

New numerical fiscal rules in the Member State in 2012

Questions marked with an asterisk * require an answer to be given.

1 Description of the rule

1.1 Please choose from:

(Please note that this questionnaire is only aimed at new rules or at already existing rules that were not reported previously)

*

- The present rule was introduced in 2012
- The present rule was already in force in 2012 but it has never been reported

1.2 Please define the nature of the rule: *

- Expenditure rule
- Budget balance rule
- Revenue rule
- Debt rule

1.3 Please provide a general description of the rule.

*

(maximum 4000 characters)

1.4 Please indicate the main reasons for the introduction of the rule.

Please mention any related particular event (such as institutional reform, changes in legislation to adapt to the requirements of EU law, inter-governmental treaties, financial assistance programmes, etc.).

Please indicate the date of important decisions taken.

*

(maximum 2000 characters)

1.5 Indicate the approval date of the rule (MM/YY). *

(between 5 and 5 characters)

1.6 Indicate the date the rule entered/should enter into force (DD/MM/YY). *

(between 8 and 8 characters)

Explanation/additional information.

(maximum 2000 characters)

2 Coverage and target definition



2.1 Are all sectors of the general government covered by the rule?

(Please note that for the purpose of this questionnaire we refer to these sectors of the general government - central government, regional/state government, local government and social security. The questionnaire takes into account that some Member States may not have all of the sectors - in particular regional/state governments.)

*



Questions on coverage are used for two main purposes:

- 1) To determine among rules covering the same sector, which one has the largest coverage,
- 2) To estimate the individual coverage of each rule in terms of general government expenditure/revenue.

Following questions include further explanation under the "help button"

Yes

No



2.2 Please indicate the sector(s) of general government covered by the rule (*multiple replies possible*): *

- local government
- regional government (autonomous regions or federated states)
- central government
- social security
- other



Other - Please, specify: * (maximum 500 characters)



2.3 Please indicate the share of local government in general government expenditure (in percent):

(in case of revenue rules, please indicate the share in terms of general government revenue)

*



Questions 2.3 to 2.6 are general questions related to the share of each sub-sector (local, regional, central and social security) in terms of the general government sector. Consequently when replying to these questions, one has to verify that the sum the replies is equal to 100%. Moreover one has to check that replies to questions 2.3 to 2.6 should be the same for all rules in a given country.

%



2.4 Please indicate the share of regional/state government in general government expenditure (in percent):

(in case of revenue rules, please indicate the share in terms of general government revenue)

*



Questions 2.3 to 2.6 are general questions related to the share of each sub-sector (local, regional, central and social security) in terms of the general government sector. Consequently when replying to these questions, one has to verify that the sum the replies is equal to 100%. Moreover one has to check that replies to questions 2.3 to 2.6 should be the same for all rules in a given country.

%



2.5 Please indicate the share of central government in general government expenditure (in percent):

(in case of revenue rules, please indicate the share in terms of general government revenue)

*



Questions 2.3 to 2.6 are general questions related to the share of each sub-sector (local, regional, central and social security) in terms of the general government sector. Consequently when replying to these questions, one has to verify that the sum the replies is equal to 100%. Moreover one has to check that replies to questions 2.3 to 2.6 should be the same for all rules in a given country.

%



2.6 Please indicate the share of social security in general government expenditure (in percent):

(in case of revenue rules, please indicate the share in terms of general government revenue)

*



Questions 2.3 to 2.6 are general questions related to the share of each sub-sector (local, regional, central and social security) in terms of the general government sector. Consequently when replying to these questions, one has to verify that the sum the replies is equal to 100%. Moreover one has to check that replies to questions 2.3 to 2.6 should be the same for all rules in a given country.

%

Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)



2.8 Please indicate the accounting system in which the budgetary aggregate targeted by the rule is specified: *

- ESA 95 accounting
- cash/budgetary accounting
- other



Please specify: * (maximum 200 characters)



Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)



2.9 Please indicate the definition of the budgetary aggregate targeted by the rule: *

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Structural balance | <input type="radio"/> Primary balance except capital investment |
| <input type="radio"/> Primary balance | <input type="radio"/> Other |



2.9 Please indicate the definition of the budgetary aggregate targeted by the rule: *

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Nominal expenditure | <input type="radio"/> Growth of nominal expenditure | <input type="radio"/> allocation of expenditure to a specific purpose |
| <input type="radio"/> Real expenditure | <input type="radio"/> Growth of real expenditure | <input type="radio"/> Other |



