

# CHART OF THE WEEK

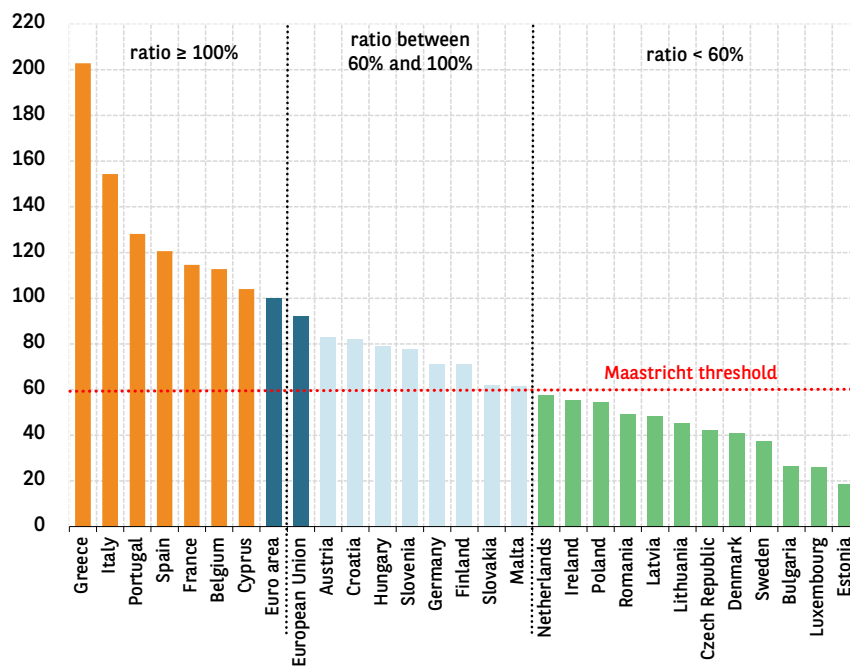


5 January 2022

## NEW YEAR, NEW FISCAL RULES FOR EUROPE?

Hélène Baudchon

European Union: public debt to GDP ratio, in 2021



Source: European commission (AMECO), BNP Paribas

Euro notes and coins were introduced on 1 January 2022, and the euro is celebrating that 20th anniversary in fairly good shape. However, there are still many plans to improve and strengthen the European project and increase integration.

This is shown by the topics on the agenda during the French presidency of the Council of the European Union over the next six months. Priorities will include reforming European fiscal rules, which will be a major topic of debate in 2022. Discussions are underway and decisions should be made this year. The challenge will be to avoid an anticlimax. There is broad agreement that reform is needed, particularly so that rules are less complex and enjoy greater compliance, and because most countries are currently a long way from meeting the key criteria (budget deficit limited to 3% of GDP and public debt limited to 60%). However, it looks like it will be hard to reach a consensus on how to achieve this via an optimal trade-off between fiscal credibility, flexibility and discipline, debt reduction and support for green and inclusive growth.

In particular, given the disparity between individual countries' situations, how far should the public debt limit be raised? To 100%, as proposed by Klaus Regling, the managing director of the European Stability Mechanism? Should Europe relax this criterion alone, or should the other rules governing achieving it and complying with it also be relaxed? Is a single target even appropriate? Europe's current economy commissioner Paolo Gentiloni, for example, is in favour of setting individual debt limits. We may have some answers after the strategic discussions on this matter scheduled for 10 and 11 March, as part of the special summit in France that will bring together Europe's 27 heads of state and government, with the theme of defining the new European growth model.

helene.baudchon@bnpparibas.com

ECONOMIC RESEARCH



BNP PARIBAS

The bank  
for a changing  
world



## CONJONCTURE

Structural or in news flow, two issues analysed in depth



## EMERGING

Analyses and forecasts for a selection of emerging economies



## PERSPECTIVES

Analyses and forecasts for the main countries, emerging or developed



## ECOFASH

Data releases, major economic events. Our detailed views...



## ECOWEEK

Weekly economic news and much more...



