



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

ECB-UNRESTRICTED

Christine Lagarde

President

Ms Ursula von der Leyen

President

European Commission

200 rue de la Loi

1049 Brussels

BELGIUM

Frankfurt am Main, 2 May 2022

LS/CL/22/128

Dear President von der Leyen,

Thank you for your letter of 18 March 2022 inviting the European Central Bank to take part in the interinstitutional discussions about a possible future joint agreement to establish an ethics body common to all institutions of the European Union, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

The ECB is pleased to accept your invitation and will contribute to the discussions with the knowledge it has acquired in building a strong ethics framework that responds to the specific needs and conduct risks of our institution. We are also happy to share our experience gained through more than seven years of effective operation of our independent Ethics Committee.

I can safely say that all the Governing Council members, including myself, fully agree that in order to ensure the public trust and maintain credibility, EU institutions should be beyond reproach on ethics, transparency, and integrity. As such, any proposed changes affecting the role and responsibilities of the ECB's Ethics Committee, or the strict ethics standards established by it, will have to be carefully evaluated by our decision-making bodies prior to any commitment.

With regard to the next steps, may I ask your services to liaise with Roman Schremser, the ECB's Chief Compliance and Governance Officer.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for productive discussions and a successful outcome.

Yours sincerely,

Address

European Central Bank
Sonnemannstrasse 20
60314 Frankfurt am Main
Germany

Postal address

European Central Bank
60640 Frankfurt am Main
Germany

Tel.: +49 69 1344 7300

Fax: +49 69 1344 7305

E-mail: office.president@ecb.europa.eu

Website: www.ecb.europa.eu