



Brussels, 11 March 2019  
(OR. en)

7326/19

PE-L 12  
INST 71  
UEM 97

#### 'I' ITEM NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee

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Subject: Reply to the European Parliament regarding the principle of gender  
balance in the appointments to EU financial institutions  
- approval of a letter

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1. By letter dated 5 March 2019, the President of the European Parliament, Mr Antonio TAJANI, informed the Council that a perceived lack of respect for the principle of gender balance in the drawing-up of shortlists for selections procedures leading to appointments of key staff in EU financial institutions was brought to the attention of the Conference of Presidents.<sup>1</sup>
2. Currently there are three ongoing EU-level appointment procedures in the financial and banking sector which the EP is expected to vote on at its plenary session on 14 March:
  - i) member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank
  - ii) Chairperson of the European Banking Authority
  - iii) new member of the Single Resolution Board.
3. Members of the Executive Board of the ECB, including the Vice-President and the President, are appointed by the European Council, on the recommendation from the Council, after having consulted the EP and the ECB (Art. 283(2) TFEU). The Council recommended Mr

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<sup>1</sup> 7358/19.

Philip Lane, the governor of the Bank of Ireland, on 12 February 2019. The EP's ECON committee gave its support to the candidate on 1 March 2019.

4. The Council does not have a role in the appointments to the European Banking Authority. It is also not involved in the selection procedure for members of the Single Resolution Board: the Commission provides the EP with a shortlist of candidates, the EP organises in camera hearings with the candidates, and asks written questions. Commission then proposes the candidate to the EP, who either approves the candidate, or not. The Council formally adopts the implementing decision.
5. The Council attaches considerable importance to the issue of gender balance in the decision-making in the economic field. In its conclusions of 7 December 2015<sup>2</sup>, the Council addressed this specific issue and, *inter alia*, called on the Member States and the Commission to adopt, maintain and enhance targeted measures to increase the representation of women in decision-making in the political and economic sphere.
6. In view of the above, it is suggested that the Permanent Representatives Committee approve the reply letter to the European Parliament, as set out in the Annex, in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure (Article 19(7)(k)).

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<sup>2</sup> 14327/15.

Draft reply

From: Council of the European Union

To: President of the European Parliament

Dear President Tajani,

Thank you for your letter of 5 March on the subject of the respect of the principle of gender balance in the appointments to EU financial institutions.

The issue of gender balance is one to which the Council attaches significant importance. In its conclusions of 7 December 2015<sup>1</sup>, the Council addressed this specific issue and called on the Member States and the European Commission to promote a balanced representation of women and men in the political sphere, including in the decision-making in the economic field. The issue of gender diversity among the candidates is an important matter which Member States should consider when putting forward their candidates, and the Council specifically drew their attention to it in the aforementioned conclusions.

In the course of the procedure to appoint a member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank to replace Mr Praet, no female candidates were put forward. Of course, gender balance will remain an aspect of similar future appointments, including in the upcoming appointment procedure for the President of the ECB, as well as for another member of the Executive Board of the ECB, in line with the previously mentioned Council conclusions.

With regards to appointments to the Single Supervisory Board and the Single Resolution Board, the Council's capacity to deal with gender balance issues is limited by the fact that the Council has no role in drawing up a list of eligible candidates. With regards to appointments to the European Banking Authority, the Council has no role in the procedure.

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<sup>1</sup> 14327/15.

The Council values the role of the European Parliament in the appointment procedures and is looking forward to future cooperation in this area, while fully respecting the provisions of the Treaty.

(Complimentary close)

Luminița Teodora ODOBESCU  
Chair of the  
Permanent Representatives Committee

CC: President of the European Council

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