in the process. The four case studies outlined in section 2.2.3 serve the purpose of illustrating this role and showing how it has evolved within the confines of the consultation procedure defined in the Treaty. The main points of concern stressed by the Parliament in these previous appointment procedures may be summarised as follows:

- Political compromises surrounding the nomination, which were seen to be encroaching upon the independence of the ECB (appointment of the first Executive Board and its President);
- Gender balance on the Executive Board (a recurring issue in a number of appointment procedures, most notably in the rejection of Mr Mersch);
- Prior occupation and political independence of the candidate (notably in the appointment of Mr de Guindos); and
- Constraints in the appointment process such as the selection procedure and timing of the appointment (for instance, in the appointment of Mr de Guindos).

The Parliament has sought other ways, outside of appointment procedures, to make its views clear, for instance:

- On 16 January 2019, the Parliament's resolution on the ECB 2017 Annual Report called on the Council to 'draw up a balanced shortlist of at least three candidates' for the forthcoming appointment procedures, taking into account gender balance<sup>73</sup>.
- On 14 March 2019, the Parliament adopted a resolution on gender balance in EU economic and monetary affairs nominations which once again highlights the recurrent issue of lack of gender balance considerations in the nomination and appointment procedures<sup>74</sup>. In it, the Parliament commits itself to not consider any lists of candidates where the gender balance principle is not respected, together with qualifications and experience.

<sup>72</sup> European Parliament. (1998a). [Resolution on democratic accountability in the third phase of EMU](#).

<sup>73</sup> European Parliament. (2019a). [European Parliament resolution of 16 January 2019 on the ECB Annual Report 2017](#).

<sup>74</sup> European Parliament. (2019b). [European Parliament resolution of 14 March 2019 on gender balance in EU economic and monetary affairs nominations](#) (2019/2614(RSP)).

In the absence of a genuine decision-making power in the appointments procedure, these actions mainly wield political pressure. The true effect remains an open question. What is, however, certain is that the Parliament now sees its involvement in the early stages of the process, i.e. before the Council's formal recommendation, as a legitimate claim. This notion rests on the precedent set by, for instance, the ECB Vice-President appointment procedure in 2018 where the Parliament held informal exchanges of views with the candidates ahead of the Council recommendations. Another important achievement of the Parliament is the increased awareness of the lack of gender diversity at the level of the ECB's top decision-making bodies. The symbolic rejection of Mr Mersch seemed to have a lasting effect on future appointments, both for the Executive Board and the Supervisory Board.

Advocacy groups have also called for greater democratic legitimacy in ECB appointment procedures, in particular that of the Executive Board, by giving a more prominent role to the European Parliament. For instance, Positive Money<sup>75</sup> makes four recommendations to the Eurogroup and the Council: (i) providing a balanced shortlist to the ECON Committee of at least two candidates (similar to the Supervisory Board procedure), (ii) giving enough time to the Parliament to scrutinise the candidates, (iii) pre-committing to accept the Parliament's suggestions for two or three Executive Board posts or at least not to appoint a candidate rejected by the Parliament, and (iv) to invite the ECON Chair to relevant Eurogroup meetings. In a more ambitious, long-term perspective, Positive Money recommends an open selection procedure conducted by an interinstitutional appointment committee. More immediately, the process could be aligned with the selection procedures for the three European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs). Transparency International<sup>76</sup> recommends giving the Parliament a formal confirmation role in the Executive Board appointments.

The appointment procedure for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the **Supervisory Board**, as set out in the relevant provisions of the SSM Regulation and the interinstitutional agreement, provides the Parliament with high degree of involvement. The sample of Chair and Vice-Chair appointments is too small to draw conclusions about how the procedure has worked in practice.

In 2013, the Parliament adopted a **resolution on the constitutional problems of multitier governance in the EU**<sup>77</sup>. Regarding ECB appointments, the resolution makes two important points, as it:

- 'Considers the provision of the SSM regulation which requires the consent of the European Parliament for the appointment of the chair and the vice-chair of the Supervisory Board to be an important precedent for an enhanced role of the EP in an EMU governance based on differentiation' (paragraph 40), and
- 'Calls for the inclusion of Parliament in the appointment procedure of the President, Vice-President and other members of the Executive Board of the ECB in Article 283 TFEU, by requiring that it consents to the recommendations of the Council' (paragraph 66).

As a concluding remark, **enhancing the role of the Parliament** in appointment procedures of Executive Board members is unlikely to reduce the independence of the ECB. On the contrary, sharing the responsibility for the selection and appointment between the institutions, might reduce the relative importance of the candidate's nationality and increase the relevance of his/her competence.

<sup>75</sup> Jourdan S. and Diessner S. (2019). "[From Dialogue to Scrutiny: From Dialogue to Scrutiny: Strengthening the Parliamentary Oversight of the European Central Bank](#)". Positive Money Europe.

<sup>76</sup> Braun B. (2017). "[Two Sides of the Same Coin? Independence and Accountability of the European Central Bank](#)". Transparency International EU.

<sup>77</sup> European Parliament. (2013a). [European Parliament resolution of 12 December 2013 on constitutional problems of a multitier governance in the European Union](#).

The wording of the Treaty (see **Box 2**) does not explicitly prohibit greater involvement of the Parliament. The 'consultation' role may be expanded under different modalities. As this paper summarises, in the first 20 years of EMU, the Parliament has sought to achieve this by making incremental steps in that direction with each subsequent appointment.

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## ANNEX I - EXECUTIVE BOARD: TERMS OF OFFICE AND RESPONSIBILITIES (AS OF JULY 2019)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Responsibilities
 President Mario Draghi									1 November									- Chief Services Officer - Communications - Counsel to the Executive Board - ESRB Secretariat - Internal audit - Secretariat, including Compliance and Governance Office
 Vice-President Luis de Guindos										1 June							31 May	- Macroeprudential policy and financial stability - Research
 Executive Board Member Benoit Cœuré									1 January									- International and European relations - Market operations
 Executive Board Member Sabine Lautenschläger																		- Banknotes - Market infrastructure and payments - Oversight of payment systems - Risk management - Statistics
 Executive Board Member Yves Mersch																		- Legal services - In the interim period, until the appointment of the Vice-Chair of the Supervisory Board responsible for the business units of the Single Supervisory Mechanism (Directorates General Microprudential Supervision I - IV, and Directorate General Secretariat to the Supervisory Board)
 Executive Board Member Phillip Lane																		- Economics - Monetary policy

## ANNEX II - SUPERVISORY BOARD: TERMS OF OFFICE (AS OF JULY 2019)

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
European Parliament is involved	Chair  Andrea Enria			1 January				31 December	
	Vice-Chair <i>Vacant</i>								
For information, European Parliament is NOT involved	ECB representative  Pentti Hakkarainen	1 February					31 January		
	ECB representative  Edouard Fernandez-Bollo			11 July					10 July
	ECB representative  Kerstin af Jochnick			11 July					10 July
	ECB representative  Elizabeth McCaul			11 July					10 July
	Representatives of national supervisors (19)								

## ANNEX III - EXECUTIVE BOARD: PAST APPOINTMENTS

**Willem Frederik Duisenberg**, President (1 June 1998 - 31 October 2003)

		Date	Vote*		
ECON	<a href="#">Public hearing</a>	7 May 1998	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstentions</b>
	<a href="#">Recommendation</a>	11 May 1998	50	1	5
Plenary	Resolution	13 May 1998	439	40	59

\*For ECON vote see Recommendation, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

Questionnaire not available.

**Christian Noyer, Vice-President (1 June 1998 - 31 May 2002)**

	Link	Date	Vote*		
			For	Against	Abstentions
ECON	<a href="#">Public hearing</a>	8 May 1998			
	<a href="#">Recommendation</a>	11 May 1998	52	1	6
Plenary	Resolution	13 May 1998	443	40	55

\*For ECON vote see Recommendation, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

**Questionnaire (see answers in [ECON recommendation](#)):**

**A. PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND**

1. Please highlight the three most important aspects of your professional experience in monetary, financial and business matters.
2. Please highlight the three most important aspects of your European and international experience.
3. What are the two most important decisions to which you have been party in your professional life? Could you explain your choice?
4. Do you intend to serve out your full term of eight years? Do you have any intentions of asking the Governing Council for an exemption under the terms of Article 11.1 of the ECB statute?
5. Do you have any business or financial holdings or other commitments that might clash with your prospective duties, and are there any other relevant personal or other factors that need to be taken into account by the European Parliament in considering your nomination?
6. On the basis of your own experience and philosophy, and in view of the uniquely independent position of the ECB, what do you believe should be the guiding principles for a European Central Banker?

**B. ECONOMIC AND MONETARY POLICY**

7. Which definition of price stability and which monetary concepts, targets and instruments do you favour for the monetary policy of the future ECB?
8. Would you support the ECB being held accountable for attaining an explicit inflation target and, if so, over what time period? To what extent could a mixed targeting strategy (inflation target + money supply target) be defined and evaluated?
9. Assuming price stability has been achieved and can be maintained, what would you consider to be the appropriate interest-rate policy, and in which way and to what extent would this take into account the need (pursuant to Article 105 of the Maastricht Treaty) to achieve the goals of Articles 2 and 3a concerning growth and a high level of employment?
10. How would you seek to resolve the policy mix problems of a centralized monetary policy and decentralized fiscal policies?
11. What are your views as regards possible mechanisms for ensuring stability between the exchange rates of euro-area countries and those of Member States not immediately adopting the single currency?
12. How do you envisage the ECB's role in establishing an appropriate exchange rate for the euro vis-à-vis the currencies of third countries?

**C. FUNCTIONING OF THE ECB**

13. What decision-making procedures do you envisage for the Executive Board, and between the Executive Board and the Governing Council?
14. Which conflicts do you foresee on the way to a single monetary policy?

**D - DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY**

15. How do you see the distinction between ECB independence and its accountability, and what steps do you consider should be taken to ensure democratic accountability?
16. More specifically, how do you see the future development of the ECB's relations with the European Parliament? How often and under what circumstances, would you appear before the European Parliament's responsible committee?

17. Would you be prepared to support the idea of an agreement with the European Parliament on the terms of the future monetary dialogue between the ECB and the European Parliament? What in your view might be the specific content of such an agreement and how would you envisage the reporting procedures?

18. What steps should be taken to ensure transparency of the ECB's decision-making? Would you be prepared to publish minutes after decisions had been taken, and, if so, how long after, and to what extent?

19. If the European Parliament were to recommend rejection of your nomination, would you still wish to pursue that nomination?

**Sirkka Hämäläinen** (1 June 1998 - 31 May 2003)

		Date	Vote*		
ECON	<a href="#">Public hearing</a>	7 May 1998	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	Abstentions
	<a href="#">Recommendation</a>	11 May 1998	55	0	3
Plenary	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	13 May 1998	465	27	53

\*For ECON vote see Recommendation, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

Questionnaire same as for Mr Noyer (see answers in [ECON recommendation](#)).

**Otmar Issing** (1 June 1998 - 31 May 2006)

		<b>Date</b>	<b>Vote*</b>		
ECON	<a href="#">Public hearing</a>	7 May 1998	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	Abstentions
	<a href="#">Recommendation</a>	11 May 1998	56	0	3
Plenary	Resolution	13 May 1998	464	28	52

\*For ECON vote see Recommendation, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

Questionnaire same as for Mr Noyer (see answers in [ECON recommendation](#)).

**Tommaso Padoa Schioppa** (1 June 1998 - 31 May 2005)

		Date	Vote*		
ECON	<a href="#">Public hearing</a>	8 May 1998	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	Abstentions
	<a href="#">Recommendation</a>	11 May 1998	56	0	3
Plenary	Resolution	13 May 1998	472	25	48

\*For ECON vote see Recommendation, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

Questionnaire same as for Mr Noyer (see answers in [ECON recommendation](#)).

**Eugenio Domingo Solans** (1 June 1998 - 31 May 2004)

		<b>Date</b>	<b>Vote*</b>		
ECON	<a href="#">Public hearing</a>	7 May 1998	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	Abstentions
	<a href="#">Recommendation</a>	11 May 1998	40	0	19
Plenary	Resolution	13 May 1998	445	26	68

\*For ECON vote see Recommendation, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

Questionnaire same as for Mr Noyer (see answers in [ECON recommendation](#)).

