

22 February 2013

## **DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE ECB (IN ADDITION TO DECISIONS SETTING INTEREST RATES)**

February 2013

### **Market Operations**

*Eurosystem's response to public consultations on the regulation of financial benchmarks*

On 4 February 2013 the Governing Council approved the Eurosystem's responses to the EBA and ESMA's public consultation on the principles for benchmark-setting processes in the EU and to IOSCO's consultation report on financial benchmarks. The Eurosystem's responses, together with a related press release published on 8 February 2013, are available on the ECB's website.

### **Payment systems and market infrastructure**

*SecuRe Pay Forum - Recommendations for the security of internet payments*

On 25 January 2013 the Governing Council approved the "Recommendations for the security of internet payments" and the outcome of the related public consultation launched in 2012, and their publication on the ECB's website. It also decided to launch a two-month public consultation on the "Recommendations for payment account access services". These documents, together with a related press release, were published on 31 January 2013 on the ECB's website.

*Ad hoc assessment of LuxCSD against the standards for the use of Securities Settlement Systems*

On 4 February 2013 the Governing Council approved the new Securities Settlement System (SSS) LuxCSD as eligible for use in Eurosystem credit operations. The comprehensive list of all existing SSSs and links eligible for use in Eurosystem credit operations is available on the ECB's website.

### **Advice on legislation**

*ECB Opinion on new competences granted to Banca Națională a României concerning sovereign debt and sovereign credit default swaps*

On 29 January 2013 the Governing Council adopted Opinion CON/2013/6 at the request of Banca Națională a României.

*ECB Opinion on credit transfer and direct debit transactions in Italy*

On 30 January 2013 the Governing Council adopted Opinion CON/2013/7 at the request of the Banca d'Italia.

*ECB Opinion on a French State guarantee covering certain commitments of subsidiaries of Dexia SA*

On 1 February 2013 the Governing Council adopted Opinion CON/2013/8 at the request of the French Ministry of Economy and Finance.

*ECB Opinion on limitations on cash payments in Denmark*

On 1 February 2013 the Governing Council adopted Opinion CON/2013/9 at the request of the Danish Ministry of Justice.

*ECB Opinion on limitations on cash payments in the context of payment of wages in Finland*

On 8 February 2013 the Governing Council adopted Opinion CON/2013/11 at the request of the Finnish Ministry of Employment and the Economy.

*ECB Opinion on deposit taking and securities account management by the Hungarian Treasury*

On 12 February 2013 the Governing Council adopted Opinion CON/2013/12 at the request of the Hungarian Ministry for the National Economy.

*ECB Opinion on the amended calculation of the annual financial stability contribution in Belgium*

On 18 February 2013 the Governing Council adopted Opinion CON/2013/13 at the request of the Belgian Ministry of Finance.

*ECB Opinion on the Polish financial market supervision framework*

On 20 February 2013 the Governing Council adopted Opinion CON/2013/14 at the request of the Polish Parliament.

*ECB Opinion on the profit distribution of the Bank of Greece*

On 20 February 2013 the Governing Council adopted Opinion CON/2013/15 at the request of the Bank of Greece.

## **Corporate governance**

*ECB Recommendation to the Council of the European Union on the external auditors of the Central Bank of Cyprus*

On 4 February 2013 the Governing Council adopted Recommendation ECB/2013/3 to the Council of the European Union on the external auditors of the Central Bank of Cyprus. The Recommendation was published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* on 9 February 2013 and is available on the ECB's website.

*ECB's Annual Accounts 2012*

On 20 February 2013 the Governing Council approved the audited Annual Accounts of the ECB for the financial year 2012. The Annual Accounts, together with a related press release, were

published the next day. A management report for the year 2012 will be published in the ECB's Annual Report 2012.