

Minutes
of the meeting of the Financial Affairs Committee
held on Thursday, Thursday 13 October 2022, 1:00pm-2:00pm
Parc Hotel Alvisse, Route d'Echternach 120, 1453 Luxembourg

Chairman: Kaschel Rainer (Hungary)

Participants: Bogk Matthias (Germany)
Eichwede Rainer (Germany)
Finken Ansgar (Germany)
Freise Agnes (Germany)
Ginter Cynthia (Luxembourg)
Guthmann Axel (Germany)
Hain Lars (Germany)
Haslmaier Oliver (Austria)
Huber-Srb Karin (Austria)
Ibragimova Lyazzat (Kasachstan)
Jäger Thomas (Luxembourg)
Jungkurth Frank (Germany)
Kállay Gergely (Hungary)
Kármán András (Hungary)
Kašiar Radomír (Slovakia)
König Christian (Germany)
König Sabine (Germany)
Licht Björn (Germany)
Martell Christian (Austria)
Masár Juraj (Slovakia)
Masgutova Zaure (Kasachstan)
Masuch Sabine (Germany)
Melchior Simone (Austria)
Müller Martin (Luxembourg)
Poos Marc (Luxembourg)
Reitz Cristina (Austria)
Riemer Jens (Germany)
Schudrowitz Juri (Germany)
Sedrati Redouane (Austria)
Senjak Andreas (Austria)
Szendrey Zoltán (Hungary)
Takácsová Lucia (Slovakia)
Taltusov Rinat (Kasachstan)
Tátrai Bernadett (Hungary)
Tichy Zoltán (Hungary)
Trappe Florian (Germany)
Vallant Hans-Christian (Austria)
Weinrich Mark (Germany)

Secretariat: Holler Kathrin (Belgium)
Pfenning Jonathan (Belgium)
Reiner Pierre (Belgium)

Minutes: Pfenning Jonathan (Belgium)

Guest speakers: Mr Ansgar Finken, Chief Risk Officer, BHW Bausparkasse
Ms Cynthia Ginter, Directorate Representative of the civil services section,
BHW Bausparkasse AG, Luxembourg Branch
Mr Johan Thostrup, Political Advisor to MEP Linea Søggaard-Lidell

ITEM 1

The Chairman, Mr Kaschel, welcomed the participants of the Financial Affairs Committee and opened the meeting. Mr Kaschel proposed to change the order of the agenda starting with agenda item 4 followed by agenda item 3 and agenda item 2. The amended agenda as well as the minutes of the of the Financial Affairs Committee of 12 May 2022 were adopted.

ITEM 2 (former ITEM 4)

Mr Ansgar Finken, Chief Risk Officer, BHW Bausparkasse, spoke on “Minimum criteria for *Green Bauspar Loans*”. Developing on the work done by the German Bausparkassen so far, Mr Finken asked EFBS members for support on shaping the political discussion on a European level early on.

Mr Kaschel asked EFBS members to send back their feedback to Mr Pfenning (Jonathan.pfenning@efbs-bausparkassen.org) [if possible, no later than 18 November 2022; see: presentation & paper attached].

ITEM 3

Ms Cynthia Ginter, Directorate Representative of the civil services section, BHW Bausparkasse AG, Luxembourg Branch spoke on “Tax advantages in the context of building savings in Luxembourg”. In Luxembourg the main public support of the bauspar system is based on tax advantages. For the time being, 672 EUR per person can be deducted annually. For individuals younger than 41 years, this amount may be doubled. In response to Mr Guthmann, Ms Ginter confirmed that there had been no complaints so far that low-income households would be proportionately disadvantaged by this system.

ITEM 4 (former ITEM 2)

Mr Kaschel thanked Mr Pfenning for his continued support on making EFBS requests on Basel heard in Brussels.

Mr Johan Thostrup, Political Advisor to MEP Linea Søggaard-Lidell, spoke on the “Legislative Proposal of the European Commission for the implementation of the final Basel III framework into European Law”. He elaborated on the state of play, political discussions, and economic effects of the file. Mr Thostrup labeled the 2021 Commission proposal as a very good working ground. Still, in the European Parliament a very important political fight was going on between those who want to return to the 2017 Basel agreement and those who try to adapt the rules more on European specificities. In his presentation, Mr Thostrup demonstrated that those EU Member States with the highest NPL ratios

(ES, IT) would have to bear the lowest increase in risk weights induced by Basel, while it is exactly the other way round for MS like Denmark and Germany (see presentation attached). Since no substantial progress on the file was achieved the previous day (12 October 2022) in the context of the second shadow meeting, rapporteur MEP Fernández asked shadow rapporteurs to prepare possible responses for the next meeting on the question: “*What criteria should be justified for extending the transitional arrangements?*”. Mr Kaschel argued that not only dwellings with A/ A+ energy efficiency certificates should be supported but also financing for those projects where energy efficiency is raised from a lower to a higher level in general.

Mr Kaschel thanked all speakers, EFBS members and closed the meeting.