



**EU INDEPENDENT
FISCAL INSTITUTIONS
CHAIR**

Valdis Dombrovskis

European Commissioner for the Euro & Social Dialogue
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

Bratislava, Slovak Republic
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Dear Vice-President Dombrovskis

Following our fruitful meeting last November, I would like to resume our dialogue to update you on the latest activities of the Network of EU Independent Fiscal Institutions (IFIs) and its Committee for EU Affairs as well as on our views regarding the steps taken or to be taken at the EU level to strengthen the fiscal governance framework, in particular the consultation process leading to the appointment of members of the European Fiscal Board (EFB).

The Network has established a Committee for EU Affairs that has made good progress in the areas we talked about in November. In particular, a common position on the minimum standards for EU IFIs has been reached. Certainly, the current EU legislation already establishes desirable features or principles to be met by IFIs. But in our view, its mere existence does not dispel risks IFIs may face in the performance of their tasks. The Network would like to propose upgrading the status of these principles as well as establishing a monitoring system to ensure their effective implementation. We are also working on the other issues we discussed in November, in particular on medium-term budgetary frameworks. We would welcome an opportunity to update you on all these matters, and exchange views with you.

As for the EFB, the perception of its independence is in our view key for it being able to successfully perform its functions. There is agreement in the Network that amendments to the Commission Decision establishing the EFB, such as the recent one, should be limited to changes that enhance the independence of the EFB or its capacity to perform its mandate effectively.

In line with the Network's position paper of November 2015, we stand ready to be involved in the appointment of EFB members with strong professional profiles in order to ensure the technical capacity and independence of the EFB. At this preliminary stage, our two main points are the following.

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First, we believe EFB members should be competent in fiscal policy and nonpartisan. Their profiles should be diverse and complement one another. It may be advisable not to restrict the nationality of EFB members to EU nationals. The employment history could include senior positions in international organisations, national finance ministries, academia, research institutes, independent fiscal institutions or central banks.

Second, an open and transparent call for expression of interests that, at the same time, ensures appropriate confidentiality for participants is in our view a good option to ensure a high quality appointment process.

Finally, we would appreciate if further communication also gave us an indication of the timeframe for the individual steps leading up to a fully functioning EFB.

We would very much like to have an opportunity to discuss further these relevant issues with you on a mutually convenient date.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

José Luis ESCRIVÁ

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