

Joint ECFIN-Bank of Latvia seminar, 1 March 2012

EU balance-of-payments assistance for Latvia: foundations of success

Venue: Brussels, Berlaymont Building, Schuman Conference Room

Welcome (9:00-9:10)

Elena Flores, Director, DG ECFIN, European Commission

Opening Remarks (9:10-10:00)

Marco Buti, Director General, DG ECFIN, European Commission

Valdis Dombrovskis, Prime Minister, Latvia

Ilmars Rimsevics, Governor, Bank of Latvia

Session I (10:00-12:30)

The economics of the crisis and of internal adjustment

Chair: Uldis Rutkaste, Chief Economist at the Bank of Latvia

"How Imbalances Were Created: Capital Flows, Competitiveness and Economic Growth in Latvia"

Karsten Staehr, Tallinn School of Economics and Business Administration, Tallinn University of Technology

"Competitiveness Factors during a Successful Adjustment"

Radoslav Krastev, DG ECFIN, European Commission

Coffee break (10:45-11:15)

"Latvia's Competitiveness before and after the Crisis"

Konstantins Benkovskis, Bank of Latvia

"Banking Sector Adjustment"

Martins Kazaks, Swedbank Latvia

"Fiscal Consolidation in the Midst of the Crisis: Lessons from Latvia"

Ingrid Toming and Francesco Di Comite, DG ECFIN, European Commission

LUNCH (12:30-14:00)

Session II (14:00-15:15)

The political economy of adjustment: why could it succeed?

Chair: Ake Tornqvist, Ministry of Finance, Sweden

"Fiscal Sustainability, Demographic Change and Inequality: Social Sectors from Crisis to Growth in Latvia"

Peter Harrold, Emily Sinnott, and Indhira Santos, World Bank

"Conceptualising EU/IMF Financial Assistance Negotiations in Latvia"
Samuel Dahan, Saint Edmund's College, Law Faculty, University of Cambridge

"Fiscal Austerity, Structural Reforms and Re-election: Explaining the "Possible Trinity" in the Case of Latvia"
Marion Salines, European Central Bank

Coffee break (15:15-15:30)

Session III (15:30-17:15)

Roundtable: Lessons from Latvia and the way forward

Chair: Matthias Mors, Director, DG ECFIN, European Commission

- Adopting the euro: what remains to be done?
- How to ensure the economy's sustainability, competitiveness and strong external position in the future?
- What could be the potential growth after recovering from the crisis?
- Structural reforms (education, labour mismatch, business climate, etc.)
- What lessons for Europe?

Panel speakers:

Andris Vilks, Minister of Finance, Government of Latvia

Gabriele Giudice, DG ECFIN, European Commission

Mark Griffiths, IMF

Karlis Bauze, Bank of Latvia

Ettore Dorrucci, ECB

Wrap-up and concluding remarks (17:15-17:30)

Matthias Mors, Director, DG ECFIN, European Commission