

Report from the Advisory Group on the future building project

45th Meeting of the Management Board 30-31 March 2017

Key messages

The current lease on ECHA's office building expires on 31 December 2019 and ECHA shall inform the landlord of its intentions with respect to an eventual renewal of the lease by 31 December 2017. The Management Board is invited to:

- take note of the activities undertaken since the last Management Board meeting in relation to this project; and
- take note of the indicative timetable for the next steps of the project, leading to the decision of the Management Board.

Background

The current lease agreement on ECHA's office building at Annankatu 18, Helsinki, Finland expires on 31 December 2019 and ECHA shall inform the landlord of its intentions with respect to its choice for the future office building by 31 December 2017. Therefore, the decision on ECHA's future office building should be made in 2017. The contract for the new building – rental agreement or purchase – falls within the definition of a building contract, as defined in the EU Financial Regulation, and there is a defined procedure to be adhered to in relation to the establishment of the new building contract. From a planning perspective, ECHA's Management Board agreed on the planning parameters at its meeting of March 2016¹.

To date, the Management Board Advisory Group on ECHA's future building project has been kept informed of the detailed work undertaken with respect to this building project, with quarterly updates provided by the Advisory Group to the Management Board.

Rationale

Activities undertaken since the last MB meeting

A negotiated procedure was launched in December 2016 and the different proposals received are presently under evaluation. The proposals are either new buildings or existing buildings to be completely refurbished. Evaluation of the proposals against the designated criteria has started.

It is planned that the evaluation would identify one, or more, building proposals that merit final negotiation of the precise terms on which the building may be leased or purchased. The Advisory Group to the Management Board will validate that selection.

Next steps - indicative timetable

The following indicative timetable sets out the next steps, or phases, of this project;

¹ MB/07/2016

Steps/Phases	Indicative Timetable
Presentation of the selected building(s) to ECHA's Management Board Advisory Group.	Q2 2017
Final endorsement of ECHA's future office building proposal by ECHA's Management Board, based on the outcome of the public procurement process.	Q3 2017
ECHA requests approval of the Budgetary Authority before building contracts are concluded.	Q3 2017
Notification of the outcome of the decision-making process to the current landlord.	Q4 2017
Implementation Phase.	From 2018

Alternative options

There are no alternative options to this project as the decision on ECHA's future office building should be made in 2017.

Drawbacks

There are no drawbacks to this project as all options are under consideration, in accordance with the defined procedure.

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