2.9 Please indicate the definition of the budgetary aggregate targeted by the rule: *

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Nominal debt | <input type="radio"/> Debt to GDP ratio | <input type="radio"/> Decline of debt (nominal or real) |
| <input type="radio"/> Real debt | <input type="radio"/> Debt as % of current revenue | <input type="radio"/> Decline of debt to GDP ratio |
| <input type="radio"/> Growth of debt (nominal or real) | <input type="radio"/> Debt service ratio | <input type="radio"/> Other |



2.9 Please indicate the definition of the budgetary aggregate targeted by the rule: *

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Allocation of unexpected revenue | <input type="radio"/> Limits on indirect taxes | <input type="radio"/> Growth of revenue in relation to GDP growth |
| <input type="radio"/> Limits on direct tax rates | <input type="radio"/> Earmarking specific revenue | <input type="radio"/> Other |



Please specify:

*

(maximum 200 characters)



Additional information: (maximum 500 characters)



2.10 Please indicate the unit of measurement of the budgetary aggregate targeted by the rule: *

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> nominal terms | <input type="radio"/> percentage points related to GDP growth |
| <input type="radio"/> real terms | <input type="radio"/> percentage points related to a specific concept of economic growth (e.g. potential output) |
| <input type="radio"/> per cent | <input type="radio"/> other |
| <input type="radio"/> % of GDP | |



percentage points related to a specific concept of economic growth (e.g. potential output), specify:

*



Please specify:



(maximum 500 characters)



Additional information: (maximum 500 characters)



2.11 Are there any exclusions in the coverage of the above rule?*


Yes

No




Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)

 2.12 Please indicate the budgetary elements that are excluded from the coverage of the rule, if any (multiple replies possible): *


- Interest payments
- unemployment benefits
- Public investment
- Other

 Please specify the relevant definition of public investment applied (e.g. gross or net investment, including only specific items, etc.):

*
(maximum 500 characters)

 Specify:

*
(maximum 200 characters)

 2.13 In case of revenue allocation rules, please indicate to what area unexpected or specific revenue is to be allocated to (multiple replies possible): * (between 1 and 3 answers)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> deficit reduction | <input type="checkbox"/> specific funds (e.g. pension funds) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Debt reduction | <input type="checkbox"/> other |



Please specify: * (maximum 200 characters)



2.14 Please indicate the estimated value of items covered by the rule as a percentage of local government expenditure (taking into account exclusions, if any)

(in case of revenue rules, please indicate the estimated value as % of local government revenue)

*



Questions 2.14 to 2.17 will help to determine the coverage of each rule in terms of specific sub-sector expenditures/revenues. The answer will be used to determine which rule has the largest coverage.

The product of replies 2.3 and 2.14, 2.4 and 2.15, 2.5 and 2.16, 2.6 and 2.17, will give the respective sectors coverage by the rule in terms of general government expenditures/revenues.

For example, assume a rule covers 50% of central government expenditure and the central government is 80% of general government expenditure. As a result, the coverage of the rule in terms of general government expenditure is $80\% * 50\% = 40\%$.

%



2.15 Please indicate the estimated value of items covered by the rule as a percentage of regional/state government expenditure (taking into account exclusions, if any):

(in case of revenue rules, please indicate the estimated value as % of regional/state government revenue)

*



Questions 2.14 to 2.17 will help to determine the coverage of each rule in terms of specific sub-sector expenditures/revenues. The answer will be used to determine which rule has the largest coverage.

The product of replies 2.3 and 2.14, 2.4 and 2.15, 2.5 and 2.16, 2.6 and 2.17, will give the respective sectors coverage by the rule in terms of general government expenditures/revenues.

For example, assume a rule covers 50% of central government expenditure and the central government is 80% of general government expenditure. As a result, the coverage of the rule in terms of general government expenditure is $80\% * 50\% = 40\%$.

%



2.16 Please indicate the estimated value of items covered by the rule as a percentage of central government expenditure (taking into account exclusions, if any):

(in case of revenue rules, please indicate the estimated value as % of central government revenue)

*



Questions 2.14 to 2.17 will help to determine the coverage of each rule in terms of specific sub-sector expenditures/revenues. The answer will be used to determine which rule has the largest coverage.

The product of replies 2.3 and 2.14, 2.4 and 2.15, 2.5 and 2.16, 2.6 and 2.17, will give the respective sectors coverage by the rule in terms of general government expenditures/revenues.

For example, assume a rule covers 50% of central government expenditure and the central government is 80% of general government expenditure. As a result, the coverage of the rule in terms of general government expenditure is $80\% * 50\% = 40\%$.

