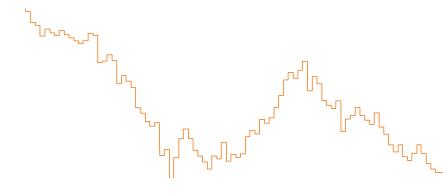


AIECE - Association of European Conjuncture Institutes

GENERAL REPORT

Stefania Tomasini Lorena Vincenzi

BRUXELLES 14-15 November, 2019



Agenda

- → The external environment
- → The Outlook for Europe The euro area

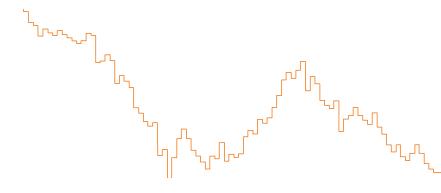
The labour market

Inflation development

Non euro area countries

- → Policy environment
- → Risks and other specific issues





Agenda

- → The external environment
- → The Outlook for Europe
 The euro area

The labour market

Inflation development

Non euro area countries

- → Policy environment
- → Risks and other specific issues



The downturn of the industrial sector

III-11

US

--- China

III-13

GLOBAL INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

Source: Prometeia's calculation on CPB data

III-17

III-15

Euro area

other em.

III-19*

* July & August

other ind.

-global



sovereign

debt crisis

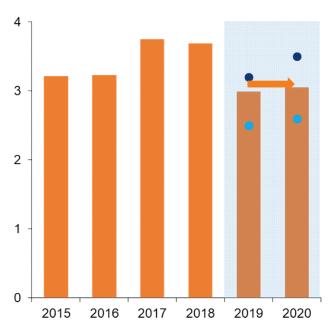
financial crisis

all rights reserve

The optimism of IMF is not shared by the AIECE Institutes...

WORLD GDP 4 3 2 1 2 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook, October 2019



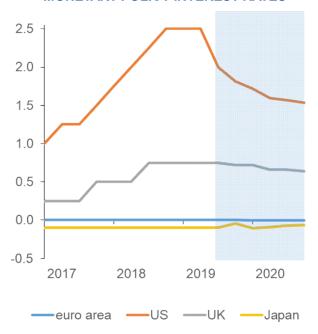
Source: AIECE Institutes' forecasts on IMF data

dots represent minimum ad maximum forecasts among the Institutes



... despite expansionary monetary policies and...

MONETARY POLICY INTEREST RATES

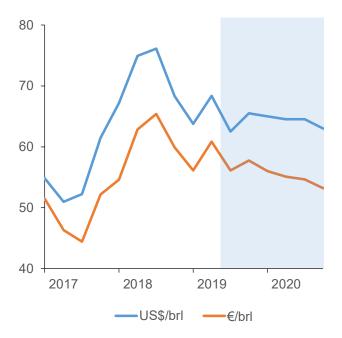


Source: AIECE Institutes' forecasts on Central Banks data



... low oil price

BRENT OIL PRICE



Source: AIECE Institutes' forecasts on Refinitiv data



The external environment

3%

Global GDP growth in 2019 and 2020

AIECE Institutes less optimistic than IMF despite:

- expantionary monetary policy
- low oil price



Agenda

- → The external environment
- → The Outlook for Europe
- → The euro area

The labour market

Inflation development

Non euro area countries

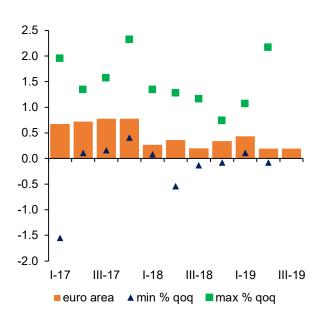
- → Policy environment
- → Risks and other specific issues



Q3-2019

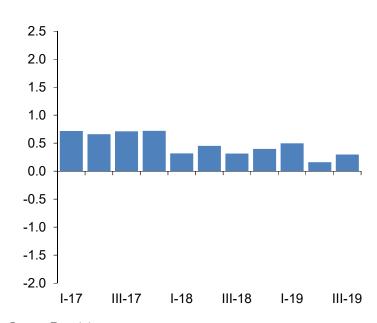
Euro area GDP growth stabilizes but still high dispersion among countries...

EURO AREA GDP



Source: Eurostat

EU GDP



Source: Eurostat

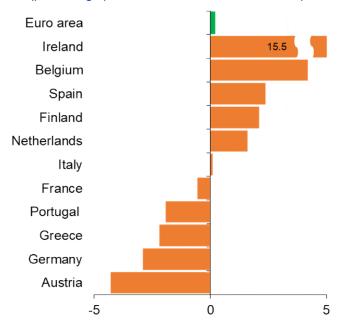


Q3-2019

... especially with respect to industrial production...

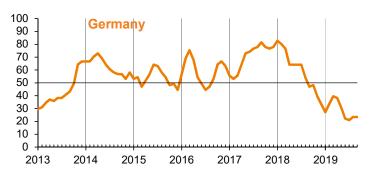
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INDEX

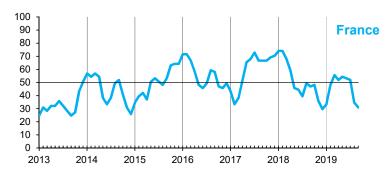
(percentage points, last available data with respect to December 2018)



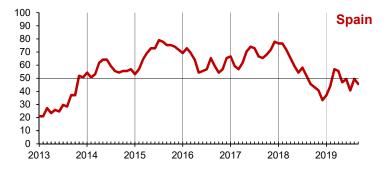
Source: Prometeia's calculations on Eurostat data









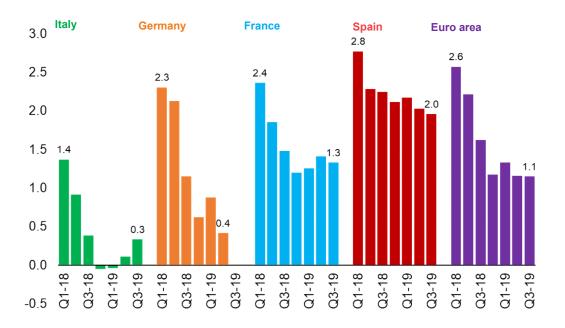




Euro area business cycle

Heterogeneity among the big countries...

GDP GROWTH IN COMPARISON (% yoy)





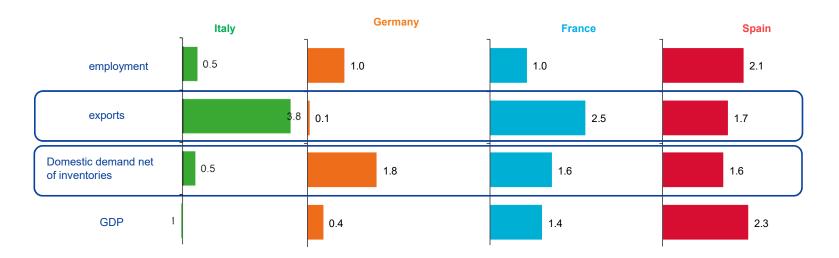
Source: National Statistical Offices

AIECE - General Report - 14-15 November 2019; 13

Euro area business cycle

... reflected in different leading expenditure items

WHERE WE STAND
(% changes cumulated between 2018q2 and 2019q2)

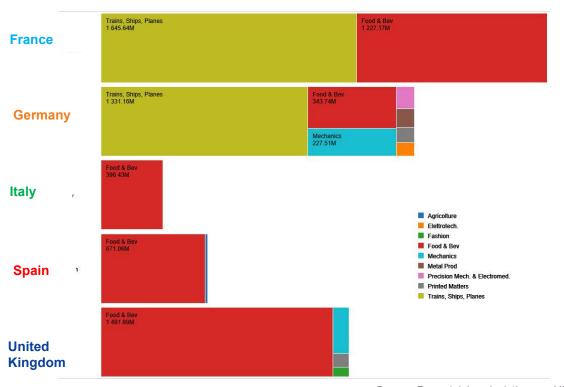


Source: Prometeia's calculations on Eurostat data



Tariffs and exports

Asymmetric shock from US tariffs introduced in October...





