

**CMFB opinion
on the treatment in national accounts of the transfer of assets from the EFTA
Fund to the Portuguese Government**

Eurostat consulted the CMFB on 10 July 2003 on the above-mentioned subject. The deadline for returning the questionnaire was Tuesday 22 July 2003. The CMFB Executive Body agreed both the procedure and the content of the consultation. Thirteen (13) national statistical institutes and twelve (12) national central banks from the Member States returned the questionnaire. A total of twenty-five (25) national institutions, from all fifteen (15) Member States, thus participated in the consultation. The ECB also provided a reply.

The result of the consultation was as follows:

Fourteen (**14**) national institutions responded that, at the liquidation of the EFTA Fund, the transfer of remaining assets from the EFTA Fund to the Portuguese Government should be treated as the liquidation of a financial asset (financial transaction) in the national accounts, three of them considering that the financial asset results from the conclusion of an initial contingent asset. Eleven (**11**) national institutions answered that the transfer of remaining assets from the EFTA Fund to the Portuguese Government should be recorded as a capital transfer (non-financial transaction) from the Rest of the World to the Government in the national accounts.

Accordingly, the majority of the CMFB members consider that the transfer of assets from the EFTA Fund to the Portuguese Government should be treated as the liquidation of a financial instrument (financial transaction) in the national accounts, with no impact on the government deficit.

In addition to this opinion, the following has been transmitted to Eurostat and will be kept in the records of the CMFB secretariat: a document putting together the summary of the votes and all the original answers from the CMFB Members.

(Signed)

Jean CORDIER
CMFB Chairman

Paris, 11 August 2003