



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

Mario DRAGHI

President

Mr Brian Hayes
Member of the European Parliament
European Parliament
60, rue Wiertz
B-1047 Brussels

Frankfurt am Main, 30 September 2014

L/MD/14/389

Re: Your letter

Dear Mr Hayes,

Thank you for your letter, which was passed on to me by Mr Roberto Gualtieri, Chairman of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, accompanied by a cover letter dated 10 September 2014.

Regarding your question on how the ECB plans to implement the system of rotating voting rights once Lithuania joins the euro area on 1 January 2015, the rules for such implementation are clearly established in the Statute of the ESCB and of the ECB and in the Rules of Procedure of the ECB. These foresee the allocation of NCB governors initially to two groups, on the basis of an indicator capturing the economic and financial importance of the various euro area countries. As of January 2015, and in a constellation where the euro area comprises 19 Member States, the allocation of governors to the different groups does not, in fact, make a great difference: despite the different size of the groups, governors in the first group will hold the voting right for four months out of five (with a voting frequency of 80%), whereas, in the second group, the voting frequency is initially only marginally lower (with a voting frequency of 79%).

Let me also recall that the Statute contains an explicit clause which allows for a postponement of the implementation of the rotation system until the date on which the number of governors exceeds 18. While this clause has been used to postpone the start of the system until the number of governors reaches 19, a further postponement is legally not possible.

Regarding your question on how the system will ensure that all voices are heard and the views of all the governors of the euro area are taken into account in the Governing Council, let me emphasise, as I have already done on various occasions, that all governors, regardless of whether or not they hold voting rights, will attend the Governing Council meetings and participate in the discussions. I therefore do not expect any major change in the way the Governing Council conducts its deliberations, allowing all arguments to be heard.

Finally, let me reassure you that the implementation of the system will be completely transparent. More information on the operation of the system and, in particular, on which particular governor has the voting right at which meeting, is accessible to the general public on the ECB's website (see <http://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/orga/decisions/govc/html/votingrights.en.html>).

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Mario Draghi