**Lucas Papademos, Vice-President (1 June 2002 - 31 May 2010)**

		Date	Vote*		
ECON	<a href="#">Public hearing</a>	22 April 2002	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstentions</b>
	<a href="#">Report</a>	24 April 2002	21	0	1
Plenary	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	14 May 2002	425	24	67

\*For ECON vote see Report, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

**Questionnaire (see answers in [ECON report](#)):****A. Personal and professional background**

1. Please highlight the three most important aspects of your professional experience in monetary, financial and business matters.
2. Please highlight the three most important aspects of your European and international experience.
3. What are the two most important decisions to which you have been party in your professional life? Could you explain your choice?
4. Do you have any business or financial holdings or other commitments that might be in conflict with your prospective duties, and are there any other relevant personal or other factors that need to be taken account of by the Parliament in considering your nomination?
5. On the basis of your own experience and philosophy, and in view of the uniquely independent position of the ECB, what do you believe should be the guiding principles for a European Central Banker?

**B. Monetary and economic policy**

6. Which is your position as to the current definition of price stability used by the ECB? Do you believe that this is the right approach and why?
7. Would you support the ECB basing the second pillar of its monetary strategy on an explicit inflation forecast, and if so, over what time period, rather than just using staff projections? To what extent could a mixed targeting strategy (inflation target + money supply target) be defined and evaluated?
8. Assuming price stability has been achieved and can be maintained, what would you consider to be the appropriate interest rate policy, and in which way and to what extent would this take into account the need (pursuant to Article 105 of the Maastricht Treaty) to achieve the goals of Article 2 and 3a concerning growth and a high level of employment?
9. How would you seek to resolve the policy mix problems resulting from the combination of a centralised monetary policy and decentralised fiscal policies?

**C. Functioning of the ECB**

10. Which reforms should ECB undergo in view of enlargement?
11. Would you be in favour of a confirmation procedure by the European Parliament?
12. According to the current distribution of responsibilities among members of the ECB, the Vice-President is, in addition to his statutory duty as deputy to the President, in charge of the Administration and Personnel. What will be your personal approach of the social dialogue with the ECB Staff? How do you envisage the possibilities to promote an equal opportunities policy in the ECB, in particular at the managerial level?
13. Are you of the opinion that the working conditions (and staff rules) of the ECB's employees should be negotiated with the staff committee? Which other modifications are necessary in your view to bring these working conditions (and staff rules) in line with those of other European institutions?

**D. Democratic accountability**

14. How do you see the distinction between the ECB independence and its accountability and what steps do you consider should be taken to ensure democratic accountability?
15. If the European Parliament were to recommend rejection of your nomination, would you still wish to pursue that nomination?

## Gertrude Tumpel-Gugerell (1 June 2003 - 31 May 2011)

		Date	Vote*		
ECON	<a href="#">Public hearing</a>	29 April 2003	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	Abstentions
	<a href="#">Recommendation</a>	5 May 2003	27	0	0
Plenary	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	15 May 2003	330	15	60

\*For ECON vote see Recommendation, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

[Questionnaire](#) (see answers in [ECON recommendation](#)):

### A. Personal and professional background

1. Please highlight the main aspects of your professional experience in monetary and financial matters.
2. What are the three most important decisions to which you have been party in your professional life?
3. What lessons did you learn from your experience regarding the reliability of economic analysis and forecast?
4. Do you have any business or financial holdings or any other commitments which might conflict with your prospective duties, and are there any other relevant personal or other factors that need to be taken account of by the Parliament when considering your nomination?

### B. Monetary and economic policy

5. What is your assessment of the monetary policy conducted by the ECB since 1999? What is your opinion regarding criticisms that the ECB has been too slow in cutting its key interest rates since 2001?
6. Some economists recommend amending the mandate given to the European System of Central Banks so that supporting economic growth and high levels of employment would be an objective on par with price stability. What do you think about this recommendation and how would the ECB's monetary strategy be affected if this recommendation were to be implemented?
7. What should be in your opinion the ECB's role with regard to the coordination of economic policies among member-States so that an appropriate and balanced policy mix could be achieved?
8. What is your position with regard to the current definition of price stability used by the ECB? Do you believe that this definition could/should be modified as a result of the "unprejudiced" monetary strategy review currently undertaken by the ECB and the Eurosystem, and in the light of some academics' analysis?
9. Is there a risk of deflation in some euro area countries? Do you think the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices -HICP- gives a good indication and measure of this risk? How is it best to cope with deflation and what should the role of the central bank be in this situation?
10. Do you think the current ECB monetary strategy framework is flexible enough to cope with external shock, such as the shock triggered by the crisis in Iraq?
11. Which responsibility and role should be ECB's concerning financial stability? Which Treaty changes are necessary?
12. What should the ECB's responsibilities be regarding financial and banking supervision, considering the importance of the banking sector in the ECB monetary policy transmission channels and the different situations in the banking sectors of Member-States?
13. What is your opinion regarding the pace at which the accession countries should join monetary union and adopt the euro, considering all of the convergence criteria and the participation in the exchange rate mechanism (ERM II)?

### C. Other questions

14. What conclusions do you draw from the comparison between the transparency policies followed by the Federal Reserve Bank and by the ECB? What do you think about the publication by the Fed or the Bank of England of the minutes of their meetings? Do you think this policy could be applied by the ECB?
15. How do you interpret the European Parliament's decision to reject the ECB recommendation regarding the reform of the voting modalities in the Governing Council? What do you think about our proposals on this subject?

**Jean-Claude Trichet, President (1 November 2003 - 31 October 2011)**

		Date	Vote*		
ECON	<a href="#">Public hearing</a>	11 September 2003	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	Abstentions
	<a href="#">Recommendation</a>	12 September 2003	20	2	4
Plenary	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	23 September 2003	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*For ECON vote see Recommendation, plenary voting record not available.

**Questionnaire (see answers in [ECON recommendation](#)):**

A-1 Please highlight the main aspects of your professional experience in monetary, financial and business matters.

A-2 Please highlight the three most important aspects of your European and international experience.

A-3 What are the three most important decisions to which you have been party in your professional life?

A-4 What lessons did you learn from your experience regarding the appropriate balance between pragmatism and application of monetary and economic theory a central banker should observe?

A-5 On the basis of your own experience and philosophy, and in view of the uniquely independent position of the ECB, what do you believe should be the guiding principles for a European Central Banker?

A-6 What would be the guiding objectives you will pursue during your eight-year mandate as the President of the European Central Bank?

A-7 Do you have any business or financial holdings or any other commitments which might conflict with your prospective duties, and are there any other relevant personal or other factors that need to be taken account of by the Parliament when considering your nomination?

B-8 To what extent do you think the recent review of the ECB's monetary strategy has met so far the objectives the ECB wanted to achieve?

B-9 What further improvements in the design of Euro-area monetary policy do you envisage in the medium term? Do you consider the review process as an ongoing evolving process or as a one-off change devised for the long-term?

B-10 How far from a standard inflation targeting policy is the current ECB's monetary strategy? What are the advantages of not adopting an explicit inflation targeting policy?

B-11 Would you support the ECB making explicit inflation forecasts over the medium term? Given the fact that the recently clarified ECB's definition of price stability is inflation rates for the Euro area "below, but close to, 2 % over the medium term", how do you contest the view that explicit inflation forecasts over this medium term would improve the ECB's communication policy?

B-12 What is your opinion on the frequently reiterated request from the European parliament to the ECB to produce US-style "Beige book" looking at the individual circumstances in each country? Isn't there room to allow at the same time the fully-fledged national central banks to make their own analysis and the ECB to produce such "beige books"?

B-13 How do you think the problems resulting from the combination of a "one-size-fits-all" monetary policy and decentralised fiscal and structural policies could be resolved in the Euro area?

B-14 The ECB has often contended that price stability is the best way to guarantee growth and full employment and that there is no trade-off between price stability and growth; however recent experience has shown that price stability can go with subdued growth. In this context, could the ECB do more to attain its secondary objective, i.e. support the general economic policies in the Union with a view to contributing to economic growth and full employment?

B-15 Do you think the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) should evolve in the near-term future? If so, how and under which conditions? In particular in case the Euro area faces stagnation, recession or deflation, should the SGP be amended to allow fiscal policies more flexibility?

B-16 With Japan, China, and several other Asian economies already experiencing declining prices, and with the USA facing a probability of an unwelcome substantial fall in inflation, what are the risks for the Euro area to fall in a deflation scenario?

B-17 How is it best to cope with deflation and what should the role of the central bank be in this situation? In particular do you agree that in case of protracted deflation, monetarisation of government debt and excessive money creation are no longer a problem for the central bank?

B-18 How do you analyse relations and interdependence between the exchange rate of the Euro and price stability in the Euro area?

B-19 To what extent do you think the ECB can adjust its monetary policy to take into account an unwelcome evolution of the exchange rate of the Euro? In this regard, how do you analyse in retrospect the previous phases of Euro depreciation and appreciation?

B-20 What developments do you envisage in the foreseeable future for the international role of the Euro?

B-21 How can the representation of the Euro area and its currency be further enhanced, in particular in international financial institutions? What do you think about the respective roles of the ECB, the Commission and the Member States in the external representation of the Euro? How do you consider the idea of designating a "Mr/Mrs Euro" for this external representation?

B-22 What are your guiding principles regarding co-operation with other major central banks in the world, as President of the ECB as well as Chairman of the Governors of the Group of Ten?

B-23 What challenges do you think the ECB's monetary policy will face during the preparation of Euro entry by the accession countries and after their entry?

B-24 What is your opinion regarding the pace at which the accession countries should join monetary union and adopt the euro, considering all of the convergence criteria and the participation in the exchange rate mechanism?

B-25 Which responsibility and role should be ECB's concerning financial stability? Would you be in favour of the publication by the ECB of financial stability reports?

C-26 How do you foresee the decision making process in the enlarged ECB Governing Council and what could be the role of the ECB's President in this context? Do you see any increase reliance on voting procedures as opposed to consensus? Which further reforms should the ECB undergo in view of enlargement?

C-27 How do you perceive the balance between the functions the President, the Vice-President and the Chief economist of the ECB?

C-28 Do you envisage to implement the gender mainstreaming strategy embedded in the Treaty of Amsterdam in the ECB as it has to be done in the other European authorities and institutions? Will you take specific actions, and if so what actions, in order to increase female participation, in particular at managerial level, in the ECB, the Eurosystem and the financial services sector in Europe?

C-29 What will be your personal approach of the social dialogue with the ECB Staff?

C-30 Would you be in favour of a confirmation procedure by the European Parliament (notwithstanding the constitutional issues that such a change would raise)?

D-31 How can the democratic accountability of the ECB be further improved?

D-32 The ECB has long refrained from accepting the European Parliament's request to publish the minutes of its Governing Council's meetings. What are the impediments and inconveniences of such publications? Would you be in favour of the publication by ECB of the minutes of its Governing Councils meetings in the near-term future?

D-33 Regarding monetary policy decision, would you be in favour of publishing the details of voting if this procedure, as opposed to consensus, were to be more used in the Governing Council? If not, why? How important is the risk of "nationalising" the debate?

**José Manuel González-Páramo** (1 June 2004 - 31 May 2012)

		Date	Vote*		
ECON	Public hearing	6 April 2004	For	Against	Abstentions
	<a href="#">Report</a>	13 April 2004	11	2	2
Plenary	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	20 April 2004	363	113	52

\*For ECON vote see Report, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

**Questionnaire** (see answers in [ECON report](#)):**A. Personal and professional background**

1. Please highlight the main aspects of your professional experience in monetary, financial and business matters.
2. Please highlight the main aspects of your European and international experience.
3. What are the most important decisions to which you have been party in your professional life?
4. Do you have any business or financial holdings or any other commitments which might conflict with your prospective duties, and are there any other relevant personal or other factors that need to be taken account of by the Parliament when considering your nomination?

