

# Centralisation vs decentralisation of the EU fiscal framework

## Fifth Annual Conference of the European Fiscal Board

**11 MAY 2023 | BRUSSELS, CHARLEMAGNE BUILDING, JENKINS ROOM, RUE DE LA LOI 170**

One of the key dimensions of the ongoing debate on the reform of the EU fiscal rules is the extent to which fiscal surveillance by the EU institutions could and should be complemented by decentralised efforts at the national level. Numerous factors need to be taken into account, as significant steps towards decentralisation would entail policy and institutional challenges. Are minimum standards for Independent Fiscal Institutions (IFIs) guaranteed? Is there consistency between national fiscal frameworks and EU fiscal rules? What are the limits of subsidiarity in the fiscal surveillance? How should tasks be divided at the different levels? These issues will be addressed in the papers in the morning session and the following panel.

Underpinning sustainable public finances is retained as the key objective in the proposed reform of the EU rules-based governance framework, but it will become more nationally-differentiated and shift towards a medium term perspective. In the afternoon papers by leading academics will review the state of the debate on the extent to which sustainability can be made an operational objective through agreement on methodology and key assumptions. The construction of reference paths for government debt, to be prepared by the European Commission - the first step in assessing national efforts in the reformed governance – will be reviewed by the authors of the 2023 Debt Sustainability Monitor, to be followed by a panel of national and EU policy makers.

### ▪ *DRAFT PROGRAMME*

08:45 - 09:35 Registration - welcome coffee

#### ***Opening***

09:35 - 09:40 Welcoming remarks by **Niels Thygesen** | European Fiscal Board, Chair

09:40 - 09:45 Opening speech (video message) by **Valdis Dombrovskis** | European Commission, Executive Vice President

***Morning session*** Chair: **Martin Larch** | Secretariat of the European Fiscal Board, Head

09:45 - 10:15 *Working in the same or different directions? Assessing the relationship between EU and domestic fiscal frameworks*  
**Sebastian Barnes** | Network of EU Independent Fiscal Institutions, Deputy Chair

10:15 - 10:35 Coffee break

10:35 - 11:05 *Strengthening EU Independent Fiscal Institutions*  
**George Kopits** | Advisory Panel, Council for Budget Responsibility of Slovakia, Member

11:05-11:20 Discussant: **Nadine Leiner-Killinger** | ECB, Fiscal analysis, Head of Section

11:20-11:30 Q&A

11:30 - 12:30	<p><b>Panel Discussion – Centralization vs decentralization</b></p> <p>Moderator <b>Roel Beetsma</b>   European Fiscal Board, member</p> <p>Panellists <b>Thiess Buettner</b>   University of Erlangen-Nuremberg   German Stability Council, Chair, Advisory Board <b>Lilia Cavallari</b>   University of Roma Tre   Italian Parliamentary Budget Office, Head <b>Massimo Suardi</b>   European Commission, DG ECFIN, Fiscal Policy, Director</p>
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch break
<b>Afternoon session</b>	Chair: <b>Massimo Bordignon</b>   European Fiscal Board, Member
14:00- 14:30	<p><i>The EU's debt sustainability analysis</i> <b>Stephanie Pamies</b>   European Commission, DG ECFIN, Sustainability of public finances and public expenditure trends</p>
14:30 - 15:00	<p><i>Fiscal policy, debt sustainability and the terms of official support</i> <b>Giancarlo Corsetti</b>   European University Institute</p>
15:00 - 15:30	<p><i>Debt sustainability and monetary policy. The ebb and flow of ECB asset purchases</i> <b>Enrique Alberola</b>   Banco de España, adviser</p>
15:30 – 15:45	Discussant: <b>Nathaniel Arnold</b>   IMF, Deputy Representative to the EU
15:45 – 15:55	Q&A
15:55 – 16:20	Coffee break
16:20 – 17:20	<p><b>Panel Discussion – Can debt sustainability be made operational?</b></p> <p>Moderator <b>Xavier Debrun</b>   European Fiscal Board, Member</p> <p>Panellists <b>Giovanni Callegari</b>   European Stability Mechanism, Economic and Risk Analysis, Head of Division <b>Nazare Costa-Cabral</b>   Portuguese Public Finance Council, Chair <b>Ettore Dorrucchi</b>   ECB, Fiscal Policy, Head of Division</p>
17:20 - 17:30	Concluding remarks (video message) by <b>Paolo Gentiloni</b>   European Commission, Commissioner