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PRESS RELEASE

Announcement of the Board of Directors of the National Bank of Belgium

The Bank has taken note of the Government's decision to approve a draft law amending the financial provisions of its Organic Law.

The Bank considers it to be a sound basis firstly to assure its independence as central bank, member of the Eurosystem, through an appropriate reserve policy, furthermore to be able to offer a good remuneration of its capital and finally to assure that the balance of its monetary income accrues to the sovereign State, that is to say to the community.

The bodies of the Bank will not refrain from considering the future reserve- and dividend policy, as soon as the final text is voted in Parliament. It goes without saying that as soon as the Bank has taken such decisions, they will immediately be made public. It would be premature to try to already be ahead of the decision as of now.