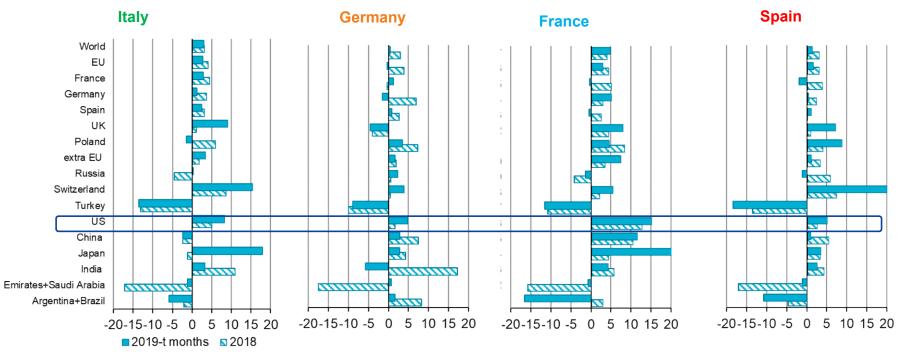
Source: Prometeia's calculations on US Census Bureau data;

Prometeia Atlante, 4 October 2019

Tariffs and exports

... but possible trade diversion effects from the US-China dispute at aggregate level...



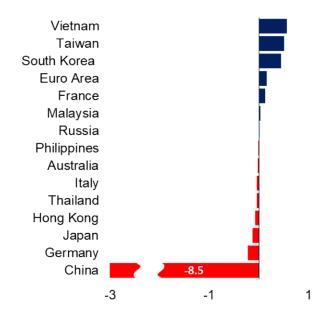




Tariffs and exports

... not evident yet at disaggregate level for European countries

US BILATERAL IMPORTS OF GOODS WITH HIGHER TARIFFS *



Source: Prometeia's calculations on Department of Commerce data

* monthly differences between pre and post tariffs as June 2019



-Italy

PRODUCTION EXPECTATIONS







Spain



16

11

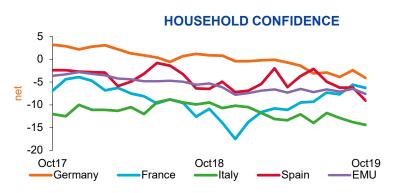
-4

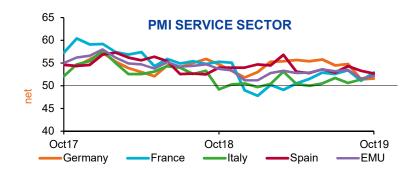
-9

Oct17
—Germany

net









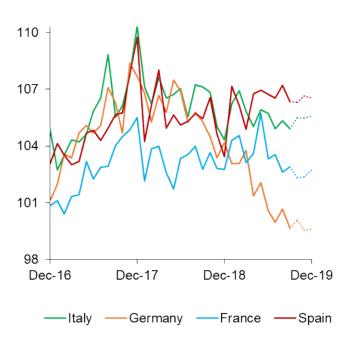


AIECE - General Report - 14-15 November 2019; 19

Q4-2019

... not enough to anticipate a recovery yet

INDEX OF THE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION NOWCASTING INDICATORS

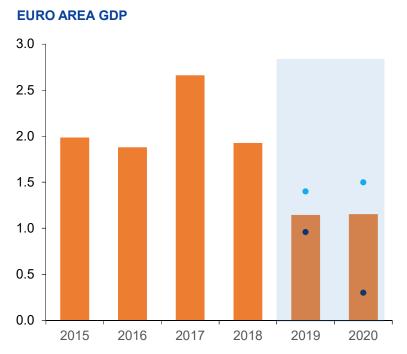


Source: Prometeia's forecasts

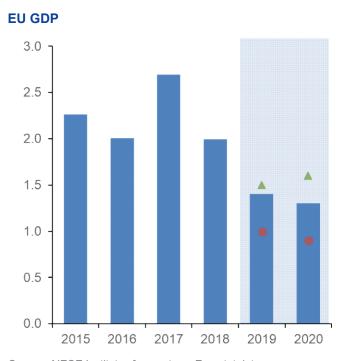


AIECE Institutes relatively optimistic...

Same growth rate of the euro area GDP in 2019 and 2020 implies an acceleration qoq next year





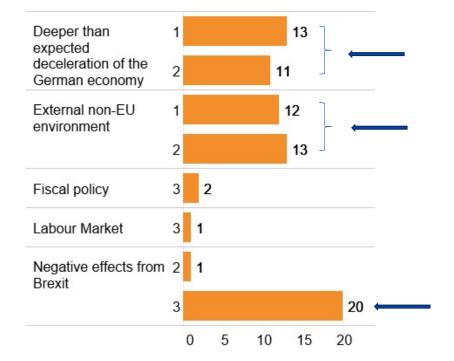


Source: AIECE Institutes forecasts on Eurostat data



... after the downward revisions of forecasts in 2019 for 2020

MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS AT THE BASE OF THE DOWNWARD REVISION OF FORECASTS FOR 2020





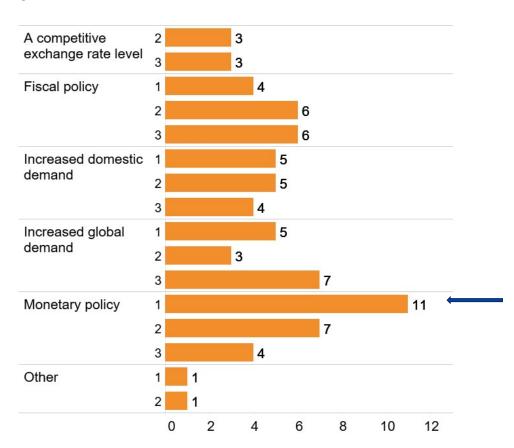
The optimism for 2020 for the euro area

Monetary policy: the most important factor for euro area growth in 2020

MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS ACCORDING
TO THEIR POSITIVE EFFECTS ON GROWTH
IN THE EURO AREA

Source: AIECE Institutes



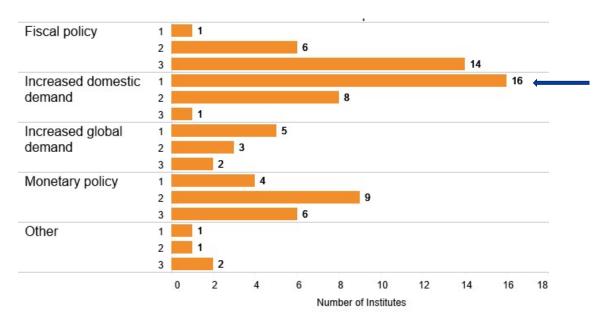


AIECE - General Report - 14-15 November 2019; 23

The optimism for 2020 at country level

Domestic demand: the most important factor for the home country growth in 2020

MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS ACCORDING
TO THEIR POSITIVE EFFECTS ON GROWTH
IN THE HOME COUNTRY



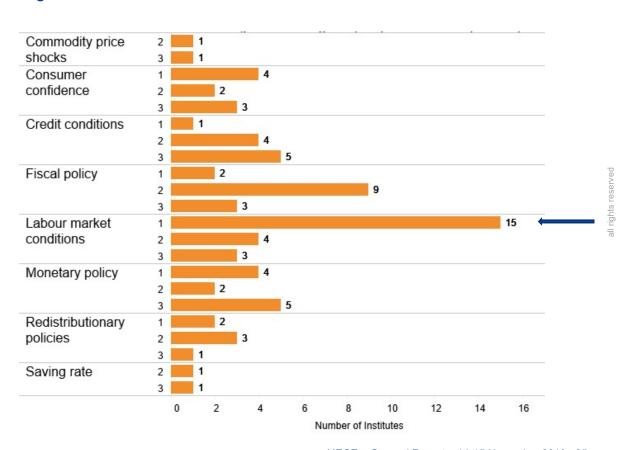


Private consumption at country level

Favorable labor market conditions at work, contrasting...

MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS ACCORDING
TO THEIR POSITIVE EFFECTS ON PRIVATE
CONSUMPTION



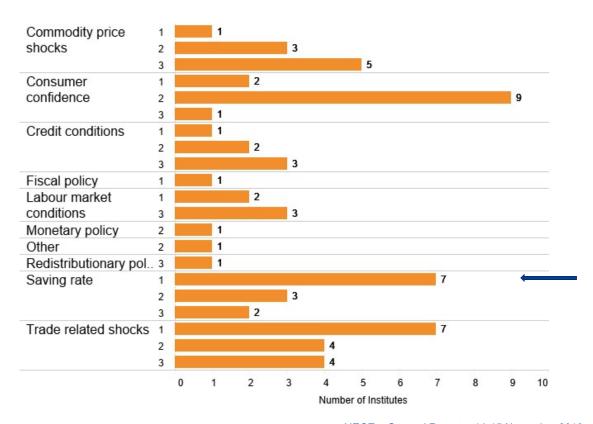


Private consumption at country level

... the negative effects of high uncertainty

MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS ACCORDING
TO THEIR NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON PRIVATE
CONSUMPTION

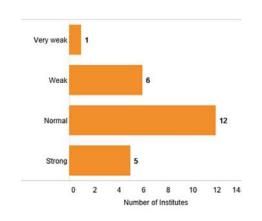




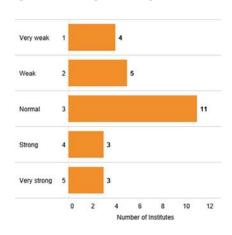
Investments at country level

No anomalies of investments with respect to the country's position in the business cycle...

PRIVATE INVESTMENTS

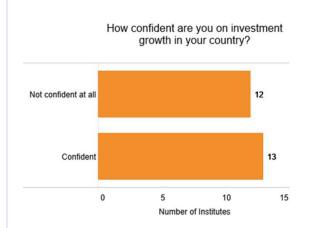


PUBLIC INVESTMENTS



Source AIECE Institutes

CONFIDENCE ON INVESTMENT GROWTH

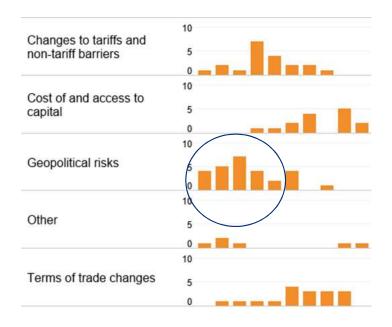


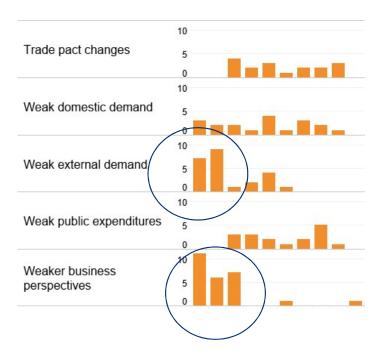
Source AIECE Institutes



Investments at country level

... but several factors contribute to forecast a deceleration next year

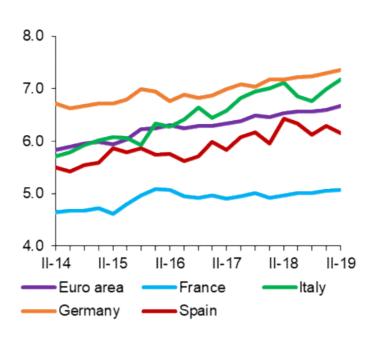




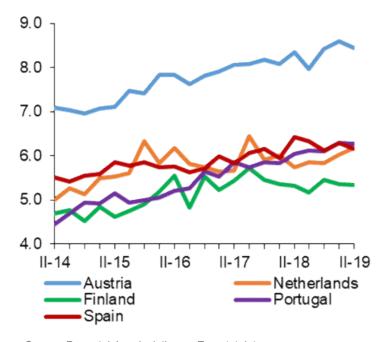


Investments and business cycle

INVESTMENTS IN MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT AS % OF GDP



Source: Prometeia's calculation on Eurostat data

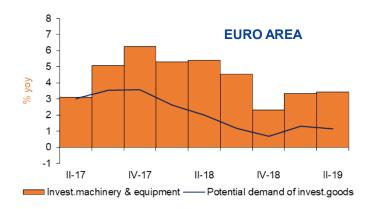


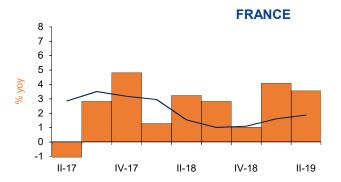
Source: Prometeia's calculation on Eurostat data



all rights reserve

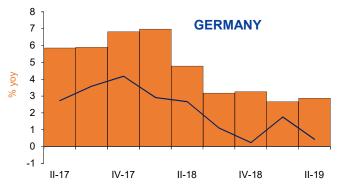
Investments and business cycle



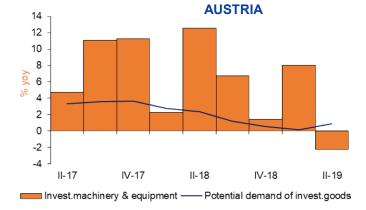




ASSOCIAZIONE









Questions for discussion

The euro area outlook

- 1. Credit conditions are favorable and are going to remain such for a long time; expectations of robust growth are missing; where could they come from?
- 2. In the case of real truce on trade between the US and China, would this be sufficient to improve firms 'confidence and give a positive impulse to investments next year?
- 3. Did we experience structural breaks (changes in the global value chains; digitalization process, etc.) and should expect lower growth for longer? In other words, is Europe on the brink of (or already in) a secular stagnation with very few possibilities to escape (given the demographic structure)?
- 4. German Experts declare that in Germany traditional industry is experiencing digital disruption. How is the situation in other countries? Are governments aware of possible lags with respect to main competitors and are they intervening in order to support firms in this type of investments?
- 5. Increasing investments despite decelerating potential demand for investment goods: one possible explanation relates to fiscal incentives. Are there fiscal incentives in any country beside Italy? Can fiscal incentives really support investments?
- 6. The dimension of European firms, with few exclusions in the automotive sector, is not comparable to that of the US and Chinese giants; will this be a problem for European growth?



Agenda

- → The external environment
- → The Outlook for Europe
- → The euro area

The labour market

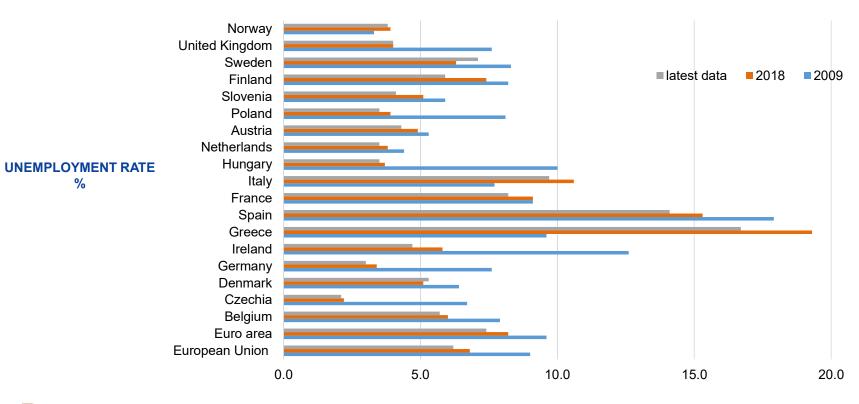
Inflation development

Non euro area countries

- → Policy environment
- → Risks and other specific issues



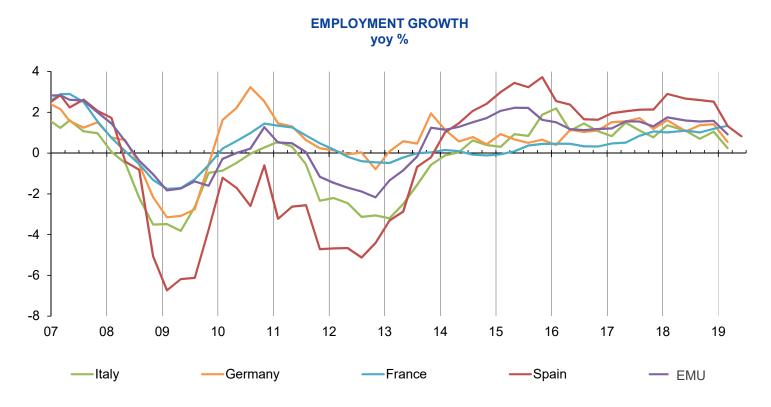
Unemployment rates at historical lows...





Source: Eurostat

... but employment growth is slowing down...





Source: Eurostat, - Hours worked

... in Germany...