**B. Monetary and economic policy**

5. What would be the guiding objectives you will pursue during your eight-year mandate as a Member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank?
6. Given the fact that the recently clarified ECB's definition of price stability is inflation rates for the Euro area "below, but close to, 2 % over the medium term", how do you contest the view that explicit inflation forecasts over this medium term would improve the ECB's communication policy?
7. Without prejudice to the objective of price stability (which seems at present to be under control), how in your view should the ECB fulfil its secondary obligations under the Treaty (to contribute to economic growth and full employment) and what instruments could the ECB use to do so?
8. In the context of the debate on the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP), what is your opinion on how the Pact should evolve in the near-term future? Do you consider the SGP as either a rules-based system or a policy-based one? What can be done to redefine the medium-term budgetary targets, and correct the pro-cyclical fiscal bias of the SGP in good times? How would you solve the lack of proper enforcement of the Pact, and what is the way to move towards non-partisan application of the rules?
9. What are in your view the main causes of the volatility of the exchange rate of the Euro, and its consequences in political, economic and financial terms? Do you consider this excessive volatility as a danger for monetary policy, and if so, what can be done to reduce it? What importance do you give in this context to the dangers posed by the twin US deficits?
10. How can the representation of the Euro area and its currency be further enhanced, in particular in international financial institutions? What do you think about the respective roles of the ECB, the Commission and the Member States in the external representation of the Euro?
11. Which responsibility and role should the ECB have concerning financial stability? Would you be in favour of the publication by the ECB of financial stability reports? What should the ECB's responsibilities be regarding financial and banking supervision?

**C. Functioning of the ECB and other questions**

12. How do you perceive the internal balance and the repartition of functions and roles between the different members of the Executive Board, and in particular, the President, the Vice-President and the Chief economist of the ECB?
13. Shouldn't the different responsibilities of Board members change with time, in line with the changes occurred in the ECB's tasks and priorities?

14. What challenges do you think the ECB's monetary policy will face during the preparation of Euro entry by the accession countries and after their entry? What is your opinion regarding the pace at which the accession countries should join monetary union and adopt the Euro, considering all of the convergence criteria and the participation in the exchange rate mechanism (ERM II)?

15. What is your opinion on the debate regarding nominal vs. real convergence, in terms of the eventual new Member States' entry into the Euro area?

**D. Democratic accountability and transparency**

16. Could you elaborate on your views on the concept of democratic accountability with regards to the ECB and central banking in general?

17. The ECB has long refrained from accepting the European parliament's request to publish the minutes of its Governing Council's meetings. What do you think are the impediments and inconveniences of such publications? Would you be in favour of the publication by ECB of the minutes of its Governing Councils meetings in the near-term future?

18. What conclusions do you draw from the comparison between the transparency policies followed by the Federal Reserve Bank and by the ECB? What do you think about the publication by the Fed or the Bank of England of the minutes of their meetings? Do you think this policy could be applied by the ECB?

19. Don't you think that it is high time for the Executive Board of the ECB to enlarge the range of views and backgrounds within it? After 5 years of existence of the ECB, shouldn't we now broaden the scope of the Board, and not rely exclusively on central bankers?

**Lorenzo Bini Smaghi** (1 June 2005 - 31 December 2011)

		Date	Vote*		
ECON	<a href="#">Public hearing</a>	19 April 2005	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	Abstentions
	<a href="#">Report</a>	20 April 2005	16	2	1
Plenary	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	11 May 2005	410	88	40

\*For ECON vote see Report, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

Questionnaire (see answers in [ECON report](#)):

**A. Personal and professional background**

1. Please highlight the main aspects of your professional experience in monetary, financial and business matters.
2. Please highlight the main aspects of your European and international experience.
3. What are the most important decisions to which you have been party in your professional life?

**B. Monetary and economic policy**

4. What would be the guiding objectives you will pursue during your eight-year mandate as a Member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank?
5. Without prejudice to the objective of price stability, how in your view should the ECB fulfill its secondary obligations under the Treaty (to contribute to economic growth and full employment) and what instruments could the ECB use to do so?
6. Concerning the discussions on the reform of the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP): are you in favour or opposed to the current reform proposals, and why?
7. What is your assessment of the state-of-play of the renamed Lisbon process, the so-called 'Growth and Jobs' strategy? How could the ECB and the instruments of macroeconomic policy co-ordination (Broad Economic Policy Guidelines, Employment Guidelines) contribute to the success of this strategy? What is your perception as to the possibilities of increasing internal demand and fostering investments within the EU?
8. Please list in order of importance the structural reforms which you believe are a priority in the EU and justify your choices.
9. How do you assess the recent evolution of the USD/EUR exchange rate? How do you evaluate EU/US co-operation in the field of exchange rates? Do you think that Central Banks are able to fight efficiently against excessive volatility? What importance do you give in this context to the dangers posed by the twin US deficits? Do you think that the international role of the Euro should be encouraged?
10. How can the influence of the Euro area and its currency be further enhanced, in particular in international financial institutions? What are your views on the current level of co-ordination, e.g. before IMF board meetings? Since the end of the 1990s, several fora have been set up (such as the Financial Stability Forum), several IMF tools implemented (Contingent Credit Line, FSAP, and ROSC....): is it possible to assess the impact of such changes on international financial stability?

**C. Financial stability and supervision**

11. Which responsibility and role should the ECB have concerning financial stability? Would you be in favour of the publication by the ECB of financial stability reports?
12. How do you see the ECB's role in banking supervision in the context of the Lamfalussy process and the present discussions concerning a possible pan-European financial services regulator?
13. What do you see as the most pressing issues in financial services legislation which remain to be completed after the Financial Services Action plan? Is there a need for greater market oversight by European regulators against the background of recent allegations of market manipulation in some markets?

14. What is your view on the upcoming proposals to create a new legal framework for payments in the Internal Market of the EU? How can the ECB contribute the fulfilment of a true single payments area in Europe, both for retail and wholesale payments?

15. Is, broadly speaking, the new capital adequacy directive (the "Basel II" proposals) good for the citizens of Europe? In this context, the ECB is supposed to observe potential procyclical effects resulting from the risk-based approach underlying Basel II: do you expect these effects to be significant?

16. What challenges do you think the ECB's monetary policy will face during the preparation of Euro entry by the new Member States which joined the EU in 2004? What is your opinion regarding the pace at which they should join the monetary union and adopt the Euro, considering all of the convergence criteria and the participation in the exchange rate mechanism (ERM II)?

#### **D. Functioning of the ECB and democratic accountability and transparency**

17. Shouldn't the different responsibilities of Board members change with time, in line with the changes occurred in the ECB's tasks and priorities?

18. Could you elaborate on your views on the concept of democratic accountability with regards to the ECB and central banking in general?

19. The ECB has long refrained from accepting the European parliament's request to publish the minutes of its Governing Council's meetings. What do you think are the impediments and inconveniences of such publications? Would you be in favour of the publication by ECB of the minutes of its Governing Councils meetings in the near-term future?

20. What conclusions do you draw from the comparison between the transparency policies followed by the Federal Reserve Bank and by the ECB? What do you think about the publication by the Fed or the Bank of England of the minutes of their meetings? Do you think this policy could be applied by the ECB?

**Jürgen Stark** (1 June 2006 - 31 December 2011)

		Date	Vote*		
ECON	<a href="#">Public hearing</a>	18 April 2006	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	Abstentions
	<a href="#">Report</a>	25 April 2006	25	1	7
Plenary	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	17 May 2006	359	110	35

\*For ECON vote see Report, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

**Questionnaire** (see answers in [ECON report](#)):**A. Personal and professional background**

1. Please highlight the main aspects of your professional experience in monetary, financial and business matters.
2. Please highlight the main aspects of your European and international experience.
3. What are the most important decisions to which you have been party in your professional life?

**B. Monetary and economic policy**

4. What would be the guiding objectives you will pursue during your eight-year mandate as a Member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank?
5. Without prejudice to the objective of price stability, how in your view should the ECB fulfill its secondary obligations under the Treaty (to contribute to economic growth and full employment) and what instruments could the ECB use to do so?
6. Concerning the discussions on the reform of the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP): are you in favour or opposed to the current reform proposals, and why?
7. What is your assessment of the state-of-play of the renamed Lisbon process, the so-called 'Growth and Jobs' strategy? How could the ECB and the instruments of macroeconomic policy co-ordination (Broad Economic Policy Guidelines, Employment Guidelines) contribute to the success of this strategy? What is your perception as to the possibilities of increasing internal demand and fostering investments within the EU?
8. Please list in order of importance the structural reforms which you believe are a priority in the EU and justify your choices.
9. How do you assess the recent evolution of the USD/EUR exchange rate? How do you evaluate EU/US co-operation in the field of exchange rates? Do you think that Central Banks are able to fight efficiently against excessive volatility? What importance do you give in this context to the dangers posed by the twin US deficits? Do you think that the international role of the Euro should be encouraged?
10. How can the influence of the Euro area and its currency be further enhanced, in particular in international financial institutions? What are your views on the current level of coordination, e.g. before IMF board meetings? Since the end of the 1990s, several fora have been set up (such as the Financial Stability Forum), several IMF tools implemented (Contingent Credit Line, FSAP, and ROSC....): is it possible to assess the impact of such changes on international financial stability?

**C. Financial stability and supervision**

11. Which responsibility and role should the ECB have concerning financial stability? Would you be in favour of the publication by the ECB of financial stability reports?
12. How do you see the ECB's role in banking supervision in the context of the Lamfalussy process and the present discussions concerning a possible pan-European financial services regulator?
13. What do you see as the most pressing issues in financial services legislation which remain to be completed after the Financial Services Action plan? Is there a need for greater market oversight by European regulators against the background of recent allegations of market manipulation in some markets?

14. What is your view on the upcoming proposals to create a new legal framework for payments in the Internal Market of the EU? How can the ECB contribute the fulfilment of a true single payments area in Europe, both for retail and wholesale payments?

15. Is, broadly speaking, the new capital adequacy directive (the "Basel II" proposals) good for the citizens of Europe? In this context, the ECB is supposed to observe potential procyclical effects resulting from the risk-based approach underlying Basel II: do you expect these effects to be significant?

16. What challenges do you think the ECB's monetary policy will face during the preparation of Euro entry by the new Member States which joined the EU in 2004? What is your opinion regarding the pace at which they should join the monetary union and adopt the Euro, considering all of the convergence criteria and the participation in the exchange rate mechanism (ERM II)?

**D. Functioning of the ECB and democratic accountability and transparency**

17. Shouldn't the different responsibilities of Board members change with time, in line with the changes occurred in the ECB's tasks and priorities?

18. Could you elaborate on your views on the concept of democratic accountability with regards to the ECB and central banking in general?

19. The ECB has long refrained from accepting the European parliament's request to publish the minutes of its Governing Council's meetings. What do you think are the impediments and inconveniences of such publications? Would you be in favour of the publication by ECB of the minutes of its Governing Councils meetings in the near-term future?

20. What conclusions do you draw from the comparison between the transparency policies followed by the Federal Reserve Bank and by the ECB? What do you think about the publication by the Fed or the Bank of England of the minutes of their meetings? Do you think this policy could be applied by the ECB?

**Vítor Constâncio, Vice-President (1 June 2010 - 31 May 2018)**

		Date	Vote*		
ECON	<a href="#">Public hearing</a>	23 March 2010	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	Abstentions
	<a href="#">Report</a>	23 March 2010	37	3	1
Plenary	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	25 March 2010	488	73	60

\*For ECON vote see Report, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

**Questionnaire (see answers in [ECON report](#)):****A. Personal and professional background**

1. Please highlight the main aspects of your professional experience in monetary, financial and business matters.
2. Please highlight the main aspects of your European and international professional experience.
3. What are the most important decisions to which you have been party in your professional life?

