

CMFB opinion
on the supplementary table for reporting government interventions to mitigate the impact of high energy prices

1. At Eurostat's request of 7 February 2023, the CMFB Chairman, with the assistance of the CMFB Executive Body, asked the CMFB Members on 18 February 2023 to state their opinions on a proposed supplementary table for reporting government interventions to mitigate the impact of high energy prices. The CMFB consultation was sought by Eurostat following the provisions of Article 8.2 of Council Regulation (EC) N° 479/2009, as amended. The deadline for replies was 3 March 2023.
2. The supplementary table for reporting government interventions to mitigate the impact of high energy prices has two main objectives:
 - a. To facilitate Eurostat's validation/verification of EDP and GFS data, in the face of significant and numerous schemes to mitigate the impact of high energy prices;
 - b. To enable users to interpret the data when faced with significant fluctuations in key EDP and quarterly GFS aggregates. The information collected would ideally be shared¹ with DG ECFIN and the ECB² users under embargo.
3. A total of thirty-nine (39) institutions provided their opinions, meeting the required quorum of 50% plus one vote (without counting the 'no opinion' votes). Twenty (20) National Statistical Institutes and seventeen (17) National Central Banks of the European Union expressed their opinions as well as the ECB and Statistics Iceland.
4. The CMFB agrees, based on a very large majority of opinions expressed, with the introduction of the proposed table for reporting government interventions to mitigate the impact of high energy prices.
5. The CMFB welcomes the introduction of the supplementary table as it provides relevant information for fiscal analysis and forecasting, thereby minimising as much as possible the additional reporting burden on compilers. The CMFB acknowledges the table can and will provide valuable insights into the net impact of the energy crisis on the deficit and debt figures of the Member States, focusing on large schemes. The availability of additional details will most certainly help to correctly interpret and understand the significant fluctuations in key EDP and GFS aggregates due to the numerous policy interventions. The CMFB furthermore appreciates the incorporation of lessons learned from the pilot exercises.
6. In addition, a number of remarks, suggestions and concerns were raised, mainly related to data-availability for individual measures and counterpart sectors, (initial) data

¹ The decision of sharing the data falls under the responsibility of the individual Member States.

² Data access under strict confidentiality rules, similarly to the COVID-19 and RRF tables, granted to ECB internal users and National Central Banks experts who participate in the ESCB macroeconomic projections (more information is available [here](#)).

quality and the additional reporting burden. It was also suggested that for countries with measures starting from 2021Q1, the possibility to report the first two quarters of 2021 would be helpful. Furthermore, it was underlined that in the light of the observed return to normal of energy prices, the table could become redundant in the near future, and it was suggested that an intermediate evaluation could take place in 2024. Finally, it was suggested to extend the dissemination of the tables to a wider group of users.

7. The CMFB recommends that Eurostat take account of these specific concerns, remarks and suggestions.
8. In addition to this opinion, all the anonymised answers from the CMFB Members were transmitted to Eurostat and will be kept in the records of the CMFB secretariat.

(Signed)

Robert Kirchner
CMFB Chairman

Frankfurt am Main,
13 March 2023