



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK  
EUROSYSTEM

ECB-PUBLIC  
COURTESY TRANSLATION

Mario DRAGHI  
President

Mr Notis Marias  
Member of the European Parliament  
European Parliament  
60, rue Wiertz  
B-1047 Brussels

Frankfurt, 5 April 2016

L/MD/16/167

**Re: Your letter (QZ-024)**

Honourable Member of the European Parliament, dear Mr Marias,

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 March 2016.

A description of the Eurosystem's operational framework for monetary policy implementation, in particular the explanation of how central banks manage liquidity, can be found in the ECB's 2011 publication, *The monetary policy of the ECB*.<sup>1</sup> In short, any central bank can create money by crediting the current accounts of commercial banks that are held at the central bank. In an asset purchase programme, this is done in exchange for securities purchased by the central bank from commercial banks. This is exactly what the Eurosystem, including the Bank of Greece, is doing in the implementation of the public sector purchase programme. Regarding your request for more precise details on the specific operations conducted by the Bank of Greece, I refer to my earlier reply to you dated 17 February 2016.<sup>2</sup>

Yours sincerely,

---

<sup>1</sup> See in particular Chapter 4, "Monetary policy implementation". The document is available on the ECB's website at <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/pdf/other/monetarypolicy2011en.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> The letter is available on the ECB's website at [https://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/pdf/other/160217letter\\_marias.en.pdf](https://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/pdf/other/160217letter_marias.en.pdf)

**Address**

European Central Bank  
Sonnemannstrasse 20  
60314 Frankfurt am Main  
Germany

**Postal Address**

European Central Bank  
60640 Frankfurt am Main  
Germany

Tel. +49-69-1344-0  
Fax: +49-69-1344-7305  
Website: [www.ecb.europa.eu](http://www.ecb.europa.eu)

[signed]

Mario Draghi

**Address**

European Central Bank  
Sonnemannstrasse 20  
60314 Frankfurt am Main  
Germany

**Postal Address**

European Central Bank  
60640 Frankfurt am Main  
Germany

Tel. +49-69-1344-0

Fax: +49-69-1344-7305

Website: [www.ecb.europa.eu](http://www.ecb.europa.eu)