



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

WORKING PAPER SERIES

NO 956 / NOVEMBER 2008

**THE POLITICAL ECONOMY
UNDER MONETARY
UNION**

**HAS THE EURO MADE
A DIFFERENCE?**

by **Marcel Fratzscher**
and **Livio Stracca**

ECB EZB EKT EKP

10

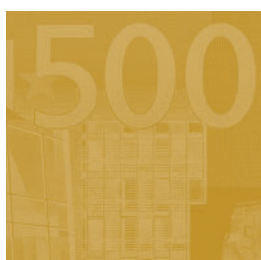
019H2
EURO
JEXPC

www.ecb.int



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM



WORKING PAPER SERIES

NO 956 / NOVEMBER 2008

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY UNDER MONETARY UNION

HAS THE EURO MADE A DIFFERENCE? ¹

by Marcel Fratzscher
and Livio Stracca ²



In 2008 all ECB publications feature a motif taken from the €10 banknote.

This paper can be downloaded without charge from <http://www.ecb.europa.eu> or from the Social Science Research Network electronic library at http://ssrn.com/abstract_id=1291164.



¹ Paper prepared for the 48th Panel of Economic Policy. We would like to thank the editor in charge of this paper, Philippe Martin, and three anonymous referees for comments. The views expressed in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Central Bank.

² European Central Bank, Kaiserstrasse 29, D-60311 Frankfurt am Main, Germany; e-mail: marcel.fratzscher@ecb.europa.eu and livio.stracca@ecb.europa.eu

© European Central Bank, 2008

Address

Kaiserstrasse 29
60311 Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Postal address

Postfach 16 03 19
60066 Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Telephone

+49 69 1344 0

Website

<http://www.ecb.europa.eu>

Fax

+49 69 1344 6000

All rights reserved.

Any reproduction, publication and reprint in the form of a different publication, whether printed or produced electronically, in whole or in part, is permitted only with the explicit written authorisation of the ECB or the author(s).

The views expressed in this paper do not necessarily reflect those of the European Central Bank.

The statement of purpose for the ECB Working Paper Series is available from the ECB website, <http://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/scientific/wps/date/html/index.en.html>

ISSN 1561-0810 (print)

ISSN 1725-2806 (online)

CONTENTS

Abstract	4
Non-technical summary	5
1 Introduction	7
2 Data	10
2.1 Political news	11
2.2 Stock market data and other variables	12
3 The transmission of political shocks on stock markets and EMU	13
3.1 The role of EMU	13
3.2 Baseline results	14
4 The role of economic policy and institutions	18
5 Conclusions and policy implications	21
References	23
Appendix	26
European Central Bank Working Paper Series	45

Abstract

Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) has transformed Europe and has created an integrated pan-European economy. Much research has focused on understanding this integration process and what benefits and costs it entails. This paper identifies a political economy channel of EMU as the monetary union implies that member states had to transfer or at least curtail their policy autonomy in several areas, such as monetary policy and fiscal policy. The paper shows that EMU has helped reduce the impact of political shocks on the domestic economy of member states but magnified the transmission of political shocks within the euro area. Equally importantly, economies with a weaker track record in terms of economic and institutional quality exhibited a significantly higher sensitivity to domestic political shocks before EMU, but not thereafter. While this may entail that EMU has brought benefits to countries with a weaker economic and institutional stability by insulating them from adverse political developments at home, a potential drawback is that it may provide weaker market discipline for domestic political stability.

Keywords: EMU, political economy, political news, monetary policy, fiscal policy, stock markets, transmission.

JEL Classification: F31; F33; G14.

Non-technical summary

In the context of the tenth anniversary of the euro, the question of the economic costs and benefits of the monetary union has again resurfaced. Especially before the start of the monetary union, the concern had been repeatedly raised that the loss of policy autonomy at the national level would make countries less able to withstand adverse idiosyncratic shocks. This paper focuses on a possible counter-argument that has received so far little attention in the literature, namely that the constraints imposed by EMU on domestic economic policies have also removed a source of uncertainty as regards the future conduct of such policies in response to shocks emanating from the political sphere, especially in countries with a weak track record in terms of economic and institutional stability. Put differently, the loss in policy autonomy associated with the disappearance of domestic policies is directly proportional to their quality and predictability. If domestic policies are more a source of shocks and uncertainty than are shock absorbers, then it may be desirable to impose constraints on them.