**B. Monetary and economic policy**

4. What would be the guiding objectives you will pursue during your eight-year mandate as Vice-President of the European Central Bank?
5. What is your assessment of the monetary policy as it has been implemented by the ESCB for eleven years? What changes, if any, would you promote when becoming ECB Vice-President?
6. It is often asserted that due to structural changes in the world economy inflation has shifted from inflation in consumer prices to inflation in asset prices. What is your view on this assertion and which consequences for the monetary policy do you see?
7. How do you assess the consequences of rising oil prices for the monetary policy?
8. Without prejudice to the objective of price stability, how in your view should the ECB fulfil its secondary obligations under the Treaty (to contribute to economic growth and full employment) and what instruments could the ECB use to do so?
9. How do you assess the ECB's exit-strategy? Should monetary exit strategies be concerted globally? Should there be concertation between monetary and fiscal exit strategies?
10. What is your perspective on the asymmetrical exposure of Member States to an ECB exit strategy? What should be done in order to mitigate it?
11. "What measures should be taken by the ECB in order to avoid implicit subsidies and distortions related to the acceptance of a wider set of collateral through the enhanced credit support after October 2008?"
12. "How do you view the risk of unwinding regarding the huge volume of asset-backed securities (ABS) the ECB has accepted as collateral?"
13. Against the background of rising public deficits and debt ratios, and 13 out of 16 Member States of the euro area being subject to an excessive deficit procedure, what is your assessment of the current implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact?
14. In your view, are the procedures foreseen in the Stability and Growth Pact sufficient to ensure that Member States will return to budget discipline and long term sustainability of public finances? How can the rules of the Pact be used to prevent an excessive deficit procedure in the first place? What is your assessment of Member States' performance in good times as far as the reduction of their overall deficit is concerned?
15. How do you evaluate the relationship and the cooperation between the ECB, the Council and/or the Eurogroup? Do you think that the coordination and economic surveillance inside the Eurogroup should be improved based on the Lisbon Treaty?
16. What do you think are the most important objectives for the next Strategy for jobs and growth until 2020? Please list in order of importance the structural reforms which you believe are a priority in the EU and justify your choices. How could the ECB and the instruments of economic policy co-ordination (Broad Economic Policy Guidelines, Employment guidelines) contribute to the success of this strategy? What is

your perception as to the possibilities of increasing internal demand and fostering investments within the EU?

17. What is your opinion regarding the pace of euro area enlargement both from the euro area's and the candidate countries point of view? How do you evaluate the introduction of the euro by New Member States up to now? Do you see a need for improvement or change in the accession process and/or the euro introduction period?

18. What do you think about the currently lively debated issue of financial transaction taxes? Would such a tax rather merely raise revenues from the financial sector or is it more likely that it would limit socially undesirable transactions? What would be the role of the ECB in the implementation of an EU financial transaction tax? Based on currently existing financial transaction taxes (e.g. stamp duty in the UK), which could be the scope of such taxes in order to be effective? Which would be the risks and drawbacks of such taxes? Would such a tax be feasible if some countries do not adhere to its principles? Which could be, to put in the G-20 wording, other options "as to how the financial sector could make a fair and substantial contribution" toward paying for any burdens associated with government interventions to repair the banking system?

19. What are your views on the future of the European monetary union in the longer term and what are the main challenges ahead?

20. What is your view of the respective roles of the Council, the Commission, the Euro group and the ECB in terms of external representation of the Euro zone?

21a. How do you assess the recent evolution of the USD/EUR exchange rate?

21b. How do you assess the recent evolution of the Renminbi/EUR exchange rate?

21c. How do you evaluate international co-operation in the field of exchange rates?

21d. Do you think that central banks are able to fight efficiently against excessive volatility?

21e. What importance do you give in this context to the dangers posed by global imbalances?

21f. Do you think that the international role of the euro should be encouraged and if yes, how?

22. How can the importance of the euro area and its currency be further enhanced, in particular in international financial institutions? What are your views on the current level of coordination, e.g. before IMF board meetings?

### **C. Financial stability and supervision**

23a. What do you think of the financial supervisory draft legislative proposals currently debated in the European Parliament?

23b. What would you recommend to strengthen the links between macro and micro supervision?

23c. Do the Commission proposals give proper role and responsibility to the ESRB?

23d. Is the institutional balance between Union institutions appropriate?

23e. What do you think about the overall composition of the ESRB and its Steering Committee?

23f. Could you elaborate on your views as to the powers of the ESRB: how to make sure that warnings and recommendations cannot be ignored by the addressees?

23g. Is the level of public disclosure appropriate in your opinion?

23h. Do you see a potential conflict of interest with the ECB mandate in relation to monetary policy?

24a. How do you see the evolution of the European supervisory architecture in the medium and long term? In particular, what do you think of a single European supervisory authority?

24b. How do you see the ECB's role in banking supervision in the future?

25. To what extent and how quickly should financial institutions increase their equity capital?

26. How can the competitive disturbances that have developed following the crisis and rescue measures taken by the government and central banks of the Member States be eliminated?

27. How can financial institutions be forced/ incentivised to reduce their risk appetite?

28. What do you see as the most pressing issues in financial services legislation which remain to be completed after the Financial Services Action Plan?

29. How do you assess the current level of consolidation in financial services in the EU and what is your view on future prospects in this regard?

**D. Functioning of the ECB and democratic accountability and transparency**

30. Shouldn't the different responsibilities of Board members change with time, in line with the changes occurred in the ECB's tasks and priorities?

31. What system do you think is appropriate to ensure an equitable rotation of membership on the ECB-executive board also in terms of nationalities?

32. What is your view on the need to increase the diversity of backgrounds represented in the ECB board rather than relying solely on central bankers?

33. Could you elaborate on your views on the concept of democratic accountability with regards to the ECB and central banking in general?

34. How do you judge the procedure used to replace ECB board members? Should ex ante democratic accountability and transparency not imply that the European Parliament at least be formally given the possibility to hear several potential candidates and give its opinion before Council makes the final decision about the nomination?

35. What conclusions do you draw from the comparison between the transparency policies followed by the Federal Reserve Bank and by the ECB? Which alternative would you prefer: the publication of the minutes two weeks after monetary policy decisions were taken, such as practiced by the Fed and the Bank of England, or the press conference that immediately follows monetary policy decisions in addition to the instant publication on the internet of the reasoning behind the decision, such as done by the ECB?

36. What's your opinion of the quarterly Monetary Dialogue between the European Parliament and the ECB President? Do you see any room for improvement in the Monetary Dialogue? Do the frequent discussions concerning the ECB's policies with other political actors harm the bank's independence?

37. Should the ECB be subject to a full scrutiny of the European Court of Auditors going beyond the concept of "operational efficiency" (Article 27.2 of the Statute of the ESCB and of the ECB)

**E. General**

38. What do you see as the most important risks and challenges facing the ECB?

**Peter Praet** (1 June 2011 - 31 May 2019)

		Date	Vote*		
ECON	<a href="#">Public hearing</a>	16 March 2011	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	Abstentions
	<a href="#">Report</a>	18 March 2011	42	0	0
Plenary	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	24 March 2011	526	37	71

\*For ECON vote see Report, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

**Questionnaire** (see answers in [ECON report](#)):

**A. Personal and professional background**

1. Please highlight the main aspects of your professional experience in monetary, financial and business matters.
2. Please highlight the main aspects of your European and international experience.
3. What are the most important decisions to which you have been party in your professional life?

**B. Monetary and economic policy**

4. What would be the guiding objectives you will pursue during your eight-year mandate as a Member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank?
5. What is your assessment of the monetary policy as it has been implemented by the ESCB for 12 years? What changes, if any, would you promote when becoming a Member of the Executive Board?
6. It is often asserted that due to structural changes in the world economy inflation has shifted from inflation in consumer prices to inflation in asset prices. What is your view on this assertion and which consequences for the monetary policy do you see?
7. How do you assess the consequences of rising commodity prices for the monetary policy? Is there a conflict in terms of monetary policy between fighting the recession and remaining vigilant about inflation (expectations)?
8. Without prejudice to the objective of price stability, how in your view should the ECB fulfil its secondary obligations under the Treaty (to contribute to economic growth and full employment) and what instruments could the ECB use to do so?
9. How do you judge the institutional relation between the ECB, the Council and/or the Eurogroup? Do you think that the coordination and economic surveillance inside the Eurogroup should be improved?
10. What do you think of the "economic governance reform" draft legislative proposals currently debated in the European Parliament? Would you think that integrated surveillance is a step forward or would you rather focus on budgetary surveillance?
11. What roles, relationships and challenges do you see for the ECB and the forthcoming European Stability Mechanism?
12. What would the issuance of Eurobonds imply for economic governance in the euro area?
13. What do you think are the most important objectives for the strategy for jobs and growth until 2020? How could the ECB and the instruments of economic and policy coordination contribute to the success of this strategy? Please list in order of importance the structural reforms which you believe are a priority in the EU.
14. What is your opinion regarding the pace at which the New Member States should join the monetary union and adopt the Euro, considering all of the convergence criteria and the participation in the exchange rate mechanism (ERM II)? What are your views on the future of the European monetary union in the longer term and what are the main challenges ahead?
15. What is your view on the taxation of short-term financial transactions? Do you think that a currency transaction tax is compatible with EU Treaties which guarantee the freedom of capital movements? Do you think that a tax on currency transactions involving the euro could have beneficial effects – for example by stabilising the exchange rates of countries wishing to join the euro area in the future?

16. What is your view on the respective roles of the Council and the ECB in terms of external representation of the euro zone?

17. How do you assess the recent evolution of the USD/EUR exchange rate? How do you assess the recent evolution of the Renminbi/EUR exchange rate? Do you think that Central Banks are able to fight efficiently against excessive volatility? Do you think that the international role of the Euro should be encouraged?

18. How do you assess the achievements of the G20? What are your views on the current level of coordination?

### **C. Financial Stability and Supervision**

19. What would you recommend to strengthen the links between macro and micro supervision? Do you believe the ESRB and the ESA's will have effective powers?

20. As far as the ESRB is concerned, do you see a potential conflict of interest with the ECB mandate in relation to monetary policy?

21. How do you see the ECB's role in banking supervision in the future?

22. What do you see as the most pressing issues in the financial services legislation?

### **D. Functioning of the ECB and democratic accountability and transparency**

23. Shouldn't the different responsibilities of Board members change with time, in line with the changes occurred in the ECB's tasks and priorities?

24. What system do you think is appropriate to ensure an equitable rotation of membership on the ECB-executive board also in terms of nationalities?

25. What is your view on the need to increase the diversity of backgrounds represented in the ECB board rather than relying solely on central bankers?

26. Could you elaborate on your views on the concept of democratic accountability with regards to the ECB and central banking in general?

27. The ECB has long refrained from accepting the European parliament's request to publish the minutes of its Governing Council's meetings. What do you think are the impediments and inconveniences of such publications? Would you be in favour of the publication by ECB of the minutes of its Governing Councils meetings in the near-term future?

28. What conclusions do you draw from the comparison between the transparency policies followed by the Federal Reserve Bank and by the ECB? What do you think about the publication by the Fed or the Bank of England of the minutes of their meetings? Do you think this policy could be applied by the ECB?

29. What is your opinion of the monetary dialogue? Might ECB Board members discuss monetary policy and its decisions with other political actors or would this harm the bank's independence?

30. What do you see as the most important risks and challenges facing the ECB?

**Mario Draghi, President (1 November 2011 - 31 October 2019)**

		Date	Vote*		
ECON	<a href="#">Public hearing</a>	14 June 2011	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	Abstentions
	<a href="#">Report</a>	16 June 2011	33	2	4
Plenary	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	23 June 2011	499	72	89

\*For ECON vote see Report, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

**Questionnaire (see answers in [ECON report](#)):**

**A. Personal and professional background**

1. Please highlight the main aspects of your professional experience in monetary, financial and business matters.
2. Please highlight the main aspects of your European and international experience.
3. What are the most important decisions to which you have been party in your professional life?
4. Do you have any business or financial holdings or any other commitments which might conflict you with your prospective duties, and are there any other relevant personal or other factors that need to be taken account of by the Parliament when considering your nomination?

**B. Monetary and economic policy**

5. What would be the guiding objectives you will pursue during your eight-year mandate as President of the European Central Bank?
6. What is your assessment of the monetary policy as it has been implemented by the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) for 12 years? What changes, if any, would you promote when becoming President?
7. It is often asserted that due to structural changes in the world economy inflation has shifted from inflation in consumer prices to inflation in asset prices. What is your view on this assertion and which consequences for the monetary policy do you see?
8. How do you assess the consequences of rising commodity prices for the monetary policy? Is there a conflict in terms of monetary policy between fighting the recession and remaining vigilant about inflation (expectations)?
9. Without prejudice to the objective of price stability, how in your view should the ECB fulfil its secondary obligations under the Treaty (to contribute to economic growth and full employment) and what instruments could the ECB use to do so?
10. How do you judge the institutional relation between ECB, Council and/or the Eurogroup? Do you think that the coordination and economic surveillance inside the Eurogroup should be improved?
11. What do you think of the "economic governance reform" draft legislative proposals currently discussed?
12. What roles, relationships and challenges do you see for the ECB and the forthcoming European Stability Mechanism?
13. What would the issuance of Eurobonds imply for economic governance in the euro area?
14. How in your view should the ECB react if a haircut on government bonds of a Eurozone Member State became reality?
15. Does the ECB's mandate and the fact that it holds bonds of Eurozone Member States create a conflict of interest?
16. The ECB President has threatened to withdraw liquidity of a Eurozone Member State's banking sector, in case that a Member State would try to restructure its public debt. Are you willing to use your powers in such or a similar way?
17. How do you evaluate the grown Target II liabilities and receivables of the ECB members?

