

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs
The Chair

Mr Mário Centeno
President of the Eurogroup
Rue de la Loi 175
1048 Brussels
Belgium

Dear Mr Centeno,

I refer to both the letter of 23 February of European Council President Tusk to Antonio Tajani, President of the European Parliament, with which the European Parliament is consulted on the recommendation of the Council on the appointment of Luis De Guindos as Vice-President of the European Central Bank as well as to my letter of 30 November to the President of the Eurogroup. Ahead of the official hearing, as you know, I issued on the 14 of February a press statement following the unofficial hearings we held with the two declared candidates. I wish to confirm that the ECON Committee held an exchange of views with the candidate on 26 February and this was followed on 27 February by a vote in Committee on the appointment, which resulted in 27 votes in favour, 14 against and 13 abstentions.

Following the exchange of views and prior to the vote a meeting of ECON Coordinators was held. Several political groups expressed concerns regarding various aspects of the process related to the appointment of Members of the Executive Board of the ECB, e.g. the selection procedure, the timeline of the process, the political independence of nominees and the consideration of gender balance.

Given the importance ECON attaches to all of the issues mentioned above I must emphasise that in particular with a view to future appointments to other positions, significantly greater cooperation will be expected of Council by ECON Members ahead of the plenary vote concerning the appointment of the ECB Vice-President. In their report voted on 27 February, ECON Members requested that the Council engage in a dialogue with the Parliament as regards how to improve the process for the upcoming appointments. Therefore, we look forward to your commitment in particular in the following areas, ahead of the March plenary:

1. Coordinated definition of a timeline of the various steps linked to future appointments in order to ensure sufficient time for the formal and the informal consultation of the EP
2. Presentation to the European Parliament of a shortlist, appropriately gender-balanced, and comprising of at least three candidates
3. Joint efforts to enhance the transparency of the selection process
4. Joint efforts to increase the competitiveness of the selection process in full alignment with the requirements stipulated in the Treaty

5. Joint effort in order to ensure a balanced composition of the shortlists of candidates as well as overall gender representation in the ECB

6. Careful and thorough consideration of the informal and formal opinion of the European Parliament, and explanation of the outcome of the selection process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roberto Gualtieri', with a stylized, cursive script.

Roberto Gualtieri

CC: Donald Tusk, President of the European Council