



Brussels, 9 September 2021
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UEM 257

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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| From: | General Secretariat of the Council |
| To: | Permanent Representatives Committee (part 2) / Council |
| Subject: | COUNCIL DECISION amending decision 1999/70/EC concerning the external auditors of the national central banks, as regards the external auditors of the Banco de España |

1. Pursuant to Article 27.1 of the Statute of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) and the European Central Bank (ECB), the accounts of the ECB and national central banks of the Member States whose currency is the euro are to be audited by independent external auditors recommended by the Governing Council of the ECB and approved by the Council of the European Union.
2. In 2018, the Banco de España selected Mazars Auditores, S.L.P. - Mazars, S.A. as its external auditors for the financial years 2018 to 2020, with an option to extend the mandate to the financial years 2021 to 2022.
3. The Banco de España intends to extend the mandate of Mazars Auditores, S.L.P. - Mazars, S.A. to the financial years 2021 and 2022 as contemplated by Recommendation ECB/2018/22 and the recitals to Council Decision (EU) 2018/1518¹.

¹ Council Decision (EU) 2018/1518 of 9 October 2018 amending Decision 1999/70/EC concerning the external auditors of the national central banks, as regards the external auditors of Banco de España (OJ L 256, 12.10.2018, p. 63).

4. On 16 July 2021, the ECB Governing Council recommended that the mandate is extended and that the Mazars Auditores, S.L.P. - Mazars, S.A. be appointed as the external auditors of the Banco de España for the financial years 2021 and 2022.
 5. The Permanent Representatives Committee could therefore invite the Council to adopt, as an 'A' item at one of its forthcoming meetings, the relevant Decision as finalised by the lawyer-linguists in document ST 11421/21.
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