

Independent Fiscal Institutions in the EU Fiscal Framework

First Workshop organized by the European Fiscal Board

28 FEBRUARY 2019 | BRUSSELS

Independent Fiscal Institutions (IFIs) have become an integral part of the EU's fiscal framework enhancing public scrutiny of budgetary policy. This first workshop organised by the European Fiscal Board aims at drawing relevant lessons from the experience of EU IFIs. The objective is to exchange best practice in order to strengthen IFI effectiveness in a long-lasting manner. The articles presented in this workshop make a distinct contribution towards improving the instruments that IFIs have at their disposal.

■ PROGRAMME

08.30 - 09.00 **Registration** | Lord Jenkins Room, Charlemagne Building, Rue de la Loi 170

09.00 - 09.10 Welcoming remarks by **Niels Thygesen** | Chair of the European Fiscal Board

Morning Session

Chair: **Martin Larch** | European Commission, Head of Unit, EMU Deepening - European Fiscal Board Secretariat

09.10 - 09.50 *'Fiscal Discipline: From Theory to Practice'*

Charles Wyplosz | Professor of Economics, Graduate Institute Geneva

Discussant: **George Kopits** | Senior Scholar, Woodrow Wilson Center, and Member, Portuguese Public Finance Council

09.50 - 10.30 *'Independent Fiscal Councils in the European Union: Is Coordination Required?'*

Xavier Debrun | Division Chief, IMF Fiscal Policy Department

Discussant: **Cinzia Alcidi** | Senior Research Fellow and Head of Economic Policy Unit, CEPS

10.30 - 10.45 Coffee break

10.45 - 11.25 *'Overcoming Procyclicality in the EU Spending Rule'*

Eddie Casey | Chief Economist and Head of Secretariat, Irish Fiscal Advisory Council and **Sebastian Barnes** | Senior Economist, OECD, and Member, Irish Fiscal Advisory Council

Discussant: **Christophe Kamps** | Head of Fiscal Policies Division, European Central Bank

11.25 - 12.25 **Panel Discussion: *The interplay between IFIs and the EU Fiscal Framework – How can the role of the IFIs be strengthened?***

Niels Thygesen (Chair) | Chair of the European Fiscal Board

Chiara Goretti | Member, Italian Parliamentary Budget Office

José Luis Escrivá | Chair, Network of EU Independent Fiscal Institutions and President, Spanish Independent Authority for Fiscal Responsibility (AIReF)

Grégory Claeys | Research Fellow, Bruegel

François Monier | Secretary General, High Council of Public Finances

12.30 - 13.30 Lunch break

Afternoon Session

Chair: **Stefan Ciobanu** | Head of Unit, European Commission, Fiscal Governance

13.30 - 14.10 *'Costing Election Manifestos: Experience from EU IFIs'*

Dace Kalsone | Head of Secretariat, Latvian Fiscal Discipline Council, and **Sander van Veldhuizen** | Programme Manager Public Finance, CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis

Discussant: **Scherie Nicol** | Policy Analyst, Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD

14.10 - 14.25 Coffee break

14.25 - 15.05 *'The Swedish Fiscal Policy Council – the most successful one in the EU? The first 10 years and beyond'*

Lars Jonung | Professor emeritus of Economics, Lund University, and **Fredrik N.G. Andersson** | Associate Professor of Economics, Lund University

Discussant: **Tobias Tesche** | Policy Officer, European Commission, EMU Deepening - European Fiscal Board Secretariat

15.05 - 15.45 *'Some elements of a revamped fiscal framework for Spain'*

Carlos Cuerpo Caballero | Director, Economic Analysis Division, Spanish Independent Authority for Fiscal Responsibility (AIReF)

Discussant: **Laszlo Jankovics** | Policy Analyst, European Commission, Fiscal Governance

15.45 - 16.00 Concluding remarks by **Roel Beetsma** | Member, European Fiscal Board, and Vice-Dean, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Amsterdam