## ECOTV

In this monthly web TV, our economists make sense of economic news



## ECOTV WEEK

What is the main event this week? The answer is in your two minutes of economy



## MACROWAVES

The economic podcasts

The information and opinions contained in this report have been obtained from, or are based on, public sources believed to be reliable, but no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made that such information is accurate, complete or up to date and it should not be relied upon as such. This report does not constitute an offer or solicitation to buy or sell any securities or other investment. It does not constitute investment advice, nor financial research or analysis. Information and opinions contained in the report are not to be relied upon as authoritative or taken in substitution for the exercise of judgement by any recipient; they are subject to change without notice and not intended to provide the sole basis of any evaluation of the instruments discussed herein. Any reference to past performance should not be taken as an indication of future performance. To the fullest extent permitted by law, no BNP Paribas group company accepts any liability whatsoever (including in negligence) for any direct or consequential loss arising from any use of or reliance on material contained in this report. All estimates and opinions included in this report are made as of the date of this report. Unless otherwise indicated in this report there is no intention to update this report. BNP Paribas SA and its affiliates (collectively "BNP Paribas") may make a market in, or may, as principal or agent, buy or sell securities of any issuer or person mentioned in this report or derivatives thereon. BNP Paribas may have a financial interest in any issuer or person mentioned in this report, including a long or short position in their securities and/or options, futures or other derivative instruments based thereon. Prices, yields and other similar information included in this report are included for information purposes. Numerous factors will affect market pricing and there is no certainty that transactions could be executed at these prices. BNP Paribas, including its officers and employees may serve or have served as an officer, director or in an advisory capacity for any person mentioned in this report. BNP Paribas may, from time to time, solicit, perform or have performed investment banking, underwriting or other services (including acting as adviser, manager, underwriter or lender) within the last 12 months for any person referred to in this report. BNP Paribas may be a party to an agreement with any person relating to the production of this report. BNP Paribas, may to the extent permitted by law, have acted upon or used the information contained herein, or the research or analysis on which it was based, before its publication. BNP Paribas may receive or intend to seek compensation for investment banking services in the next three months from or in relation to any person mentioned in this report. Any person mentioned in this report may have been provided with sections of this report prior to its publication in order to verify its factual accuracy.

BNP Paribas is incorporated in France with limited liability. Registered Office 16 Boulevard des Italiens, 75009 Paris. This report was produced by a BNP Paribas group company. This report is for the use of intended recipients and may not be reproduced (in whole or in part) or delivered or transmitted to any other person without the prior written consent of BNP Paribas. By accepting this document you agree to be bound by the foregoing limitations.

Certain countries within the European Economic Area:  
This report has been approved for publication in the United Kingdom by BNP Paribas London Branch. BNP Paribas London Branch is authorised and supervised by the Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel and authorised and subject to limited regulation by the Financial Services Authority. Details of the extent of our authorisation and regulation by the Financial Services Authority are available from us on request.

This report has been approved for publication in France by BNP Paribas SA. BNP Paribas SA is incorporated in France with limited liability and is authorised by the Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel (ACP) and regulated by the Autorité des Marchés Financiers (AMF). Its head office is 16, boulevard des Italiens 75009 Paris, France.

This report is being distributed in Germany either by BNP Paribas London Branch or by BNP Paribas Niederlassung Frankfurt am Main, a branch of BNP Paribas S.A. whose head office is in Paris, France. BNP Paribas S.A. - Niederlassung Frankfurt am Main, Europa Allee 12, 60327 Frankfurt is authorised and supervised by the Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel and it is authorised and subject to limited regulation by the Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht (BaFin).

United States: This report is being distributed to US persons by BNP Paribas Securities Corp., or by a subsidiary or affiliate of BNP Paribas that is not registered as a US broker-dealer. BNP Paribas Securities Corp., a subsidiary of BNP Paribas, is a broker-dealer registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and other principal exchanges. BNP Paribas Securities Corp. accepts responsibility for the content of a report prepared by another non-U.S. affiliate only when distributed to U.S. persons by BNP Paribas Securities Corp.

Japan: This report is being distributed in Japan by BNP Paribas Securities (Japan) Limited or by a subsidiary or affiliate of BNP Paribas not registered as a financial instruments firm in Japan, to certain financial institutions defined by article 17-3, item 1 of the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law Enforcement Order. BNP Paribas Securities (Japan) Limited is a financial instruments firm registered according to the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan and a member of the Japan Securities Dealers Association and the Financial Futures Association of Japan. BNP Paribas Securities (Japan) Limited accepts responsibility for the content of a report prepared by another non-Japan affiliate only when distributed to Japanese based firms by BNP Paribas Securities (Japan) Limited. Some of the foreign securities stated on this report are not disclosed according to the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan.

Hong Kong: This report is being distributed in Hong Kong by BNP Paribas Hong Kong Branch, a branch of BNP Paribas whose head office is in Paris, France. BNP Paribas Hong Kong Branch is registered as a Licensed Bank under the Banking Ordinance and regulated by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority. BNP Paribas Hong Kong Branch is also a Registered Institution regulated by the Securities and Futures Commission for the conduct of Regulated Activity Types 1, 4 and 6 under the Securities and Futures Ordinance.

Some or all the information reported in this document may already have been published on <https://globalmarkets.bnpparibas.com>

© BNP Paribas (2015). All rights reserved.

POUR RECEVOIR NOS PUBLICATIONS

**SUBSCRIBE ON OUR WEBSITE**  
see the economic research's website

ET

**FOLLOW US ON LINKEDIN**  
wsee the economic research's linkedin page

OU TWITTER

voir la page twitter des études économiques

Bulletin édité par Les Etudes Economiques - BNP PARIBAS  
Siège social : 16 boulevard des Italiens - 75009 PARIS / Tél : +33 (0) 1.42.98.12.34  
Internet : [www.group.bnpparibas.com](http://www.group.bnpparibas.com) - [www.economic-research.bnpparibas.com](http://www.economic-research.bnpparibas.com)

Directeur de la publication : Jean Lemierre / Rédacteur en chef : William De Vijlder



**BNP PARIBAS**

The bank  
for a changing  
world