%



2.17 Please indicate the estimated value of items covered by the rule as a percentage of social security expenditure (taking into account exclusions, if any):

(in case of revenue rules, please indicate the estimated value as % of social security revenue)

*



Questions 2.14 to 2.17 will help to determine the coverage of each rule in terms of specific sub-sector expenditures/revenues. The answer will be used to determine which rule has the largest coverage.

The product of replies 2.3 and 2.14, 2.4 and 2.15, 2.5 and 2.16, 2.6 and 2.17, will give the respective sectors coverage by the rule in terms of general government expenditures/revenues.

For example, assume a rule covers 50% of central government expenditure and the central government is 80% of general government expenditure. As a result, the coverage of the rule in terms of general government expenditure is $80\% * 50\% = 40\%$.

%



2.18 Please indicate the estimated value of items covered by the rule as a percentage of general government expenditure (taking into account exclusions, if any):

(in case of revenue rules, please indicate the estimated value as % of general government revenue)

*




This is a consistency check question. The reply should be equal to the sum of the products of questions 2.3-2.6 and 2.14-2.17.
Example:

%



Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)

 2.19 According to its establishing act, does the rule provide for a margin of adjustment to the government in specifying the target of the rule? *

- Yes, the government has some freedom to adjust the target.
- No, the ceiling is definitely determined by the establishing act of the rule.

 Additional information: (maximum 500 characters)

 2.20 Please describe how the parameters of the rule can be adjusted by the government:

*
(maximum 500 characters)



2.21 Please indicate the numerical value(s) of the ceiling implied by the rule

(e.g., % of GDP for budget balance rules, amount of a nominal ceiling, allowed growth rate of expenditures, etc.). t refers to the ongoing budget year.

Please leave blank if unchanged

For year $t+1$:

--




... year $t+2$


--



... year $t+3$


--

 ... year t+4

 ... year t+5

 2.22 Please describe the characteristics of the escape clauses: *

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> There are no pre-defined escape clauses | <input type="radio"/> Derogations are possible in case of specific situations (e.g., natural disasters, exceptional slowdown, etc.) |
| <input type="radio"/> Derogations are possible if budgetary problems arise in specific, sensitive areas (e.g., health care) | <input type="radio"/> Other. |

 Please, specify



Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)



2.23 To what extent are escape clauses specified in the establishing act/legal base of the rule?*

- The establishing act lists all events or circumstances that allow for a derogation
- The circumstances triggering the derogation are not fully specified; there is some margin of discretion



Additional information:

Additional information: (maximum 500 characters)



Indicate which events are included: *(multiple replies possible)*

*

- Natural disasters
- Exceptional economic slowdown
- Other



Specify:

*

(maximum 500 characters)



2.24 What institution has the task of ascertaining whether escape clauses should be triggered/extended/exited?

*

- The government
- The ministry of finance
- The parliament
- An independent fiscal institution
- Other



Specify:

*

(maximum 200 characters)



Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)



If the rule cannot be immediately described in the above terms, please provide a verbal description of the target(s), unit(s) of measurement, and numerical values of the constraint established by the rule:

(maximum 4000 characters)

3 Statutory base of the rule

3.1 Please, indicate which of the following best describes the statutory/legal base of the rule:

*

- political agreement between governing partners
- commitment made by an authority (e.g., Minister of Finance, president of a regional government etc.)
- agreement between sectors of general government (e.g., Domestic Stability Pact)
- ordinary (i.e. other than constitutional/organic) law
- organic law
- constitutional law
- other

Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)



3.2.1 What is the time frame covered by the agreement? *

- one-year budgetary cycle
- multi-annual
- other



Specify:

*

(maximum 500 characters)



Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)



3.2.2 What is the time frame covered by the law? *

- one-year budgetary cycle
- multi-annual
- other



Specify:

*

(maximum 500 characters)



Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)



How many years are covered? *

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> 2 years | <input type="radio"/> 5 years |
| <input type="radio"/> 3 years | <input type="radio"/> More |
| <input type="radio"/> 4 years | <input type="radio"/> Legislative period |

3.3 Please give a precise reference to the official document(s) that form the statutory base of the rule:

3.4 Please upload a pdf version of the above legal text(s) or official document(s) in original language and in English if available.

