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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Letter by the Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

Delegations will find attached a letter dated 26 September 2019 from Ms Irene TINAGLI, Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, addressed to Mr Mika LINTILÄ, President of the ECOFIN Council. This document replaces and repeals document WK 11096/2019.

IM 010208 2019
27.09.2019



Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs
The Chair

Mr Mika Lintilä
President of the ECOFIN
Rue de la Loi 175
B-1048 Bruxelles

D 312481 26.09.2019

Subject: ECB Executive Board Member Benoît Coeuré: term of office

Dear President,

As the term of office of ECB Executive Board Member Benoît Coeuré will end on 31 December 2019, the Eurogroup President on 13 September 2019 issued the call for candidates for the forthcoming vacancy on the ECB Executive Board. I would like to recall that over the past number of years the European Parliament has taken a strong stance on the issue of gender balance. Furthermore, it has requested, on a number of occasions, to be provided with shortlists of candidates for a number of ECB Executive Board positions. When shortlists were provided - most recently in the context of the appointment of the successor to Vice-President Vítor Constâncio - the individuals were invited to and indeed attended informal *in camera* exchanges of views with ECON Members ahead of the Council's recommendation on a candidate.

In this regard, I wish to draw your attention to the European Parliament decision of 14 March 2019 on the Council recommendation on the appointment of a Member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank¹, which states: "*whereas notwithstanding the numerous requests made by the European Parliament to the Council to readdress the lack of gender balance within the ECB Executive Board, the Parliament deplores that the European Council has not taken this request seriously and demands that this request is respected for the next nomination; whereas women continue to be underrepresented in executive positions in the field of banking and financial services; whereas all EU and national institutions and bodies should implement concrete measures to ensure gender balance*".

In the same context, I also refer to the letter of the President of the European Parliament to the President of the European Council of 23 March 2018 in which he expressed dissatisfaction regarding the nomination procedure for previous positions on the Board of the ECB and called for improved procedures for future appointments.

¹ Texts adopted, P8_TA-PROV(2019)0213 – 2019/0801(NLE).

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D(2019)32913

At a recent meeting the ECON Coordinators decided that they wish to undertake similar informal *in camera* exchanges with shortlisted candidates related to the forthcoming vacancy on the ECB Executive Board. In this regard, I kindly ask you to inform me in good time of the gender-balanced shortlist of at least two candidates.

Yours sincerely,



Irene Tinagli

Annex: Letter from President Tajani to President Tusk of 23 March 2018

cc: Donald Tusk, President of the European Council
Mario Centeno, President of the Eurogroup
Mario Draghi, President of the European Central Bank

Il Presidente

M. Donald Tusk
President of the European Council
Rue de la Loi 175
B-1048 Bruxelles

D 304962 23.03.2018

Dear President Tusk, *Dear Donald,*

I refer to your letter of 23 February 2018 consulting the European Parliament, as required by Article 283 TFEU, on the recommendation of the Council on the appointment of Mr Luis de Guindos as Vice-President of the European Central Bank (ECB), and to the ECON Chair's letters of 30 November 2017 and 8 March 2018 to the Eurogroup President.

I can confirm that, during the plenary of 14 March, the Parliament approved the appointment of Mr Luis de Guindos with 331 votes in favour, 306 votes against and 64 abstentions.

Following this vote, a number of political groups expressed dissatisfaction regarding the nomination procedure for positions on the Board of the ECB, especially in the following aspects:

- insufficient time allotted to the informal and the formal consultation of the Parliament;
- absence of a short-list, appropriately gender balanced, of at least three candidates;
- lack of transparency of the selection process;
- need to increase the competitiveness of the selection process in full alignment with the requirements stipulated in the Treaty;
- lack of consideration of the informal and formal opinion of the European Parliament.

Also the Conference of Presidents at its meeting on 15 March 2018 expressed its support to enhance Parliament's role and prerogatives in relation to selection and appointment procedures in the ECB.

Given the importance that the Parliament attaches to all the issues mentioned above and the public awareness of the need to increase the democratic legitimacy of this appointment process, I urge you to foster dialogue between the Council and ECON, the competent Committee for ECB related matters, so as to improve the process for upcoming appointments.

I trust your commitment to reach an agreement satisfactory to all parties.

Yours sincerely,



Antonio TAJANI

cc: Mr Draghi, President of the European Central Bank
Mr Goranov, Minister of Finance of Bulgaria
Mr Centeno, President of the Eurogroup