The objective of the paper is to explore this political economy channel through which EMU may have affected its member countries. Economic policies are born in the political system, and there is a large literature suggesting that political institutions matter for economic performance. Yet testing for the impact of political variables on economic performance is not easy due to the problem of reverse causation. Our empirical strategy is to use the reaction of financial markets as a proxy for the economic impact of political shocks because it allows us both to cleanly identify the transmission mechanism as well as avoid the problem of reverse causality in the chain of events. We are primarily interested in the role of political economy factors through which EMU has altered the transmission process. In particular, by committing to and joining EMU, member countries have given up or at least significantly curtailed their domestic policy autonomy in several areas.

We build a novel dataset of important political events in 12 euro area and 18 non-euro area European countries from 1989 to 2008. These include political elections, government collapses outside elections, terrorist attacks, natural catastrophes (which often have some political fallout), and other shocks such as political scandals. We then address the question of whether the expected consequences of these shocks for economic growth depend on whether a country is in the monetary union or not, by running a panel regression of stock returns on the identified political news. We consider the stock market as a forward-looking summary measure of the expected consequence of political news on the domestic economy, bearing in mind that the stock market may also be subject to some over-reaction in the short term through a confidence channel.

As to our results, first, we find strong evidence that European stock markets react significantly to news emanating from the political sphere, but that there is a distinct change over time in the way they do. Specifically, stock markets in euro area countries have reacted less over time to domestic shocks and more to shocks in other euro area countries. Interestingly, the decline in the responsiveness to domestic shocks is significantly more pronounced

for countries in the so-called "EMU periphery" (Finland, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, and Spain). Second, over time, there is a sharp convergence among euro area countries towards the "EMU core" countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands) in the way stock markets react to domestic political shocks. All in all, therefore, we find evidence that EMU has indeed reduced the sensitiveness of stock markets – and hence arguably of expectations of future economic outcomes – in the peripheral countries, but not in the "core" countries.

Third, we try to identify the channels through which this convergence process (over time and across countries) has taken place and find that (a) higher inflation, a larger fiscal deficit and an increase in government debt have made countries significantly more sensitive to political shocks before the creation of EMU; and (b) with the creation of EMU, however, differences in inflation and in fiscal policies no longer discriminate countries in the way their markets react to political shocks.

We believe that these are important findings because they identify a political economy channel through which EMU has affected member countries. This political economy channel suggests that economies inside EMU have become increasingly insulated to domestic political shocks, yet increasingly exposed to political shocks in the euro area as a whole, strengthening the financial and economic interdependency across member countries.

From a normative perspective, this finding may suggest that member countries with a relatively weaker track record of economic and institutional stability may benefit from EMU by constraining their domestic policy autonomy and by making their economies less sensitive to adverse idiosyncratic shocks. On the other hand, there may also be costs arising through this channel. In particular, member countries with relatively less economic and institutional stability may have fewer incentives to reform and improve policies as the immediate costs for the domestic economy are less apparent.

1 Introduction

In the context of the tenth anniversary of the euro, the question of the economic costs and benefits of the monetary union has resurfaced.¹ Especially before the start of the monetary union, the concern had been repeatedly voiced that the loss of policy autonomy at the national level (not only monetary policy, but also to some degree fiscal and structural policies) would make countries less able to withstand adverse idiosyncratic shocks.² On the other hand, and this is an observation that has received scant attention in the literature, the constraints imposed by EMU on domestic economic policies have also removed a source of uncertainty as regards the future conduct of such policies in response to *shocks emanating from the political sphere*, especially in countries with a weaker track record in terms of economic and institutional stability. For example, it can be argued that under EMU the election of a weak or populist government should have much less of an adverse impact on the domestic economy than with EMU. In other words, the loss in policy autonomy associated with the disappearance of domestic policies is directly proportional to their quality and predictability. If domestic policies are more a *source* of shocks and uncertainty than are shock *absorbers*, then it may be desirable to impose constraints on them.

