

Medlemmerne af Folketingets Europaudvalg
og deres stedfortrædere

Bilag	Journalnummer	Kontor	
1	400.C.2-0	EUK	25. oktober 2005

Til underretning for Folketingets Europaudvalg vedlægges Finansministeriets redegørelse for rådsmøde (ECOFIN) den 11. oktober 2005.

Notat

17. oktober

Referat fra EU finans- og økonomiministtermøde (ECOFIN) den 11. oktober 2005

Dagsordenspunkt: **Stabilitets- og Vækstpagten – opfølgning på rådsanbefaling til Ungarn under artikel 104(7)**

Rådet blev orienteret om den finanspolitiske situation i Ungarn, herunder om udviklingen i det ungarske offentlige budgetunderskud.

Kommissionen og formanden for den Økonomiske og Finansielle Komité (EFC) redegjorde for, at den finanspolitiske situation er alvorlig, og at Ungarn i modstrid med de to på hinanden følgende rådshenstillinger under traktatens artikel 104(7) ikke har iværksat tilstrækkelige foranstaltninger med henblik på at bringe det offentlige underskud under referenceværdien på 3 pct. af BNP i 2008. Kommissionen forventes derfor forud for rådsmødet den 8. november 2005 at fremsætte et udkast til en rådsbeslutning under artikel 104(8) om manglende efterlevelse af den seneste henstilling af 8. marts 2005.

Dagsordenspunkt: **Fremtidig politik for finansielle tjenesteydelser 2005-2010**

Rådet vedtog konklusioner på basis af Kommissionens grønbog om en fremtidig politik for finansielle tjenesteydelser i perioden 2005-2010, *jf. vedlagte bilag*. Rådet bød grønbogen velkommen og understregede vigtigheden af, at en konsistent og effektiv implementering af allerede vedtagne direktiver prioriteres, og at fremsættelsen af nye EU forslag bygger på princippet om ”bedre regulering”.

I forlængelse heraf drøftede Rådet prioriteringer i relation til kommende tiltag inden for området finansielle tjenesteydelser. Sagen forventes at blive taget op igen på ECOFIN i december 2005.

Dagsordenspunkt: **Konkurrencepolitik – sektorundersøgelser**

Rådet blev af Kommissionen orienteret om sektorundersøgelser af konkurrenceforholdene inden for elektricitets- og gasmarkedene samt den finansielle sektor, herunder områderne ”retail banking”, betalingskort og erhvervsforsikring.

Kommissionen oplyste, at resultaterne forventes offentliggjort i 2006. Samtidig vil man vurdere behovet for eventuelle politiktiltag.

Rådet tog orienteringen til efterretning, og flere ministre understregede, at det var vigtigt at fremme konkurrencen. Det blev konkluderet, at man vil vende tilbage til sagen, når resultaterne af undersøgelserne foreligger.

Dagsordenspunkt: Økonomiske relationer mellem EU-USA – opfølgning på EU-USA topmødet i juni 2005

På grundlag af et fælles papir udarbejdet af formandskabet og de to kommende formandskaber, Østrig og Finland, drøftede rådet ECOFIN's mulige bidrag til opfølgningen på EU-USA topmødet i juni 2005 på det økonomiske område.

I papiret konkluderes, at eksisterende processer for EU-USA samarbejdet med fordel kan forstærkes og komplementeres ved drøftelser i ECOFIN inden for de områder, hvor der er væsentlige økonomiske gevinster for EU i sigte, herunder samarbejde om regulering, finansielle tjenesteydelser og innovation.

Kommissionen og flere medlemslande udtrykte generel støtte til formandskabets initiativ.

Dagsordenspunkt: Økonomisk støtte til Gazastriben og Vestbredden

Kommissionen og Den Europæiske Investeringsbank orienterede om status for forberedelsen af en samlet europæisk ”støttepakke” til Vestbredden og Gazastriben i samarbejde med andre lande og institutioner arbejdende i regionen. Rådet tog orienteringen til efterretning.

Dagsordenspunkt: Tilsynsudvalgene i den finansielle sektor

Rådet blev af formændene for de tre Lamfalussy-komitéer (Det europæiske udvalg for banktilsyn, Det europæiske tilsynsudvalg for forsikrings- og arbejdsmarkedspensionsordninger og Det europæiske tilsynsudvalg for værdipapirer) orienteret om de tre udvalgs arbejde i forhold til at forbedre kvaliteten af den europæiske lovgivning og reducere regelbyrden inden for det finansielle område.

Rådet tog orienteringen til efterretning og opfordrede de tre formænd til at fortsætte komitéernes gode arbejde.

A-punkter

Rådet vedtog uden drøftelse direktiv om kapitalkrav til kreditinstitutter og investeringselskaber (Basel II) og direktiv om lovpligtig revision af årsregnskaber og koncernregnskaber (8. selskabsdirektiv). Desuden vedtog rådet konklusioner om henholdsvis revideret adfærdskodeks for stabilitets- og konvergens-programmer og mellemfristet finansiel assistance til medlemsstaterne, *jf. vedlagte bilag*. Rådet vedtog ligeledes en beslutning om, at Tyskland og Nederlandene kan få dispensation fra EU's beskatningsregler i forbindelse med konstruktionen af en bro over "Rodebach" mellem de to lande.

Diverse

Formandskabet præsenterede en udtalelse om det seneste jordskælv i Sydasiens, *jf. vedlagte bilag*. Udtalelsen fokuserer blandt andet på, at EU og de nationale regeringer er klar til at fremskaffe yderligere nødvendig assistance til brug for genopbygningen af de katastroferamte områder.

