



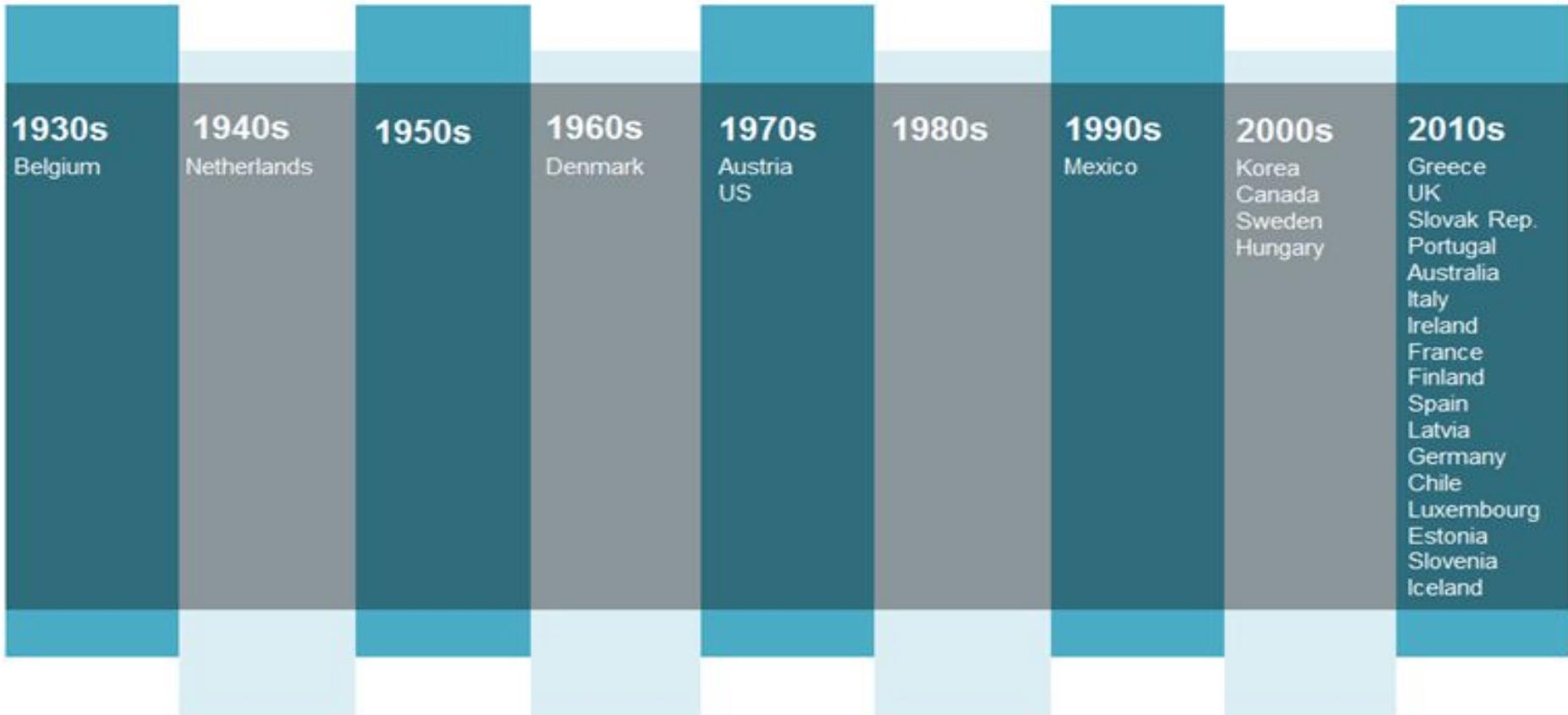
PRESENTATION OF THE OECD REVIEW OF AIReF

Marcos Bonturi, Director for Public Governance, OECD
Madrid, 4 April 2018



Independent fiscal institutions (IFIs) are now the norm in the OECD

During the crisis OECD countries turned to IFIs to promote sound and more transparent fiscal policy





OECD Network of Parliamentary Budget Officials and Independent Fiscal Institutions (PBO Network) and evaluation

IFIs help hold governments accountable; they have special duty to be accountable as well

- **OECD PBO Network** finds good practices and sets standards for IFIs

OECD PBO Network



- **Principles for IFIs** adopted by OECD member governments in 2014
- Includes principle that IFIs should undergo an **external evaluation**
- **Evaluation framework** developed to underpin this principle

