

WORKSHOP on MTBFs

7th September 2017, h. 10-17

Palazzo Cenci – Piazza Sant’Eustachio, 83 – Rome

9:30 - 10:00 *Registration and welcome coffee*

10:00 - 10:15: Opening remarks – Giuseppe Pisauro (UPB)

10:15 - 11:15: Session 1 – Chair: Sweden

Some problematic issues: definitions and the use of aggregate indices

(Marco Cangiano – 25 min)

- Need to clarify some definitions in the context of MTBFs to ensure a comparable set of answers from Member States to the Commission questionnaire
- Assembling an MTBF index: pros and cons

Discussant: [Monika Sherwood, European Commission](#) (10 min)

Open discussion: 25 min

11:15 - 11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30 - 12:30: Session 2 – Chair: Cyprus

Slippages in expenditures and in budget balances: Evidence from collected data

(UPB – 20 min)

- Budget balances are hardly the most appropriate tool for medium term budgetary programming because the revenue side is heavily affected by revisions of macroeconomic forecasts. Structural balances should correct for this, at least in part, but they are unobservable variables so that they are difficult to be understood and accepted at the political and public level. Moreover, in many cases they can be affected by measurement errors as well as by major revisions over time.
- Spending is less affected by the cycle and thus is a more appropriate tool for medium-term programming. Moreover, spending programming appears to be the best means to maintain consistency over the legislature term of the political priorities that should be established on the basis of collective preferences.

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Discussant 1: [Michal Horvath](#) (10 min)

Discussant 2: [Finland](#) (10 min)

Open discussion: 20 min

12:30-13:45 Lunch break

13:45-14:45: Session 3 – Chair: Bulgaria

MTBF procedures – National expenditure rules and top-down approach
([France](#), [Netherlands](#) – 2x15 min)

- Relationship between national MTBFs and the EU Semester
- Relationship between MTBFs and annual budgets

Discussant: [Portugal](#) (10 min)

Open discussion: 20 min

14:45-15:00 Coffee break

15.00-16:00: Session 4 – Chair: Michal Horvath

MTBF procedures – Other crucial issues ([Spain](#), [Portugal](#) - 2x15 min)

- Reconciliation among different accounting standards
- MTBFs in case of different levels of government

Discussant: [Malta](#) (10 min)

Open discussion: 20 min

16:00 - 17:00: Concluding Panel – Chair: Marco Cangiano

A stronger role for national MTBFs in the EU Framework?

Lucio Pench (European Commission)

Netherlands

UPB

Open discussion: 30 min