

February 6, 2009
SÍ-48875

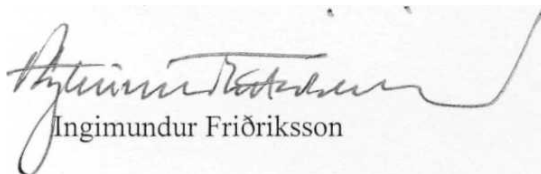
The Honourable Jóhanna Sigurdardóttir
Prime Minister of Iceland
Prime Minister's Office
Stjórnarráðshúsid við Laekjartorg
Reykjavík

With reference to your letter of February 2, 2009, and the viewpoints expressed therein, I wish to state the following: I have never participated in politics nor have I been a member of any political movement. Therefore, I can in no way accede to the statement that “political considerations ... weighed heavily” in my appointment to the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Iceland, as is intimated. I consider my appointment to have been based on professional considerations and on my expertise and my experience, both in Iceland and abroad. Furthermore, my educational background is not dissimilar to that which is common among governors of many other central banks, to which your letter also refers.

I also wish to declare that I have always sought to fulfil my duties in Iceland and abroad in a spirit of professionalism, responsibility, and conscientiousness based on the education and experience that I have gained in a career spanning several decades in this Bank and in international co-operation. In my opinion, insinuations to the contrary are both unjust and ungrounded. I consider both your letter of February 2 and various statements that you have made in public to constitute undeserved attacks on my professional integrity and honour.

I wish to be relieved of my duties as Governor of the Central Bank of Iceland effective February 9, 2009, and decline your offer to “engage in discussions with the government concerning termination payments based on the rights to which you are entitled in accordance with Article 34 of the Act on the Rights and Obligations of Government Employees.”

Respectfully yours,



Ingimundur Friðriksson

cc: Halldór Blöndal, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Central