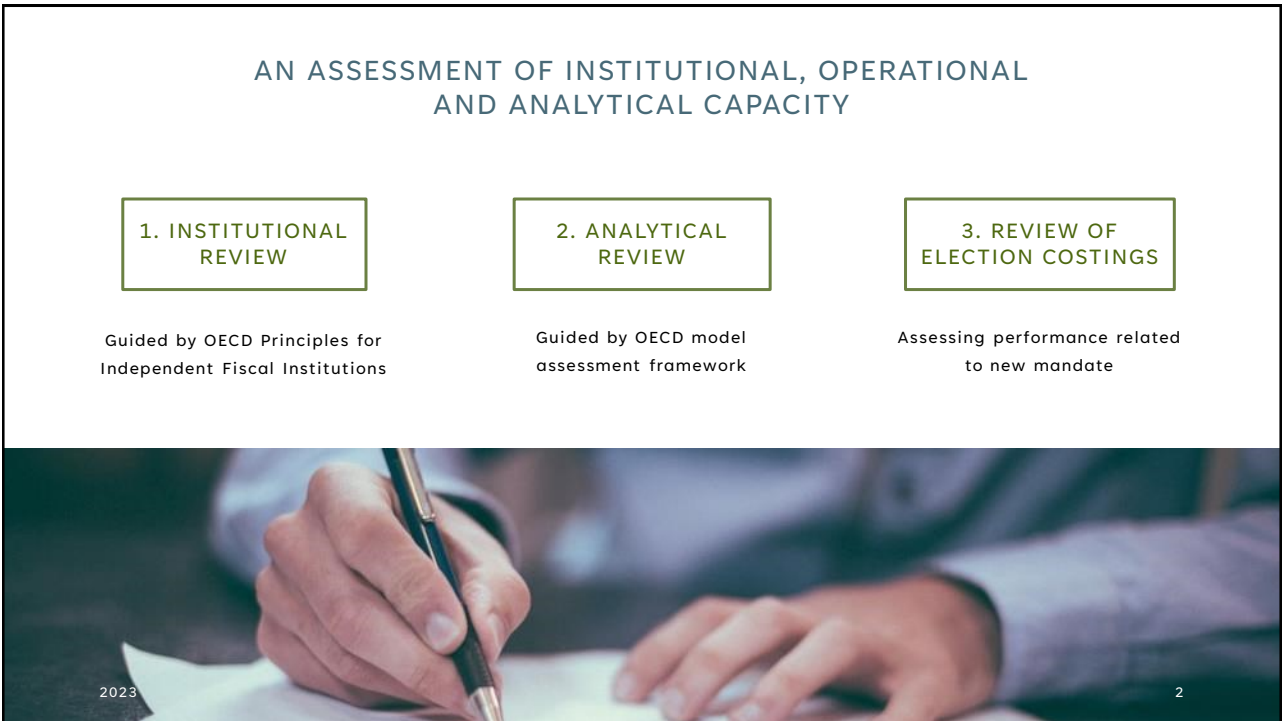




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OUR TEAM



OECD TEAM LEAD

Scherie Nicol



NETHERLANDS CPB

Bert Smid



CANADIAN PBO

Jason Jacques



LOCAL EXPERT

Wouter van der Wielen

2023

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STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

FEDERAL PLANNING BUREAU

Leadership
Analytical staff
Communications team
IT team

FEDERAL STAKEHOLDERS

Office of the Prime Minister
High Council of Finance
National Bank of Belgium
Central Economic Council
Other government stakeholders
in areas of Finance, Budget,
Economy, Social Security,
Pensions, Mobility and
Transport, Health

POLITICAL STAKEHOLDERS

Representatives from 12
political parties

REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

Government
Planning bureaus
Statistical authorities

OTHERS

Think tanks
Academics
Media

2023

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BELGIAN CONTEXT

2023



- **FPB distinctive among international peers**
 - One of first institutions of its kind
 - Broad mandate
 - Role as “government’s calculator”
 - Fulfills Belgium’s IFI function jointly with High Council of Finance Public Sector Borrowing Requirement

