



Mr Johan Van Overtveldt
Minister of Finance
Ministry of Finance
Rue de la Loi 12
1000 Brussels
Belgium

Copy to: Mr Jan Smets, Governor, National Bank of Belgium,
Boulevard de Berlaimont 14, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

13 October 2016
ESRB/2016/0383

Francesco Mazzaferro

Confidential transmission of ESRB Warning on medium-term vulnerabilities in the residential real estate sector of Belgium

Dear Mr Van Overtveldt,

I am addressing this letter to you on behalf of the General Board of the European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB). In order to contribute to the prevention or mitigation of systemic risks to financial stability in the European Union, the ESRB shall issue warnings or, where it deems it appropriate to suggest specific remedial action, recommendations, when significant risks are identified.

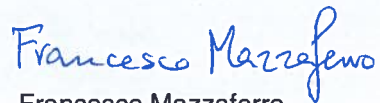
The ESRB has recently concluded a systematic and forward-looking Union-wide assessment of vulnerabilities relating to residential real estate. In this context, the ESRB has identified in eight countries certain medium-term vulnerabilities as a source of systemic risk to financial stability, which may have the potential for serious negative consequences for the real economy. Consequently, the ESRB has decided on 22 September 2016 to issue warnings to eight Member States of the European Union including Belgium and intends to make them public pursuant to the modalities foreseen Regulation (EU) No 1092/2010.

With regard to Belgium, from a macroprudential perspective, the ESRB considers the main vulnerabilities to be the fast increase in overall household indebtedness combined with significant groups of already highly indebted households, against the background of a significant increase in residential real estate prices over the past few years.

Further details can be found in the attached warning and the supporting ESRB vulnerability assessment, which reflects developments up to mid-September 2016.

I trust that the authorities in Belgium will remain vigilant to the identified risks. I am at your disposal to discuss any questions you may have related to this warning.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Francesco Mazzaferro in blue ink.

Francesco Mazzaferro

Head of the ESRB Secretariat, on behalf of the General Board of the ESRB

Encl. Warning of the European Systemic Risk Board of 22 September 2016 on medium-term vulnerabilities in the residential real estate sector of Belgium (ESRB/2016/06); ESRB residential real estate vulnerability assessment for Belgium