

20 January 2017

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

January 2017

Market operations

Amendment of the list of agencies eligible for participation in the public sector purchase programme (PSPP)

On 21 December 2016 the Governing Council approved amendments to the list of agencies located in the euro area issuing securities that are eligible for the PSPP. The updated list is available on the ECB's website.

Legal implementation of the Governing Council decisions taken on 8 December 2016 in relation to the asset purchase programme (APP)

On 11 January 2017 the Governing Council adopted Decision ECB/2017/1 amending Decision (EU) 2015/774 on a secondary markets public sector asset purchase programme, Decision ECB/2017/2 amending Decision ECB/2014/40 on the implementation of the third covered bond purchase programme, Decision ECB/2017/3 amending Decision (EU) 2015/5 on the implementation of the asset-backed securities purchase programme and Decision ECB/2017/4 amending Decision (EU) 2016/948 on the implementation of the corporate sector purchase programme. All four legal acts, which implement the decisions taken by the Governing Council on 8 December 2016 in relation to the ECB's APP, are available on the ECB's website and will be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Payment systems

Launch of a public consultation on amendments to the SIPS Regulation

On 16 December 2016 the Governing Council authorised the launch of a public consultation on a draft ECB Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 795/2014 on oversight requirements for systemically important payment systems (SIPS Regulation) and a draft Decision on the methodology for calculating sanctions for infringements of the SIPS Regulation. The draft amending Regulation includes, inter alia, a number of amendments relating to liquidity risk mitigation and cyber resilience and assigns additional powers to the competent authorities (e.g. the right to conduct on-site inspections and to require an investigation into or independent

review on certain aspects of a SIPS). The documentation subject to public consultation is available on the ECB's website.

Advice on legislation

ECB Opinion on the powers of Česká národní banka to conduct financial market transactions

On 15 December 2016 the Governing Council adopted Opinion CON/2016/60 at the request of the Minister of Finance of the Czech Republic.

ECB Opinion on a Belgian draft law on the oversight of payment transaction processors

On 28 December 2016 the Governing Council adopted Opinion CON/2016/61 at the request of the Governor of the Nationale Bank van België/Banque Nationale de Belgique on behalf of the Minister of Finance.

Statistics

Guideline amending Guideline ECB/2014/15 on monetary and financial statistics

On 16 December 2016 the Governing Council adopted Guideline ECB/2016/45 amending Guideline ECB/2014/15 on monetary and financial statistics. The amendment aims to align the requirements for the submission of consolidated banking data with the technical standards developed by the European Banking Authority and to include the reporting requirements for individual monetary financial institutions' balance sheet items and interest rate statistics. The Guideline is available on the ECB's website and will be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Corporate governance

ECB Recommendation to the Council of the European Union on the external auditors of the Bank of Greece

On 22 December 2016 the Governing Council adopted Recommendation ECB/2016/46 to the Council of the European Union on the external auditors of the Bank of Greece. The Recommendation has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* and is available on the ECB's website.

Banking supervision

Compliance with European Banking Authority (EBA) Guidelines on communication with auditors

On 5 January 2017 the Governing Council did not object to a proposal by the Supervisory Board to notify the EBA of the ECB's intention to comply by 31 December 2017 with the EBA Guidelines on communication between competent authorities supervising credit institutions and their auditors (EBA/GL/2016/05) in relation to significant credit institutions under the ECB's direct supervision.