



Legal Affairs



18 October 2016

**Confidential**  
Limited distribution

1 (2)

**ECB-PUBLIC AS OF  
JUNE 2018**

ECB-RESTRICTED  
Openness Act 24.2

Chiara Zilioli  
European Central Bank  
Legal Services

### **Questionnaire on assigning powers to the NCB to assess competition and issue directions to lenders with regard to interest rates**

Please find below our answers to questions regarding powers of the NCBs to assess competition and issue directions to lenders with regard to interest rates.

*1. Has your central bank been assigned with tasks relating to the **protection of competition**? Has it been assigned similar powers to regularly assess the state of competition? Please describe briefly the scope of those tasks, also referring to the legal basis.*

No.

*2. Has your central bank been assigned with powers to **regulate** the **interest rates charged** by banks in respect of loans and/or the **savings remuneration offered** by banks in respect of deposits; and/or the application of **usury laws** in your respective jurisdictions? Please describe briefly the scope of those powers, also referring to the legal basis.*

No.

*3. Has another public authority, such as the national competition or consumer protection authority, been conferred with such tasks as assess competition, or to regulate interest rates on loans or deposit rates offered by financial institutions? How do these authorities interact with the central bank and/or the prudential supervisor in carrying out such tasks? Please describe briefly the scope of those powers, also referring to the legal basis.*



Legal Affairs

2 (2)

18 October 2016

**Confidential**  
Limited distribution

ECB-RESTRICTED  
Openness Act 24.2

Yes, there are public authorities that are responsible for competition and consumer protection issues.

The Finnish Competition and Consumer Authority (FCCA) is tasked with ensuring good market performance. The Competition Division removes barriers to competition, ensuring that consumers are offered competitive alternatives. The Consumer Division, on the other hand, ensures that consumers have access to sufficient, accurate, and truthful information for making choices, and that the practices companies use in marketing and their customer relations are appropriate and the contract terms applied by them are reasonable.

Director General of consumer affairs of the Finnish Competition and Consumer Authority, is the current Consumer Ombudsman. The most essential responsibility of the Consumer Ombudsman is to supervise that the Consumer Protection Act and other laws passed to protect consumers are observed. Particular attention is paid to ensuring that marketing activities, contractual terms, and collection activities conform to the laws. The goal of the supervisory activities is to have the company cease or alter its marketing activities or unreasonable contractual terms so that they conform to current legislation.

Consumer Protection Act (38/1978) defines the rules relating to consumer credits that have to be obeyed by entrepreneurs (including banks) when giving credits to consumers. The authorities that supervise the compliance with the rules on consumer credits are the Finnish Competition and Consumer Authority, the Consumer Ombudsman and the Financial Supervisory Authority (FIN-FSA) (chapter 7, 51 §). The FIN-FSA is responsible to supervise in this respect those entities that are already supervised by it.

Kind regards,

Distribution

LEGCO