

Ceremony for the signing of the EBA's
Headquarters Agreement

Paris, Quai d'Orsay, 6 March 2019

Introductory remarks from the interim Chair of the EBA

Check Against Delivery
Seul le texte prononcé fait foi
Es gilt das gesprochene Wort

Honourable Ministers,

Honourable President of the Ile-de-France region,

Excellencies,

Colleagues and Friends,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a real honour and privilege for me to be representing the European Banking Authority on this historic occasion of the signing of the Authority's Headquarters Agreement.

After more than eight years in London, Paris will soon be opening its doors to host the EBA, which will be operational in its new seat at La Défense as of 3 June.

The choice of Paris has been a lucky one for us in many respects. First, as the birthplace of the Age of Enlightenment, Paris is and has always been a centre of education and ideas throughout the whole of Europe, the "City of Light" and source of inspiration for great poets and philosophers, engineers and scientists. Victor Hugo expressed very well the soul and essence of this city when he said: *"What Paris advises, Europe meditates it, what Paris begins, Europe continues it."*

Second, as a leading financial centre already at the end of the 19th century, Paris plays today a prominent role in financial markets and is an important base to interact with financial sector stakeholders across the continent thanks to its strong ties with other European capital cities and financial hubs. This is an important aspect for us, as it will allow the Authority to continue to carry out its mission and deliver on its tasks in the interest of the European Union. Paris will also facilitate our cross-sectoral work with our sister Agency, ESMA, and allow us to achieve new synergies.

And third, It was in Paris that on 9 May 1950, Robert Schumann presented the declaration laying down the foundation of the European Coal and Steel Community, which led to the its establishment, one year later. The Treaty of Paris was the first step (stone) leading to the European Union, as we know it today, as it laid the foundation for the creation of a common market.

For all these aspects, once again, let me reiterate how lucky and privileged we are to be relocating to Paris. Our move to this city has been made possible thanks to the collective support of the French Government, the Île-de-France Regional Council and the Mayor of Paris. In particular, I would like to thank the Ministry for Europe Affairs, which today is delivering on its pledge to finalise the EBA's new Headquarters Agreement before our move to Paris and for all the efforts made to ensure a soft landing on our arrival. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Ministry for the Economy and Finance for the trust and support throughout these months, including the financial assistance for setting up our new premises.

As you are well aware, the relocation of the EBA to Paris is not going to be a mere change of office but it will mean a new life experience and a new adventure for all our staff members. In this respect, my gratitude goes to the precious support of the public authorities in Ile de France who have been helping out, advising and encouraging our staff members on a daily basis, through the provision of practical information and tools to ensure they can all feel soon at home in this city. I would also like to thank the Paris region for promoting a truly European spirit through the launch of an international education project, which will allow the children of our staff members to have access to the appropriate education in different languages.

To conclude, today's ceremony marks a new chapter and a new beginning for the EBA and its staff and from our new seat in Paris, we are looking forward to working and cooperating with all the institutions and stakeholders across the EU. It is on this note of change that I would also like to seize this opportunity to welcome our new Chairperson, José Manuel Campa, who will steer our Authority in the next five years.

Thank you for your attention