18. How will you ensure transparency regarding ECB purchases of government bonds on the secondary market and the covered bonds (Covered Bond Purchase Programme)? Will you disclose which bonds have been purchased and for which price?

19. Bubbles on real estate markets have played an important role in this economic crisis. What measures do you recommend to European policy makers to limit asset price fluctuations on European real estate markets in the future?

20. What do you think are the most important objectives for the strategy for jobs and growth until 2020? How could the ECB and the instruments of economic policy co-ordination contribute to the success of this strategy? Please list in order of importance the structural reforms which you believe are a priority in the EU and justify your choices.

21. What is your opinion regarding the pace at which the New Member States should join the monetary union and adopt the Euro, considering all of the convergence criteria and the participation in the exchange rate mechanism (ERM II)? What are your views on the future of the European monetary union in the longer term and what are the main challenges ahead, especially in view of the current difficulties?

22. What is your view on the taxation of short-term financial transactions? Do you think that a currency transaction tax is compatible with EU Treaties which guarantee the freedom of capital movements? Do you think that a tax on currency transactions involving the euro could have beneficial effects – for example by stabilising the exchange rates of countries wishing to join the euro area in the future?

23. What is your view on the respective roles of the Council and the ECB in terms of external representation of the Euro zone?

24. How do you assess the recent evolution of the USD/EUR exchange rate? How do you assess the recent evolution of the Renminbi/EUR exchange rate? Do you think that Central Banks are able to fight efficiently against excessive volatility? Do you think that the international role of the Euro should be encouraged?

25. How do you assess the achievements of the G20? What are your views on the current level of coordination?

### **C. Financial stability and supervision**

26. What would you recommend to strengthen the links between macro and micro supervision? Do you believe the ESRB and the ESA's will have effective powers?

27. As far as ESRB is concerned, do you see a potential conflict of interest with the ECB mandate in relation to monetary policy?

28. How do you see the ECB's role in banking supervision in the future?

29. What do you see as the most pressing issues in the financial services legislation?

### **D. Functioning of the ECB and democratic accountability and transparency**

30. Shouldn't the different responsibilities of Board members change with time, in line with the changes occurred in the ECB's tasks and priorities?

31. What system do you think is appropriate to ensure an equitable rotation of membership on the ECB-executive board also in terms of nationalities and gender?

32. What is your view on the need to increase the diversity of backgrounds represented in the ECB board rather than relying solely on central bankers?

33. What will be your personal approach of the social dialogue at the ECB?

34. Would you be in favour of a confirmation procedure by the European Parliament (notwithstanding the constitutional issues that such a change would raise)?

35. Could you elaborate on your views on the concept of democratic accountability with regards to the ECB and central banking in general?

36. The ECB has long refrained from accepting the European parliament's request to publish the minutes of its Governing Council's meetings. What do you think are the impediments and inconveniences of such publications? Would you be in favour of the publication by ECB of the minutes of its Governing Councils meetings in the near-term future?

37. What conclusions do you draw from the comparison between the transparency policies followed by the Federal Reserve Bank and by the ECB? What do you think about the publication by the Fed or the Bank of England of the minutes of their meetings? Do you think this policy could be applied by the ECB?

38. What's your opinion of the monetary dialogue with the European Parliament? Might ECB board members discuss monetary policy and its decisions with other political actors or would this harm the bank's independence?

**E. General**

39. What do you see as the most important risks and challenges facing the ECB?

**Jörg Asmussen** (1 January 2012 - 8 January 2014)

		Date	Vote*		
ECON	<a href="#">Public hearing</a>	10 October 2011	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	Abstentions
	<a href="#">Report</a>	10 October 2011	20	2	1
Plenary	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	13 October 2011	480	69	74

\*For ECON vote see Report, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

**Questionnaire** (see answers in [ECON report](#)):**A. Personal and professional background**

1. Please highlight the main aspects of your professional experience in monetary, financial and business matters.
2. Please highlight the main aspects of your European and international experience.
3. Please highlight the main aspects of your academic background and most relevant publications on monetary and economic policy and financial regulation matters.
4. What are the most important decisions to which you have been party in your professional life?
5. Do you have any business or financial holdings or any other commitments which might conflict you with your prospective duties, and are there any other relevant personal or other factors that need to be taken account of by the Parliament when considering your nomination?
6. How will you keep your independence while coming straight away from Mr Schäuble's department?
7. What would be the guiding objectives you will pursue during mandate at the European Central Bank?

**B. ECB monetary policy**

8. What is your assessment of the monetary policy as it has been implemented by the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) for 12 years? What changes, if any, would you promote?
9. It is often asserted that due to structural changes in the world economy inflation has shifted from inflation in consumer prices to inflation in asset prices. Building on the lessons from the current crisis, should the ECB disregard the evolution of asset prices?
10. How do you assess the consequences of rising commodity prices for monetary policy? Is there a conflict in terms of monetary policy between fighting the recession and remaining vigilant about inflation (expectations)?
11. What is your view on the heterogeneity of monetary conditions across the euro area and its impact on unitary monetary policy of the ECB?
12. Do you judge that there has been overreliance in euro area banks on liquidity provision by the ECB?
13. Without prejudice to the objective of price stability, how in your view should the ECB fulfil its secondary obligations under the Treaty (to contribute to economic growth and full employment) and what instruments could the ECB use to do so?
14. What do you think of the "economic governance package" as recently adopted? What further steps would you see as necessary to strengthen the economic governance in the EU?
15. What roles, relationships and challenges do you see for the ECB and the forthcoming European Stability Mechanism?
16. The idea has been floated recently to involve the ECB in leveraging the EFSF operations. What are your views on this?
17. What would the issuance of Eurobonds imply for economic governance in the euro area?
18. Do you think the ECB should need further new instruments to cope with the euro area crisis?
19. What role should sovereign ratings have in your view on ECB policy? Do you think that ECB should accept as a rule all euro area government bonds as securities?
20. What is your view on a European Credit Rating Agency?

21. What is your view on the Securities Markets Programme (SMP)? In particular, in your view does it turn the ECB to a de facto fiscal player and thus possibly endanger its independence?
22. For when do you foresee the ECB's effective exit from the current non-standard measures?
23. Do you foresee the stance of the ECB to change as regards the strong opposition towards a restructuring of Greek debt?
24. How will you ensure transparency regarding the SMP and Covered Bond Purchase Programme?
25. How do you evaluate the grown Target II liabilities and receivables of the ECB members?
26. What do you think are the most important objectives for the strategy for jobs and growth until 2020? How could the ECB and the instruments of economic policy co-ordination contribute to the success of this strategy? Please list in order of importance the structural reforms which you believe are a priority in the EU and justify your choices.
27. What is your opinion regarding the pace at which the New Member States should join the monetary union and adopt the Euro, considering all of the convergence criteria and the participation in the exchange rate mechanism (ERM II)?
28. What is your view on the taxation of short-term financial transactions? Do you think that a tax on currency transactions involving the euro could have beneficial effects – for example by stabilising the exchange rates of countries wishing to join the euro area in the future?
29. What is your view on the respective roles of the Council and the ECB in terms of external representation of the Euro zone?
30. How do you assess the recent evolution of the USD/EUR exchange rate?
31. How do you assess the recent evolution of the Renminbi/EUR exchange rate? Do you think that Central Banks are able to fight efficiently against excessive volatility? Do you think that the international role of the Euro should be encouraged?
32. How do you assess the achievements of the G20? What are your views on the current level of coordination?

### **C. Financial stability and supervision**

33. How do you see the ECB's role in banking supervision in the future?

### **D. Functioning of the ECB and democratic accountability and transparency**

34. In your view, should the different responsibilities of Board members change with time, in line with the changes happening in the ECB's tasks and priorities?
35. What system do you think is appropriate to ensure an equitable rotation of membership on the ECB-executive board also in terms of nationalities and gender?
36. What is your view on the need to recruit "the best team" (ie the best functioning collective) of Executive Board members as opposed to simply more narrowly speaking "the best individual"?
37. What is your view on the need to increase the diversity of backgrounds represented in the ECB board rather than relying solely on central bankers?
38. What will be your personal approach of the social dialogue at the ECB?
39. Would you be in favour of a confirmation procedure by the European Parliament (notwithstanding the constitutional issues that such a change would raise)?
40. What is your view on the problem of "revolving doors" between supervisory or regulatory bodies and private institutions of the same field? Do you think there should be "abstinence periods" between professional activities in public and private institutions?
41. Could you elaborate on your views on the concept of democratic accountability with regards to the ECB and central banking in general?
42. What conclusions do you draw from the comparison between the transparency policies followed by the Federal Reserve Bank and by the ECB? What do you think about the publication by the Fed or the Bank of England of the minutes of their meetings? Do you think this policy could be applied by the ECB?

43. What's your opinion of the monetary dialogue with the European Parliament? Might ECB board members discuss monetary policy and its decisions with other political actors or would this harm the bank's independence?

**E. General**

44. What do you see as the most important risks and challenges facing the ECB?

**Benoît Cœuré** (1 January 2012 - 31 December 2019)

		Date	Vote*		
ECON	Public hearing	12 December 2011	For	Against	Abstentions
	<a href="#">Report</a>	12 December 2011	19	0	0
Plenary	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	14 December 2011	566	67	50

\*For ECON vote see Report, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

**Questionnaire** (see answers in [ECON report](#)):

**A. Personal and professional background**

1. Please highlight the main aspects of your professional experience in monetary, financial and business matters.
2. Please highlight the main aspects of your European and international experience.
3. Please highlight the main aspects of your academic background and most relevant publications on monetary and economic policy and financial regulation matters.
4. What are the most important decisions to which you have been party in your professional life?
5. Do you have any business or financial holdings or any other commitments which might conflict you with your prospective duties, and are there any other relevant personal or other factors that need to be taken account of by the Parliament when considering your nomination?
6. You have been chosen, among other French candidates, including a central banker, by President Sarkozy, who has very strong views on the role of the ECB. Will that affect your independence and your actions at the ECB?
7. What would be the guiding objectives you will pursue during mandate at the European Central Bank?

**B. ECB monetary policy**

8. What is your assessment of the monetary policy as it has been implemented by the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) for 12 years? What changes, if any, would you promote?
9. It is often asserted that due to structural changes in the world economy inflation has shifted from inflation in consumer prices to inflation in asset prices. Building on the lessons from the current crisis, should the ECB disregard the evolution of asset prices?
10. How do you assess the consequences of rising commodity prices for monetary policy? Is there a conflict in terms of monetary policy between fighting the recession and remaining vigilant about inflation (expectations)?
11. What is your view on the heterogeneity of monetary conditions across the euro area and its impact on unitary monetary policy of the ECB?
12. Do you judge that there has been overreliance in euro area banks on liquidity provision by the ECB?
13. Without prejudice to the objective of price stability, how in your view should the ECB fulfil its secondary obligations under the Treaty (to contribute to economic growth and full employment) and what instruments could the ECB use to do so?
14. What do you think of the "economic governance package" as recently adopted? What further steps would you see as necessary to strengthen the economic governance in the EU?
15. What would be your critical assessment of the French budgetary policy in the last years, especially as regards the rules of the stability and growth pact? In your views, is the strict adherence to the stability and growth pact desirable?
16. In a book written a few years ago, you wrote that the SGP was increasingly challenged for "weak analytical foundations", "no regard for quality of spending" and "disputable zero deficit target". Will you argue for a change in the ECB's position in that regard?
17. What roles, relationships and challenges do you see for the ECB and the forthcoming European Stability Mechanism?