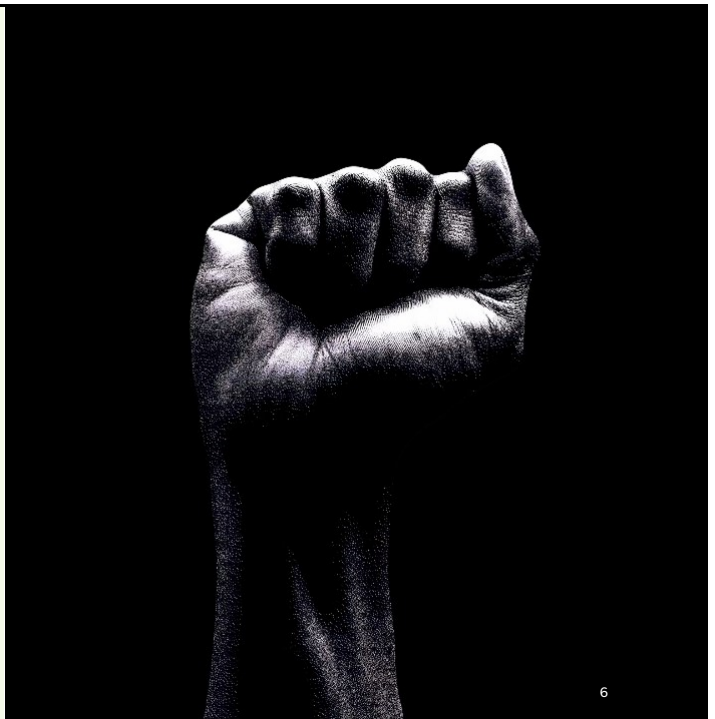
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KEY STRENGTHS OF FPB

- Local ownership
- Rich analytical capacity
- Work independent and non-partisan
- **Success in influencing public debate and policy**
- Newly created communications division

2023



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KEY CHALLENGES FOR THE FPB



FISCAL CONTEXT

Lack of action in relation to fiscal challenges



EXPANDING MANDATE

Threatens capacity and thus independence



BUSINESS CONTINUITY

Need to recruit younger staff



OPERATIONAL TRANSPARENCY

Falls short of peers

2023

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KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

FURTHER STRENGTHEN IMPACT OF WORK

To facilitate evidence-based policy decisions and actions that help restore fiscal sustainability.

ENSURE NEW TASKS DO NOT COMPROMISE EXISTING FUNCTIONS

Through revisions to funding and improved prioritisation

CREATE AN ATTRACTIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT FOR THE YOUNG

To help make the Bureau's staff more diverse and dynamic

RAISE OPERATIONAL TRANSPARENCY

To strengthen public trust in the institution

2023

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REVIEW OF ANALYTICAL CAPACITY

KEY FINDINGS

- FPB has a comprehensive set of models
- These are appropriate for delivery of its mandate
- It has an effective system for integrating data, inputs, and outputs across models, teams and projects

2023

AREAS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

- Ability to assess current economic environment
- Models that help assess structural reforms
- Capacity to estimate carbon impact of government policies

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REVIEW OF ELECTIONS COSTINGS

- Exercise not perfect, but:
 - Helped parties develop more robust proposals
 - Improved transparency
 - Created political consequences for specious election commitments
 - Bolstered political credibility
 - Informed coalition negotiations
 - Enhanced Bureau's perceived independence

2023

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**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
2024 COSTINGS
EXERCISE AND BEYOND**

PROMOTE GREATER
AWARENESS OF COSTINGS

IMPROVE COMPARABILITY
OF POLITICAL PLATFORMS

EXPAND TECHNICAL
CAPACITY TO CAPTURE
IMPACTS OF BROADER
RANGE OF POLICIES

PRESENT REGIONAL IMPACTS
WHERE POSSIBLE

PROVIDE CLEARER AND
MORE COMPREHENSIVE
GUIDANCE

2023

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**WHY IS A STRONGER FPB
IMPORTANT FOR
BELGIUM?**

- Improved understanding of the consequences of policy decisions
- Increased citizen understanding of economic and fiscal risks
- More informed, open and inclusive elections
- Help foster political will for action to put public finances on a sustainable path
- Strengthened citizen trust in legitimacy and functioning of elections and government

2023

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THANK YOU



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