

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL DECISION

of 10 May 2005

amending Decision 1999/70/EC concerning the external auditors of the national central banks, as regards the external auditors of the Nationale Bank van België/Banque Nationale de Belgique and the Bank of Greece

(2005/377/EC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Belgique (hereinafter NBB/BNB) has expired and will not be renewed. It is therefore necessary to appoint external auditors from the financial year 2005.

Having regard to the Protocol on the Statute of the European System of Central Banks and of the European Central Bank, annexed to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular to Article 27.1 thereof,

- (3) The NBB/BNB has selected Ernst & Young Bedrijfsrevisoren/Réviseurs d'Entreprises as its new external auditors in accordance with its public procurement rules, and the ECB considers that the selected auditors fulfil the necessary requirements for appointment.

Having regard to Recommendations ECB/2005/7 and ECB/2005/8 of the European Central Bank of 7 April 2005 to the Council of the European Union on the external auditors of the Bank of Greece ⁽¹⁾ and of the Nationale Bank van België/Banque Nationale de Belgique ⁽²⁾,

- (4) The Governing Council of the ECB recommended that the mandate of these external auditors should be for three years, renewable once.

Whereas:

- (1) The accounts of the European Central Bank (ECB) and of the national central banks of the Eurosystem are to be audited by independent external auditors recommended by the Governing Council of the ECB and approved by the Council of the European Union.

- (5) Under the law of Greece, the same external auditor may not be appointed for more than four financial years. Accordingly, the mandate of Charalambos Stathakis, who is one of the two current external auditors, may not be renewed. The Bank of Greece may, under the law of Greece, retain Ernst & Young (Hellas) Certified Auditors SA as its external auditors, provided that the partner in charge is rotated.

- (2) The mandate of the current external auditors of the Nationale Bank van België/Banque Nationale de

- (6) The Bank of Greece has decided that Ernst & Young (Hellas) Certified Auditors SA should be its sole external auditor for the financial year 2005, and the ECB considers that this company fulfils the necessary requirements for such appointment.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 91, 15.4.2005, p. 4.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 91, 15.4.2005, p. 5.

(7) The Governing Council of the ECB recommended that the existing mandate of these external auditors should continue and be for a renewable period of one year.

Article 2

Article 1(12) of Decision 1999/70/EC shall be replaced by the following:

(8) It is appropriate to follow the recommendations of the Governing Council of the ECB and to amend Decision 1999/70/EC ⁽¹⁾ accordingly,

'12. Ernst & Young (Hellas) Certified Auditors SA are hereby approved as the external auditors of the Bank of Greece for the financial year 2005 for a renewable period of one year.'

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 3

This Decision shall be notified to the ECB.

Article 1

Article 1(1) of Decision 1999/70/EC shall be replaced by the following:

Article 4

This Decision shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

'1. Ernst & Young Bedrijfsrevisoren/Réviseurs d'Entreprises are hereby approved as the external auditors of the Nationale Bank van België/Banque Nationale de Belgique from the financial year 2005 for a period of three years, this period being renewable once.'

Done at Brussels, 10 May 2005.

For the Council
The President
J. KRECKÉ

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 22, 29.1.1999, p. 69. Decision as last amended by Decision 2005/266/EC (OJ L 82, 31.3.2005, p. 6).