



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK
EUROSYSTEM

ECB-PUBLIC
COURTESY TRANSLATION

Mario DRAGHI
President

Ms Dominique Bilde
Mr Steeve Briois
Ms Marine Le Pen
Ms Sophie Montel
Mr Florian Philippot
Members of the European Parliament
European Parliament
60, rue Wiertz
B-1047 Brussels
Belgium

Frankfurt, 8 September 2015
L/MD/15/519

Re: Your letter (QZ-124)

Honourable Members of the European Parliament,

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 20 July 2015.

I recently provided a detailed explanation of the construction and financing costs for the ECB's new premises in two letters to your colleague Mr Miguel Viegas, MEP dated 20 April and 8 May 2015.¹

I would also like to point out that in 2005, the ECB benefitted from an audit by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) with a focus on the operational efficiency of the management of the institution. That audit made a number of recommendations relating to the procurement of services in connection with the new ECB

¹ The two letters are available on the ECB's website at www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/pdf/other/150420letter_viegas.en.pdf and www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/pdf/other/150508letter_viegas.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

premises at an early stage of the project.² The ECA's recommendations were implemented without delay and then used in subsequent phases of the project, which accounted for the bulk of the procurement procedures.

All contracts relating to the ECB's new premises were awarded on the basis of a Europe-wide competition, and details of all contract awards were published in the Official Journal of the European Union.³

In 2011 the ECA began another audit of the new ECB premises project. However, on 14 October 2013 the ECA notified the ECB that it had decided to postpone the finalisation of that audit and informed the ECB that the audit work carried out thus far would be used at a later stage as input for a future audit relating to the ECB, once the new premises project had been completed. No ECA report on an audit of the new ECB premises project has ever found "*many problems in terms of costs and transparency in the awarding of contracts*" as you allege in your letter.

Finally, internal work is currently ongoing in the area of procurement in order to ensure the ECB's compliance with the Directive 2014/24/EU of 26 February 2014 on public procurement.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Mario Draghi

² The outcome of that audit and the ECB's comments on it are available on the ECB's website at: <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/pdf/orga/ecareport2005en.pdf>.

³ The ECB also publishes contract award notices on its website at www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/jobsproc/archive/html/index.en.html.

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