

Abstract

Short-term macroeconomic statistics : the current priority needs of policy makers.

The author takes stock of the developments, since the launching of the euro (1999), regarding the improvement of short-term macroeconomic statistics within the Euro Area. The conduct of the single monetary policy as well as the coordination of economic and fiscal policies within the Euro Area dramatically increase the need for timely and reliable short-term macroeconomic statistics. The author highlights the main objectives of the current strategy pursued through the 2000 Action Plan, the Principal European Economic Indicators (2002-2003) and the code of conduct for the excessive deficit procedure (2003). Finally, the author identifies the current four key concerns of policy makers in this field, namely the relevance of the indicators, their reliability, their availability and their consistency. These four key concerns are commented against the backdrop of the Ecofin Council decision of 2 June 2004 on macroeconomic Information requirements in EMU.

KEYWORDS: economic statistics, economic and monetary union

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