



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK
EUROSYSTEM

COURTESY TRANSLATION

Mario DRAGHI

President

Mr Nikolaos Chountis
Member of the European Parliament
European Parliament
60, rue Wiertz
B-1047 Brussels

Frankfurt, 28 January 2014

L/MD/14/53

Re: Your letter

Dear Mr Chountis,

Thank you for your letter, which was passed on to me by Ms Sharon Bowles, Chairwoman of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, accompanied by a cover letter dated 29 November 2013.

The holdings of Greek government bonds under the Agreement on Net Financial Assets (ANFA) in the investment portfolios of the euro area national central banks (NCBs) are managed by the NCBs themselves as part of their national tasks. Any investment operation that they carry out for the ANFA portfolios has to be in line with the objectives set out in national and European law. It is not for the ECB to intervene in these operations unless they interfere with the objectives and tasks of the European System of Central Banks.

When assessing in February 2012 the financing needs of Greece, the Eurogroup assumed a rollover of €5.6 billion of ANFA holdings. However, the Eurogroup acknowledged that the implementation of this option was uncertain, as it still needed to be independently assessed and decided by the euro area NCBs. The subsequent evaluation by the Eurosystem of the monetary financing concerns raised by the proposed option came to the clear conclusion that the reinvestment of proceeds from maturing ANFA portfolios by purchasing new bonds in the primary market would be incompatible with Article 123 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (monetary financing prohibition).

With regard to the implications for the programme's funding gap, please take note of the Eurogroup's statement of 21 February 2012, which mentions that the Eurogroup is committed to provide "adequate support to Greece during the life of the programme and beyond until it has regained market access, provided that Greece fully complies with the requirements and objectives of the adjustment programme".

Finally, please note that responsibility for financing the Greek programme lies with Member States.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Mario Draghi