



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK
EUROSYSTEM

ECB-PUBLIC

Christine LAGARDE
President

Mr Gottfried Haber
Former member of the ECB Supervisory Board
Former alternate member of the ECB Governing Council
Vice-Governor of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

TRANSMITTED ON 16 OCTOBER 2024

Subject: Notification of envisaged post-employment activity

Dear Mr Haber,

I refer to your communication of 12 September 2024, by which you notified the ECB Ethics Committee of the announcement of the Supervisory Board of Erste Group Bank AG (Erste Group) to select you as Chair of the bank's Supervisory Board should you be appointed as member of the Supervisory Board at the Annual General Meeting in May 2025. In light of these developments, the Ethics Committee considered it opportune to issue a new opinion to the Governing Council, complementing its earlier opinion¹ that responded to your intention to take up the position as member of the Erste Group's Supervisory Board.

I would like to inform you that on 11 October 2024, the Governing Council – having considered the opinion of the Ethics Committee– confirmed that your potential role as Chair of Erste Group's Supervisory Board does not call for an extension beyond the initially advised one-year cooling-off period. Although the role of Chair comes with additional responsibilities and greater visibility compared with the initially assessed role, the Committee took into consideration that it nevertheless remains a non-executive function.

¹ [ECB/EC/24/10](#)

I should like to emphasise that this assessment applies exclusively to your (former) roles as high-level ECB official and is without prejudice to the application of potentially stricter national rules which you may be subject to by virtue of your function at the Oesterreichische Nationalbank.

For the sake of completeness, I would like to remind you of your professional secrecy obligations, applying beyond your term as a high-level ECB official, as well as of the obligation to notify the ECB, prior to committing, of any potential new occupational activity for a period of two years from the end of your term as a member of the Supervisory Board, i.e. until May 2026.

Finally, I would like to inform you that the Governing Council concurred with the Ethics Committee's recommendation to waive the usual 6-month delay for the publication of the Committee's opinions, given that your prospective role has been made public already.

With best regards,

The ECB President (Christine Lagarde)

Cc: Mr Liikanen, Chairman of the Ethics Committee
Ms Claudia Buch, Chair of the Supervisory Board