The objective of the paper is to explore this political economy channel through which EMU may have affected its member countries. Economic policies are born in the political system, and there is a large literature suggesting that political institutions matter for economic performance. For example, there is a relatively large literature on the effects of political instability on economic growth (e.g., Barro 1991), investment (e.g., Alesina and Perotti 1996), monetary and fiscal policies (e.g., Grilli et al. 1991, Alesina et al. 1997, Alesina and Rosenthal 1995). Other papers have emphasised the nexus between the quality of institutions and long run economic growth (e.g., Rodrick et al. 2004). This literature clearly establishes that events happening in the political sphere and political institutions have important implications for economic policies and outcomes. At the same time, testing for the impact of political variables on economic performance is not easy due to the problem of reverse causation (Alesina and Perotti 1996).³

Therefore, evaluating the impact of political events on economic outcomes and the nexus with EMU is not a straightforward matter. Our empirical strategy in this paper is to analyse how EMU has altered the transmission of political shocks to financial markets. We use the reaction of financial markets as a proxy for the economic impact of political shocks because it allows us both to cleanly identify the transmission mechanism as well as avoid the problem of reverse causality in the chain of events. We are primarily interested in the role of political economy factors through which EMU has altered the transmission process. In particular, by committing to and joining EMU, member countries have given up or at least significantly

¹See the recent reports by the European Commission and the ECB (European Commission 2008, ECB 2008).

²See, among others, Giavazzi and Torres (1993), Feldstein (1997) and Frankel and Rose (1997).

³See Carmignani (2003) for a literature survey.

curtailed their domestic policy autonomy in several areas. For monetary policy, member countries have transferred their policy autonomy to a single entity, the European Central Bank, which means that domestic policymakers can no longer set interest rates according to their domestic preferences. Similarly, fiscal policy autonomy has been limited through the Stability and Growth Pact, though this applies to the EU as a whole.

What does this transfer or reduction of policy autonomy imply for the transmission of shocks and the integration of markets? Overall, the shift in policy autonomy with EMU and the pooling of economic policy at the Community level should mean that country-specific shocks become relatively less important and foreign or common shocks more relevant. There are two main reasons for this. First, the higher degree of policy centralisation itself. Second, the higher trade and financial integration brought about by the monetary union.⁴

Importantly, as outlined above, the policy channel may function asymmetrically across countries. Take the example of a political shock that might have an adverse inflationary impact; think of the election of a populist party in government. Such a shock should have a larger effect on the domestic economy – and thus on financial markets – if there is a weaker economic and institutional track record. An improvement in policy and institutions should therefore mean a smaller sensitivity of domestic markets to such shocks. In addition, the transfer of policy autonomy or the policy convergence across economies should imply that markets react more homogeneously across countries. These are some of the mechanisms and implications we attempt to identify empirically.

The paper employs an event-study approach to identify the channels through which EMU has altered the transmission of political shocks.⁵ We build a novel dataset of important political events in 12 euro area and 18 non-euro area European countries from 1989 to 2008. These include political elections, government collapses outside elections, terrorist attacks, natural catastrophes (which often have some political fallout), and other shocks such as political scandals. We then address the question of whether the expected consequences of these shocks for economic growth depend on whether a country is in the monetary union or not, by running a panel regression of stock returns on the identified political news. As in Zussman and Zussman (2006), we consider the stock market as a forward-looking summary measure of the expected consequence of a given political news on the domestic economy, bearing in mind that the stock market may also be subject to some over-reaction in the short term through a confidence channel.⁶ The focus on stock markets as opposed to other asset prices such as long-term yields and the exchange rate is also related to data availability and to the fact that EMU does not mechanically imply, in itself, a change in the dynamics

⁴On the impact of EMU on trade and financial integration within EMU see respectively Chapters 3 and 7 of European Commission (2008) and the references quoted therein.

⁵An early seminal paper in the event-study literature is Brown and Warner (1985). One of the few event studies that focuses on the impact of political events on financial markets in order to gauge the overall implications for the domestic economy is Zussman and Zussman (2006), who evaluate the stock market reaction to Israeli counterterrorism policy of targeted killings of opponents.

⁶See also Rigobon and Sack (2005) and Guidolin and La Ferrara (2005) applying this type of event study approach to stock markets.

of stock prices (as is instead the case notably for the exchange rate). Since political events can be safely considered to be orthogonal to stock market developments on the same day, we are able to minimise the risk of reverse causation.

