



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK
EUROSYSTEM

DIRECTORATE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

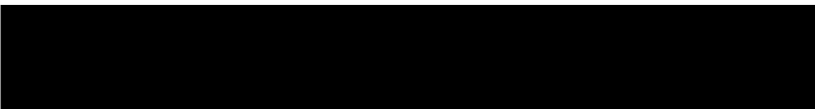
ECB-UNRESTRICTED



23 May 2022

Reference: LS/PS/2022/26

Request for public access to ECB documents



On 9 April 2022 the European Central Bank (ECB) received your application for access to “*All documents and communications (e.g. emails, letters, memos) pertaining to Isabel Schnabel’s appointment to the Executive Board of the ECB*”.

On 13 May 2022, in line with Article 7(3) of Decision ECB/2004/3 on public access to ECB documents¹ and owing to an increased workload, the ECB extended the stipulated time limit for reply by 20 working days.

1. Background information

In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 283(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union² and Article 11.2 of Protocol (No 4) on the Statute of the European System of Central Banks and of the European Central Bank (the Statute of the ESCB)³, “*the President, the Vice-President and the other members of the Executive Board shall be appointed by the European Council, acting by a qualified majority, from among persons of recognised standing and professional experience in monetary or banking matters, on a recommendation from the Council after it has consulted the European Parliament and the Governing Council*”.

¹ Decision ECB/2004/3 of 4 March 2004 on public access to European Central Bank documents (OJ L 80, 18.3.2004, p. 42)

² Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union 2012/C 326/01 (OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 47–390)

³ Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union Protocol (No 4) on the Statute of the European System of Central Banks and of the European Central Bank (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 230–250)

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It may be useful to recap the chronology of events:

- On 9 October 2019, the European Council asked euro area member states to put forward candidates to succeed ECB Executive Board member Sabine Lautenschläger⁴. By the deadline, Isabel Schnabel was put forward by Germany as the only candidate.
- On 7 November 2019, the Eurogroup gave its support to the candidacy of Isabel Schnabel to become the new member of the ECB's Executive Board⁵.
- On 8 November 2019, the Council of the European Union issued a formal recommendation on the appointment of Isabel Schnabel as member of the Executive Board of the ECB⁶ and requested the European Parliament and the ECB to deliver their opinions on this recommendation.
- On 27 November 2019, the ECB's Governing Council considered the Council's recommendation, which included the curriculum vitae⁷ of Ms Schnabel, and adopted its opinion on 11 December 2019⁸ that the proposed candidate is a person of recognised standing and professional experience in monetary or banking matters as required by Article 283(2) of the Treaty, therefore having no objection to the appointment of Isabel Schnabel as a member of the ECB's Executive Board.
- Following the public hearing of the European Parliament's Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee on 3 December 2019⁹, the European Parliament voted in plenary on 16 December 2019, delivering a favourable opinion on the Council recommendation to appoint Isabel Schnabel as member of the ECB's Executive Board.
- As the last step in the procedure¹⁰, the European Council appointed Isabel Schnabel to be member of the ECB's Executive Board for a term of office of eight years with effect from 1 January 2020. The decision was taken by the European Council by written procedure.

2. Identification of the requested documents

After having carefully examined your request in line with Decision ECB/2004/3, the ECB has identified seven ECB documents of relevance to your application. A comprehensive list of those documents has been provided in the annex to this letter.

⁴ [Press release - Statement by the Eurogroup President on the candidates for the post of ECB executive board member](#)

⁵ [Press release – ECB executive board: Eurogroup gives support to Isabel Schnabel's candidacy](#)

⁶ [Council Recommendation of 8 November 2019 on the appointment of a member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank \(2019/C 385/01\)](#)

⁷ [Isabel Schnabel Curriculum Vitae](#)

⁸ [Opinion of the Governing Council of the European Central Bank of 11 December 2019 on a Council recommendation on the appointment of a member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank \(CON/2019/43\) 2019/C 425/02 \(OJ C 425, 18.12.2019, p. 2–2\)](#)

⁹ [Public hearing with Isabel Schnabel at the ECON Committee on 3 December 2019](#)

¹⁰ See [Infographic - Appointment of the ECB Executive Board](#) for further information

3. Assessment of disclosure

Following a thorough assessment in line with the requirements set out in Decision ECB/2004/3 and in consultation with the Council of the European Union, the ECB is granting full access to documents 1 to 7, since none of the exceptions listed in Article 4 of that Decision apply.

4. Final remarks

Please note that, in line with Article 10 of Decision ECB/2004/3, “Documents released in accordance with this Decision shall not be reproduced or exploited for commercial purposes without the ECB’s prior specific authorisation. The ECB may withhold such authorisation without stating reasons.”

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Petra Senkovic
Director General Secretariat

[signed]

Margarita-Louiza Karydi
Head of the Compliance and Governance Division

Encl.

Annex

Attachments

Annex: List of identified documents

	Description	Disclosure
1	Executive Board letter to the Governing Council, dated 27 November 2019, entitled “ECB Governing Council opinion on a Council Recommendation on the appointment of a member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank	full
2	Letter dated 14 November 2019 from the President of the European Council to the President of the European Central Bank (SGS 19/008152)	full
3	Council recommendation of 8 November 2019 on the appointment of a member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank (2019/C 385/01)	public
4	Curriculum vitae of Isabel Schnabel	public
5	Opinion of the Governing Council of the European Central Bank of 11 December 2019 on a Council recommendation on the appointment of a member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank (CON/2019/43)	public
6	Press release entitled “ECB adopts opinion on appointment of new Executive Board member”	public
7	Outcome of deliberations of the 498th meeting of the Governing Council of the European Central Bank held in Frankfurt am Main on Wednesday and Thursday, 11-12 December 2019	public