Question for written answer Z-000026/2023
to the European Central Bank
Rule 140
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Subject: Unsatisfactory answer to question for written answer (Z-005/2023) on independence of governing bodies of national central banks

In our question QZ-005/23 we enquired whether the ECB considered the appointment to the Governing Council of the Banco de España of the former Head of Cabinet of the Minister of Economic Affairs Ms Judith Arnal and the forced resignation of Professor Antonio Cabrales from the same body compatible with the principle of independence which must govern the exercise of duties of national central banks (article 130 TFEU).

In her answer, president Lagarde fails to answer the question, indicating instead that no specific provisions on the NCBs governing bodies’ members are contained in the EU Law, for which Member States can set and apply their own rules as long as they are compatible with the Treaties and the Protocol on the Statute of the European System of Central Banks.

In light of the above, given that the principle of independence is provided for in the TFEU and must therefore be upheld by Member States in relation to their NCBs governing bodies, does the ECB consider the rules (and their interpretation) that allowed for Ms Arnal’s appointment and Mr Cabrales’ forced resignation compatible with the principle of independence?