As to our empirical results, we use a difference-in-difference specification to understand the effect of EMU. Overall, we find strong evidence that European stock markets react significantly to news emanating from the political sphere, but that there is a distinct change over time and across countries in the way they do. Stock markets in euro area countries generally have reacted less over time to domestic shocks and more to shocks in other euro area countries. Importantly, EMU has altered this transmission process in an important and significant manner. Interestingly, the decline in the responsiveness to domestic shocks is significantly more pronounced for countries in the so-called "EMU periphery" (Finland, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, and Spain). Over time, there is a sharp convergence among euro area countries towards the "EMU core" countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands) in the way stock markets react to domestic political shocks. All in all, therefore, we find evidence that EMU has indeed reduced the sensitiveness of stock markets – and hence arguably of expectations of future economic outcomes – to domestic political shocks while increasing the responsiveness of euro area countries to shocks occurring elsewhere in the euro area.

In the second part of the analysis, we try to identify the channels through which this convergence process (over time and across countries) has taken place. We are primarily interested in the role that monetary policy and fiscal policy as well as the quality of domestic institutions have played, in addition to the more general financial and trade integration process of European economies. We find that higher inflation, higher government debt and worse political institutions had made countries significantly more sensitive to political shocks *before* the creation of EMU. However, although there has been some convergence across euro area countries, with the creation of EMU differences in inflation and in fiscal policies no longer discriminate countries in the way their markets react to domestic political shocks.

We believe that these are important findings because they identify a *political economy channel* through which EMU has affected member countries. This political economy channel suggests that economies inside EMU have become increasingly insulated to domestic political shocks, yet increasingly exposed to political shocks in the euro area as a whole, strengthening the financial and economic interdependency across member countries. From a normative perspective, this finding may suggest that member countries with a relatively weaker institutional track record may benefit from EMU by constraining their domestic policy autonomy and by making their economies less sensitive to adverse idiosyncratic shocks. We should also add, however, that there may also be costs arising through this channel. In particular, member countries with relatively weaker institutional stability may have less incentives to reform and improve policies as the immediate costs for the domestic economy are less apparent.

Our paper is related to three strands of literature on the effects of EMU on European countries and one additional strand of literature on the "fear of floating". The first strand

is the literature on the convergence in inflation and output growth volatility in the euro area; see, for example, Canova, Ciccarelli and Ortega (2006), Engel and Rose (2002), and Rogers (2007).⁷ This literature generally finds that there was an increase in business cycle synchronisation and inflation outcomes in the run up to EMU, though it is less clear whether there has been further progress from 1999 onwards. Second, there is a literature on whether the euro has made European countries more integrated, be it in trade (Baldwin 2006) and in finance, e.g. by facilitating cross border financial investment within the euro area (Lane 2006; Coeurdacier and Martin 2007). Third, and related to this second strand, some recent papers have emphasised how asset prices in European countries co-move more as a result of EMU. For instance, Baele et al. (2004) find evidence for the convergence in euro area government bond markets due to EMU. It is notable, in particular, that our findings on the intra-euro area convergence in the response to political news and the increased relevance of area wide news as opposed to domestic news echoes a recent analysis by Ehrmann et al. (2007), who find that the reaction of far-ahead forward interest rates to macroeconomic announcements has converged across euro area countries.

Fourth, and finally, our findings are also consistent with the idea that countries with a lower degree of credibility and stability of institutions find it more difficult to use economic policy, such as monetary policy, for domestic stabilization purposes; for example, Calvo and Reinhart (2002) have pointed out that many emerging countries have "fear of floating" due to low credibility of monetary policy. Our results are, in some sense, complementary to those of Calvo and Reinhart, as they show that countries with weaker monetary and fiscal institutions may be more prone to experience shocks to economic growth as a consequence of gyrations in their internal politics. This represents an additional, "political economy" channel pointing to the same conclusions of Calvo and Reinhart, i.e. that some limits to domestic policy discretion may be desirable and realistic in countries with weaker institutions.

The paper is organised as follows. Section 2 describes the construction of the database on important political news, as well as other variables used in the empirical analysis. Section 3 outlines our main hypotheses and presents the econometric model and baseline results. The political economy channel and the role of monetary policy and fiscal policy in the process is explored in Section 4. Section 5 concludes with a discussion policy implications.

