

DIRECTORATE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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1 June 2022
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Request for public access to ECB documents

Dear Mr Teffer,

On 6 May 2022 the European Central Bank (ECB) received your application for public access to *'[a]ll documents discussing the possible participation of the European Central Bank in an independent EU ethics body, including but not limited to all letters to the European Commission on this issue'*.

1. Identification of the requested documents

After having carefully examined your request in accordance with [Decision ECB/2004/3](#), the ECB has identified six ECB documents of relevance to your application, namely an internal memo to the Executive Board on "Establishment of an EU Ethics Body – consultation from the European Commission", including four annexes, and a letter dated 2 May 2022 from ECB President Lagarde to European Commission President von der Leyen confirming the ECB's interest in participating in the interinstitutional discussions on a possible future joint agreement to establish an independent EU ethics body. A comprehensive list of those documents is provided in the Annex to this letter.

2. Assessment of the requested documents for disclosure

Following a thorough assessment in accordance with the requirements set out in Decision ECB/2004/3, and in consultation with the European Commission, as applicable, we are pleased to inform you that the ECB has decided that access can be granted to all documents since none of the exceptions listed

in Article 4 of that Decision apply. In addition, document 2 is publicly available on the website of the European Parliament.

3. Protection of personal data

Where applicable, parts containing personal data of staff members of the ECB or of third parties (namely, names of staff members, signatures, handwritten salutations) have been redacted, together with any non-public information that would make the data subjects identifiable. Personal data are protected by Article 4.1(b) of Decision ECB/2004/3 in conjunction with Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council. Article 9(1)(b) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 stipulates that, for the transfer of personal data, the recipient must establish a necessity to have personal data transmitted for a specific purpose in the public interest. Since you have not established such a necessity, access to personal data in the documents must be refused on the basis of Article 4(1)(b) of Decision ECB/2004/3.

4. Final remarks

The documents are now available in the ECB's [Public Register of Documents](#) (see links in the Annex).

For the sake of good order, we would like to inform you that, in line with Article 10 of Decision ECB/2004/3, "Documents released in accordance with this Decision 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,

[signed]

Petra Senkovic
Director General Secretariat

[signed]

Margarita-Louiza Karydi
Head of the Compliance and Governance Division

Annex



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

ANNEX

ECB-UNRESTRICTED

Number	<u>Description of ECB document</u>	Disclosure * subject to redaction of personal data
1	ECB staff memo dated 4 April 2022 to the Executive Board on “Establishment of an EU Ethics Body – consultation from the European Commission”	Yes* link
2	Annex 1 - European Parliament Resolution of 16 September 2021 on strengthening transparency and integrity in the EU institutions by setting up an independent EU ethics body (2020/2133(INI))	published
3	Annex 2 - Note of the European Commission: Follow-up to the European Parliament non-legislative resolution on strengthening transparency and integrity in the EU institutions by setting up an independent EU ethics body	Yes link
4	Annex 3 - Consultation letter dated 18 March 2022 from President von der Leyen to President Lagarde, on participation in interinstitutional discussions on a possible future joint agreement to establish an ethics body common to all EU institutions, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions	Yes* link
5	Annex 4 - Summary of main European Parliament and European Commission views	Yes link
6	Letter dated 2 May 2022 from President Lagarde to President von der Leyen, confirming the ECB’s interest in participating in the interinstitutional discussions on a possible future joint agreement to establish an ethics body common to all EU institutions, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions.	Yes link