



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

On the proposal concerning the appointment of

Ms Claire CHEREMETINSKI

as a full Member of the Board of Directors of the European Investment Bank

as submitted by letter dated 1 July 2004 from the Bank's Secretary General,
I hereby

vote in favour ☐

abstain ☐

vote against ☐

NAME (MINISTER):
(Block capitals)

COUNTRY:

SIGNATURE(*):

DATE (*):

OFFICIAL STAMP:

Please return the scanned version of the completed voting form by email to EIB Board of Governors Secretariat (eibgovernors@eib.org) and the original by post, to:

Board of Governors Secretariat
European Investment Bank
Office EKI-6510
100, boulevard Konrad Adenauer
L – 2950 Luxembourg

If possible, the signed voting form shall reach the EIB before close of business by Thursday, 11 July 2024

(*) EIB Governors may digitally sign this voting form with a Qualified Electronic Signature (QES). Please note that the EIB accepts only QES in the performance of a digital signing process. A guidance note on signatures accepted by the Bank for voting forms signed by the EIB Governors is annexed to this form.



Signatures accepted by the Bank for voting forms signed by the EIB Governors

What is the Legal context?

The EIB digital signature process relies on the EU Regulation No 910/2014 on Electronic Identification, Authentication and Trust Services (the **eIDAS Regulation**), which establishes an EU-wide legal framework for electronic signatures and trusted services for electronic signatures. You may consult the full text of eIDAS Regulation under this [link](#).

eIDAS Regulation is designed to create consistent regulations and standards across the EU for electronic identities and for trust services supporting authentication and signatures. eIDAS Regulations ensures that electronic transactions are secure, no matter where they take place within the EU.

By virtue of the eIDAS Regulation, a qualified electronic signature (QES) has in all EU Member States an equivalent effect to a wet ink signature.

The EIB accepts and signs only with qualified electronic signatures (QES) for digital transactions governed by any laws of EU Member States and with external counterparties registered within the EU.

May Governors sign voting forms electronically?

Article 5(1) of the Rules of Procedure allows the Board of Governors to vote “by written or electronic correspondence.” Voting by written correspondence is traditionally conducted by filling in and signing a voting form as supplied by the Secretariat General.

Qualified electronic signatures as defined in Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 (the “eIDAS Regulation”) are accorded a legal effect equivalent to that of a handwritten signature. A qualified electronic signature based on a qualified certificate issued in one Member State must be recognised as a qualified electronic signature in all other Member States.

Given the importance of the decisions which the Board of Governors is called upon to take (appointments and compulsory retirements, capital increases and authorisations for the launch of Statute change procedures, approval or rejection of annual reports and of highest-order policies), it appears appropriate to continue to afford the highest level of legal protection to the Bank where it must attribute individual signatures to individual Governors. Hence, when a Governor chooses to replace his/her handwritten signature by an electronic signature, the chosen method should be qualified electronic signatures within the meaning of the eIDAS Regulation. In such case, no hardcopy version shall follow to the EIB Board of Governors Secretariat.



May Governors delegate their vote to ministry staff?

The EIB's legal framework does not provide for any explicit possibility for Governors to delegate their vote to persons other than another Governor at meetings (Article 6 of the Rules of Procedure), and the EIB's Statute and Rules of Procedure do not provide for any explicit possibility for Governors to delegate their written votes either.

Thus, in the case of electronic voting, the EIB will assume that incoming electronic votes have been cast by the Governor to whom electronic access has been given.

It is for the Governors Advisors and/or the national administrations to decide on their internal working arrangements and practicalities of how the casting of the Governor's electronic vote should be managed.

How does EIB validate a digitally signed document?

The eIDAS Regulation also covers the verification and validation of certificates for website authentication.

Validation is the process of confirming the validity of QES, that is, that the certificate used to create the signature was valid at the moment of creation (it was not revoked, suspended, or expired). Such a process entails the verification that the requirements of the eIDAS Regulation are met by QES in order to confirm its validity.

The EIB Board of Governors Secretariat will validate received digitally signed voting forms using:

- a) the "Validate a signature" feature provided by EU Sign
- b) Adobe Acrobat software with pre-loaded European Union trusted certificates recognition features

In case of non-compliance, the EIB Board of Governors Secretariat will inform the sender that the electronically signed document received cannot be taken into account and will request to be provided with a handwritten/wet-ink signed voting form by post (+scanned copy by email).

Summary table

Signature Type	Explanation - Process	EIB Validation
wet-ink signature	<p>Governors may continue to sign voting forms using a wet-ink signature. The scanned version of the completed voting form shall be returned by email to EIB Board of Governors Secretariat (eibgovernors@eib.org) and the original by post to:</p> <p>Board of Governors Secretariat European Investment Bank Office EKI-6510 100, boulevard Konrad Adenauer L – 2950 Luxembourg</p>	Only the original received by post is legally binding.
AES – advanced electronic signature	<p>An electronic signature with following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital certificate associated to the signature • Guarantee that the document has not been modified • Advanced identity verification system with the agreement of the signatory (ex: verify ID card) 	Documents signed using AES are not accepted by the Bank.
QES – qualified electronic signature	<p>All requirements of AES, in addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identity of the signatory is validated upstream by a QTSP (qualified certifying authority) • The signature key is located in a qualified device for creating an electronic signature (QSCD). <p>By virtue of eIDAS Regulation, only qualified electronic signatures (QES), explicitly enjoys the equivalent legal effect to handwritten (wet-ink) signature across all EU Member States.</p> <p>In such case, no hardcopy version shall follow to the EIB Board of Governors Secretariat.</p>	<p>EIB accepts only qualified electronic signature (QES) in the performance of a digital signing process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Using a certificate from a Qualified Trust Service Provider listed in the EU Trusted List and able to provide the service: "Qualified Certificate for electronic signature" ; the e-signature must rely on a valid (i.e. <u>not revoked or expired</u>) signature certificate; - The digital signature should be placed in the document in the place a wet-ink signature would be placed and that it is visible.