

**Question for written answer E-006026/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: European Fiscal Board's proposals to revise the rules on public debt

In its 2020 annual report¹, the European Fiscal Board (EFB) highlights the need to reform the rules on public debt, and states that the considerable rise in euro area debt as a result of the impact of the pandemic requires flexibility so that debt targets are realistic and the primary surpluses needed to achieve these targets are lower. In particular, the EFB proposes raising the debt benchmark above 60% of GDP or a longer period of debt reduction towards this level for countries with high debt, or a combination of both. The report also stresses the need to differentiate the rules according to the data for each country, in order to avoid, at any cost, heavily indebted countries, such as Greece, Italy and Portugal, having very high primary surpluses or de facto violating these targets.

In view of the above:

1. What is the timeline for concluding the dialogue and revising the existing economic governance framework?
2. What is the Commission's position regarding the EFB's proposals and the proposal to complete the revision process before the general escape clause in the fiscal rules is deactivated?
3. Is the Commission considering setting up a permanent budget fund/mechanism, as proposed by the EFB, given that the Recovery and Resilience Fund is only temporary?

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/efb_annual_report_2020_en_0.pdf