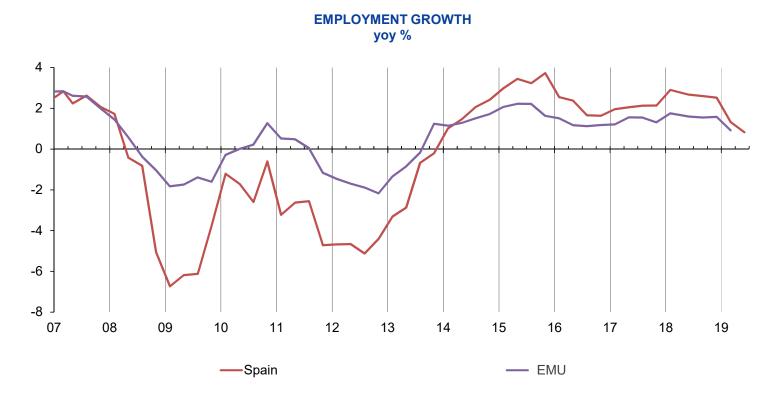






Source: Eurostat, - Hours worked

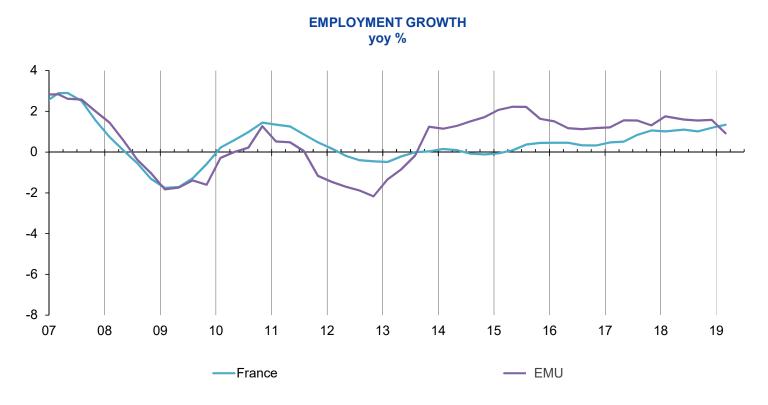
... in Spain...





Source: Eurostat, - Hours worked

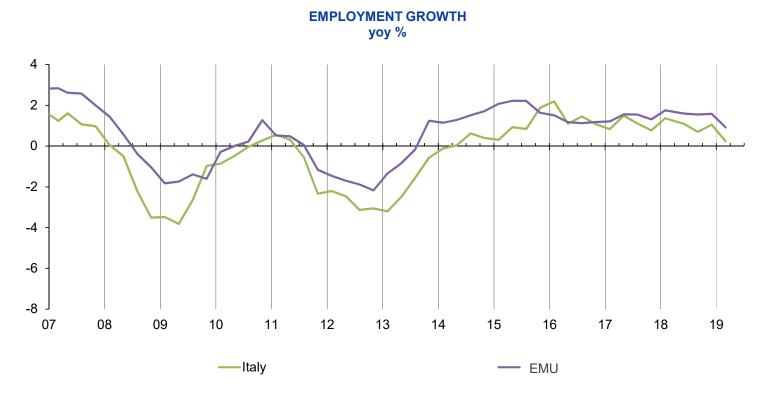
... less in France...





Source: Eurostat, - Hours worked

... and in Italy

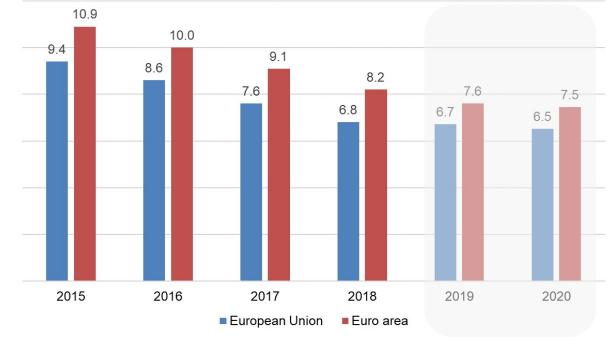




Source: Eurostat, - Hours worked

Will the slowing business cycle stop the unemployment reduction?

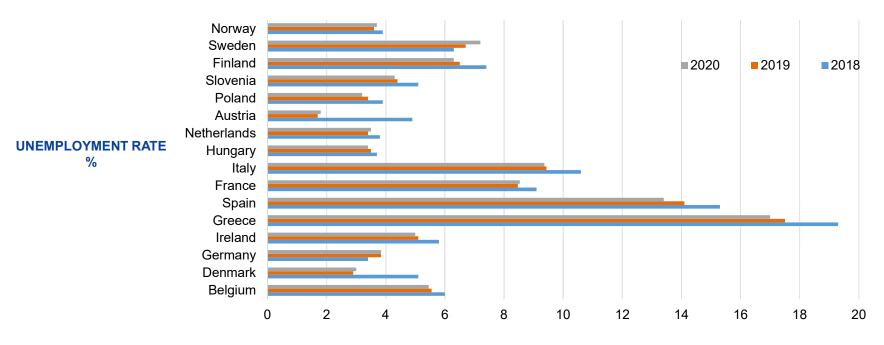




Source: AIECE Institutes and Eurostat



Less unemployment with less or more disparities?



Source: AIECE Institutes and Eurostat



Unemployment is low but the perception on unsecuritity is common

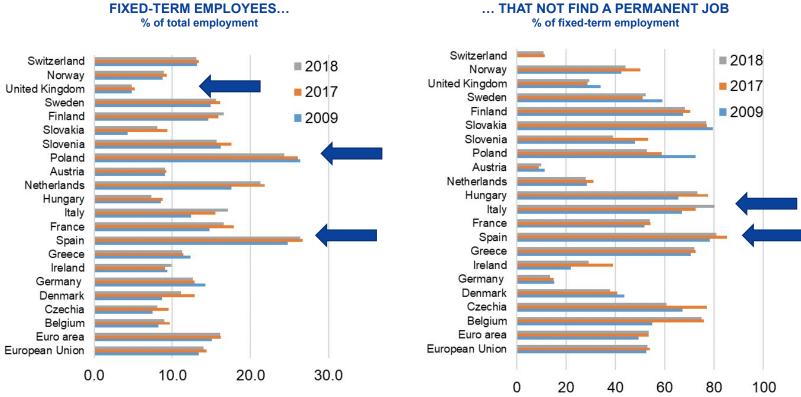
WHAT IS YOUR PERCEPTION OF THE EXTENT OF WORKERS ON TEMPORARY/ZERO HOUR CONTRACTS (PRECARIOUS JOBS) IN YOUR COUNTRY?



Source: AIECE Institutes



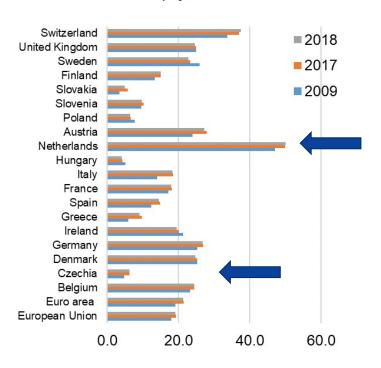
Precarious jobs have increased over the last 10 years, with large disparities among countries





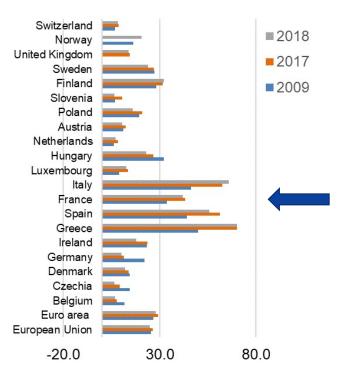
... and part-time jobs sometimes can be considered fragile

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES... % of total employment



... THAT NOT FIND A FULL-TIME JOB

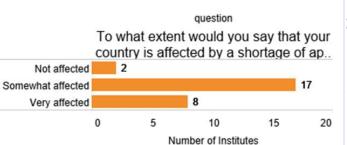
% of part-time employment





But at the same time, shortage of jobs are equally common





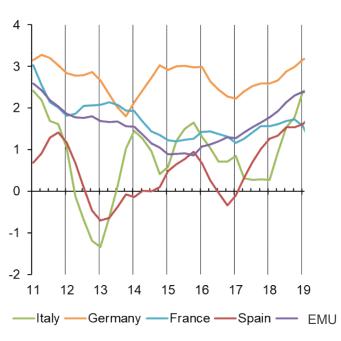
THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM **AVAILABILITY OF SKILLED STAFF OR FACED BY EURO AREA ENTERPRISES EXPERIENCED MANAGERS** % of respondents % of respondents 30 30 20 20 10 10 0 2009H2 2013H2 2017H2 2009H2 2013H2 2017H2 Finding customers Competition Euro area —— Germany —— Spain - Costs of production -Access to finance France Italy ------ Regulation Availability skilled staff Source: SAFE, ECB Survey on Access to Finance by Enterprises





