

Draft Eurogroup annotated agenda¹ 11 July 2016

Starting time 15h00, Brussels

1. Economic and financial situation in the euro area

The Eurogroup will hold an exchange of views on the economic and financial situation in the euro area in the aftermath of the UK referendum on EU membership. The Commission and the ECB are expected to report in particular on financial market reactions.

As mentioned in its work programme, the Eurogroup intends to regularly monitor financial and macroeconomic stability developments in the euro area. Discussions on the euro area economic situation and outlook usually take place following the release of the European Commission forecasts, but can also be held at any other Eurogroup meeting.

2. Ireland – post-programme surveillance – 5th review (oral debrief)

The Eurogroup will be orally debriefed by the European Commission and the ECB on the main findings of the 5th post-programme surveillance mission to Ireland carried out between 7-10 June, by the ESM on its early warning system and by the IMF on its post-programme monitoring mission, which this time was combined with its Article IV consultation.

Post-programme surveillance (PPS) starts automatically after the end of financial assistance programmes and continues until at least 75% of the financial assistance received has been repaid. PPS is biannual in terms of reporting and missions. With a view to ensuring timely reporting, the Eurogroup is typically debriefed shortly after the PPS mission is concluded.

Minister Noonan will also be invited to present the policy priorities of the Irish government. This is a customary item in the Eurogroup after a new government comes into office. The new Irish government was appointed in May 2016.

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

3. Portugal – post-programme surveillance – 4th review (oral debrief)

The Eurogroup will be also orally debriefed by the European Commission and the ECB on the main findings of the 4th post-programme surveillance mission to Portugal carried out between 15-22 June, by the ESM on its early warning system and by the IMF on the post-programme monitoring mission that took place in the same period.

4. Euro area fiscal stance

The Eurogroup will discuss the fiscal stance of the euro area, based on the stability programmes from euro area Member States. The discussion could usefully feed into the euro area recommendations for 2017 and the preparation of the draft budgetary plans.

Regulation (EU) 473/2013 requires Eurogroup discussion of the budgetary situation and prospects in the euro area as a whole in the context of draft budgetary plan assessments. In this context, the Eurogroup has regular discussions on the euro area fiscal stance.

5. Stability and Growth Pact implementation for euro area countries

The Eurogroup will discuss the current budgetary challenges in Spain and Portugal and the issues arising from any Commission recommendation for EDP steps for Spain and Portugal.

Against the background of the close coordination of fiscal policies in the euro area, the Eurogroup regularly reviews the fiscal policy stance of euro area Member States, including in preparation for a full discussion and decision on possible EDP steps in the ECOFIN.

6. Thematic discussion on growth and jobs – investment in the euro area

Finally, the Eurogroup will exchange views on investment in the euro area in the context of its thematic discussions on jobs and growth. The Ministers will pay particular attention to the challenges of reducing regulatory rigidities and barriers to investment.

While a broader discussion on investment is taking place in the EU-28 setting, the euro area has a specific interest in addressing barriers to investment in order to aid the rebalancing process in the common currency area and for lifting growth prospects. Investment that helps boost productivity and non-cost competitiveness in particular could also contribute to reducing external vulnerabilities. Member States are likely to benefit above all when tackling reforms in a coordinated manner. The prioritisation of investment featured in the 1st and 2nd 2015 euro area recommendations under the European Semester.

7. Miscellaneous