18. The idea has been floated recently to involve the ECB in leveraging the EFSF operations. What are your views on this?
19. What would the issuance of Eurobonds imply for economic governance in the euro area?
20. Do you think the ECB should need further new instruments to cope with the euro area crisis?
21. What role should sovereign ratings have in your view on ECB policy? Do you think that ECB should accept as a rule all euro area government bonds as securities?
22. What is your view on a European Credit Rating Agency?
23. What is your view on the Securities Markets Programme (SMP)? In particular, in your view does it turn the ECB to a de facto fiscal player and thus possibly endanger its independence?
24. For when do you foresee the ECB's effective exit from the current non-standard measures?
25. Do you foresee the stance of the ECB to change as regards the strong opposition towards a restructuring of Greek debt?
26. How will you ensure transparency regarding the SMP and Covered Bond Purchase Programme?
27. How do you evaluate the grown Target II liabilities and receivables of the ECB members?
28. What do you think are the most important objectives for the strategy for jobs and growth until 2020? How could the ECB and the instruments of economic policy co-ordination contribute to the success of this strategy? Please list in order of importance the structural reforms which you believe are a priority in the EU and justify your choices.
29. What is your opinion regarding the pace at which the New Member States should join the monetary union and adopt the Euro, considering all of the convergence criteria and the participation in the exchange rate mechanism (ERM II)?
30. What is your view on the taxation of short-term financial transactions? Do you think that a tax on currency transactions involving the euro could have beneficial effects – for example by stabilising the exchange rates of countries wishing to join the euro area in the future?
31. What is your view on the respective roles of the Council and the ECB in terms of external representation of the Euro zone?
32. How do you assess the recent evolution of the USD/EUR exchange rate?
33. How do you assess the recent evolution of the Renminbi/EUR exchange rate? Do you think that Central Banks are able to fight efficiently against excessive volatility? Do you think that the international role of the Euro should be encouraged?
34. How do you assess the achievements of the G20? What are your views on the current level of coordination?

### **C. Financial stability and supervision**

35. How do you see the ECB's role in banking supervision in the future?

### **D. Functioning of the ECB and democratic accountability and transparency**

36. In your view, should the different responsibilities of Board members change with time, in line with the changes happening in the ECB's tasks and priorities?
37. What system do you think is appropriate to ensure an equitable rotation of membership on the ECB-executive board also in terms of nationalities and gender?
38. What is your view on the need to recruit "the best team" (ie the best functioning collective) of Executive Board members as opposed to simply more narrowly speaking "the best individual"?
39. What is your view on the need to increase the diversity of backgrounds represented in the ECB board rather than relying solely on central bankers?
40. What will be your personal approach of the social dialogue at the ECB?
41. Would you be in favour of a confirmation procedure by the European Parliament (notwithstanding the constitutional issues that such a change would raise)?

42. Could you elaborate on your views on the concept of democratic accountability with regards to the ECB and central banking in general?
43. What conclusions do you draw from the comparison between the transparency policies followed by the Federal Reserve Bank and by the ECB? What do you think about the publication by the Fed or the Bank of England of the minutes of their meetings? Do you think this policy could be applied by the ECB?
44. What's your opinion of the monetary dialogue with the European Parliament? Might ECB board members discuss monetary policy and its decisions with other political actors or would this harm the bank's independence?

**E. General**

45. What do you see as the most important risks and challenges facing the ECB?

**Yves Mersch (15 December 2012 - 14 December 2020)**

		Date	Vote*		
ECON	<a href="#">Public hearing</a>	22 October 2012	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstentions</b>
	<a href="#">Report</a>	22 October 2012	20	13	12
Plenary	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	25 October 2012	300	325	49

\* The ECON vote was on the negative opinion, meaning that 'For' votes were actually votes against the appointment of Mr Mersch. The plenary vote was on the recommendation of the Council to appoint Mr Mersch, so 'Against' means rejection of the appointment. For ECON vote see Report, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

**Questionnaire (see answers in [ECON report](#)):****A. Personal and professional background**

1. Please highlight the main aspects of your professional experience in monetary, financial and business matters.
2. Please highlight the main aspects of your European and international experience.
3. What are the most important decisions to which you have been party in your professional life?
4. Do you have any business or financial holdings or any other commitments which might conflict you with your prospective duties, and are there any other relevant personal or other factors that need to be taken account of by the Parliament when considering your nomination?
5. What would be the guiding objectives you will pursue during your eight-year mandate as a Member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank?

**B. ECB monetary policy**

6. Do you think that we could reach a point where we have to arbitrage between low inflation and a euro zone break-up? In such a situation, which alternative would you favour?
7. What is your view on the heterogeneity of monetary conditions across the euro area and its impact on unitary monetary policy of the ECB?
8. Do you judge that there has been overreliance in euro area banks on liquidity provision by the ECB?
9. Without prejudice to the objective of price stability, how in your view should the ECB fulfil its secondary obligations under the Treaty (to contribute to economic growth and full employment) and what instruments could the ECB use to do so?
10. What roles, relationships and challenges do you see for the ECB and the forthcoming European Stability Mechanism? Do you think the ECB should need further new instruments to cope with the euro area crisis?
11. How will you ensure transparency regarding the SMP and Covered Bond Purchase Programme?
13. What role should sovereign ratings have in your view on ECB policy? Do you think that ECB should accept as a rule all euro area government bonds as securities?
14. What is your assessment of the success of the recent Private Sector Involvement (PSI) initiative to restructure Greek debt? How can we be sure that it would not be needed again?
15. How do you evaluate the grown Target II liabilities and receivables of the ECB members?
16. What is your opinion regarding the pace at which the New Member States should join the monetary union and adopt the Euro, considering all of the convergence criteria and the participation in the exchange rate mechanism (ERM II)?
17. What is your perspective on the "Beyond GDP" initiative?
18. What are, according to you, the main challenges for the European Statistical System in the next decade?

**C. Views on EU economic policy**

19. What should be done to stop the crisis?

20. What would the issuance of Stability Bonds/Eurobonds imply for economic governance in the euro area? Do you have preferences among the options presented by the Commission in its Green Paper?

21. What do you think are the most important objectives for the strategy for jobs and growth until 2020? How could the ECB and the instruments of economic policy co-ordination contribute to the success of this strategy? Please list in order of importance the structural reforms which you believe are a priority in the EU and justify your choices.

22. What is your view on the taxation financial transactions? Do you think that a tax on currency transactions involving the euro could have beneficial effects – for example by stabilising the exchange rates of countries wishing to join the euro area in the future? What are your views on the possibility of a financial transaction tax being implemented only in a number of Member States?

23. What is your view on the respective roles of the Council and the ECB in terms of external representation of the Euro zone?

24. How do you assess the recent evolution of the USD/EUR exchange rate?

25. How do you assess the recent evolution of the Renminbi/EUR exchange rate?

26. How do you assess the achievements of the G20? What are your views on the current level of coordination?

#### **D. Financial stability and supervision**

27. Are you in favour of a banking union? If yes, what shape should it take? Should the ECB play a role in the supervision of financial institutions, and if yes, which one? If yes, what accountability changes should be in place? Should EBA be delegated some powers of supervision?

28. What are your views on the regulation on shadow banking entities?

#### **E. Functioning of the ECB and democratic accountability and transparency**

29. In your view, should the different responsibilities of Board members change with time, in line with the changes happening in the ECB's tasks and priorities?

31. What is your view on the need to increase the diversity of backgrounds represented in the ECB board rather than relying solely on central bankers? What is your view on the issue of "revolving doors" between supervisory or regulatory bodies and private institutions of the same field?

32. What will be your personal approach of the social dialogue at the ECB?

33. Would you be in favour of a confirmation procedure by the European Parliament (notwithstanding the constitutional issues that such a change would raise)?

34. Could you elaborate on your views on the concept of democratic accountability with regards to the ECB and central banking in general?

35. What conclusions do you draw from the comparison between the transparency policies followed by the Federal Reserve Bank and by the ECB? What do you think about the publication by the Fed or the Bank of England of the minutes of their meetings? Do you think this policy could be applied by the ECB?

36. What's your opinion of the monetary dialogue with the European Parliament? Might ECB board members discuss monetary policy and its decisions with other political actors or would this harm the bank's independence?

37. What do you see as the most important risks and challenges facing the ECB?

**Sabine Lautenschläger** (27 January 2014 - 26 January 2022)

		Date	Vote*		
ECON	<a href="#">Public hearing</a>	13 January 2014	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	Abstentions
	<a href="#">Report</a>	14 January 2014	33	1	1
Plenary	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	16 January 2014	443	47	47

\*For ECON vote see Report, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

**Questionnaire** (see answers in [ECON report](#)):**A. Personal and professional background**

1. Please highlight the main aspects of your professional experience in monetary, financial and business matters.
2. Please highlight the main aspects of your European and international experience.
3. What are the most important decisions to which you have been party in your professional life?
4. Do you have any business or financial holdings or any other commitments which might conflict you with your prospective duties, and are there any other relevant personal or other factors that need to be taken account of by the Parliament when considering your nomination?
5. What would be the guiding objectives you will pursue during mandate at the European Central Bank?

**B. ECB monetary policy**

6. What is your view on the heterogeneity of monetary conditions across the euro area and its impact on unitary monetary policy of the ECB?
7. Do you judge that there has been overreliance in euro area banks on liquidity provision by the ECB?
8. Without prejudice to the objective of price stability, how in your view should the ECB fulfil its secondary obligations under the Treaty (to contribute to economic growth and full employment) and what instruments could the ECB use to do so?
9. What roles, relationships and challenges do you see for the ECB and the European Stability Mechanism?
10. How will you ensure transparency regarding the SMP and Covered Bond Purchase Programme?
11. What is your estimate of the amount of implicit subsidy, including any option value, that the eurosystem has given euro area banking institutions as a result of its unconventional monetary policy operations over the last four years? What do you perceive to be the schedule for the ECB to exit from the current non-standard measures?
12. What role should sovereign ratings have in your view on ECB policy? Do you think that ECB should accept as a rule all euro area government bonds as securities?
13. What is your assessment of the success of the Private Sector Involvement (PSI) initiative to restructure Greek debt?
14. How do you evaluate the grown Target II liabilities and receivables of the ECB members?
15. What is your opinion regarding the pace at which the New Member States should join the monetary union and adopt the Euro, considering all of the convergence criteria and the participation in the exchange rate mechanism (ERM II)?
16. What is your perspective on the "Beyond GDP" initiative?
17. What are, according to you, the main challenges for the European Statistical System in the next decade?

**C. Views on EU economic policy**

18. What additional measures, if any, are necessary ensure that the EU has really overcome the crisis?
19. What would the establishment of a Debt Redemption Fund or Eurobills imply for economic governance in the euro area?
20. What do you think are the most important objectives for the strategy for jobs and growth until 2020? How could the ECB and the instruments of economic policy co-ordination contribute to the success of

this strategy? Please list in order of importance the structural reforms which you believe are a priority in the EU and justify your choices.

21. What is your view on the taxation of financial transactions? Do you think that a tax on currency transactions involving the euro could have beneficial effects – for example by stabilising the exchange rates of countries wishing to join the euro area in the future? What are your views on the feasibility of enhanced cooperation among some Member States in this area?

22. What is your view on the respective roles of the Council and the ECB in terms of external representation of the Euro zone?

23. How do you assess the recent evolution of the USD/EUR exchange rate?

24. How do you assess the recent evolution of the Renminbi/EUR exchange rate? Do you think that Central Banks are able to fight efficiently against excessive volatility? Do you think that the international role of the Euro should be encouraged?

25. How do you assess the achievements of the G20? What are your views on the current level of coordination?

#### **D. Financial stability and supervision**

26. How can the competitive disturbances that have developed following the crisis and rescue measures taken by the governments and central banks of the Member States be eliminated?

27. What would you recommend to strengthen the links between macro and micro supervision?

28. How can financial institutions be forced/ incentivised to reduce their risk appetite?

29. What are your views on the recent agreement on the Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive (BRRD), and on the revision of the Deposit Guarantee Schemes Directive?

30. In particular, what are your views on the introduction of the bail-in provisions in the BRRD?

31. What do you think of the proposal for a Single Resolution Mechanism, in particular in terms of scope, decision-making structure, composition and voting modalities of the Single Resolution Board, establishment and financing of a Single Resolution Fund, establishment of a backstop for the Fund, trigger for resolution?

32. What do you see as the most pressing issues in financial services legislation which remain to be completed?

33. What are your views on the regulation on shadow banking entities?

#### **E. Functioning of the ECB and democratic accountability and transparency**

34. In your view, should the different responsibilities of Board members change with time, in line with the changes happening in the ECB's tasks and priorities?

