



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK
EUROSYSTEM

COURTESY TRANSLATION

Mr Crescenzo Rivellini and
Mr Potito Salatto
Member of the European Parliament
European Parliament
60 Rue Wiertz
B-1047 Brussels

Frankfurt am Main, 21 February 2012

L/MD/12/131

Re: Your letter

Dear Mr Rivellini, dear Mr. Salatto,

Thank you for your letter passed on to me by Sharon Bowles, Chair of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, and accompanied by a covering letter dated 18 January 2012.

As mentioned in my introductory statement following the Governing Council meeting of 8 December 2011, the 3-year refinancing operations should ensure enhanced access of the banking sector to liquidity and facilitate the functioning of the euro area money market. Together with the other monetary policy decisions recently taken by the Governing Council, this measure is expected to help support the provision of credit to households and non-financial corporations. I can confirm that EUR 489 billion were allotted to 523 banks in the first 3-year refinancing operation. For specific information on the participation of Italian banks, I would refer you to the Banca d'Italia. When analysing the data, it should however be kept in mind that central bank liquidity flows among banks within the entire euro area.

As regards the use of this liquidity, it is the banks that decide about it, as part of their business decisions.

By alleviating funding stress and taking further measures which will support the use as collateral of loans to the private sector, and especially to small- and medium-sized enterprises, we aim at facilitating the provision of appropriate credit to the economy at a moment where any credit restrictions could have lasting consequences for the business cycle.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Mario Draghi