



Dublin, 17 November 2022

Dear colleagues,

It has been my privilege to serve you as President of the Eurogroup since July 2020. Together, we have achieved many successes; nonetheless, challenges remain and new ones are evolving. Reflecting on this, I am writing to ask for your support for a second term and to outline my vision for our further work together in the next two and a half years.

When I first sought election, I promised to act as a bridge-builder between North and South, East and West, Ins and Outs, and between larger and smaller member states, to build on the trust and confidence between us. I believe my track record over the past two and a half years is evidence of my commitment to fulfilling that promise: I have been, and will continue to be, a genuine and honest broker in our negotiations, ensuring that all voices and positions are taken into account, and as much as possible, that our outputs and outcomes are agreed by consensus.

I aim to chair our meetings professionally, and develop a responsive agenda to ensure timely, relevant, political discussions, and the efficient use of your time. I have been fortunate enough to visit each of you in your home countries, to better understand your national positions. I remain in regular contact with all of you between meetings, in order to hear from you directly about the issues on your minds. My door has been, and remains, always open to each of you, equally.

All of this has been against a backdrop of a complex and challenging external environment, firstly due to the unprecedented public health and economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, and then, as our economies began to recover, from Russia's horrific and illegal war in Ukraine this year – which we are united in condemning in the strongest of terms.

Our coordinated, supportive fiscal stance in response to Covid was vital in protecting European jobs and income, and helping citizens and businesses deal with the economic and financial effects of the pandemic. As President, I have made the case for the euro area's economic recovery, rebutting the underperformance narrative of early 2021. I have engaged intensively with European and international institutions, such as the European Parliament and the IMF, as well as with civil society and media, to ensure the delivery of key Eurogroup messages.

Our Eurogroup statements on economic policy have been robust and consensus backed, and helped us navigate through difficult times. Our work brought certainty at a time marked by uncertainty. The benefits of our approach are clear, with a stronger economic recovery from the pandemic than forecast, returning to pre-pandemic economic levels by the end of 2021, and our unemployment rate at its lowest level on record.

Since autumn 2021, the Eurogroup has been at the forefront in both assessing and analysing the impact of higher energy prices and inflation on the euro area economy. We have worked to coordinate our actions, between national policies across member states, and between fiscal and monetary policies, to ensure both are effective and do not add to the inflationary pressures. Now we must have greater ambition; **my first priority, if re-elected, is to strengthen this coordination.**

I am committed to maintaining an inclusive and open approach at all times, particularly as in such uncertain times, this form of engagement will become even more crucial. I will continue my outreach with in person visits to your capitals, and transparent engagement on your behalf in the G7 and with our institutions and international partners.

I am committed to further strengthening our Banking Union if granted a second term. We have made progress on Banking Union, after eight years of inertia: this year, we invited the Commission to bring forward legislative proposals to improve the Crisis Management Framework. Through these intensive negotiations, we have also prepared much of the groundwork for our planned review of the Banking Union, and the possible measures that we may subsequently consider.

I will table a second work plan of politically relevant issues for discussion on the Digital Euro to inform the further work of the ECB and Commission during the investigative phase of this project, and if taken forward, during the implementation phase. In our discussions on the design of the Digital Euro, we have ensured that citizens are fully considered in its development, and I will continue to push for the Eurogroup's role in the process.

I will work towards the continued resilience and growth of our economy and our currency. This will build upon the successes that bolstered our shared Economic and Monetary Union this year, as we have supported Greece's successful exit from enhanced Post-Programme Surveillance, and we are now welcoming Croatia as the twentieth member of the euro area.

I will continue and broaden the transatlantic dialogues we have commenced with the United States, who share our core democratic values. This engagement is essential in building an economic coalition that supports our economic policies and enhances the international role of the euro.

Should you entrust me with the honour of a second term as President of Eurogroup, **I will build upon our work together to deliver tangible action and results**, which are in the best interests of Europe and our citizens.

As we tackle the many challenges that lie in front of us, we cannot forget that there is war on our borders; however high the economic cost to us, the price Ukraine's citizens are paying is with their lives. Ukraine is a part of our European family and we have a responsibility towards its future reconstruction. This war on European soil also reminds us of the importance of the core values that unite us, the common cause that guides us, and the shared objectives that make us a broader and stronger union.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paschal', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Paschal Donohoe T.D.

Minister for Finance and President of the Eurogroup