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Mr Marco Zanni and Mr Marco Valli
Members of the European Parliament
60, rue Wiertz/ Wiertzstraat 60
B-1047 Brussels

Re: Your letter (D 320976) to the Chair of the SRB, Ms Elke König

Honourable Members of the European Parliament, dear Mr Zanni, dear Mr Valli,

Thank you for your letter, which was passed on to me by Mr Roberto Gualtieri, Chairman of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, accompanied by a cover letter dated 2 December 2016.

I would first like to confirm that the SRB never comments on any specific banks.

As regards the 16th of November 2016 Reuters' report to which you refer in your letter, I merely reiterated during this interview that I view a private solution as always being preferable to public intervention. I have done this several times in the past – including at the latest hearing of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs I attended on 5th of December 2016. As to the plan of Monte dei Paschi di Siena to raise fresh capital, I indeed mentioned in this interview that this might be challenging, which however holds true for any bank under comparable market circumstances.

Unfortunately, the Reuters' report has taken some of my comments out of context.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Elke König