



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

ECB-PUBLIC

Christine LAGARDE

President

Ms Clara Ponsatí Obiols  
Mr Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó  
Mr Antoni Comín i Oliveres  
Members of the European Parliament  
European Parliament  
60, rue Wiertz  
B-1047 Brussels

Frankfurt am Main, 5 May 2023

L/CL/23/103

**Re: Your letter (QZ-005)**

Honourable Members of the European Parliament, dear Ms Ponsatí Obiols, Mr Puigdemont i Casamajó and Mr Comín i Oliveres,

Thank you for your letter, which was passed on to me by Ms Irene Tinagli, Chair of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, accompanied by a cover letter dated 17 March 2023.

First, I would like to stress that EU law does not contain specific provisions on the appointment of members of the governing bodies of national central banks (NCBs). It is primarily the responsibility of Member States to adopt, interpret and apply their own rules regarding the governance of NCBs, including the rules on the appointment of members of NCBs' governing bodies. Such rules, as well as their interpretation and application, must be compatible with the Treaties and the Protocol on the Statute of the European System of Central Banks and of the European Central Bank (Statute of the ESCB).

Once elected or appointed, governors can resign in line with the applicable rules. However, they may not be relieved from office except in the cases explicitly mentioned in Article 14.2 of the Statute of the ESCB.<sup>1</sup> As an expression of the principle of independence, the rules on the security of tenure of governors and on the grounds for relieving them from office also apply to other members of the decision-making bodies of NCBs involved in

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<sup>1</sup> According to Article 14.2 of the Statute of the ESCB, a Governor may be relieved from office only if he or she no longer fulfils the conditions required for the performance of his or her duties or if he or she has been guilty of serious misconduct.

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the performance of ESCB-related tasks.<sup>2</sup> The European Central Bank is vigilant in ensuring that these principles are upheld.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Christine Lagarde

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<sup>2</sup> See Convergence Report, ECB, June 2022, pp. 24-25, available at:  
<https://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/pdf/conrep/ecb.cr202206~e0fe4e1874.en.pdf>.

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