Wages are on the rise, but perhaps less than expected

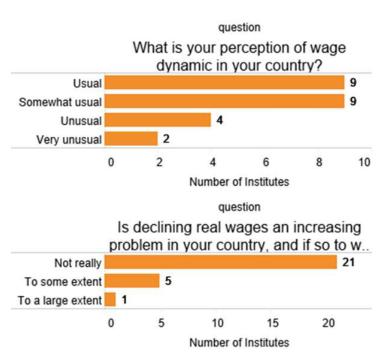
PER-CAPITA NOMINAL WAGE – PRIVATE SECTOR % change yoy



Source: Eurostat



QUESTIONS ON WAGES



Source: AIECE Institutes

Labour market numbers highlighted

7.5%

Unemployment rate in 2020 (8.2% in 2018)

Widespread perception of job insecurity



Widespread lack of skilled workers



Agenda

- → The external environment
- → The Outlook for Europe
- → The euro area The labour market

Inflation development

Non euro area countries

- → Policy environment
- → Risks and other specific issues



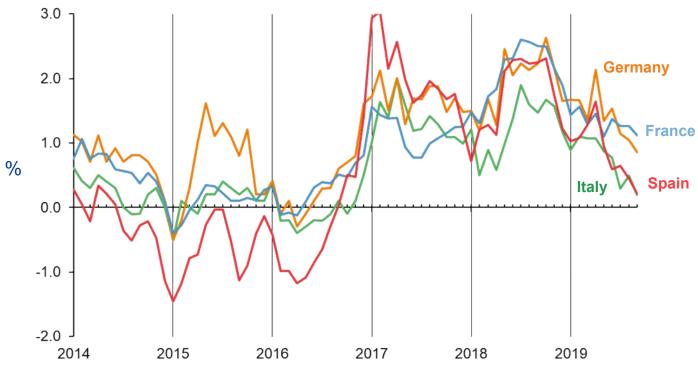
Consumer inflation down again



- European Union - Euro area

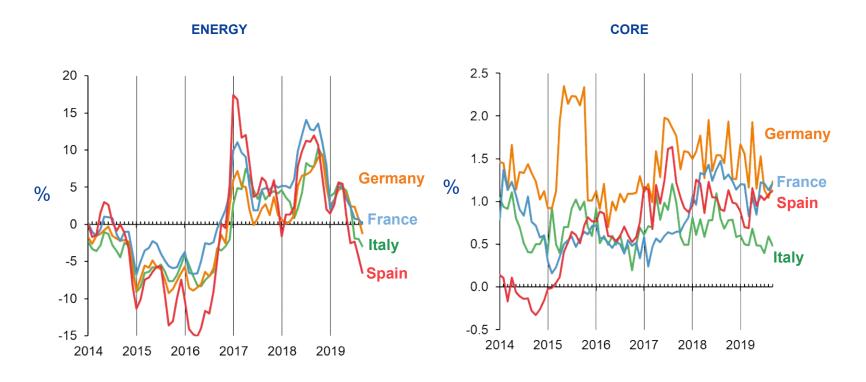


Focusing on euro area largest countries



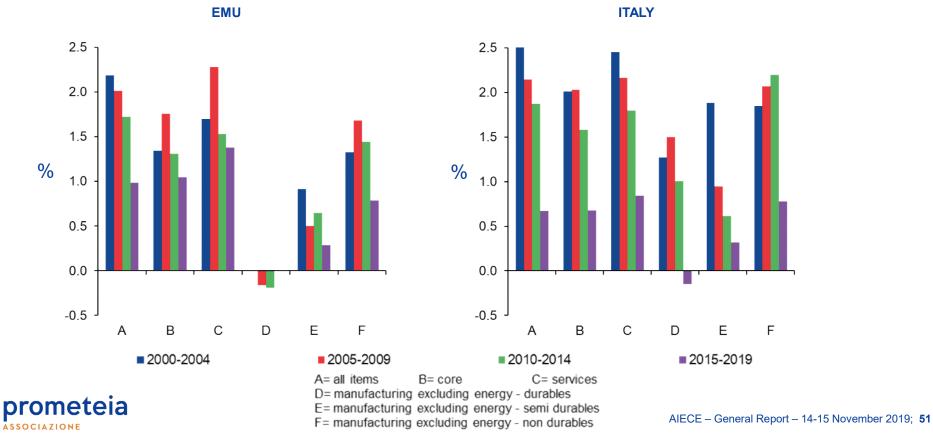


Not only energy...



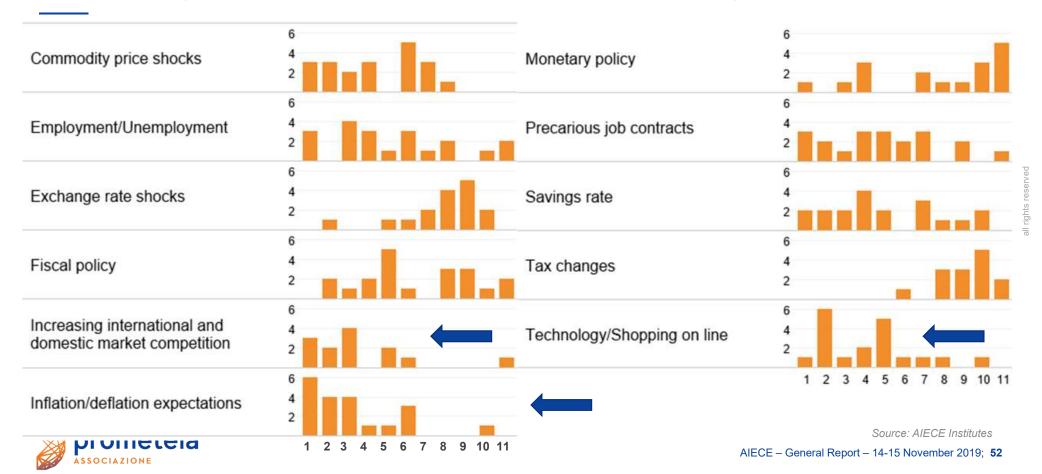


... is something happening with core inflation?



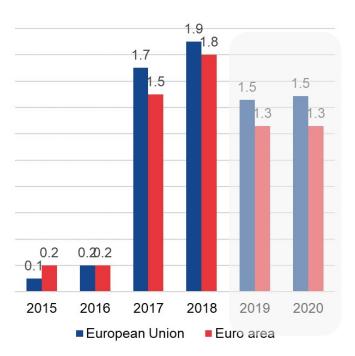
Source: Prometeia calculations on Eurostat data

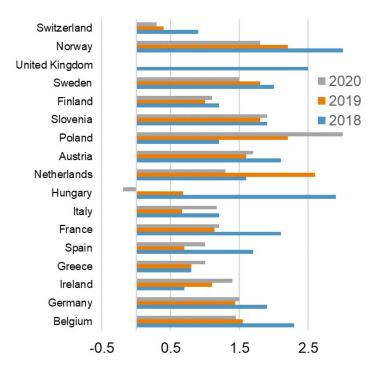
AIECE Institutes' opinions: what are the main causes of the weak inflation outlook in Europe?



AIECE Institutes' forecast

CONSUMER INFLATION







Source: AIECE Institutes and Eurostat

Inflation development numbers highlighted

1.3%

Inflation rate in 2020 (1.8% in 2018)

Core inflation squeezed by structural factors?



Questions for discussion

Inflation development

- 1. According to several studies (ie ECB model published in its April Economic Bulletin) core inflation should have picked up some time ago, driven by diminishing labour market slack. As a consequence, one can say that the equilibrium unemployment rate/NAIRU in the euro area is lower than usually measured. What is your opinion? Is the equilibrium unemployment rate in your country in line with official estimate?
- 2. Most of the increase in employment over the last ten years was due to the rise of alternative/non standard work arrangements (temporary employment, on-call workers, part-time, independent contractors/freelancers). Is this true for your country? Why there is such a widespread perception of insecurity on the labour market notwithstanding historical lows unemployment rate?
- 3. Several Institutes judge the wage growth trend in their countries unusual. Could you elaborate on this? Is this linked to the widespread perception of insecurity on the labour market and/or to institutional changes (reforms, etc.)?
- 4. Signs of weaker inflation outlook for the near future are emerging again. Do you think there is an increasing risk of deflation/very low inflation in Europe? Focusing on core inflation, which are the main determinant of such a weak growth? Are there other possible explanations?



