



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK
BANKING SUPERVISION

Danièle NOUY

Chair of the Supervisory Board

Mr Sven Giegold
Member of the European Parliament
European Parliament
60, rue Wiertz
B-1047 Brussels

Frankfurt am Main, 29 June 2017

Re: Your question regarding whistle-blower protection at the ECB

Honourable Member of the European Parliament, dear Mr Giegold,

Thank you for your question regarding whistle-blower protection at the ECB, which you raised with me in the context of my hearing before the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs on 19 June 2017. In particular, you asked to be informed whether there was a process for whistle-blowing in place within the ECB that allows complaints or accusations to be submitted anonymously.

In reply, please note that an internal Administrative Circular obliges all ECB managers and encourages staff members in general to report any potential breaches of professional obligations. While there is no dedicated mechanism or tool in place that specifically caters for anonymous reporting, as is the case for the SSM breach reporting mechanism¹, staff members are entitled to request that their anonymity is guaranteed “*in order to protect the whistle-blower*”. Upon receiving such request, the senior manager in charge is bound to comply with the condition of anonymity.

Since the Administrative Circular dates from 2006, and in order to keep up with the state of the art in this field, the ECB will launch a comprehensive review of its whistle-blowing policy and related processes in the autumn. In so doing, the ECB will carefully consider the best practices, policies and processes in place at relevant comparator institutions, as well as relevant Guidelines issued by the European Data Protection Supervisor.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Danièle Nouy

¹ As regards the procedure for enabling external whistle-blowers to report breaches of rules by banks supervised by the ECB, please refer to the following reply letter:

https://www.bankingsupervision.europa.eu/ecb/pub/pdf/160525letter_hayes.en.pdf