



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK  
EUROSYSTEM

Directorate General Secretariat

**ECB-UNRESTRICTED**

Mr Ranjan Kumaran

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11 December 2014

LS/PvdH/14/39

Dear Mr Kumaran,

**Request for public access to ECB documents**

On 13 October 2014 the European Central Bank (ECB) received your request for access to all *"notes, correspondence, minutes of meetings between Wim Duisenberg and Eddie George or Gordon Brown between June 1998 and June 1999"*.

On the same day the ECB received a second request which – upon invitation of the ECB – you further specified on 16 October 2014 as relating to access to dates of meetings, phone calls and written correspondence between Mr Duisenberg and Messrs Lafontaine, Trichet or Tietmeyer from September 1998 to June 1999.

Having thoroughly examined your requests, we should like to inform you that the ECB does not have any records of bilateral meetings between Mr Duisenberg and Messrs George or Brown nor of bilateral meetings between Mr Duisenberg and Messrs Lafontaine, Trichet or Tietmeyer during the periods you indicated. However, Mr Duisenberg and Mr George met during the regular meetings of the ECB's General Council as did Mr Duisenberg and Messrs Trichet and Tietmeyer during the regular meetings of the ECB's Governing Council. Please also note that the ECB does not have any notes or minutes of meetings between Mr Duisenberg and Messrs George or Brown or records of phone calls between Mr Duisenberg and Messrs Lafontaine, Trichet and Tietmeyer during the same period.


We have, however, identified bilateral correspondence (i.e. outside the regular decision-making process which involves all members of the Governing and General Councils) exchanged between Mr Duisenberg and Mr George as well as between Mr Duisenberg and Messrs Lafontaine, Trichet or Tietmeyer (see annex).

Having assessed the identified correspondence for possible disclosure, in line with the requirements of the Decision of the European Central Bank of 4 March 2004 on public access to European Central Bank

documents<sup>1</sup> (Decision ECB/2004/3), the ECB does not consider that any of the exceptions listed in Article 4 of the Decision applies and is therefore disclosing these documents to you (see attachments).

We would like to draw your attention to Article 10 of Decision ECB/2004/3, which states that "*documents released [...] shall not be reproduced or exploited for commercial purposes without the ECB's prior specific authorisation. The ECB may withhold such authorisation without stating reasons*".

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' and 'H' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Pierre van der Haegen  
Director General

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Schremser'.

Roman Schremser  
Senior Adviser

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 80, 18.3.2004, p. 42, as amended by Decision ECB/2011/6 of 9 May 2011, L 158, 16.6.2011, p. 37.