35. What system do you think is appropriate to ensure an equitable rotation of membership on the ECB-executive board also in terms of nationalities and gender?

36. What is your view on the need to increase the diversity of backgrounds represented in the ECB board rather than relying solely on central bankers? What is your view on the issue of "revolving doors" between supervisory or regulatory bodies and private institutions of the same field?

37. What kind of relationship with the private financial sector would in your view constitute a conflict of interest for a member of the board of the ECB?

38. Do you consider that the recent active involvement of the European Parliament in this area of encouraging gender diversity in the ECB has been helpful?

39. What will be your personal approach of the social dialogue at the ECB?

40. Would you be in favour of a confirmation procedure by the European Parliament (notwithstanding the constitutional issues that such a change would raise)?

41. Could you elaborate on your views on the concept of democratic accountability with regards to the ECB and central banking in general?

42. What conclusions do you draw from the comparison between the transparency policies followed by the Federal Reserve Bank and by the ECB? What do you think about the publication by the Fed or the Bank of England of the minutes of their meetings? Do you think this policy could be applied by the ECB.
43. What's your opinion of the monetary dialogue with the European Parliament? Might ECB board members discuss monetary policy and its decisions with other political actors or would this harm the bank's independence?
44. What do you see as the most important risks and challenges facing the ECB?

**Luis de Guindos, Vice-President (1 June 2018 - 31 May 2026)**

		Date	Vote*		
ECON	<a href="#">Public hearing</a>	26 February 2018	For	Against	Abstentions
	<a href="#">Report</a>	6 March 2018	27	14	13
Plenary	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	14 March 2018	331	306	64

\*For ECON vote see Report, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

**Questionnaire (see answers in [ECON report](#)):**

**A. Personal and professional background**

1. Please highlight the main aspects of your professional skills in monetary, financial and business matters and the main aspects of your European and international experience.
2. Do you have any business or financial holdings or any other commitments which might conflict you with your prospective duties, and are there any other relevant personal or other factors that need to be taken account of by the Parliament when considering your nomination?
3. What would be the guiding objectives you will pursue during mandate at the European Central Bank?

**B. ECB monetary policy**

4. How should the ECB conduct its monetary policy in the current macroeconomic conditions?
5. What is your view on the heterogeneity of monetary conditions and access to credit across the euro area and its impact on unitary monetary policy of the ECB?
6. What are your views on the increase in the size of the ESCB balance-sheet due to the Asset Purchase programme (APP)?
7. What do you consider the appropriate time horizon for the ending of the APP?
8. How will you ensure transparency regarding the implementation of the Asset Purchase Programme?
9. What are the conditions that need to be put in place to manage an interest rate increase without disruptive effects on sovereigns and markets?
10. How in your view can the ECB contribute to economic growth and full employment while fully complying with its primary objective to maintain price stability? What are in your view additional monetary policy measures that would improve the positive effects of monetary policy on the real economy?
11. What are your views on the risks associated with the Corporate Sector Purchase Programme (CSPP)? Would you see any distortive effects on competition within the Single Market? How do you think possible distortive effects of the CSPP can be minimised? Do you think it should integrate the Paris and the SDG goals?
12. How do you evaluate the currently increasing share of the corporate sector purchase programme on the primary market and at the same time the currently decreasing share of the public sector purchase programme on the secondary market?
13. What is your view on the implementation of the Emerging Liquidity Assistance (ELA)? What could be improved in the decision-making process on granting ELA?
14. Should we worry about current levels of Target imbalances?
15. What are the risks to monetary stability related to the development of virtual currencies such as Bitcoin? Which role do you think the ECB should play in addressing virtual currencies?
16. How do you assess the interactions between payment systems and monetary policy? What should be the role of the ECB, as central bank of issue, on the oversight of CCPs?
17. What are the risks related to Brexit for financial stability?
18. How could the economic governance framework and in particular its implementation be enhanced?
19. What is your view on the ongoing debate on the persistent high levels of public debt in the euro area?
20. How do you assess the recent evolution of the USD/EUR exchange rate?

21. How do you assess the achievements of the G20? What are your views on the current level of coordination between the main central banks?

### **C. Financial stability and supervision**

22. How can we address the legacy from the crisis of high levels of the stock of non-performing loans as well as the risks in the flow of non-performing loans?

23. How do you assess the high level of level 2 and level 3 assets in many banks balance sheets? Are these assets properly taken into account by the current supervisory framework?

24. What are your views on the regulation of shadow banking entities?

25. Do you think that the resolution framework is working efficiently, in the light of the Banco Popular, Banca Popolare di Vicenza and Veneto Banca cases?

25. What are your views on the possible steps towards the completion of the Banking Union with a European Deposit Guarantee Scheme and a fiscal backstop, including the necessary implementation of existing Banking Union legislation and the ongoing work with regard to risk sharing and risk reduction?

26. What is still missing to deepen the EMU?

27. How do you see the challenge for the ECB if the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) was to be transformed in a European Monetary Fund (EMF)?

28. What are your views on the need to ensure a strict separation between monetary policy and banking supervision and what are in your view the reforms that would enhance and favour such separation? What is your view on the current institutional set-up of the ESRB under the roof of the ECB with regard to its concrete achievements in macro-prudential oversight?

29. What are your views regarding the structural reform of the banking sector as regards 'too-big or interconnected to fail' institutions?

### **D. Functioning of the ECB and democratic accountability and transparency**

30. What will be your personal approach of the social dialogue at the ECB?

31. What conclusions do you draw from the comparison between the transparency policies followed by the ECB and the other main central banks (Federal Reserve, Bank of England,...)?

32. What is your view on the accountability of the ECB to the European Parliament, and the necessary steps to enhance it, especially in the context of the quarterly monetary dialogues with the ECON Committee? What measures and future reforms would in your view reinforce the democratic accountability of the ECB towards the European Parliament?

33. What do you see as the most important risks and challenges facing the ECB in the current juncture?

34. Following a recent report from the EU Ombudsman and the European Parliament recommendations contained in the latest report on the ECB adopted in February 2018, what are your views on:

1) the need to publish declarations of financial interests for its Governing Council members in order to prevent conflicts of interest,

2) the need to ensure a two year professional abstention for outgoing ECB Governing Council Members,

3) that the Members of the Executive Board should in principle abstain from being simultaneous members of forums or other organisations which include executives from banks supervised by the ECB;

35. What is your assessment of the involvement of the ECB in the context of financial assistance programmes? How do you see evolving in future a potential ECB involvement in financial assistance programmes?

36. What could the ECB concretely do to have female candidates for ECB top positions in the future and enhance overall gender diversity in the ECB?

37. How do you see possible improvements for the ECB's accountability vis-à-vis the ECA in terms of its operational efficiency?
38. What do you think about the fact that the Council in the past once ignored the opinion of the EP regarding the appointment of a board member?
39. How do you personally intend to improve gender balance within the ECB?

**Phillip Lane** (1 June 2019 - 31 May 2027)

		Date	Vote*		
ECON	<a href="#">Public hearing</a>	26 February 2019	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	Abstentions
	<a href="#">Report</a>	1 March 2019	33	8	6
Plenary	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	14 March 2019	284	182	94

\*For ECON vote see Report, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

Questionnaire (see answers in [ECON report](#)):

**A. Personal and Professional Background**

1. Please highlight the main aspects of your professional skills in monetary, financial and business matters and the main aspects of your European and international experience.
2. Do you have any business or financial holdings or any other commitments which might conflict you with your prospective duties, and are there any other relevant personal or other factors that need to be taken account of by the Parliament when considering your nomination?
3. What would be the guiding objectives you will pursue during mandate at the European Central Bank?

**B. ECB Monetary Policy**

4. How should the ECB conduct its monetary policy in the current macroeconomic conditions? How do you see the ECB's performance regarding the achievement of its primary objective of maintaining price stability?
5. How would you respond to the criticism of low interest rates and its effects? How do you see the balance between unintended effects of the ECB's interest rate policy and the convergence towards the envisaged medium-term inflation rate?
6. What is your view on the heterogeneity of monetary conditions and access to credit across the euro area and its impact on unitary monetary policy of the ECB?
7. Disparities in economic performance between the core and the periphery of EMU have increased over the past decade. Looking ahead, several EU member states are preparing to join the euro area. How do you expect to avoid further divergences between euro area member states over the coming decade considering that several candidate states have weaker economies? What is the preferred economic scenario of euro area enlargement?
8. How do you see the sequencing/timing of ECB monetary policy normalization, also given the international context? Which effect do you expect the re-investment strategy of the APP to have on the markets? How will this affect the toolkit of monetary instruments if the overall conditions deteriorate?
9. How will you ensure transparency regarding the implementation of the Asset Purchase Programme? Do you agree that more transparency could be provided on ABSPP and CBPP3?
10. What are the conditions that need to be fulfilled to manage an interest rate increase without disruptive effects on sovereigns and markets? What of this lies in the remit of the ECB and where do you see the responsibility of Member States and market participants?
11. How in your view can the ECB contribute to economic growth and full employment while fully complying with its primary objective to maintain price stability? What are in your view additional monetary policy measures that would improve the positive effects of monetary policy on the real economy? Which role do structural reforms in the Member States play for monetary policies and vice-versa?
12. What are your views on the risks associated with the Corporate Sector Purchase Programme (CSPP)? Would you see any distortive effects on competition within the Single Market? How do you think possible distortive effects of the CSPP can be minimised?
13. Do you think it should integrate the Paris agreement and the SDG goals and which conditions would need to be fulfilled to ensure a compliance with the ECB's mandate and risk management framework? What should the ECB do in order to bring its asset holdings in line with the UN's sustainable development goals and the Paris climate agreement?

14. You recently gave a lecture on "Climate Change and the Irish Financial System" in which you stated that the 'central banks have a leadership role in ensuring that climate change is a strategic priority for the financial system as a whole'. How would you ensure that the ECB lives up to this leadership role in general and how would you seek to mitigate the climate risks that you describe in your lecture in the ECB balance sheet in particular?
15. How do you evaluate the currently increasing share of the corporate sector purchase programme on the primary market and at the same time the currently decreasing share of the public sector purchase programme on the secondary market?
16. What is your view on the implementation of the emerging Liquidity Assistance (ELA)? What could be improved in the decision-making process on granting ELA?
17. Should we worry about current levels of Target imbalances?
18. What are the risks to monetary stability related to the development of virtual currencies such as Bitcoin? Which role do you think the ECB should play in addressing virtual currencies?
19. How do you assess the interactions between payment systems and monetary policy? What should be the role of the ECB, as central bank of issue, on the oversight of CCPs? Which legal provisions should the amendment to Article 22 of the Statute of the ESCB and ECB contain in this regard?
20. What are the risks related to Brexit for financial stability?
21. How do you see the role of the ECB in a context of possible slowdown of growth in the coming quarters?
22. Do you think the ECB has "run out of ammunition" if there was another significant downturn? Could the ECB design new unconventional monetary policy instruments?
23. How could the economic governance framework and in particular its implementation be enhanced? What would be required to deepen the EMU? Do you think that the so-called "virtuous triangle" of investment, structural reforms and public finance should also include steps forward to readdress the imbalances caused by the different taxation systems of the Member States?
24. What is your view on the ongoing debate on the persistent high levels of public and private debt in the euro area?
25. What are your views on the criticism that the ECB's collateral framework is not gradual enough and relies too much on external credit ratings agencies? Do you think the EU should set up its own public CRA for rating certain assets?
26. Do you think, Greek bonds should and could be included in the reinvestment phase of PSPP and CSPP?
27. How do you assess the recent evolution of the USD/EUR exchange rate?
28. How do you assess the achievements of the G20? What are your views on the current level of coordination between the main central banks?
29. Should the ECB take concrete steps in order to boost the euro as an international currency?
30. How realistic do you believe that JPY or CHR will challenge the euro as the second most important international currency?
31. What are the main risks/opportunities ahead for the euro?
32. Should the ECB worry about the risk of a potential "currency war" with the US? Should the ECB consider adopting a more explicit communication policy concerning the euro exchange rate policy?
33. Should the ECB in your personal view buy more EIB bonds to help financing European investments in line with the ECB primary and secondary objectives?
34. Do you think that new Member States entrants should fulfil additional conditions before becoming new members of the Eurozone such as joining the Banking Union via the SSM, controlling money laundering risks effectively, demonstrate comparably stable property markets, controlling corruption effectively?

