

Luxembourg, 20 June 2017

Summary of decisions

Board of Governors' Annual Meeting

15 June 2017

Luxembourg

As customary, the annual meeting provided an opportunity for the euro area Finance Ministers to exchange views on the ESM's work in their capacity as ESM Governors. Following is the summary of the main decisions taken during this meeting.

The Board of Governors approved the 2016 Annual Report of the ESM, including the annual accounts

The ESM Managing Director, Klaus Regling, presented the key ESM institutional developments in 2016. The independent external auditor confirmed the unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements. The Chairperson of the Board of Auditors presented the Board of Auditors' report in respect of the financial statements and its own annual report to the Board of Governors.

The Board of Governors approved the ESM 2016 Annual Report, which is now available on the [ESM website](#). Both the Board of Auditors' annual report and the ESM management comments issued in response to the report will be provided to the euro area national parliaments, national supreme audit institutions, the European Parliament and the European Court of Auditors. Furthermore, the reports are now also available on the [ESM website](#).

The press release on the on the Board of Governors approval of the 2016 Annual Report is available [here](#).

The Board of Governors approved the new external auditors

The Board of Governors approved Ernst & Young as the new external auditors. Given that the ESM By-Laws require a mandatory rotation of the ESM external auditors once every six years, the term of the current external auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers, reached its end in June 2017. A competitive procurement procedure was performed to select the new external auditors.

The Board of Governors welcomed the report on the evaluation of the EFSF and ESM financial assistance programmes

The Board of Governors discussed the report on the evaluation of the EFSF and ESM financial assistance programmes, which was prepared and presented by the Independent Evaluator, Gertrude Tumpel-Gugerell. The evaluation focused on the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the EFSF



and ESM financial assistance programmes for Ireland, Portugal, Greece (EFSF), Spain and Cyprus in safeguarding financial stability of the euro area and its Member States. The report was published on the [ESM website](#) after the Annual Meeting. The Board of Governors also issued a [statement](#) mandating the ESM to follow up on the evaluation report.

Background

On 15 June 2017, the ESM Board of Governors (composed of the 19 euro area finance ministers and the observers from the European Commission and the European Central Bank) held its 5th annual meeting at the ESM premises in Luxembourg. The main items on the agenda were the approval of the ESM Annual Report, which includes a description of the policies and activities of the ESM, approval of the ESM Financial Statements, approval of the external auditor's report, and the Board of Auditors' report in respect of the ESM Financial Statements. Further information on the Board of Governors' 5th Annual Meeting may be found [here](#).

This year, the Board of Governors was also presented with the Evaluation Report on past ESM and EFSF programmes. For more information on the scope of the evaluation and appointment of the Independent Evaluator, see [here](#).

Kalin Anev Janse
Member of the Management Board
Secretary General