



05 EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE 2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE EUROPEAN STABILITY MECHANISM

Luxembourg, 30 March 2017

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of European Stability Mechanism, which comprise the balance sheet as at date 31 December 2016, and the profit and loss account, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Board of Directors' responsibility for the financial statements

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the general principles of the Directive 86/635/EEC of the Council of the European Communities of 8 December 1986 on the annual accounts and consolidated accounts of banks and other financial institutions, as amended by Directive 2001/65/EC of 27 September 2001, by Directive 2003/51/EC of 18 June 2003 and by Directive 2006/46/EC of 14 June 2006 (the "Directives"), and for such internal control as the Board of Directors determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Responsibility of the "Réviseur d'entreprises agréé"

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing as adopted for Luxembourg by the "Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier". Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the judgment of the "Réviseur d'entreprises agréé" including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the "Réviseur d'entreprises agréé" considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of

accounting estimates made by the Board of Directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of European Stability Mechanism as of 31 December 2016, and of the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the general principles of the Directives.

PricewaterhouseCoopers,
Société coopérative

Represented by
Philippe Sergiel