35. The Federal Reserve and the Bank of Canada have recently announced a review of their monetary policy framework. Twenty years after the introduction of the euro, do you think the time has come for conducting a similar review at the ECB?

36. Which role do you see for cash-based transactions compared to digital transactions in the future?

37. How do you see the limitation of certain high denominations notes?

### **C. Financial Stability and Supervision**

38. How can we address the legacy from the crisis of high levels of the stock of non-performing loans as well as the risks in the flow of non-performing loans? How do you assess the problem of non-performing loans in the balance sheets of medium and small credit institutions? Which measures should the ECB/the SSM take to ensure that all Eurozone banks and not only the biggest ones appropriately provision bad loans?

39. How do you assess the high level of level 2 and level 3 assets in many banks balance sheets? Are these assets properly taken into account by the current supervisory framework?

40. What are your views on the regulation of shadow banking entities? Should the SSM be mandated to supervise shadow banking? Do you see the regulatory and supervisory loopholes we should address in the short term? What should be the role of the SSM as regards Fintech?

41. What are your views on the possible steps towards the completion of the banking Union with a European Deposit Guarantee Scheme and a fiscal backstop, including the necessary implementation of existing Banking Union legislation and the ongoing work with regard to risk sharing and risk reduction?

42. What risks related to leveraged loans do you see for financial stability?

43. Which challenges would you foresee for the ECB if the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) were to be transformed into a European Monetary Fund (EMF)?

44. What is your assessment of the involvement of the ECB in the context of financial assistance programmes? How do you see evolving in future a potential ECB involvement in financial assistance programmes and in post-programme surveillance?

45. What are your views on the need to ensure a strict separation between monetary policy and banking supervision and what are in your view the reforms that would enhance and favour such separation?

46. How could the SSM and the SRB enhance their cooperation?

47. What is your view on the current institutional set-up of the ESRB under the roof of the ECB with regard to its concrete achievements in macro-prudential oversight?

48. What are your views regarding the structural reform of the banking sector as regards 'too big or interconnected to fail' institutions, saving banks, the overall issue of the profitability of the banking sector in the EU, and the way forward for its architecture in order to fulfil the needs of the real economy and long term financing?

49. How could money laundering and terrorist financing be addressed more effectively across the Banking Union? Which role should the ECB/the SSM play in this?

50. In a recent case involving Malta's Pilatus Bank, the ECB faced legal hurdles to revoke the lender's licence after its chairman was arrested in March in the United States for alleged money laundering and bank fraud. This delay was allegedly caused by unclear rules and excessive discretionary powers for national supervisors. How do you assess the ECB's capacity to prevent money laundering and act effectively in situations like this in the future based on its current prudential powers?

51. Following recent scandals in the EU, how do you think that money laundering risks will be taken into consideration when the ECB assesses banks financial stability? Do you agree with the need to centralise AML supervision in the EU in a single agency and, in the meantime, to allow competent authorities to use taxation data for AML purposes?

52. Compared to the euro area, the US enjoy a more integrated financial sector, which is instrumental to smooth out the effect of adverse shocks (resilience). Yet, the Global Financial Crisis has shown the resilient-yet-fragile nature of financial networks: the same features that make the system more resilient

under certain conditions may function as significant sources of systemic risk and instability under another. Is deeper financial integration always consistent with the objective of financial stability? What should be the goals of the CMU?

#### **D. Functioning of the ECB and Democratic Accountability and Transparency**

53. What will be your personal approach of the social dialogue at the ECB?

54. The EP plays a major role in the accountability of the ECB. What conclusions do you draw from the comparison with other jurisdictions? (e.g. US Congress/Fed vs EP/ECB vs UK Parliament/Bank of England)

55. What measures and future reforms would in your view reinforce the democratic accountability of the ECB towards the European Parliament?

56. What could the ECB concretely do to have female candidates for ECB top positions in the future and enhance overall gender diversity in the ECB? How do you personally intend to improve gender balance within the ECB?

57. How do you see possible improvements for the ECB's accountability vis-à-vis the ECA in terms of its operational efficiency?

58. What do you think about the fact that the Council in the past once ignored the opinion of the EP regarding the appointment of a board member?

59. Will you accept your appointment to the ECB Executive Board if the EP were to vote against it?

60. How do you assess the membership of ECB President Mario Draghi in the Group of Thirty (G30)? Do you concur with the EU Ombudsman request that the ECB President should end his membership of the G30 to preserve the integrity of European institutions as a whole?

## ANNEX IV - SUPERVISORY BOARD CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR: PAST APPOINTMENTS

**Danièle Nouy**, Chair (3 January 2014 - 31 December 2018)

		Date	Vote*		
ECON	<a href="#">Public hearing</a>	27 November 2013	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstentions</b>
	<a href="#">Report</a>	6 December 2013	29	0	1
Plenary	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	11 December 2013	555	50	52

\*For ECON vote see Report, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

Questionnaire (see answers in [ECON report](#)):

### A. Personal and professional background

1. Please highlight the main aspects of your professional experience in financial supervision.
2. Please highlight the main aspects of your European and international professional experience.
3. What are the most important decisions to which you have been party in your professional life?
4. Do you have any business or financial holdings or any other commitments which might conflict with your prospective duties, and are there any other relevant personal or other factors that need to be taken account of by the Parliament when considering your nomination?

### B. Financial supervision

5. What would be the guiding objectives you will pursue during your five-year mandate as Chair of the Supervisory Board?
6. How can the competitive disturbances that have developed following the crisis and rescue measures taken by the governments and central banks of the Member States be eliminated?
7. How can financial institutions be forced/ incentivised to reduce their risk appetite?
8. What do you think of the financial supervisory draft legislative proposals currently debated in the European Parliament and the Council on the Banking Union and the single rulebook, namely the Single Resolution Mechanism, the Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive (BRRD), and the revision of the Deposit Guarantee Schemes Directive?
9. In particular, what are your views about the introduction of the bail-in provisions in the BRRD?
10. What are your views about the proposal for a Single Resolution Mechanism, in particular in terms of scope, decision-making structure, composition and voting modalities of the Single Resolution Board, establishment and financing of a Single Resolution Fund, establishment of a backstop for the Fund, trigger for resolution?
11. What do you see as the most pressing issues in financial services legislation which remain to be completed?
12. What would you recommend to strengthen the links between macro and micro supervision?

### C. Setting up and institutional architecture of the SSM

13. How will you ensure that monetary and supervisory policies are strictly separated, in particular in terms of staff, reporting lines and career paths in the ECB? What concrete measures will you take in this regard?
14. How would you ensure that the planned asset quality review covers the whole part of the banking system under the supervisory responsibility of the SSM and not only the 130 institutions cited in the note regarding the comprehensive assessment? What arrangements, including the framework as foreseen in Article 6 of the ECB regulation, could be made to guarantee the coherence with the exercises carried out by the EBA and other supervisory authorities in the EU?
15. In the absence of common backstop mechanisms and in order to ensure a smooth transition to a full-fledged Banking Union, do you have any views regarding the measures to be taken in the case that potential needs for capital arise from the asset quality review?

16. Would you consider that the taking up of the supervisory tasks by the ECB could be delayed depending on the outcome of the asset quality review?

17. How do you see the relation and balance of powers with national supervisors? In particular, how will you ensure full access to information that is collected at national level, both when dealing with banks directly supervised by the ECB and when overseeing supervision carried out by the national authorities?

18. How do you see the role of the EBA in the SSM architecture? How will you ensure good cooperation with them?

19. How do you see the cooperation between the EBA and the ECB in international fora?

20. How do you see the relation with non-participating Member States and their involvement in the process?

21. What do you see as the most important risks and challenges facing the SSM?

#### **D. Democratic accountability and transparency of the SSM**

22. How do you see the European Parliament (EP) oversight over the ECB acting as supervisor?

23. How do you intend to implement the Interinstitutional agreement concluded between the ECB and the EP? In particular, what do you think about the regular hearings, including with ECB senior staff, the confidential meetings, the information about the meetings of the supervisory board, and the cooperation in case of investigations?

**Sabine Lautenschläger, Vice-Chair (12 February 2014 - 11 February 2019)**

		Date	Vote*		
ECON	<a href="#">Public hearing</a>	3 February 2014	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	Abstentions
	<a href="#">Report</a>	3 February 2014	19	0	0
Plenary	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	5 February 2014	521	57	70

\*For ECON vote see Report, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

**Questionnaire (see answers in [ECON report](#)):****A. Personal and professional background**

1. Please highlight the main aspects of your professional experience in financial supervision.
2. Please highlight the main aspects of your European and international professional experience.
3. What are the most important decisions to which you have been part in your professional life?
4. Do you have any business or financial holdings or any other commitments which might conflict with your prospective duties, and are there any other relevant personal or other factors that need to be taken account of by the Parliament when considering your nomination?

**B. Financial supervision**

5. What would be the guiding objectives you will pursue during your five-year mandate as Vice-Chair of the Supervisory Board? How do you see the relationship with the Chair of the Supervisory Board?
6. How will you manage to effectively distinguish between your role as member of the ECB Executive Board and your role as Vice- Chair of the Supervisory Board?
7. How can the competitive disturbances that have developed following the crisis and rescue measures taken by the governments and central banks of the Member States be eliminated?
8. How can financial institutions be forced/ incentivised to reduce their risk appetite?
9. What do you think of the financial supervisory draft legislative proposals currently debated in the European Parliament and the Council on the banking union and the single rulebook, namely the Single Resolution Mechanism, the Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive (BRRD), and the revision of the Deposit Guarantee Schemes Directive?
10. In particular, what are your views about the introduction of the bail-in provisions in the BRRD?
11. What are your views about the proposal for a Single Resolution Mechanism, in particular in terms of scope, decision- making structure, composition and voting modalities of the Single Resolution Board, establishment and financing of a Single Resolution Fund, establishment of a backstop for the Fund, trigger for resolution?
12. What do you see as the most pressing issues in financial services legislation which remain to be completed?
13. What would you recommend to strengthen the links between macro and micro supervision?

**C. Setting up and institutional architecture of the SSM**

14. How will you ensure that monetary and supervisory policies are strictly separated, in particular in terms of staff, reporting lines and career paths in the ECB? What concrete measures will you take in this regard?
15. How do you want to strengthen the policies of the ECB to avoid potential conflicts of interest between the ECB as a supervisor and the supervised banks? Which measures do you support in order to make less likely that revolving doors between ECB supervisors and the respective private sector occur?
16. How would you ensure that the planned asset quality review covers the whole part of the banking system under the supervisory responsibility of the SSM and not only the 130 institutions cited in the note regarding the comprehensive assessment? What arrangements, including the framework as foreseen in Article 6 of the ECB regulation, could be made to guarantee the coherence with the exercises carried out by the EBA and other supervisory authorities in the EU?

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21. How do you see the cooperation between the EBA and the ECB in international fora?

22. How do you see the relation with non-participating Member States and their involvement in the process?

23. What do you see as the most important risks and challenges facing the SSM?

#### **D. Democratic accountability and transparency of the SSM**

24. How do you see the European Parliament (EP) oversight over the ECB acting as supervisor?

25. How do you intend to implement the Interinstitutional agreement concluded between the ECB and the EP? In particular, what do you think about the regular hearings, including with ECB senior staff, the confidential meetings, the information about the meetings of the supervisory board, and the cooperation in case of investigations?

26. Can you confirm that you, as Vice-Chair of the Supervisory Board, will do your utmost to ensure that the Supervisory Board does answer completely and accurately each question addressed to it?

**Andrea Enria, Chair (1 January 2019 - 31 December 2023)**

		<b>Date</b>	<b>Vote*</b>		
ECON	<a href="#">Public hearing</a>	20 November 2018	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstentions</b>
	<a href="#">Report</a>	23 November 2018	42	1	9
Plenary	<a href="#">Resolution</a>	29 November 2018	476	47	106

\*For ECON vote see Report, for plenary vote see [minutes of the plenary](#).

Questionnaire not used/not available.

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The European Parliament plays an important role in the appointment processes of two European Central Bank bodies: the Executive Board and the Supervisory Board (Chair and Vice-Chair). This paper aims to: a) provide an overview of the relevant procedural provisions, b) present a selection of past appointments; and c) describe the evolving role of the European Parliament in those procedures.

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