



ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COMMITTEE
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EFC-ALTERNATES
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Brussels, 19 March 2015
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Subject: Strengthening communication between the Committees and the European Union Independent Fiscal Institutions

Dear Heads of European Union Independent Fiscal Institutions,

We write to you jointly as Chairmen of the alternate members of the Economic and Financial Committee (Alternates) and of the Economic Policy Committee (EPC). We refer to your letter of 2 February 2015 on building a more effective working relationship between the EPC and the EU Independent Fiscal Institutions (EU IFIs). The Alternates have recently been given responsibility for fiscal frameworks within the work structure of the Economic and Financial Committee (EFC). As such, your letter has been shared with the Alternates and has been discussed by them on 20 February.

We welcome your interest in the work of the Committees. The Alternates acknowledge that the Six-pack, the Two-pack and the Fiscal Compact have considerably strengthened the role of the independent fiscal institutions within the EU fiscal surveillance framework.

We understand that the effectiveness of your work would benefit from timely access to methodological documentation. To that end, we agree to share with you technical documents linked to the functioning of the Stability and Growth Pact and fiscal frameworks. We have also discussed your interest to participate in technical debates on the analytical toolkit used in fiscal surveillance. We suggest holding an annual discussion meeting between the members represented in the alternates and the EU IFIs to discuss methodological issues of common interest. We think that this arrangement would be more beneficial than formal representation of a single representative of the EU IFIs in the Alternates, also taking into account the importance of safeguarding the respective roles of the Ministries of Finance and the EU IFIs in the process of policy setting and independent policy scrutiny.

The Secretariat of the EFC is working to establish, in the near future, the platform to distribute the above mentioned methodological documentation to the EU IFIs in cooperation with the Commission. You will be informed when the necessary arrangements are in place. We have also asked the Secretariat to liaise with the Commission on organising a discussion meeting in the second half of 2015.

We look forward to a fruitful cooperation with you.

Yours sincerely,

Steen Lohmann Poulsen
Chairman of the EFC Alternates

Jens Granlund
Chairman of the Economic Policy Committee