2 Data

This section describes the data, including the construction of our database of political economy shocks.

⁷European Commission (2008) and ECB (2008) provide excellent surveys.

2.1 Political news

We collect daily data for political news for 12 euro area countries (namely all euro area countries excluding the late entrants Slovenia, Malta and Cyprus) as well as 18 non euro area European countries (United Kingdom, Sweden, Denmark, the 12 new EU member states, plus Switzerland, Russia and Ukraine) that represent the control group (see Table A.1). The data have been collected between January 1989 and April 2008. The political news are of two types. The first type concerns political events proper (i.e. having a direct connection to the exercise of political power), namely political elections (presidential and legislative) and government collapses outside elections. For example, among the latter we include, say, the resignation of Mrs. Thatcher in November 1990, the collapse of the Balkenende government in the Netherlands in October 2002, the no confidence vote on the Prodi government in January 2008, and so forth. The second, 'non-standardised' type comprises events that do not affect the political sphere directly, but that are nevertheless of political importance. These include terrorist attacks and violence (such as the killing of a Deutsche Bank board member in November 1989 in Germany, the March 2004 bombings in Madrid, the killing of Pim Fortuyn in May 2002 in the Netherlands, and so forth); natural catastrophes and accidents (such as floods, earthquakes, major plane crashes, major train collisions); and other political scandals and shocks (such as, for example, the resignation of Helmut Kohl from CDU party leader due to a scandal in January 2000, or episodes of general strike and mass demonstrations).

We should clarify from the outset that the list for the first type of events is meant to be exhaustive, implying that we have collected data for every political election and government collapse (defined as the resignation of the chief government executive – the president or the prime minister depending on the political system). On the other hand, the list of the events of the second type is *not* necessarily exhaustive, nor does it necessarily include only the most relevant events, even though we have done our best effort in this direction. This second list should rather be interpreted as a random selection of events over the sample period and country coverage that we consider. Moreover, we have tried to collect a comparable number of events across countries, even though the actual numbers unavoidably vary somewhat from country to country.

In practice, the search for the events in the second category has been conducted following objective criteria as much as possible. We have searched in various news databases in English (BBC news being the chief source) for a fixed set of keywords for each country. In case of doubt, the dating has been cross checked with other sources. For Emerging Europe, we have drawn from the Chronology of Important Financial, Economic and Political Events in Emerging Markets compiled by Bekaert and Harvey (2004). It should be noted that in collecting the data we have not explicitly searched for evidence of stock market reaction; in any case, this type of information is not very often reported by news agencies. Moreover, it would have biased the analysis in favour of finding a significant impact of the news on the stock market.



Overall, we collect 213 such events, 99 for euro area and 114 for non euro area countries (see Table A.2). Among the euro area events, 38 take place before the launch of the euro, and 61 thereafter (the respective numbers are 35 and 79 for the non euro area countries). Table A.3 reports a synthetic description of the data collected and the sources; Table A.4 reports a selection of 'non-standardised' political news in different countries.

Two further clarifications are in order at this point. First, even if we call the database that we put together "political news", this is only a short-cut since some of these events are well anticipated – think for example of political elections (whose outcome is often sealed in advance). Second, we are assuming that the political news that we collect are exogenous with respect to stock market developments on the same day, controlling for stock market developments up to the previous day. Although this is in a way a restrictive assumption, we believe that it is quite plausible that political events are not decided by daily changes in the stock market, even if they can certainly be influenced by stock market developments over a longer period of time (something which, however, would not invalidate our analysis). For some of the events, such as terrorist attacks and natural catastrophes, a reverse causality can be excluded altogether.

Finally, for our empirical analysis, we need to "sign" the political shocks, which means that we need to classify whether we would expect a particular piece of news to have a negative, positive or ambiguous effect on the domestic economy through the stocks market. In most instance, such a classification is straightforward - e.g. government collapses are always classified as a priori having a negative effect on domestic financial markets. However, there are some instances where this classification is difficult; for instance, an election may be considered as positive or as negative by domestic markets. Some events are thus classified as neutral, while overall there are relatively fewer political news that are expected to have a positive market impact.