Rådet hilste formandskabets udtalelse velkommen.

Bilag

Rådskonklusioner om en fremtidig politik for finansielle tjenesteydelser i perioden 2005-2010

FINANCIAL SERVICES - FOLLOW-UP TO THE COMMISSION'S ACTION PLAN

”The Council:

- WELCOMES the outline of the Commission’s financial services policy for 2005-2010 as set out in the Commission’s Green Paper;
- NOTES that the Green Paper is broadly in line with its conclusions of 2 June and 16 November 2004;
- REAFFIRMS that full and consistent implementation and effective enforcement of all FSAP measures must now have priority; and STRESSES that Member States must play their role by transposing and implementing the agreed FSAP texts on time and EU regulators and supervisors must be given the necessary supervisory powers and assist in ensuring consistent day-to-day application and supervision of the rules;
- EMPHASISES that the momentum should be maintained for finalising important initiatives under way, such as the preparation of the Solvency II project in the insurance sector; and WELCOMES the approach taken by the Commission to further integration based on systematic analysis of remaining obstacles and of the impact of tackling those obstacles on a case-by-case basis;
- EMPHASISES the importance of the "better regulation" approach to be applied by the Commission to any new initiatives, including open and transparent consultation at all levels with an appropriate involvement also of consumers, thorough ex-ante economic impact assessments and ex-post evaluations, all based on a clear and transparent methodology;
- UNDERLINES that Member States should also contribute to making better regulation work to the best of their abilities and UNDERTAKES to carry out impact assessments on substantive Council amendments to legislative proposals;
- STRESSES that an integrated EU market for financial services poses further challenges for financial supervision in Europe, especially as regards supervision of cross-border groups and entities, and therefore ENCOURAGES the ongoing work of the FSC on enhancing the EU’s supervisory arrangements, and in particular, LOOKS FORWARD to its assessment of further policy priorities in developing financial supervision in the EU;

- WELCOMES the ongoing efforts by the Commission, the FSC and the EFC in the area of financial stability and crisis management, and INVITES the Commission to assess obstacles to information exchange between EU supervisory authorities, central banks and finance ministries; as well as current arrangements for deposit guarantee schemes;
- SHARES the Commission's view that synergies with other policy areas, in particular competition and consumer policies are expected to increase in the future;
- AGREES with the Commission on the importance of the EU's global competitiveness, and thus INVITES the Commission to further develop the ongoing Regulatory Dialogue with the US and other important trading partners by further enhancing its pro-active and forward-looking nature; and
- UNDERLINES the intention, at its December meeting, to further assess the Commission's post-FSAP strategy in light of the Commission's White Paper."

Rådskonklusioner om revideret adfærdskodeks for stabilitets- og konvergens-programmer

STABILITY AND CONVERGENCE PROGRAMMES

"The Council approved a Code of Conduct relating to Specifications on the implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact and Guidelines on the content and format of the Stability and Convergence programmes.

This Code of Conduct updates and replaces the Opinion of the Economic and Financial Committee on the content and format of the Stability and Convergence Programmes, endorsed by the Council on 10 July 2001. It has been updated in line with the 20 March 2005 (Ecofin) Council report on "Improving the implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact", as endorsed by the 22-23 March 2005 European Council, and the two Regulations, No 1055/05 and No 1056/05, amending Regulations No 1466/97 and No 1467/97, which were adopted on 27 June 2005 and complemented the Pact.

The Council confirms that the Stability and Growth Pact is an essential part of the macroeconomic framework of the Economic and Monetary Union. The Council considers that this revised Code of Conduct contains the guidelines for a consistent and even-handed implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact and for the content and format of the stability and convergence programmes."

Rådskonklusioner om mellemfristet finansiel assistance til medlemsstaterne

MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MEMBER STATES

“On 18 February 2002, the Council established a Community facility for providing medium-term financial assistance to Member States, which have not adopted the euro and are experiencing, or are threatened with, difficulties in their balance of payments on current or capital accounts (Council Regulation (EC) No 332/2002).

As three years have elapsed since the adoption of the Regulation, the Commission has prepared a Communication (doc. 11589/05 ECOFIN 259 - COM(2005) 331 final) as a report to the Council on the functioning of the facility. The EFC delivered its opinion on 30 September.

The Council carefully examined the Commission report and the opinion by the EFC. The Council:

- is of the view that the principle and underlying rationale of the facility remain valid although the facility has not been activated since the adoption of the Regulation.
- deems the current ceiling at a sufficiently high level to satisfy the simultaneous needs of several Member States.
- welcomes the updates to the Commission’s European Medium-Term Note (EMTN) programme as the framework agreement on the issuance of bonds.

The Council is therefore of the view that no change to the facility is warranted at this stage.”

Formandskabets udtalelse om jordskælvet i Sydasiien

EARTHQUAKE IN SOUTH ASIA

“We are all deeply shocked by the terrible earthquake which hit South Asia on Saturday morning. The initial response from the EU was immediate. The Commission announced an immediate humanitarian aid package on Sunday, as soon as the tragic scale of this earthquake became apparent. It is now examining urgently what it can provide for the post-emergency phase. In addition, Member State governments have provided additional aid and support including specialist rescue teams.

We as President, and on behalf of this Council, would like to send a message from this meeting, not only of sympathy, solidarity, and support to the people and peoples affected, but of a willingness as a Community and as national governments that we stand ready to provide additional assistance as required to alleviate the consequences of this humanitarian disaster and to assist in the reconstruction. And we

call on the World Bank, IMF, and UN Agencies to do all they can to assist with aid and reconstruction.”