PORTUGAL: LATEST KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Economic Activity

According to <u>INE's quarterly sectoral accounts</u>, the Portuguese economy registered a **net lending** of 1% of GDP in the year ending in the first quarter of 2016, 0.1 pp below the year ending in the previous quarter.

The balance of **Non-Financial Corporations** fell by 0.3 pp of GDP while the **Financial Corporations** increased by 0.1 pp, standing at 0.3% and 4.1% of GDP, respectively. **Households** saving rate stood at 3.5% (-0.8 pp compared to the previous quarter) whereas **net lending** decreased to 0.8% (from 1.6%).

In the quarter ended in April, the economic activity indicator decreased, whereas the economic climate indicator, available up to May, increased. In the three months up to April, the private consumption indicator stabilized. The GFCF indicator increased, mainly due to a less negative contribution from construction. INE's data available <u>here</u>.

Tourism Industry

In April, **hotel establishments** recorded an annual increase of 6.2% in overnight stays due to both domestic and external markets. This annual increase stood below the one recorded in March (21.1%), partly due to Easter effects. The **average revenue per room** grew 9.5%. INE's press release available <u>here</u>.

External Adjustment

i. International Trade

In the quarter ended in April, nominal **exports of goods** decreased 1.8% y-o-y while imports declined 1.4% y-o-y (-1.7% and +0.8% respectively, in the 1st quarter 2016). INE's press release available <u>here</u>.

ii. Balance of Payments

In the first four months of the year, the **current and capital account** balance stood at $\notin 2M$, compared with $\notin 292M$ in the same period of 2015. This reduction is explained by the decrease of the capital account surplus. The **trade balance** surplus also diminished (- $\notin 134M$), standing at $\notin 243M$. BdP's data available <u>here</u>.

Labour market

According to <u>INE</u>, in May 2016, the provisional estimate for the unemployment rate was 11.6%, remaining unchanged from the definite estimate for April 2016.

Price Developments

In May, the **CPI** 12-month average rate stood at 0.6%, 0.1 pp bellow the previous month. The annual rate was 0.3% (-0.2 pp), while core inflation stood at 0.8%, the

same as in the previous month. **HICP** annual rate of change was 0.4%, 0.5 pp above the rate estimated by Eurostat for the euro area. INE's data available <u>here</u>.

General Government Accounts

In the 1st quarter of 2016 general government deficit stood at 3.2% of GDP (€1,406.1M), falling below the 2015 1st quarter deficit of 5.5% of GDP (€ 2,344.6M). This result reflects the evolution of both revenue (+2.3%) and expenditure (-2.7%). Revenue was largely determined by the increase in taxes on production and imports (+9.3%) and, to a lesser extent, social contributions (+3.1%) and taxes on income and wealth (+0.8%). On the expenditure side, the decrease is explained by the capital expenditure (-26.1%), interest (-11.1%) and subsidies (-18.7%) development.

Budgetary Outturn

Until May 2016, the general government **budget deficit** on a cash basis was \notin 394.9M, \notin 452.9M lower than in the same period of 2015. This evolution is explained by higher increase in **revenue** (1.6%), than in **expenditure** (0.1%). The **primary surplus** reached \notin 2,890M, improving by \notin 728M. Social security, Local and Regional Government's surplus and the Central Government deficit improvement contributed to the positive evolution.

Treasury Financing

According to the Debt Management Agency (IGCP), in May the Portuguese **State direct debt** <u>amounted</u> to €232,792M, increasing 1.1% vis-à-vis April. The increase is mainly explained by the auction of PGB 2.875% JUL2026 (€1,368M) and issuance of OTRV May2021 (€750M).

In June 8th, <u>two auctions</u> were held: €400M issued of PGB 2.875%Oct2025, with a price of 100.12 and a yield of 2.859%; €600M of PGB 3.85%Apr2021 issued with a price of 109.22 and a yield of 1.843%. On June 15th, €245M and €755M of 3 and 12-month T-bills were <u>issued</u> at weighted average yields of 0.075% and 0.146%, respectively.

General Government Debt

According to <u>BdP</u>, general government Maastricht debt reached \notin 235,829M in April (+ \notin 2,790M than in the previous month). Maastricht debt net of central government deposits stood at \notin 219,585M (+ \notin 964M than in the previous month).

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