BUSINESS LAW - EC INTERNAL MARKET LAW

concerning § 12 and § 13 of the course

Diagram 8¹

An Overview of the Economic and Monetary Union

Economic Union Monetary Union

Art. 99(1) EC Treaty:

Member States shall regard their *economic policies* as a *matter of common concern* and *coordinate* them *within the Council*, in accordance with the provisions of art. 98

Art. 98 EC Treaty:

Member States shall conduct their economic policies with a view to contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the Community, as defined in article 2, and in the context of the broad guidelines of the economic policies. M.S. and Community shall act in accordance with the principle of an open market economy with free competition.

Art. 105(1) phrase 1, 2 EC Treaty:

The *primary objective* of the ESCB shall be *price stability*. Without prejudice to this objective, the ESCB shall support the general economic policies in the Community with a view to contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the Community as laid down in art. 2.

Art. 104(1) EC Treaty:

Member States shall avoid excessive government deficits.

European Stability and Growth Pact

European Council at Amsterdam 17.6.1997:

Political commitment of the M.S. to the objective of balanced public budgets and budget surplus in the medium term

Legally binding provisions on the procedure according to art. 99 EC Treaty are laid down in regulations 1466/97 and 1467/99

Common currency as third stage of the Monetary Union

 Start of the third stage at 01.01.1999, according to art. 121(4) EC Treaty

- no earlier start according to art. 121(3), because not enough M.S. met the requirements
- Council Decision 98/317 from 03.05.1998: 11 M.S. meet the requirements (until 2001, Greece participated according to the exceptional rule in art. 122(1, 3) EC Treaty)
- 2007: Slovenia joins the Monetary Union
- 2008: Cyprus and Malta join the Monetary Union

Substantial requirements for the participation (see art. 121 sub-sect. 1 phrase 3 EC Treaty): a high degree of sustainable convergence by reference to the following criteria, put in concrete terms in the Protocol on the Convergence Criteria:

- *price stability*: inflation not exceeding by more than 1,5 % that of the 3 M.S. with the lowest inflation
- *sustainability of the government financial position*: long-lasting avoidance of excessive government deficits
- *stability of exchange rates*: observance of the normal fluctuation margins (within the EMS) for at least 2 years
- convergence of interest-rates levels: long-term interest-rates not exceeding by more than 2 % that of the 3 M.S. with the lowest inflation.

Coordination of the economic policies within the Council, art. 99(1, 2) EC Treaty

Monetoring of the economic development and policies of the M.S., art. 99(3-5) EC Treaty

Institutional safeguard by the ESCB, art. 107 et seq. EC Treaty

- comprising ECB and national central banks
- directed by the main decision-making institutions of the ECB (Governing Council, Executive Board)
- not subjected to instructions, art. 108 EC Treaty

Monetoring and enforcement of the budgetary discipline, art. 104 EC Treaty

(Datei: Diagram 8 (ECIntML-MBA))

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