



CONTROLLING PUBLIC SPENDING IN ADVANCED ECONOMIES

14 – 15 November 2011

Ministry of Economy and Finance

Sala Maggioranza - Via Pastrengo, 1

14 November 2011

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. *Registration and Welcome Coffee*

9:00 – 9:15 a.m. **Welcome Address**

Vittorio Grilli - *Director General of Ministry of Economy and Finance, Italy*

Carlo Cottarelli - *Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF*

Andrea Montanino - *Director General, Treasury Department, MEF, Italy*

9:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. **Session 1**

Expenditure Policy Reforms to Contain Spending: Key Issues

This session will focus on the expenditure policy challenges confronting advanced economies as they seek to contain spending growth. What is the size of the reduction in public spending that is needed? What are the key areas of expenditure policy that need to be tackled?

9:15 – 10:45 a.m. **Session 1A**

Chair: Carlo Cottarelli - *Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF*

Speakers:

"Fiscal Adjustment and Expenditure Reform in Advanced Economies: An Overview",
Sanjeev Gupta - *Deputy Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF*

"Reforming Health and Pension Spending", David Blake - *Director, Pensions Institute, United Kingdom*

"Social Benefits and Subsidies", Giuseppe Bertola - *Professor, University of Turin and CEPR*

Q&A (30 min.)



10:45 – 11:15 a.m. *Coffee Break*

11:15 a.m.– 12:45 p.m. **Session 1B**

Chair: Ernst van Koesveld - *Director of the Financial and Economic Policy Directorate of the Dutch Ministry of Finance*

Speakers:

"Reforming Employment and Wages", Mario Marcel - *OECD*

"Public Investment and Public-Private Partnerships", Thomas Barrett - *Corporate Director, European Investment Bank*

"Defense spending", Paul Dunne - *University of West England, Bristol and Editor of the Economics and Peace and Security Journal*

Q&A (30 min.)

1:00 – 2:30 p.m. *Buffet Lunch*

2:30 – 4:00 p.m. **Session 2**

Expenditure Policies for Fiscal Consolidation: Case Studies

Opening session

Alessandro Rivera - *Director General, Legal Affairs Department, MEF*

2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Chair: Tom Scholar, Second Permanent Secretary, UK Treasury

Speakers:

"Containing Health Spending in the United States", Stephen Zuckerman - *Urban Institute, Washington D.C.*

"Reform of Pension Spending in Italy", TBD

"Reforming Social Benefits in Finland", Aki Kangasharju - *Director General of the Government Institute for Economic Research*

"Reforming Wages and Employment in Spain", Mr. Ángel Estrada - *General Director for Macroeconomic Analysis and International Economics, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Spain*

Q&A (30 min.)

4:00 – 4:30 p.m. *Coffee Break*



4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Session 3

Budget Institutions for Fiscal Consolidation

The session will examine the reforms needed to strengthen fiscal institutions to help effectively promote expenditure discipline.

Chair: Jean-Philippe D'Issernio - *Deputy Chief of Staff to Minister of Budget, France*

Speakers:

"The Role of Budget Institutions in Controlling Expenditures: A Cross-country Perspective", Marco Cangiano, *Assistant Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF*

"The Contribution of Institutional Reform to Fiscal Consolidation", Murilo Portugal - *President, Brazilian Banking Federation and Former Deputy Managing Director, IMF*

"Controlling Spending Through Fiscal Rules", Lucio Pench - *European Commission*

Q&A (30 min)

6:30 p.m.

Quick guided introduction to the Palace

7 p.m.

Cocktail hosted by the Ministry served in the historical room of "Sala del Parlamentino"

15 November 2011

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Session 4

Strengthening Budget Discipline: Cutting Edge Reforms

Opening session

Alessandro Rivera - *Director General, Direction of Banking and Financial System, Legal Affairs Department, MEF*

This session will look at a set of cutting-edge institutional reforms and their role in strengthening budget discipline in the countries concerned.

Chair: Murilo Portugal - *President, Brazilian Banking Federation and Former Deputy Managing Director, IMF*

Speakers:

"Independent Fiscal Agencies", Peter Birch Sørensen - *University of Copenhagen*

"Medium-term Fiscal and Budget Frameworks", Gerhard Steger - *Budget Director,*



Austria

"Expenditure Reviews for Fiscal Reform", Hideaki Tanaka - *Director for International Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Japan*

Q&A (30 min)

10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Break

11:00 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.

Session 5

Containing Local Government Expenditures

Chair: Christian Kastrop - *Acting Director General, Directorate of Public Finance, Federal Ministry of Finance, Germany*

Speakers:

"Decentralization and Expenditure Control Across Countries", Luc Eyraud - *Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF*

"Case study: Fiscal Oversight of Subnational Governments", Fritz Zurbrugg - *Director, Federal Department of Finance, Switzerland*

"Case study: Canada's Fiscal Plan", Mr. Benoit Robidoux - *Assistant Deputy Minister, Canada*

Q&A (30 min)

12:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Concluding Session

Giulio Tremonti - *Minister of the Economy and Finance, Italy*
