



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

– NEW ECB PREMISES – PRESENTATION TO THE CITY OF FRANKFURT’S COMMITTEE FOR PLANNING, BUILDING AND HOUSING ON AN INTERIM STATUS OF THE PLANNING PHASE

On Monday, 6 November 2006, representatives of the European Central Bank (ECB) presented the City of Frankfurt’s Committee for Planning, Building and Housing with an update on the current status of planning for the ECB’s new premises, focusing on the plans for the future appearance of the Großmarkthalle.

Thomas Rinderspacher, the ECB’s Project Manager, reaffirmed the ECB’s commitment to maintain the fundamental appearance of the Großmarkthalle, to renovate it and to revitalise it by assigning it new functions. Regular discussions have been held with the City of Frankfurt and the regional authority for the preservation of historic buildings since the planning phase started in March 2006, leading to the following interim conclusions regarding the facades of the Großmarkthalle:

The “cantilever” (= entrance building), which will form a distinctive entrance for the ECB’s new premises and house the press conference area, will cut through the Großmarkthalle’s western third as well as its north and south facades. The western third of the hall was destroyed in the Second World War and subsequently rebuilt without consideration for the original construction concept.

The structure of the north concrete grid facade will be kept and carefully renovated outside the area where the entrance building permeates the hall. The north wall of the one-storey front building will also be maintained. A steel-glass facade will replace the brick wall above the front building which cannot be preserved, due to the necessary renovation of the concrete of the hall’s main load-bearing elements. Thus, the new functions of the lower part of the hall (conference and visitor area) will receive sufficient daylight.

The concrete grid structure of the south facade will also be maintained as far as possible, except for parts of the western third where the entrance building and the restaurant area will protrude. A steel-glass facade will replace the base area, which was previously masked by the railway tracks and their roofing.

The facade of the west wing will be restored to its original state of 1928 and the existing clinker brick walls will be renovated. The paternoster or cyclic lift will be preserved and repaired, including the glass facade, which is vital for the elevation of the wing buildings.

The planned new offices in the east wing (the former cold storage building) will require the installation of additional new windows, similar to those in the facade of the west wing.

It is planned to remove the former residential buildings (the "annexe" buildings) as the ECB cannot use them because of their support structure. Furthermore, the preservation of the annexe buildings would mean that the concept of integrating the necessary security measures into the landscaping would become unsustainable.

In the continuing planning phase, the architects and planners of the ECB's new premises will continue to work closely with the City of Frankfurt and the preservation authority on the basis of the current status of planning. The aim is to start construction work by 2008. In parallel the City of Frankfurt is preparing a legally-binding land-use plan. Completion of the ECB's new premises is envisaged for the end of 2011.

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