



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Luxembourg, 21 June 2013  
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PRESSE 264

## **Country-specific recommendations on economic and fiscal policies**

The Council approved today<sup>1</sup>, under this year's *European Semester*, draft recommendations to 23 member states<sup>2</sup> on the economic policies set out in their national reform programmes, as well as draft opinions on each member state's fiscal policies, as presented in their stability/convergence programmes.

The Council also approved a specific draft recommendation on the economic policies of the euro area member states, and draft conclusions on Croatia (which will join the EU on 1 July).

The European Council in March endorsed priorities under this year's *European Semester*. Given the stagnation of economic activity forecast for 2013 and the unacceptably high levels of unemployment, it emphasised the need to accelerate efforts to support growth as a matter of priority whilst pursuing growth-friendly fiscal consolidation.

The texts approved today will be forwarded to the General Affairs Council on 25 June, with a view to the European Council meeting on 27 and 28 June. Recommendations covering both economic and employment policies are due to be adopted in July.

In accordance with rules introduced in 2011 under the "six-pack" of economic governance legislation (specifically regulation 1175/2011), the Council is expected to comply with the Commission's recommendations and proposals or explain its position publicly. Its explanations will also be issued in July.

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<sup>1</sup> At a meeting of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council.

<sup>2</sup> All except Cyprus, Ireland, Greece and Portugal, which are subject to macroeconomic adjustment programmes. To avoid duplication, there are no additional recommendations for these countries.

# **P R E S S**

The *European Semester* involves simultaneous monitoring by the Commission of the member states' economic and fiscal policies during a six-month period every year. In the light of policy guidance from the European Council in March, the member states present their national reform programmes and stability/convergence programmes annually in April.

The national reform programmes contain a macroeconomic scenario for the medium term, national targets for implementing the "Europe 2020" strategy for jobs and growth, identification of the main obstacles to growth, and measures for concentrating growth-enhancing initiatives in the short term.

The stability and convergence programmes<sup>1</sup> set out medium-term budgetary objectives, the main assumptions about expected economic developments, a description of fiscal and economic policy measures, and an analysis of how changes in assumptions will affect fiscal and debt positions.

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<sup>1</sup> Euro area member states present stability programmes, those member states that don't use the euro present convergence programmes.

The recommendations and conclusions can be found in the following documents:

Member states whose currency is the euro:	<a href="#"><u>10666/13</u></a>
Belgium:	<a href="#"><u>10623/13</u></a>
Bulgaria:	<a href="#"><u>10625/13</u></a>
Czech Republic:	<a href="#"><u>10626/13</u></a>
Denmark:	<a href="#"><u>10630/13</u></a>
Germany:	<a href="#"><u>10636/13</u></a>
Estonia:	<a href="#"><u>10633/13</u></a>
Spain:	<a href="#"><u>10656/13</u></a>
France:	<a href="#"><u>10635/13</u></a>
Italy:	<a href="#"><u>10640/13</u></a>
Latvia:	<a href="#"><u>10642/13</u></a>
Lithuania:	<a href="#"><u>10643/13</u></a>
Luxembourg:	<a href="#"><u>10644/13</u></a>
Hungary:	<a href="#"><u>10638/13</u></a>
Malta:	<a href="#"><u>10645/13</u></a>
The Netherlands:	<a href="#"><u>10658/13</u></a>
Austria:	<a href="#"><u>10619/13</u></a>
Poland:	<a href="#"><u>10648/13</u></a>
Romania:	<a href="#"><u>10649/13</u></a>
Slovenia:	<a href="#"><u>10655/13</u></a>
Slovakia:	<a href="#"><u>10654/13</u></a>
Finland:	<a href="#"><u>10634/13</u></a>
Sweden:	<a href="#"><u>10657/13</u></a>
United Kingdom:	<a href="#"><u>10660/13</u></a>

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