(Alternatively, please provide hyperlink to the relevant legal text)

4 Monitoring of compliance

4.1 Who is in charge of monitoring the ex-ante and/or ex-post compliance with the rule (multiple replies possible)?*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> There is no formal monitoring of compliance with the rule | <input type="checkbox"/> Governmental body other than the Ministry of Finance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry of Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Independent fiscal institution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parliament | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Court of Auditors | |



Governmental body other than the Ministry of Finance, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)



Independent fiscal institution, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)



Other, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)

4.1.1 Please specify the output delivered by the (or each) body identified in question 4.1. in relation to monitoring the compliance with the rule (e.g.: publication of monitoring report) * (maximum 500 characters)

Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)

4.2 Is there a real-time monitoring?

("real-time" is defined as quarterly or more frequent)


*

Yes

No

 Specify: * (maximum 1000 characters)

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

 4.3 Is a monitoring report issued?

*

Yes

No



Additional information



4.3.1 Please specify how often this is done: * (maximum 2000 characters)



4.4 Please indicate which of the following applies to the monitoring report (multiple replies possible): *

- The government does not usually comment on the monitoring report
- The government is not obliged to comment on the monitoring report, but typically does so (e.g. by a public statement)
- The government is obliged to comment on the monitoring report (e.g. by a public statement)
- The monitoring report is presented in Parliament
- The monitoring report is available to the public



Additional information: (maximum 500 characters)

5 Enforcement of compliance with the rule

5.1 Please indicate which body is in charge of enforcing compliance with the rule in case of non-compliance: *(multiple replies possible)*

*

There is no body in charge with enforcing compliance

Ministry of Finance

Parliament

Court of Auditors

Governmental body other than the Ministry of Finance

Independent fiscal institution

body or review panel (other than the independent fiscal institution) specifically created to ensure enforcement of the rule

Other



Governmental body other than the Ministry of Finance, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)



Fiscal institution, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)



An independent body or review panel (other than the Fiscal institution), please specify:



Other, please specify:

*
(maximum 500 characters)

Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)

5.2 Does the annual budget document contain a reference to the numerical fiscal rule?

*

- Yes, there is a chapter devoted to compliance with the rule and/or the specification of the implied target.
- Yes, there is cursory reference to the numerical fiscal rule and/or the implied target.
- No.

Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)

5.3 Are there pre-defined actions to be taken in case or risk of non-compliance with the targets implied by the rule?

(by pre-defined actions we mean corrective measures, sanctions etc.)

*

- Yes
 No

Additional information:



5.4 What describes best the actions taken in case or risk of non-compliance with the targets implied by the rule? *(multiple replies possible)*

*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> the government/the Ministry of Finance is obliged to prepare a proposal of corrective measures for the Parliament/the respective enforcement body | <input type="checkbox"/> the government/ministry of finance is obliged to publicly justify the non-compliance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the government/the Ministry of Finance is obliged to take specific corrective actions | <input type="checkbox"/> there is an automatic correction mechanism (e.g., a cut in next year's resources upon non compliance); |
| <input type="checkbox"/> there is a possibility to impose sanctions | <input type="checkbox"/> there is an automatic sanction mechanism in case of non-compliance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other | |



the government/the Ministry of Finance is obliged to take specific corrective actions, specify:

*

(maximum 500 characters)



there is an automatic correction mechanism (e.g., a cut in next year's resources upon non compliance), please describe the mechanism

*

(maximum 500 characters)



there is a possibility to impose sanctions, please describe the mechanism:

*

(maximum 2000 characters)



there is an automatic sanction mechanism in case of non-compliance, please describe the mechanism:

*

(maximum 2000 characters)



other, please specify: * (maximum 2000 characters)



Additional information:
(maximum 1000 characters)

6 Media visibility of the rule



6.1 Which of the following describes best the average degree of media and public awareness of the rule?

- The rule is closely monitored by the media; non-compliance is likely to trigger public debate
- There is high media coverage of the rule, but non-compliance is unlikely to invoke public debate
- No or modest interest of the media



Additional information:
(maximum 500 characters)



6.2 Please describe the degree of media and public awareness of the new rule *

- Introduction of the rule was closely covered by the media; there was a public debate
- Introduction of the rule was covered by the media but there was no public debate
- No or modest coverage by the media



Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)

7 Compliance with the rule in 2012



7.0 Did the new rule introduced in 2012 have an impact on 2012 budget execution? *

- Yes
- No



Additional information:



7.1 Was the budget law adopted for the budgetary year 2012 compliant with the rule? *

- Yes
- No



Additional information

(maximum 500 characters)



7.1b If the budget law was not compliant with the rule in 2012, please specify the main reason(s): * (maximum 2000 characters)




7.1c Was non-compliance of the budget law with the rule covered by the media? *

- Non-compliance with the rule was closely covered by the media; there was a public debate
- Non-compliance with the rule was covered by the media but there was no public debate
- No or modest coverage by the media




Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)

 7.2 Were the results of implementing the budget law 2012 compliant with the rule? *

Yes

No

 Additional information

(maximum 500 characters)




7.3 Please, if possible, give a quantitative assessment of compliance with the rule in 2012 by budgetary outcomes, consistent with the entries in section 2 on the target definition, unit of measurement, and numerical value of the target:

(e.g., in case of a rule prescribing that the cyclically-adjusted general government balance is not higher than 1.5% of GDP, please specify the cyclically-adjusted general government balance achieved, in case of a rule prescribing that the growth rate of nominal expenditure does not exceed 1%, please specify the growth rate of nominal expenditure achieved etc.):

*

(maximum 1000 characters)

 7.4 If the implementation of the budget was not compliant with the rule in 2012, please specify the main reason(s) (multiple replies possible) : *

- deviation between forecasted GDP and its realization
- unexpected revenue shortfalls due to adverse macro-economic developments
- unexpected revenue shortfalls due to legislative changes
- unexpected mandatory spending obligations (e.g., new or amended legislation)
- unexpected urgent need for discretionary spending (e.g., disaster relief or war)
- unexpected interest increase on existing debt
- other



deviation between forecasted GDP and its realization, specify:

*
(maximum 200 characters)



unexpected revenue shortfalls due to adverse macro-economic developments, specify:

*
(maximum 200 characters)



unexpected revenue shortfalls due to legislative changes, specify:

*

(maximum 200 characters)



unexpected mandatory spending obligations (e.g., new or amended legislation), specify:

*

(maximum 200 characters)



unexpected urgent need for discretionary spending (e.g., disaster relief or war), specify:

*

(maximum 200 characters)



unexpected interest increase on existing debt, specify:

*

(maximum 200 characters)



other, specify:

*

(maximum 500 characters)



Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)



7.5 Please indicate the perceived nature of the constraint defined by the rule in 2012: *

- Compliance with the rule could be achieved easily.
- Compliance with the rule could be achieved with difficulty.



Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)



7.6 Was non-compliance of budget execution with the rule well covered by the media? *

- Non-compliance with the rule was closely covered by the media; there was a public debate
- Non-compliance with the rule was covered by the media but there was no public debate
- No or modest coverage by the media



Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)



7.7 Did non-compliance in 2011 have any impact on the 2012 budget preparation?

(Please describe potential correction mechanisms, sanctions or corrective measures affecting 2012 budget preparation and any other relevant issues)

*

- Yes
- No



Please specify: (maximum 1000 characters)



Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)



7.8 Was compliance of budget execution with the rule well covered by the media?

*

- Compliance with the rule was closely covered by the media; there was a public debate
- Compliance with the rule was covered by the media but there was no public debate
- No or modest coverage by the media




Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)

8 Long-term impact of the rule

8.1 Please indicate the effect of the rule on public debt of the sector(s) of general government to which it applies: so far, the rule has contributed to... *

- decreasing the growth of public debt as % of GDP
- stabilizing public debt as % of GDP
- reducing public debt as % of GDP
- the rule had no significant effect on public debt as % of GDP
- other

 Specify:

*
(maximum 500 characters)


Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)

8.2 Please indicate the effect of the rule on the budget balance: so far, the rule has contributed to... (multiple replies possible):

*

- constraining the budget deficit of the sector(s) concerned
- reaching the medium-term objective (MTO) for general government
- fostering compliance of general government with the Maastricht deficit criterion
- the rule had no significant effect on the budget deficit of the sector(s) of general government concerned
- other

 Specify:

*
(maximum 200 characters)

Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)

8.3 Please indicate the effect of the rule on expenditure of the sector(s) of general government to which it applies: so far, the rule has contributed to... (multiple replies possible): *

- reducing expenditure
- changing the composition of expenditure
- constraining investment
- the rule had no significant effect on expenditure of the sector(s) of general government concerned
- other

 Specify:

*
(maximum 500 characters)

Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)

8.4 Please indicate the effect of the rule on revenues of the sector(s) of general government to which it applies: so far, the rule has contributed to... (multiple replies possible) *

- increasing public revenues
- decreasing public revenues
- affecting the composition of revenues
- the rule had no significant effect on revenues of the sector(s) of general government concerned
- other

 Specify:

*
(maximum 500 characters)

Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)

9.1 Contact details of the respondents: Names, firstnames, positions, departments, institutions, addresses, emails, phone numbers.

*

9.2 Comments or remarks concerning the questionnaire:

(maximum 2000 characters)