Eurogroup

ANNOTATED AGENDA
Brussels, 14 March 2017
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Draft Eurogroup annotated agenda[1]
20 March 2017

Starting time 15h00, Brussels

1. Annual ex-ante reporting on issuance plans

As last year, Ministers will consider annual ex ante debt issuance plans on the basis of the EWG reporting.

According to the Regulation EU N° 473/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, euro area Member States are required to report ex ante on their national debt issuance plans to the Commission and to the Eurogroup, with a view to better coordinating the planning of their public debt issuance.

2. SGP implementation for euro area Member States and DBP follow-up

The Eurogroup will follow up on the implementation of draft budgetary plans and the budgetary situation in the euro area as a whole. This follow-up was envisaged in the Eurogroup statements of 5 December 2016 and 26 January 2017, which also contained a series of commitments.

The so-called "Two Pack" (specifically Regulation EU N° 473/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council) sets out common provisions for monitoring and assessing draft budgetary plans (DBPs) submitted by euro area Member States as part of a common budgetary timeline. According to the Regulation, the Commission Opinions on DBPs are to be presented to the Eurogroup. it has become established practice for the Eurogroup to adopt statements based on these Opinions and to organise follow-up monitoring throughout the year.

[1] As a draft agenda this document is provisional and subject to change until adopted.

3. Thematic discussion on growth and jobs – Pensions (benchmarking)

As part of the thematic discussions on growth and jobs, the Eurogroup will hold a third round of discussions on pension sustainability in the euro area with a view to agreeing on the modalities of a benchmarking exercise to be outlined in a Eurogroup statement.

In December 2015, the Eurogroup discussed sustainability challenges related to pension systems. Putting pension systems on a sustainable path was identified as a policy priority in view of inter alia population ageing in the coming decades. In June 2016, the Eurogroup adopted a set of common principles for strengthening pension sustainability and invited the Commission to explore the development of appropriate benchmarks, based on the common principles.

4. Greece – State of play

The Eurogroup will take stock of the progress regarding the second review of the macroeconomic adjustment programme in Greece, following the return of the mission teams to Athens.

At its last meeting in February 2017, the Eurogroup was informed that the four institutions and the Greek authorities had reached a common understanding on the basis for the mission to return to Athens to continue the second review.

5. Miscellaneous