2.2 Stock market data and other variables

Daily data on equity returns are in local currency and have been drawn from MSCI and Bloomberg (see Table A.3). Data on the macroeconomic variables that we use (inflation, real GDP, fiscal balance, government debt, stock market capitalisation, financial openness and trade openness) are annual and have been drawn from the IMF, the World Economic Outlook database, or from MSCI/Bloomberg, as outlined in Table A.3. Finally, the variables measuring the quality of domestic institutions and political stability all come from the World Bank, with a higher value indicating a better quality of institutions or more stability.

3 The transmission of political shocks on stock markets and EMU

This section starts by sketching the overall channels through which EMU may affect the interdependency across member countries, and how we can use the analysis of the transmission of political shocks to identify these channels. We then present our empirical approach and the findings for the baseline specification.

3.1 The role of EMU

In essence, our empirical approach is to test for the role of EMU by analysing how it has altered the transmission of political shocks to financial markets. We are primarily interested in the role of political economy factors through which EMU has changed the transmission process. In particular, by committing to and joining EMU, member countries have given up or at least significantly curtailed their domestic policy autonomy in several areas. For monetary policy, member countries have transferred their policy autonomy to a single entity, the European Central Bank, which means that domestic policymakers can no longer set policy rates according to their domestic preferences. Similarly, for fiscal policy the degree of autonomy has been limited through the Stability and Growth Pact. Finally, structural policies remain set at a country level, but are increasingly subject to some form of coordination at the EU level, for example through the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines and the Lisbon Agenda. In the future, structural policies in the euro area may also be more tightly coordinated.

What does this transfer or reduction of policy autonomy imply for the transmission of shocks and the integration of markets? Overall, the pooling of policy-making at the EMU level should mean that country-specific shocks become relatively less important and foreign or common shocks more relevant. One of the channels is policy itself, as e.g. monetary policy is conducted for the euro area as a whole and not for individual countries any more. A second channel is through the integration of markets. Market integration, both for goods and for financial services, implies that shocks are transmitted more easily across border, and in turn, that domestic shocks become relatively less important for the domestic economy.

Moreover, the functioning of such a policy channel may not be the same for all countries and may be more important for and benefit more those that have relatively weaker institutions. Take the example of a shock that has an adverse inflationary impact. Such a shock should have a larger effect on the domestic economy – and thus on stock markets – if institutions are weak and expectations are that policy will not succeed in dealing with it effectively. An improvement in policy and institutions should therefore mean a smaller sensitivity of domestic markets to such shocks. In addition, the transfer of policy autonomy or the policy convergence across economies should imply that markets react more homogeneously across countries. These are the mechanisms we attempt to test empirically.

Before moving on to the empirical analysis, it may be worthwhile illustrating one key

implication of this integration process; which is that not only the policy process, but also economic outcomes should have become more homogenous across countries through EMU. Figures 1 and 2 provide some stylised facts regarding the convergence process in inflation, growth and fiscal policy. Figure 1 shows the unweighted average (in percent) and the dispersion (measured as the annual standard deviation) across the 12 euro area countries, for CPI inflation, GDP growth and both of their volatilities (measured as the 5-year moving standard deviation). Figure 2 does the same for the fiscal balance to GDP ratio and the government debt to GDP ratio.

The evidence points at two central conclusions. First, in particular inflation and to some extent also fiscal policies have improved markedly in the euro area: average inflation has declined from about 6% in the early 1990 to about 2% in the 2000s, and its volatility over time has dropped. But also fiscal deficits and government debt have been reduced in most euro area countries over the past decade. Second, there has been a substantial macroeconomic convergence process across EMU countries, which is indicated by the strong decrease in the dispersion across countries in inflation, growth and fiscal policies in the two figures. For instance, inflation convergence across euro area countries has fallen to levels that are comparable to that of individual states within the US.⁸

In the remainder of this section we focus on analysing and describing how political economy shocks have been affecting European economies and how this process has changed over time. The subsequent section then turns to explaining these changes and the question how EMU and the convergence process have affected the transmission of shocks across countries and over time.

3.2 Baseline results

We now turn to the empirical analysis, first outlining the empirical strategy and then presenting the baseline results. The sub-section also discusses various extensions and the robustness of the findings.

