

Opzet

Taal: Engels

Duur gesprek: 15 minuten

Meeluisteren:

Inbelgegevens: (secretariaat verbindt u door met de Minister)

Hoofdboodschap / doelstelling

- LET is een euro- en cohesieland. Doel outreach is LET vocaler te maken in RAZ/ER tegen loans for grants en tegen schuldmutualisatie.

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Spreekpunten

[COVID-19]

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[MFK]

Hoofdboodschap

- COVID-19 has unprecedented impact on our citizens and economy. Clear that modifications to next MFF are needed. At the same time, necessary to keep long-term focus on broader policy priorities.
- My main concern is about the proposed **funding mechanism** the CION is considering, by issuing debt to finance the EU budget (“loans for grants”). This runs counter to sound budgetary principles and might lead to debt mutualization. It will lead to substantial repayment obligations for our countries in the coming years and decades.

- As Latvia and NL are both nations that attach great importance to sound public finances, I hope we can **cooperate in GAC and EUCO** to ensure EU budget is not debt-financed.
- Please tell me what is important for Latvia.
- [Ambtelijke follow-up]: Let's agree that we ask our MFF teams to **follow up** at their earliest possible convenience.

Vervolg opmerkingen / tweede ronde

- Our main points regarding the new MFF proposal are:
- **Needs assessment:** NL budget deficit more than 10% this year, same for others. Figures we read of new MFF of 2-3% GDP are simply not realistic. That is why we need a needs assessment. What will the money be used for?
- **Priorities:** If some additional investment is needed, these recovery efforts should be
 - 1) limited in time,
 - 2) linked to structural reforms and
 - 3) focused on research & innovation, green recovery, strengthening of the internal market and crisis response capacity.
- Modifications should primarily be made by **adjusting** and **reprioritizing** the MFF proposal of 21 February 2020.
- In our view this 21 February MFF proposal already provides for appropriate means for CAP/Cohesion. However, we see room for **frontloading** of Cohesion funds during the first 2 years to kick-start economies and quickly support Member States' actions.

(10)(2g)

- **Funding:** if necessary we could consider loans to Member States ("loans for loans", as in the SURE proposal), but:
 - 1) should only be temporarily (two years) and only in response to COVID-19;
 - 2) conditions / principles should be laid down in Own Resources Decision and
 - 3) financial liabilities for Member States should be limited and proportional.Again, EU borrowing cannot be used to finance the budget and can only be used to provide financial assistance in the form of loans.

[Bilateraal]

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valt buiten rijkweidte verzoek

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Achtergrond

[Update COVID-19]

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valt buiten rijkweidte verzoek

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[MFK]

- LET werd tijdens de economische crisis van 2008 zeer hard geraakt (BBP daalde in 2009 met 12,8%). Door drastische bezuinigingen wist het land de overheidsfinanciën weer op de rit te krijgen (met nu een overheidsschuld van slechts 36% van het BBP). Daarmee is de Letse overheid zo goed mogelijk voorbereid op de voorspelde economische tegenspoed. Reserves van huishoudens zijn echter zeer beperkt.
- LET ontving in de periode 2013 – 2020 in totaal EUR 4,51 mld. uit Cohesiebeleid, waarvan EUR 1,35 mld. uit Cohesiefonden (ter vergelijking: het Letse BNP bedroeg in 2019 EUR 29 mld.). De OECD schat dat investeringen uit het Cohesiebeleid tussen 2015 en 2017 goed waren voor ruim 50% van de publieke investeringen in het land.
- In 2018 ontving LET daarnaast ongeveer EUR 390 mln. uit het GLB. Voor het nieuwe budget hecht het aan de convergentie van directe betalingen binnen GLB. NL is geen voorstander van verdere externe convergentie (nadelig voor ontvangsten NL boeren).

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- Na de ER VC op 23 april jl. twitterde premier Kariņš: "...All #EU countries need support, although they have been affected differently by the virus. Work on #MFF needs to be continued, cohesion and agriculture policies are essential for economic development".

[Bilateraal]

valt buiten rijkweidte verzoek