Agenda

- → The external environment
- → The Outlook for Europe
- → The euro area The labour market Inflation development

Non euro area countries

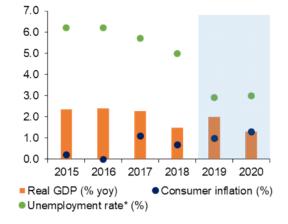
- → Policy environment
- → Risks and other specific issues



Non euro area countries

Most of the countries expect a deceleration in 2020...

DENMARK

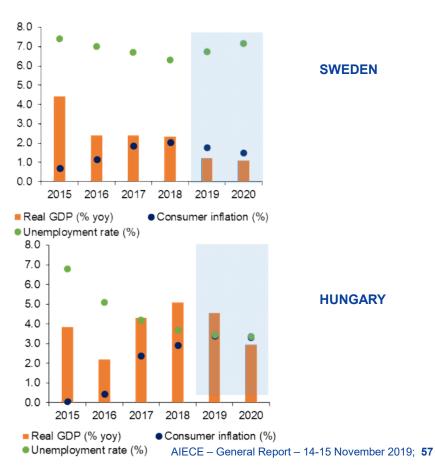


POLAND



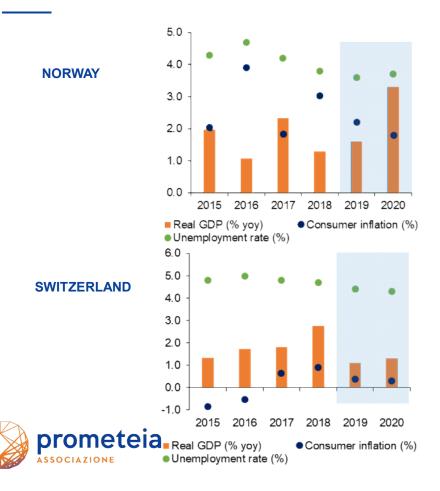


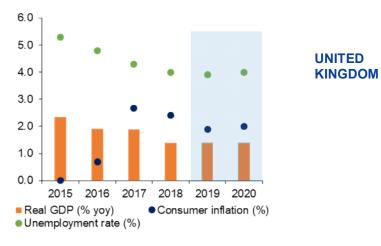




Non euro area countries

... with the exception of Norway and, to a less extent, Switzerland and United Kingdom





Questions for discussion

Non euro area countries

- 1. Most of the European, non-euro area countries, are forecast to decelerate in 2020 and according to the Institutes, much of it depends on the weak growth in other European countries. Is fiscal policy in the specific, planning to intervene in order to contrast the deceleration?
- 2. And following this, should euro area countries expect an impulse from the demand in the European non-euro countries?
- 3. In perspective, will a truce between US and China produce favorable effects or the uncertainty on US tariffs on imports from Europe could prevail?
- 4. In case of new significant global downturn several Institutes think that the most suitable policy to be fiscal one, automatic stabilizers and higher expenses, would be the case also for non-euro area countries?
- 5. It seems that hard Brexit, in the sense of disorderly exit of UK from EU, has been avoided. (Correct?) Does this mean that at least for the next two years (period of transition to the new agreements between UK and EU) we will continue to have high uncertainty on this? Should we expect negative effects on UK and the other European countries? What economic policy should we expect in UK?



Agenda

- → The external environment
- → The Outlook for Europe
- → The euro area
 The labour market
 Inflation development
 Non euro area countries
- → Policy environment
- → Risks and other specific issues



A new round of ECB monetary policy expansionary measures

Forward guidance «stronger»

Interest rates at or below current levels as long as the inflation outlook does not converge firmly with the target and convergence is also reflected in core inflation

Restart of Quantitative Easing **20 billion per month** "as long as it is necessary to sustain the expansionary impact of policy rates". The reinvestment of maturing bonds will continue without a scheduled end

2 levels system for the deposits with the Eurosystem («tiering») Reduction of 0bp on the depositi facility rate (to -0.5%)

From the end of October part of the excess liquidity will be exempted from the negative rate Multiplier of the requirement reserve initially set to 6

TLTRO III

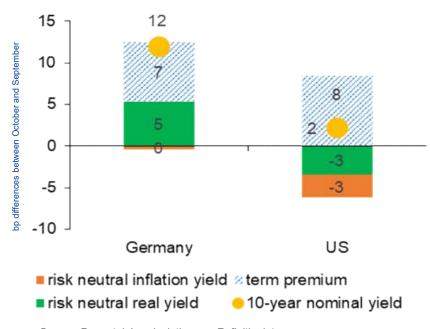


Extended duration from 2 to 3 years

More attractive for banks (the interest rate applied will be the average of the ORP rates for the period considered, with no spread of 0.1%.)

Financial markets reaction was positive...

BREAKDOWN OF THE 10Y GOVERNMENT BOND YIELD



Source: Prometeia's calculations on Refinitiv data



... but critical opinions have emerged

considering an inflation rate for example of 1.5%

ECB's monetary policy is therefore based on a wrong diagnosis For years now witnessing the ECB's ongoing crisis mode with growing concern

argument that the ECB would be violating its mandate with low inflation rates is simply inaccurate the longer the ECB stays its extremely accommodative path, the more the negative effects prevail The longer the ultra-low or negative interest rate policy the greater the potential for a setback entered the territory of monetary financing of government spending

Intent to protect heavily indebted governments from a rise in interest rates or

symmetrical inflation target represent a clear departure from a policy focused on price stability Should a major crisis strike, it will be of very different dimensions than those we have seen before negative effects of very low or negative interest rates also include a "zombification" of the econom negative impact of the ultra-low interest environment extends from the banking system to the entire

ECB has de facto altered the initial definition of price stability

the ECB has failed to meet its self-imposed target does the ECR intend to convince



Herve Hannoun, ex primo vice-governatore della Banca di Francia

Otmar Issing, ex membro del Comitato Esecutivo della

Klaus Liebscher, ex governatore della banca centrale Austriaca

Helmut Schlesinger, ex presidente della Bundesbank Juergen Stark, ex membro del Comitato Esecutivo della

Nout Wellink, ex governatore della banca centrale

Condiviso anche da Jacques de Larosiere, ex governatore della Banca di Francia

"This broad package of measures, in particular restarting the APP, is disproportionate to the present economic conditions, and there are sound reasons to doubt its effectiveness"

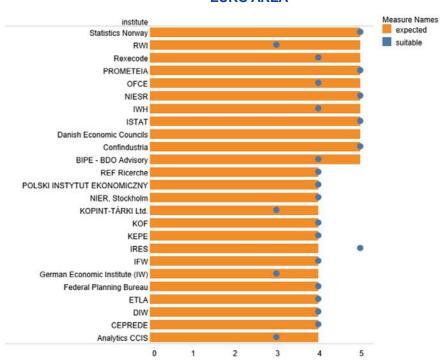
"Financing conditions for consumers, businesses and governments are highly accommodative and provide no impediment to credit supply, consumption or investment" Klaas Knot, President of De Nederlandsche Bank and member of the ECB's



FSource https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-10-04/memorandum-on-ecb-monetary-policy-by-issing-stark-schlesinger AIECE – General Report – 14-15 November 2019; 63

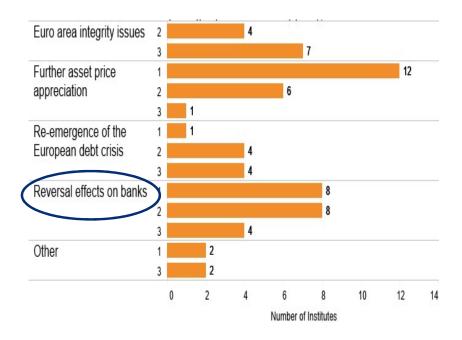
AIECE Institutes' opinion: too expansionary?

