



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

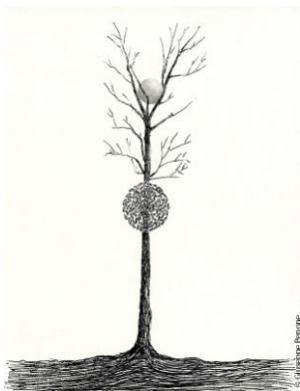
4 September 2015

PRESS RELEASE

ECB TO INSTALL NEW ARTWORK IN FRONT OF MAIN BUILDING

- Artwork by Italian artist Giuseppe Penone will be installed on 4 September 2015
- “Gravity and Growth” is a tree over 17 metres high, mainly made of bronze and granite
- One of three projects chosen by a jury following an international competition held in 2014

A sculpture by Giuseppe Penone, one of the leading representatives of the “Arte Povera” movement, will be installed outside the primary entrance of the main building of the European Central Bank (ECB) on 4 September 2015. Called “Gravity and Growth”, it measures 17.5 metres in height and is actually a tree made of bronze and granite with a cluster of gilded leaves.



“Giuseppe Penone's tree conveys a sense of stability and growth and is rooted in the humanist values of Europe in the most beautiful way”, said Benoît Cœuré, Member of the Executive Board of the ECB and chair of the art jury which selected the artwork.

In 2014 the ECB launched an international art competition to find three artworks for different locations in its new main building. Some 59 artists from 28 EU countries were nominated to participate in the competition, which had a total budget of €1.25 million. The works finally selected as “representing European art at its best” were: a sculpture by the Bulgarian artist Nedko Solakov, an installation by the British artist Liam Gillick and the tree by Giuseppe Penone; the first two being installed inside the main building. Penone's tree will now take its place outside.

For media queries, please contact Alexandrine Bouilhet, tel.: +49 69 1344 8949

Note:

Mario Draghi, President of the ECB, is due to inaugurate the three artworks on 6 October 2015.

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ANNEX 1: FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ARTISTS AND ARTWORKS

Location 1 – Grossmarkthalle: outside the main entrance

Italian artist **Giuseppe Penone** (*1947) is one of the leading representatives of the “Arte Povera” movement. His piece for the new premises will feature a representation of a tree, a recurrent motif in his work.

The jury believes that the elegant, visually stunning sculpture will create an atmosphere of nearness and identification and form a dialogue with the building.

Location 2 – Double office tower: ground floor on the eastern side of the atrium

Bulgarian artist **Nedko Solakov** (*1957) will create a sculpture which has a strong conceptual background – as is typical of his approach – and is expressed in a humorous, playful and witty manner. The sculpture will be accompanied by Solakov’s characteristic drawings, which will be drawn directly onto the walls and surfaces throughout the building.

The jury believes that the work will create a place of reflection and anticipation and that it will become a catalyst to attract people.

Location 3 – Grossmarkthalle: foyer of the conference area

British artist **Liam Gillick** (*1964) is well known for exploring social systems and their organisations, and this will also be a feature of his site-specific proposal for the ECB.

His work will refer to the ECB’s function as a place where complex input can be operated upon. It will be a statement in the universal language of mathematics, hinting at both the engineering complexity of the building and the complex work that will take place within it.

The jury noted that the proposal took up the leitmotif in a very intelligent way and worked well with the dimensions and light of the designated space. It considers that aspects of form, materiality and content meet extremely well in the piece, which is iconic in its form.

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ANNEX 2: FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE COMPETITION AND THE JURY*

The competition, launched in February 2014, was conducted as a two-stage invitational competition that covered three different locations. The three locations had been chosen on the basis of their suitability for accommodating – and ensuring the visibility of – large art installations.

Stage 1

A selection committee of internationally renowned art experts drew up a list of artists from across the EU for each of the locations. The artists had to fulfil the selection criteria laid down in the competition rules. The competition was organised in such a way as to ensure that, as far as possible, at least one artist from each Member State took part in the first stage. In total, 59 artists from 28 EU countries were nominated.

Composition of the selection committee

- Nicolas Bourriaud (Director, École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris)
- Susanne Gaensheimer (Director, Museum of Modern Art, Frankfurt am Main)
- Massimiliano Gioni (Director, New Museum, New York, Curator Venice Biennial 2013)
- Maria Hlavajova (Artistic Director, basis voor actuele kunst, Utrecht)
- Enrique Juncosa (former Director of the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin)
- Kestutis Kuizinas (Director, Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius)
- Ann-Sofi Noring (Chief Curator, Moderna Museet, Stockholm)

Stage 2

At its first meeting in June, the jury was asked to select up to eight of the nominated artists for each location. These artists were then invited to develop concrete design proposals, which were anonymised before being submitted to the jury.

At its second meeting on 23 and 24 October, the jury identified the best proposal for each of the three locations.

Composition of the jury

On behalf of the ECB:

- Chairperson: Benoît Cœuré, Member of the Executive Board of the ECB
- Vice-Chair: Werner Studener, Director General Administration

On behalf of the national central banks of the European System of Central Banks:

- Ewald Nowotny, Governor of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank

- Erkki Liikanen, Governor of Suomen Pankki – Finlands Bank

On behalf of the architectural office responsible for designing the ECB's new premises:

- Frank Stepper, Senior Project Partner, Coop Himmelb(l)au

Art experts:

- Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, Curator Istanbul Biennial 2015 and Visiting Professor Northwestern University (Evanston/IL)
- Isabel Carlos, Director of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon
- Sirje Helme, Director General, Art Museum of Estonia, Tallinn
- Rein Wolfs, Director of the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany, Bonn

* Information on the individuals mentioned was correct as at the date of first publication, namely 10 November 2014.

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