

MINUTES SENIOR BOARD MEETING No. 30, 11 July 2017

The five members of the Senior Board held their thirtieth formal meeting on 11 July 2017. The event took place at the CFP headquarters, Praça de Alvalade, n.º 6 – 10.º, in Lisbon, and started at 14h30m. All members attended: Teodora Cardoso, who chaired, Jürgen von Hagen, Rui Nuno Baleiras, George Kopits and Carlos Marinheiro. Jürgen von Hagen participated by videoconference and George Kopits by conference call. Luis Centeno, head of the technical services, was also present.

1. Decisions

By unanimous vote, the Senior Board decided to:

- 1.1. Approve the Minutes of Meeting No. 29, held on 21 and 22 March 2017
- 1.2. Confirm Occasional Paper No. 1/2017, by Teodora Cardoso, entitled “[Investimento, poupança e competitividade: os três pilares do crescimento](#)”
- 1.3. Confirm Report No. 2/2017 entitled “[Finanças Públicas: Situação e Condicionantes 2017-2021](#)”
- 1.4. Confirm Report No. 3/2017 entitled “[Análise da Conta das Administrações Públicas 2016](#)”
- 1.5. Confirm Opinion No. 1/2017 entitled “[Previsões macroeconómicas subjacentes ao Programa de Estabilidade 2017-2021](#)”
- 1.6. Confirm Report No. 4/2017 entitled “[Análise do Programa de Estabilidade 2017-2021](#)”
- 1.7. Confirm Report No. 5/2017 entitled “[Análise da Execução Orçamental da Segurança Social e da Caixa Geral de Aposentações em 2016](#)”
- 1.8. Confirm Occasional Paper No. 2/2017, by Teodora Cardoso, entitled “[A Política Orçamental no Quadro da Política Económica](#)”
- 1.9. Confirm Occasional Paper No. 3/2017, by Bruno Trancoso da Rocha, entitled “[Baixa produtividade: afetação de recursos e obstáculos ao crescimento das empresas na economia portuguesa](#)”
- 1.10. Approve Report No. 6/2017 entitled “[Evolução orçamental até ao final do 1.º trimestre de 2017](#)”

2. CFP’s draft budget for 2018

The Executive Senior Board member Rui Nuno Baleiras made a presentation of the budget outturn in 2016 and the outturn forecast for 2017. He has pointed out that, as in 2016, the appropriation approved by the Parliament for 2017 will not be entirely used.

Rui Nuno Baleiras included in his presentation figures about staff turn-over since 2014 emphasising the detrimental impact on the performance of CFP. Among the reasons for the separations, better pay and better career perspectives should be considered the more relevant, but this also reflects that CFP has been able to attract talents who are later recruited by international organisations, offices of Cabinet members and government agencies.

A presentation of the proposed draft budget for 2018 was then offered to the Board members. The main underlying budget assumptions are: the need for new staff recruitments in 2018; the new lease contract that will foreseeably imply a materially relevant increase on the rent; and the need for some investment in IT infrastructure. In 2018, two special events will also have to be considered in the

budget: the external assessment of CFP, to be carried out with the possible assistance from the OECD; and the possibility to host in Lisbon an international conference of the OECD network of Parliamentary Budget Officials and Independent Fiscal Institutions. A discussion followed on several details of the proposed draft budget with questions asked and answers provided.

The proposal was approved by unanimous vote of the Senior Board. Pursuant to art. 29 of CFP statutes (Law No. 54/2011, of 19 October, as amended by Law No. 82-B/2014, of 31 December), the Board also decided to ask the Governor of the Bank of Portugal and the Chair of the Court of Auditors for their joint favourable statement.

3. Reiterated violation of the data reporting obligation by the “Instituto de Informática, I.P.”

The Board discussed the issue of reiterated violation of the data reporting obligation by “Instituto de Informática, I. P.”, an agency affiliated with the Social Security, Solidarity and Labour Ministry.

Since this situation lasts for too long and given that not a single answer to the repeated request letters and emails has been received so far, the CFP should use the statutory dispositions for such situations, namely the publication of a statement by the Senior Board on CFP’s site.

A proposal for this statement has been presented to the Board and unanimously.

4. Coordination of operational technical areas

The Head of Technical Services reported on the problems caused by the high turnover, the difficulties experienced in recruiting adequate technical staff and the continuous challenges to retain the best among them. He stressed that external offers are continually made to our staff.

He also presented to the Board some of the areas that require more resources or on which the CFP must start providing public information. Macroeconomic analysis and public accounts nowcasting and medium term projections feature the former, while sustainability issues are a challenging example of the latter. It was also pointed out that cooperation with other organizations and universities must be strengthened.

He proposed a new coordination structure based on the Head of Technical Services and three technical area coordinators (Forecasting and modelling; Budget; and Sustainability). This would be a more effective form of achieving the proposed targets.

The Board accepted the proposal and mandated the Executive Committee to select the area coordinators from the technical staff and agree on possible adjustments to work schedules.

5. Other issues

5.1. Substitution of the Vice-President and the Executive Member of the Senior Board

The Chair informed the Board that the Government approved the new members at the Cabinet meeting last week, but the decision has not yet been published in the Official Journal. The induction of the new members will take place at a date yet to be set presumably in September by the President of the Parliament. The first meeting of the new Senior Board is expected to be held on that occasion.

The Chair also informed the Board of a meeting with Paul De Grauwe hosted by the Governor of the Bank of Portugal.

There were no further issues to be discussed.