

Draft Eurogroup annotated agenda¹ 10 October 2016

Luxembourg

1. Greece – state of play

The Eurogroup will discuss the state of play of the macroeconomic adjustment programme of Greece. In particular, the Eurogroup will take stock of the implementation of the milestones and progress with arrears clearance, following a mission by the institutions in September.

The Eurogroup statement of 25 May indicates that the additional disbursements after the summer under the second tranche will be subject to the completion of milestones related to privatization, including the new Privatization and Investment Fund, bank governance, revenue agency and energy sector reforms as well as progress in clearing of net arrears. The availability period of the outstanding sub-tranche will expire by the end of October.

2. Thematic discussion on growth and jobs: fiscal sustainability in health- and long-term care

The Eurogroup will discuss fiscal sustainability in health- and long-term care in the euro area in the context of the thematic discussions on jobs and growth. The Ministers will examine risks to medium- and long-term fiscal sustainability implied by expenditure projections and financing challenges in health systems, as well as policy options to contain these risks.

The Eurogroup agreed to explore these issues in the context of its discussion on fiscal sustainability risks from pension expenditure in December 2015. As health- and long-term care tends to claim a significant part of government expenditure, there is also a link to the Eurogroup workstream on the quality of public finances. High government debt, together with the budgetary pressures posed by population ageing, including health care and long-term care expenditure, make the fiscal sustainability of health systems a matter of common concern in the euro area. Health systems also play a role in economic prosperity through their impact on labour market participation and productivity, and will be crucial for longer working lives in the context of an ageing society.

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

3. Current fiscal issues

The Eurogroup will have a follow-up discussion on current fiscal issues, including the implementation of the SGP and the preparation of the DBP process, drawing on the experience of previous DBP rounds.

Regulation (EU) 473/2013 (part of the "2-pack"), stipulates a requirement to submit DBPs by 15 October and sets out a process for assessing whether these draft budgets comply with EU fiscal rules ahead of their final adoption. More detailed requirements for the content and timing of DBP submissions and re-submissions are set out in a Code of Conduct. In September, the Eurogroup lent its support to the preparation of targeted improvements to this Code of Conduct.

4. G7 debrief

The President of the Eurogroup will debrief Ministers on the G7 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' meeting expected to take place in the margins of the Washington international meetings in the beginning of October. The Eurogroup may discuss possible follow-up if warranted.

5. Miscellaneous
