

## **Joint ECFIN-Bank of Latvia seminar, 1 March 2012**

### **EU balance-of-payments assistance for Latvia: foundations of success**

**Venue:** Brussels, Berlaymont Building, Schuman Conference Room

#### **Welcome** (9:00-9:10)

Elena Flores, Director, DG ECFIN, European Commission

#### **Opening Remarks** (9:10-10:00)

Marco Buti, Director General, DG ECFIN, European Commission

Valdis Dombrovskis, Prime Minister, Latvia

Ilmars Rimsevics, Governor, Bank of Latvia

#### **Session I** (10:00-12:30)

##### **The economics of the crisis and of internal adjustment**

Chair: Uldis Rutkaste, Chief Economist at the Bank of Latvia

*"How Imbalances Were Created: Capital Flows, Competitiveness and Economic Growth in Latvia"*

Karsten Staehr, Tallinn School of Economics and Business Administration, Tallinn University of Technology

*"Competitiveness Factors during a Successful Adjustment"*

Radoslav Krastev, DG ECFIN, European Commission

#### **Coffee break** (10:45-11:15)

*"Latvia's Competitiveness before and after the Crisis"*

Konstantins Benkovskis, Bank of Latvia

*"Banking Sector Adjustment"*

Martins Kazaks, Swedbank Latvia

*"Fiscal Consolidation in the Midst of the Crisis: Lessons from Latvia"*

Ingrid Toming and Francesco Di Comite, DG ECFIN, European Commission

#### **LUNCH** (12:30-14:00)

#### **Session II** (14:00-15:15)

##### **The political economy of adjustment: why could it succeed?**

Chair: Ake Tornqvist, Ministry of Finance, Sweden

*"Fiscal Sustainability, Demographic Change and Inequality: Social Sectors from Crisis to Growth in Latvia"*

Peter Harrold, Emily Sinnott, and Indhira Santos, World Bank

*"Conceptualising EU/IMF Financial Assistance Negotiations in Latvia"*  
Samuel Dahan, Saint Edmund's College, Law Faculty, University of Cambridge

*"Fiscal Austerity, Structural Reforms and Re-election: Explaining the "Possible Trinity" in the Case of Latvia"*

Marion Salines, European Central Bank

**Coffee break** (15:15-15:30)

**Session III** (15:30-17:15)

**Roundtable: Lessons from Latvia and the way forward**

Chair: Matthias Mors, Director, DG ECFIN, European Commission

- Adopting the euro: what remains to be done?
- How to ensure the economy's sustainability, competitiveness and strong external position in the future?
- What could be the potential growth after recovering from the crisis?
- Structural reforms (education, labour mismatch, business climate, etc.)
- What lessons for Europe?

**Panel speakers:**

Andris Vilks, Minister of Finance, Government of Latvia

Gabriele Giudice, DG ECFIN, European Commission

Mark Griffiths, IMF

Karlis Bauze, Bank of Latvia

Ettore Dorrucci, ECB

**Wrap-up and concluding remarks** (17:15-17:30)

Matthias Mors, Director, DG ECFIN, European Commission