

Paris, 24th of April 2021

Mr. Mārtiņš Kazāks
Governor
Latvijas banka
Kr.Valdemara street 2a
Riga, Latvia, LV 3002

Dear Governor,

On May 20, 2020, further to your appointment as head of the Central Bank, I had the honour to address to you by expressing my satisfaction with the start of a social dialogue with LAKRS Union, the Latvian colleagues and the social partners of your institution.

That is why, one year after, all the members of the Standing Committee that I have the honour to chair, and which brings together more than 45 trade unions of ESCB central banks (and among them LAKRS), are strongly upset by the latest developments inside the Central Bank of Latvia.

The ongoing reforms that you have undertaken raise many concerns for employees and for the Standing Committee. We are really worried about the dismissal news that seem to touch some of the staff and union representatives. Even if we understand your concerns about the viability of the Central Bank of Latvia, the steps taken seem to have been decided without developing a genuine dialogue with the representatives of LAKRS. In fact, sending a letter on April 19 to inform the union of your decision and asking them to endorse an opinion on 26 April (only one week after) does not seem to be appropriate to a health social dialogue, especially considering the current pandemic situation affecting the whole world.

I sincerely believe that it is important to bring a dose of humanism to this difficult time by giving to the colleagues of LAKRS union a more extensive deadline to prepare a proper answer to your project.

I can assure you, Mr Governor, that a large majority of the ESCB colleagues support this request. That is why, on an exceptional basis, I also formally ask the ECB's representatives to be able to address this issue at our next ESCB Social Dialogue meeting which will take place on 5th of May 2021.

I hope, Mr Governor, that you will take into account our request, which, I can assure you, is a strong and unanimous European demand from all the representatives of SCECBU.

Kind regards,
Thierry DESANOIS,
President

