



Emerging Europe

Policy Seminar for Parliamentarians

*Sponsored by the International Monetary Fund and the Parliamentary Network
on the World Bank and IMF at the Joint Vienna Institute*

February 6-7, 2014

Preliminary Agenda

The IMF, together with the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and the IMF will host a seminar on Emerging Europe for Members of Parliament from Eastern Europe on February 5-8, 2014 in Vienna, in cooperation with the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI).

The aim of the seminar is to increase mutual understanding of selected economic issues by country parliaments and Fund staff. There will be a few sessions highlighting the IMF's engagement in Emerging Europe presented by European resident representatives, a session on the IMF, as well as sessions on the challenges for Europe when it comes to tackling the issue of creating more jobs and promoting economic growth. The seminar will also focus on regional trends and on discussing a Fund-supported program in one of the specific countries represented. Those presentations will offer useful materials for MPs to deepen their knowledge on key macroeconomic issues important to their work.

About JVI

The Joint Vienna Institute (JVI) is an international training institute located in Vienna, Austria. It was launched in 1992 by five international organizations and the Austrian Authorities to respond rapidly to the large demand from economies in transition to train officials in market economics and the free enterprise system.

The JVI offers a comprehensive program of approximately 80 courses, generally of short duration, in specialized topics that reflect the expertise of its various sponsoring organizations. These courses are aimed at mid- and senior-level officials and private sector managers in transition economies and focus primarily on practical policy issues relevant to economies in transition. In addition, the JVI offers a 9-week course in Applied Economic Policy for younger policymakers.

Parliamentary Seminar

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

7:00 PM **Welcome Dinner, Restaurant Palmenhaus**

Thursday, February 6, 2014

8:15 – 8:45 AM **Registration at the JVI, Administrative briefing**
Mr. Alexander Prostimkin, Program Officer

8:45 – 8:50 AM **Opening of the Seminar**
Norbert Funke, Director Joint Vienna Institute *

8:50 – 10:15 AM **Session I: Welcome and Overview of the IMF's Dialogue to Legislators**
Karina Manasseh, External Relations Department IMF *
Goran Petterson, PN Board Member, Sweden

Role and Functions of the IMF

Karina Manasseh, External Relations Department IMF *

The IMF's mandate, governing structure, and main focus. How does the institution adjust its instruments and policies to specific needs of member countries? Overview of the IMF's expanding outreach to legislators. The role of legislators in economic and financial decision-making.

10:15 – 10:30 AM Coffee break

10:30 – 12:15 PM **Session II: The IMF and Emerging Europe**
James Roaf, Senior Resident Representative, IMF

This session will provide an overview of the involvement of the IMF in Europe, past developments and reforms, including an overview of our advice in the aftermath of the global financial crisis and specific and future challenges for Eastern European countries.

12:15 – 2:00 PM Lunch break

2:00 – 3:30 PM **Session III: Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe, "Faster, Higher, Stronger – Raising the Growth Potential of CESEE"**

James Roaf, Senior Resident Representative, IMF

What are the implications of the turmoil in emerging markets for Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe (CESEE)? Why have some countries been more affected than others? The October 2013 CESEE Regional Economic Issues (REI) assesses the macroeconomic outlook for the region in light of the latest global economic and financial developments.

3:30 – 4:00 PM

Coffee Break

4:00 – 5:00 PM

Session IV: Policies for Jobs and Growth in Europe– the way forward

Antonio Spilimbergo, Advisor, European Department, IMF
Martin Schindler, Senior Economist, IMF

Five years after the peak of the Global Financial Crisis growth remains weak across most of Europe and unemployment, especially among young people, has reached unacceptably high levels in all countries but a few. The main long-term challenge is to undertake the reforms needed to address structural weaknesses in product and labor markets, financial markets, and Europe's institutional frameworks.

7:00 PM

Dinner, Restaurant Glacis Beisl

Friday, February 7, 2014

9:00 – 10:30 AM

Session V: European Case Studies

Armine Khachatryan, Resident Representative Moldova
Jose Sulemane, Resident Representative, Kosovo
Goran Petterson, PN Board Member, Sweden

To put into practice some of the issues with which the IMF is dealing and have been discussed in the previous day, the second day of the seminar will be mostly interactive with resident representatives and mission chiefs discussing their country programs. MPs will be invited to take part in the discussion and to identify areas where their work in parliament can best be suited to advancing sound economic policies.

10:30 – 10:45 AM

Coffee break

10:45 – 12:00 PM

Continuation of Session V: Case Studies

12:00 – 2:00 PM

Lunch break

2:00 – 5:15 PM

Visit to Austrian Parliament