

Annex. Relationship between the three IFIs and the Lower Chambers of the Spanish, Irish, and Italian Parliaments (evidence from the period 2019-2020)

IFI	Relationship foreseen in the legislation	Number of hearings involving the IFI per year	Parliamentary questions citing IFI's evidence*		'Comply or explain' procedure
			Presenters and main issues covered	Response of/debate with the Gov.	
Spanish AIReF	The President shall appear in front of the competent committees at least once a year	2019: 1 2020: 3 (though many more requests for hearings and to draft a report by opposition groups not endorsed in the Parl.)	-From opposition groups only -Dealing with spending review, execution of the budget, recovery from the pandemic	Active engagement of the Gov. in explaining its position, particularly on the methodology used, and on how it would have followed the IFI's recommendations	No direct involvement of the Parliament foreseen in legislation. AIReF' quarterly reports showing high level of Gov. compliance with its recommendations in 2019 and 2020
Irish FAC	The Chairperson can be heard in front of parliamentary committees upon request	2019: 3 2020: 1	-Mostly from opposition groups. A few from the majority (coalition partners) - Relationship between the Minister of Finance and the IFI, credibility of medium-term budgetary plans, spending priorities	The Gov. defended its position, but explaining carefully the reasons for the disagreement with IFI Well-informed discussion between the Gov. and MPs triggered	Involvement of the Parliament in the explanation stage. Never activated in 2019-2020 though occasionally there have been parliamentary debates where the Gov. justified its divergence from IFI's positions
Italian PBO	The President can be heard in front of the parliamentary committees dealing with public finance and shall present an annual report of the activities. The PBO shall draft opinions and reports upon committees' request.	2019: 9 2020: 11	-Mostly from opposition groups. A few from the majority (coalition partners), usually citing IFI's evidence alongside other institutions - Public debt, financing of the budget, deviation from the medium-term budg. objective	Concise responses of the Gov. and very limited parliamentary debate triggered	According to the legislation, procedure activated by the Parliament, but not in 2019-2020 (just one case in the past) despite the criticism raised by the IFI on Gov. projections and estimates

* See Table 1 for the figures on parliamentary questions.