MONETARY POLICY STANCE EXPECTED/SUITABLE IN THE EURO AREA





HIGHER RISKS ASSOCIATED TO PROLONGED PRESENT MONETARY POLICY



Source: AIECE Institutes

AIECE - General Report - 14-15 November 2019; 64

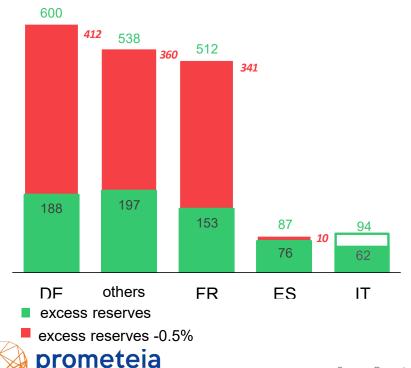
INTEREST PAIED OLD-NEW SYSTEM Million € - June 2019

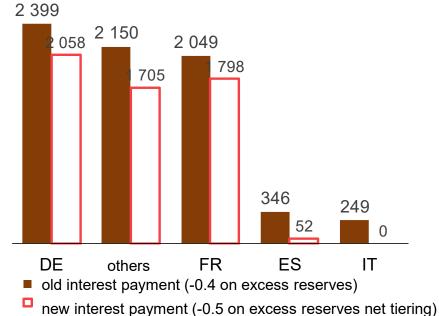
Monetary policy

Effects on banks – The new tiering system

BANKS CURRENT ACCOUNT WITH ECB Excess reserves

Billion € - June 2019*

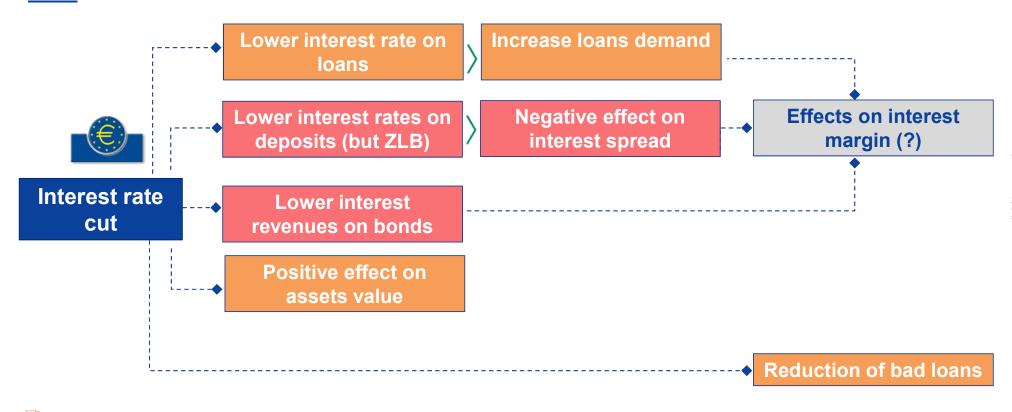




Source: Prometeia's calculations on ECB data and Banks balance sheets

AIECE - General Report - 14-15 November 2019; 65

The theory of reversal effect: the transmission channels on banks



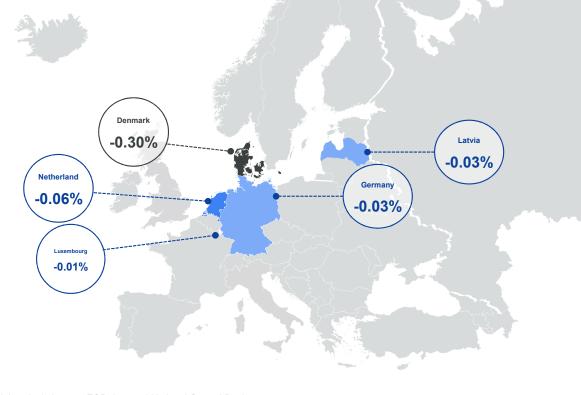


Interest rates on corporate current accounts are negative in some EMU countries and Deng 31

INTEREST RATES ON CORPORATE CURRENT ACCOUNTS

% January-July 2019 average







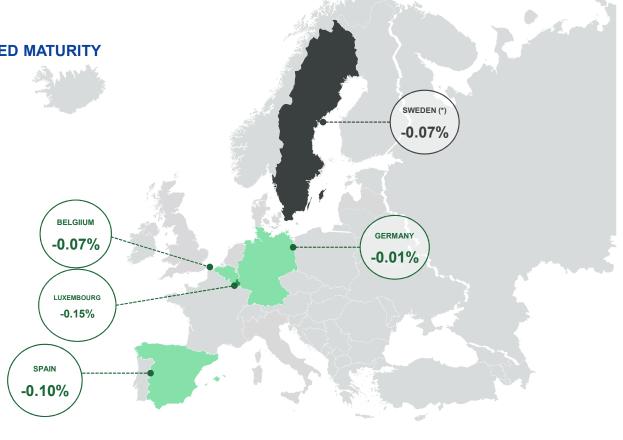
Interest rates on corporate deposits

INTEREST RATES ON DEPOSITS WITH AGREED MATURITY

% January-July 2019 average



EMU +0.07%

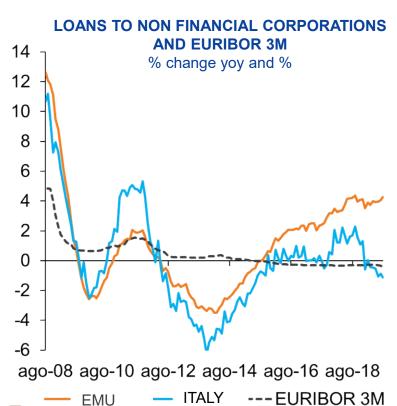




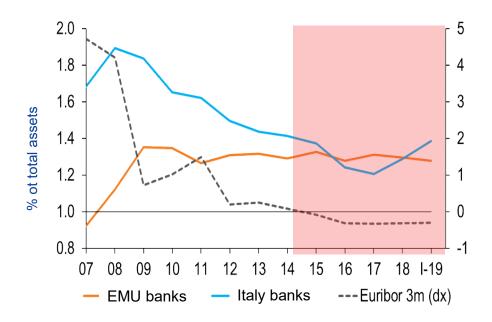
Source: Prometeia's calculations on ECB data and National Central Banks
*Interest rates on conditional deposits

AIECE – General Report – 14-15 November 2019; **68**

So far, no large effects



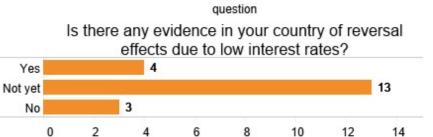
INTEREST MARGIN AND EURIBOR 3M





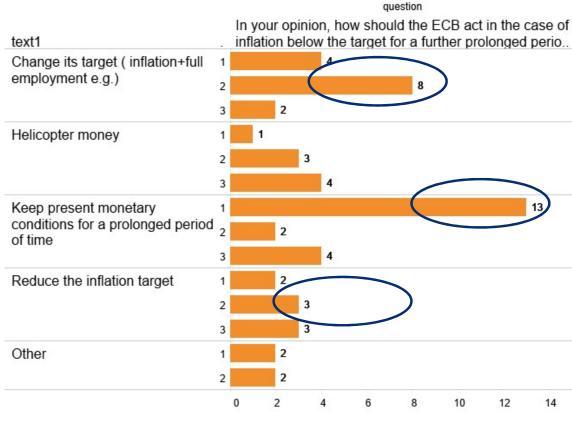
AIECE Institutes' opionion

IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE IN YOUR COUNTRY OF REVERSAL EFFECTS DUE TO LOW INTEREST RATES?



Number of Institutes

IS YOUR OPINION, HOW SHOULD TE ECB ACT IN THE CASE OF INFLATION BELOW THE TARGET....





Source: AIECE Institutes

AIECE - General Report - 14-15 November 2019; 70

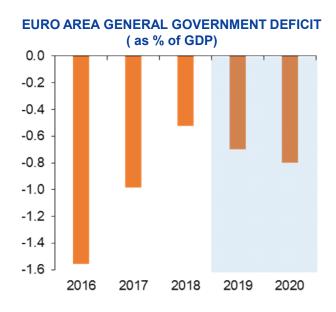
Questions for discussion

Monetary polcy

- 1. How should the ECB act in case of further prolonged inflation below the target? Some comments beside the response to the questionnaire
- 2. Does any Institute believe that a target of 1 per cent inflation would be much in line with the domestic and international conditions of the economic cycle?
- 3. "Price stability" as target of ECB without any specific numerical reference could be not sufficiently specific for financial markets and hence increase volatility. What do Institute think about it?



