



P. Nikiforos Diamandouros
European Ombudsman

Kenneth HAAR
Corporate Observatory Europe

Strasbourg, **24 -07- 2012**

Complaint 1339/2012/FOR

Dear Mr Haar,

On 27 June 2012, you submitted a complaint to the European Ombudsman on behalf of Corporate Observatory Europe against the European Central Bank concerning an allegedly wrongful decision of the European Central Bank to accept ECB President Mario Draghi's membership of the Group of 30.

I have asked the European Central Bank to submit an opinion on the following allegation and claim.

Allegation:

The ECB President's membership of the Group of 30 is incompatible with the independence, reputation and integrity of the ECB.

Claim:

The ECB should ask its President to withdraw from the Group of 30.

In accordance with Articles 2(2) and 3(1) of the Statute of the European Ombudsman, I informed the European Central Bank of your complaint and invited the Bank to submit an opinion on the allegations and claims included in my inquiry by 31 October 2012.

I have requested that the Bank's opinion should include comments on:

- (i) the purpose, structure and governance of the Group of 30;
- (ii) the role the ECB President plays in the Group;



(iii) whether the ECB considers that the fact that the membership of the Group of 30 also includes persons currently working in the private sector could result in the appearance of a conflict of interest.

As regards point (iii), I have requested that the Bank's opinion take into account (a) the OECD's 2003 Recommendation on Guidelines for Managing Conflict of Interest in the Public Service (<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/13/22/2957360.pdf>) and (b) Articles 13 to 15 of the Council of Europe's "*model code of conduct for public officials*" annexed to the Council of Ministers' Recommendation N° R (2000)10 adopted by Committee of Ministers on 11 May 2000 ([http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/greco/documents/Rec\(2000\)10_EN.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/greco/documents/Rec(2000)10_EN.pdf)).

As soon as I receive the Bank's opinion, I will forward it to you with an invitation to make observations. Any observations you wish to make should be submitted to my office within one month of receiving the opinion.

Once my office receives your observations, or the deadline has passed, the Legal Officer responsible for your case, Mr O' Regan (00 32 2 2843548), will then examine your file. Mr O' Regan is head of Complaints and Inquiries Unit 2, which is part of Directorate A. I will inform you if I need to inquire further into your complaint before making a decision on it.

Every effort is made to deal with cases as quickly as possible. I try to reach a preliminary conclusion in an inquiry on a complaint within one year of opening it.

Yours sincerely,

P. Nikiforos Diamandouros