



"Sweden's house prices and private indebtedness: which new policy measures are needed - and when?"

23 September 2016

Venue: Stockholm School of Economics, Sveavägen 65, room 550

Sweden has experienced swift and persistent house price increases, driven by favourable credit conditions, tax incentives that favour (debt-financed) investment in owner-occupied housing and supply constraints that limit new housing construction. Household indebtedness and mortgage exposure of the financial sector have also seen rapid growth, creating large potential deleveraging needs that make Sweden vulnerable to macroeconomic and financial shocks. This triangle of house prices, indebtedness and banking sector exposure has been identified as a key macroeconomic imbalance, requiring decisive policy action.

Following the adoption of the EU's Country-specific recommendations (in July) and the return of policymakers from the summer break, the aim of the event is to re-focus the attention on the identified imbalance as well as the policy recommendations providing additional momentum in the policy debate.

The European Commission introduces the context before policy makers and academics put forward their views. The panels will then discuss (i) the economic case before (ii) entering into potential policy measures, followed by a general discussion.

9.00-9.30 Registration and Coffee

9.30-9.45 Welcome and introduction: Istvan Szekely, European Commission, DG ECFIN

9.45-11.00 Session 1: Swedish house prices and private indebtedness – a bubble to burst?

Moderator: Pehr Wissén, Stockholm School of Economics

Panel: Peter Englund, Department of Finance, Stockholm School of Economics; Kent Janér, Fund Manager, Nectar

More panelists will be added

11.00-11.15 Coffee break

11.15-12.30: Session 2: How can policy best contribute to a soft landing?

Moderator: Istvan Szekely, European Commission, DG ECFIN

Panel: Karolina Ekholm, Ministry of Finance; Martin Flodén, Sveriges Riksbank; Erik Thedéen, Finansinspektionen (FSA); John Hassler, Institute for International Economic Studies, Stockholm University

Please register to conference@houseoffinance.se no later than 20 September.

Magnus Astberg
European Commission
Representation in Sweden

Pehr Wissén
Swedish House of Finance

European Commission Country Specific Recommendation for Sweden
European Commission Country Report for Sweden