Fiscal policy



- Temporary factors behind the estimate increase of budget deficit in 2019 with respect to 2018
- In 2020 the further increase of deficit due to the reduction of the German surplus, as non major country has relaxed the deficit target substantially.

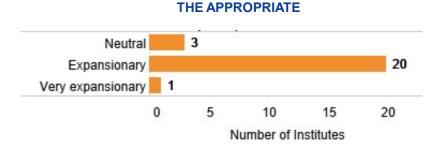
Source European Commission



Fiscal policy stance in the euro area

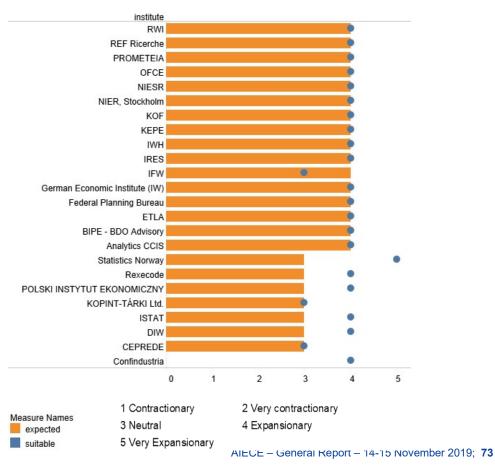
Almost consensus on expansionary fiscal policy stance in the euro area...





Source AIECE Institutes

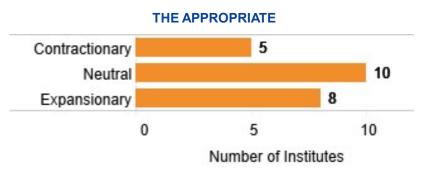




Fiscal policy stance in the home country

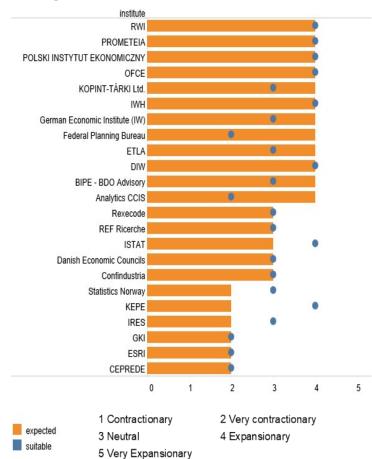
Less consensus among single countries...







Source AIECE Institutes

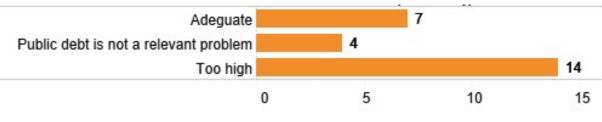


AIECE - General Report - 14-15 November 2019; 74

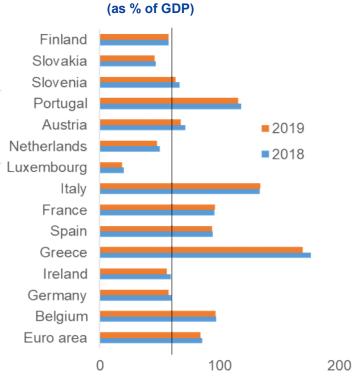
Fiscal policy stance in the home country

... where in the majority of the cases the stock of the debt is considered too high





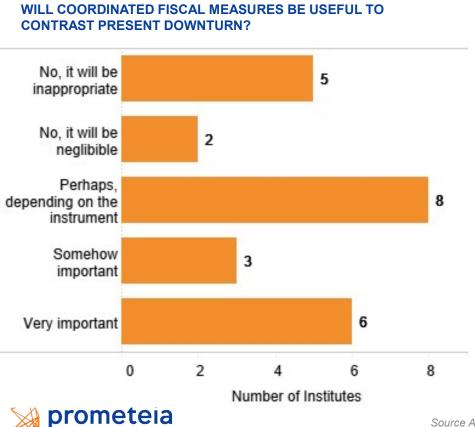
Source AIECE Institutes



GENERAL GOVERNMENT







SHOULD COUNTRIES WITH FISCAL SPACE ADOPT EXPANSIONARY FISCAL MEASURES?



Source AIECE Institutes

a simulation exercise

What is fiscal space?

- Country's ability to take budgetary discretionary actions without jeopardizing the sustainability of its public finances
- For European countries it cannot be separated from the European and national fiscal rules designed to ensure sound public finances

Two measures of fiscal space (in our exercise)

- Gap between the EC estimated primary balance at unchanged policies for 2020 and the estimation of debt-stabilizing primary balance (almost a mechanical tool)
- Gap between the EC projected structural balance in 2020 and the country specific medium term budgetary objective (MTOs) (a more prudent interpretation of the fiscal space, derived from in-depth assessment of the country's specific conditions)



a simulation exercise

	(a) fiscal space as difference between 2020 primary balance* and debt stabilizing primary balance**		(b) fiscal space as difference between 2020 structural balance and MTO for 2020-2022***	
	as % of GDP	billions of euros	as % of GDP	billions of euros
Germany	2.4	83.4	1.8	62.1
France	0.1	3.2	-1.5	-36.2
Ital	-0.2	-4.2	-2.5	-44.4
Spain	-0.4	-4.7	-2.2	-27.4
Netherlands	2.1	16.6	1.2	9.6
Belgium	0.3	1.2	-1.8	-8.3
Ireland	1.8	6.1	0.5	1.7
Portugal	1.5	3.1	-0.5	-1.0
Austria	1.7	6.9	0.8	3.0
Finland	1.2	0.3	-0.4	-0.8

^{*} European Commission April 2019 and Prometeia forecasts for Italy

^{***}MTO are given in "Vade Mecum on the Stability and Growth Pact - 2019 Edition"



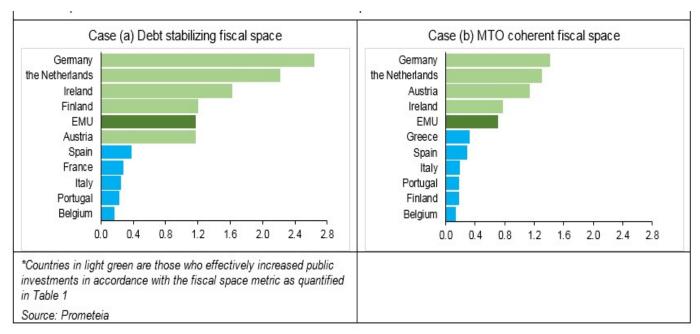
Source: Prometeia's calculations

4-15 November 2019; 78

^{**} debt-stabilizing primary balance at 2018 value is derived using Prometeia estimation of structural long term nominal growth and the nominal interest rate paid on the existing debt in 2018

a simulation exercise

EFFECTS OF AN INCREASE IN PUBLICI INVESTMENTS ON GDP AFTER THREE YEARS (per cent deviations from a baseline scenario without fiscal impulse)





Questions for discussion

Fiscal policy

- 1. Can Institutes comment on their home country fiscal policy for next year: the one recently submitted to the Commission and the most likely one.
- 2. Which could be the disadvantages of coordinated fiscal policy to contrast high risk of recession?
- 3. How to proceed for a major integration among countries?



I rights reserved

Confidentiality

Any partial or total reproduction of its content is prohibited without written consent by Prometeia.

Copyright © 2019 Prometeia



Contacts

Bologna

Piazza Trento e Trieste, 3 +39 051 6480911 italy@prometeia.com

London

Dashwood House 69 Old Broad Street EC2M 1QS +44 (0) 207 786 3525 uk@prometeia.com

Cairo

Smart Village - Concordia Building, B2111 Km 28 Cairo Alex Desert Road 6 of October City, Giza egypt@prometeia.com

Milan

Via Brera, 18 Viale Monza, 265 +39 02 80505845 italy@prometeia.com

Istanbul

River Plaza, Kat 19 Büyükdere Caddesi Bahar Sokak No. 13, 34394 | Levent | Istanbul | Turkey + 90 212 709 02 80 – 81 – 82 turkey@prometeia.com

Moscow

ul. Ilyinka, 4 Capital Business Center Office 308 +7 (916) 215 0692 russia@prometeia.com

Rome

Viale Regina Margherita, 279 italy@prometeia.com







Prometeia

www.prometeia.com