Standards



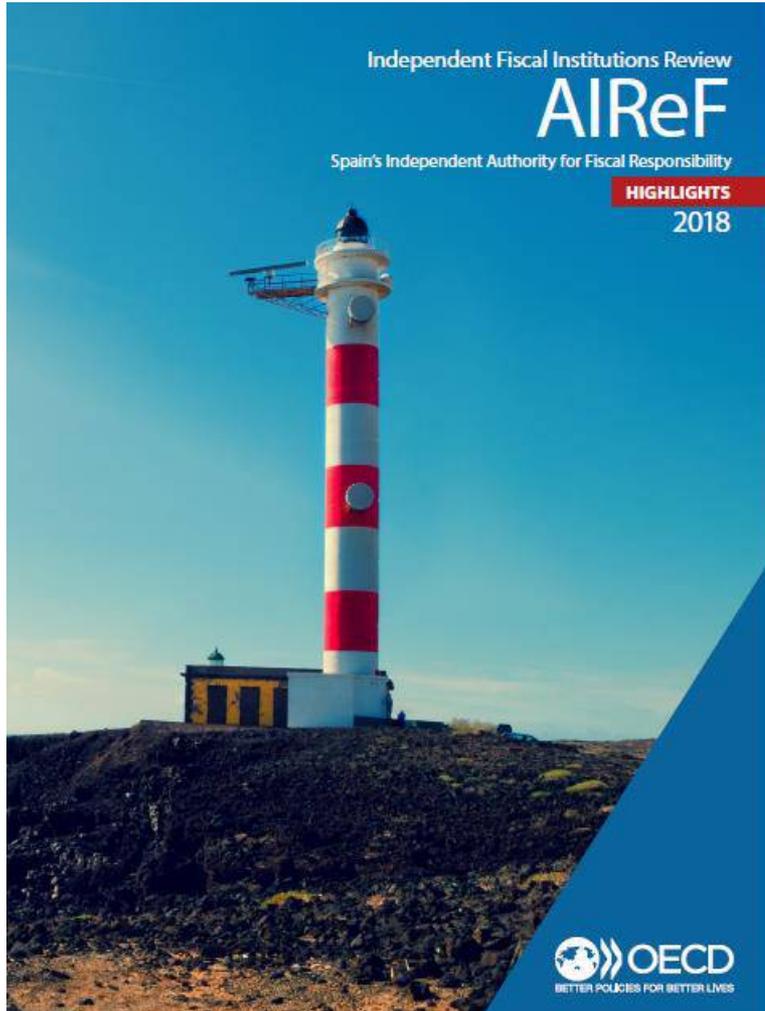
- AIREF President committed to external evaluation mid-way through his first term

Application





OECD Review of AIReF



Team

- OECD Secretariat (Budgeting and Public Expenditures Division)
- Peers from the Netherlands CPB, US CBO, and University of Vigo

Stakeholders consulted

- Public Administrations, Bank of Spain, Legislature, Court of Auditors, AIReF advisory board, academics, media....

Structure

Chpt. 1
Context

Chpt. 2
Inputs

Chpt. 3
Methodology
and Outputs

Chpt 4.
Subnational

Chpt. 5
Impact



Key findings - overview

In a short period of time AIReF has built

a reputation for independence and high quality analysis with Spanish stakeholders

a strong presence internationally among its peers

AIReF is viewed by stakeholders

as contributing to better fiscal management

as an “honest broker” in national/subnational fiscal coordination

AIReF’s work

is in line with good practice in terms of approach, rigour and transparency; compares well with peers

would benefit from more emphasis on the medium term and more numerical and graphical summaries



Key findings – three core challenges

AIReF fully meets 17 of 23 OECD Principles for IFIs and partially meets 6 remaining. Main issues linked to resources and access to information.

1. Access to information and timeliness

- recommend developing Memoranda of Understanding with MINHAFP and/or relevant administrations, including arrangements for AIReF to have advance sight of data on a confidential basis

2. Resources and budgetary independence

- recommend a reassessment of whether resources allocated to AIReF are commensurate with its mandate and a multiannual funding commitment covering period of the MTEF

3. Effectiveness of comply-or-explain principle

- recommend increased selectivity to emphasise and focus on most important messages in subsequent dialogue with administrations and public follow-up



Progress since the review and next steps

- Government has amended legislation to:
 - improve access to information
 - enhance AIReF's budgetary independence
 - reinforce use of comply-or-explain principle
- AIReF undertook a comply-or-explain exercise against the review's 20 recommendations and made proposals for improvement
- The review and any further progress made will be subject to further peer review at the OECD PBO Network annual meeting in July 2018



THANK YOU!

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