

High level meeting: investment under hard budget constraints

Monday, March 24th 2025 - Oesterreichische Nationalbank, Vienna

Various economic shocks in recent years have increased public debt levels. Many governments are currently trying to rein in their deficits and consolidate their budgets. However, contractionary fiscal policy negatively affects domestic demand and, in particular, investment spending, which are both key for long-term competitiveness. The EIB Investment Survey sheds light on the status of investment in Austria and Europe. Together with economic experts and business leaders, we will explore the effects of budgetary consolidation on investment in Austria and discuss ideas for more growth-friendly fiscal policies.

Agenda

10:00 – 10:30 **Opening remarks**

Robert Holzmann – *Governor, Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

Thomas Östros – *Vice president, European Investment Bank*

10:30 – 11:00 **Investments in Austria and growth-friendly budgetary policies**

Debora Revoltella – *Chief Economist, European Investment Bank*

11:00 – 12:30 **Panel discussion – financing investments when fiscal policy is contracting**

Moderator: **Marina Delcheva** – *Economics editor, profil*

Matteo Ferrazzi – *Senior Economist, European Investment Bank*

Peter F. Kollmann – *CFO, VerbundAG*

Peter Part – *Director, Ministry of Finance*

Oliver Picek – *Chief Economist, Momentum Institut*

Edeltraud Stiftinger – *Vice Governor, Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

Followed by lunch