Wednesday 24 November 2020

P9_TA(2020)0311

Appointment of Frank Elderson as member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank

European Parliament decision of 24 November 2020 on the Council recommendation on the appointment of a Member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank (N9-0055/2020 — C9-0331/2020 — 2020/0805(NLE))

(Consultation)

(2021/C 425/22)

The European Parliament,

— having regard to the Council's recommendation of 9 October 2020 (N9-0055/2020) ([1]),

— having regard to Article 283(2), second subparagraph, of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the European Council consulted Parliament (C9-0331/2020),

— having regard to its resolution of 14 March 2019 on gender balance in EU economic and monetary affairs nominations ([2]),

— having regard to its decision of 17 September 2019 on the Council recommendation on the appointment of the President of the European Central Bank ([3]),

— having regard to its decisions of 17 December 2019 on the Council recommendations on the appointments of two Members of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank ([4]),

— having regard to Rule 130 of its Rules of Procedure,

— having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (A9-0218/2020),

A. whereas, by letter of 14 October 2020, the European Council consulted Parliament on the appointment of Frank Elderson as Member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank for a term of office of eight years, with effect from 15 December 2020;

B. whereas Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs then proceeded to evaluate the credentials of the candidate, in particular in view of the requirements laid down in Article 283(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and in the light of the need for full independence of the European Central Bank pursuant to Article 130 of that Treaty; whereas in carrying out that evaluation, the committee received a curriculum vitae from the candidate as well as his replies to the written questionnaire that had been sent to him;

C. whereas the committee subsequently held a hearing with the candidate on 9 November 2020, at which he made an opening statement and then answered questions put by the members of the committee;

D. whereas the Governing Council of the European Central Bank comprises the members of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank and the 19 governors of the national central banks of the Member States whose currency is the euro; whereas, to date, all of the latter are men;

E. whereas Parliament has repeatedly expressed its disaffection regarding the appointment procedure for members of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank, and has called for improved procedures in this regard; whereas Parliament has requested that it receive, in good time, a gender-balanced shortlist of at least two names;

([1]) OJ C 338, 12.10.2020, p. 2.
([2]) Texts adopted, P8_TA(2019)0211.
([3]) Texts adopted, P9_TA(2019)0008.
([4]) Texts adopted, P9_TA(2019)0093 and Texts adopted, P9_TA(2019)0094.

F. whereas on 17 September 2019, Parliament delivered a favourable opinion on the Council recommendation to appoint Christine Lagarde as the first female President of the European Central Bank;

G. whereas on 17 December 2019, Parliament delivered favourable opinions on the Council recommendations to appoint Fabio Panetta and Isabel Schnabel as Members of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank;

H. whereas women continue to be underrepresented in the Governing Council of the European Central Bank; whereas Parliament deplores the fact that the Member States have not taken this request seriously and whereas it calls for the national and EU institutions to work actively towards achieving gender balance in the next nominations;

I. whereas all EU and national institutions and bodies should implement concrete measures to ensure gender balance;

1. Delivers a favourable opinion on the Council recommendation to appoint Frank Elderson as Member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank;

2. Instructs its President to forward this decision to the European Council, the Council and the governments of the Member States.