

Mario DRAGHI

President

Mr Ramon Tremosa-i-Balcells
Member of the European Parliament
European Parliament
60 Rue Wiertz
B-1047 Brussels

Frankfurt/Main, 21 February 2012

L/MD/12/122

Re: Your Letter

Dear Mr Tremosa,

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

With regard to your question on the scope of the Securities Markets Program, I can broadly confirm your understanding of Article 1 of Decision ECB/2010/05 (2010/281/EU) establishing the Securities Markets Program. In particular, it follows from Article 1(a) of Decision ECB/2010/05 that the Eurosystem Central Banks may purchase, on the secondary market, eligible marketable debt instruments issued by the central governments *or public sector entities* [emphasis added] of the member states whose currency is the Euro. Which entities qualify as being part of the public sector is also a national law issue, to which no uniform answer is possible.

Finally, please note that the ECB does not make any public statements as regards the market segments it intervenes in.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Mario Draghi