

Written question P-2828/00 by Mary Banotti, MEP, to the Commission (4 September 2000)

Caption: The answer given by Commissioner Pedro Solbes Mira to the written question submitted by Mary Banotti, Member of the European Parliament, refers to the appointment procedure of members of the Management Committee of the European Investment Bank (EIB). The members of the Management Committee are appointed by the Board of Governors on a proposal from the Board of Directors.

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Written question P-2828/00 by Mary Banotti (PPE-DE) to the Commission

(4 September 2000)

Subject: Appointment of Directors to the Board of the European Investment Bank

Can the Commission indicate its role in the appointment of Directors to the Board of the European Investment Bank?

Can it indicate the criteria its representative uses to ratify new candidates?

Is it aware of the considerable controversy surrounding the candidate nominated by Ireland?

Is the EIB subject to the same guidelines for the appointment of Directors as other Community institutions, with particular regard to nomination, suitability and professional competence?

Answer given by Mr Solbes Mira on behalf of the Commission

(28 September 2000)

The Honourable Member refers to the appointment of members of the management committee of the European Investment Bank (EIB), rather than of Directors. The Commission is aware of the public controversy in Ireland surrounding the candidature referred to by the Honourable Member, which has in fact been withdrawn, and notes that the EIB brought to the attention of its Board of Directors all correspondence received on the matter.

The EIB is an autonomous body owned directly by the Member States which provide its capital. The appointment of members of the management committee is set out in Article 13 of the EIB's Statute, which is established in a Protocol annexed to the EC Treaty and thus forms an integral part of the EC Treaty.

The Commission's role in the appointment process is via its membership of the EIB's Board of Directors. According to Article 13.1 of the Bank's Statute, it is the task of the Board of Directors to make a formal proposal to the Board of Governors for appointment to the Bank's Management Board. The Board of Governors, the highest governing body of the EIB is made up of the Ministers of the Member States, the Bank's shareholders.

There are no specific criteria used by the Commission's representative on the EIB's Board of Directors in determining whether to ratify a formal proposal for appointment. However, attention is drawn to the statutory duty of the Board of Directors (Article 11) to ensure, as the governing body reporting to the Board of Governors, that the EIB is properly run.

Although the Statute does not specify the requisite qualifications for management committee positions, it does indicate clearly the tasks and responsibilities of the management committee (Article 13). It follows that the committee must avail collectively of the necessary competencies to carry out its tasks under the authority of the President and the supervision of the Board of Directors. As regards nomination of candidates, the EIB's Statute does not indicate any specific provisions and in practice it is the Member States which, as shareholders, submit candidatures which the Board of Directors decides — or not — to propose to the Board of Governors for appointment.