For the benchmark model specification the objective is to test how political economy shocks affect equity market returns in the 12 euro area countries and the 18 other European economies. As explained above, we distinguish between domestic or idiosyncratic shocks, S^{dom} , and common shocks emanating either from another country within the euro area, S^{ea} or from one of the four non-euro area EU countries, S^{nea} . The benchmark specification is thus

$$r_{it} = \alpha + \beta S_{i,t} + \omega Z_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (1)$$

where r_{it} are the daily equity returns, $S = [S^{dom}, S^{ea}, S^{nea}]$ is a vector of the three types of shocks and $Z_{i,t}$ is a vector of controls. In our preferred specification, this term includes only day-of-the-week dummies, but in the robustness analysis below we will discuss in detail

⁸See European Commission (2008).

alternative specifications with additional controls. The model is estimated in a balanced panel, so that r_{it} represents a vector of daily returns for the 30 countries in our sample.

As mentioned above, the shocks are “signed”, i.e. $S^{dom} = 1$ if a shock is expected to have a positive effect and is domestic in origin from a particular country’s perspective, and $S^{dom} = -1$ if it is expected to have a negative impact on the domestic economy. Note that the shocks are country-specific in the sense that what constitutes a domestic and what a foreign shock is different across countries. For instance, a shock occurring in France is coded as a domestic shock for France but as a euro area event for all other countries; a shock in the UK as a domestic one for the UK and a non-euro area one for all others. We make this distinction as we are interested in the differences of the transmission process between domestic shocks and foreign shocks occurring elsewhere in Europe. Finally, heteroskedasticity is a problem when using daily data, which we need to account for. We do so by allowing for clustering across residuals over time by country. Including country-specific fixed effects in the model does not prove relevant as the mean of daily equity returns does indeed not differ across countries over such a long time horizon from 1989 to 2008. However, there may be distinct variations over time in returns as well as in the shock transmission, and we return below in detail about how to model such time variations.

Our main interest is in the role EMU has played in the transmission of shocks, both across countries and over time. As a first step to gauge the potential role of EMU in altering the transmission mechanism of political shocks, we modify equation (1) and use a difference-in-difference specification to allow for time-varying interaction terms in the following way:

$$r_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 S_{i,t} + \beta_2 D_t^{99} + \beta_3 EA_i + \gamma_1 (S_{i,t} D_t^{99}) + \gamma_2 (S_{i,t} EA_i) + \delta_1 (S_{i,t} D_t^{99} EA_i) + \omega Z_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (2)$$

where $EA_i = 1$ for a euro area country and zero otherwise; $D_t^{99} = 1$ for the period since 1999 and zero otherwise; and vector of controls $Z_{i,t}$ includes also the interaction $(D_t^{99} EA_i)$. In this difference-in-difference specification, δ_1 is the main parameter of interest as it identifies the effect that EMU has had on the transmission of shocks to the domestic economy, i.e. whether it has increased the responsiveness of euro area countries to foreign news, in particular those occurring in other euro area countries, and reduced the sensitivity to domestic news, over and above the general trend of all countries in the sample. Hence, these priors imply that $\delta_1^{dom} < 0$ and δ_1^{ea} . We don’t have a clear prior regarding δ_1^{nea} : on the one hand, we would expect euro area countries to generally respond more to foreign shocks over time (hence $\delta_1^{nea} > 0$); on the other hand, with the euro area being more closed than individual euro area countries prior to 1999, it may also be that euro area countries became less sensitive to non-euro area developments (i.e. $\delta_1^{nea} < 0$).

In this difference-in-difference specification, γ_1 captures the potential common trend towards greater integration among all countries in the sample (euro area and non-euro area countries), irrespective of EMU, while γ_2 allows for the possibility that eventual EMU members have been more integrated and more responsive to various types of shocks overall, i.e.

before and after stage 3 of EMU. Moreover, the linear terms in $S_{i,t}$, D_t^{99} and EA_i are included for the correct interpretability of the interaction-term coefficients.

Table 1 presents the benchmark results of equation (2). The left-hand panel shows the individual coefficients of (2), while the right-hand panel gives the overall effects of shocks for different country groups and periods. Overall, our two priors are confirmed. First, all types of shocks exert a statistically significant and economically meaningful effect on domestic and foreign equity returns. The magnitude of the common overall coefficient β_1 indicates that shocks on average move domestic markets by about 1.2%. The transmission across markets is also significant and sizeable as, on average, the identified political economy shocks in the euro area move foreign equity markets by about 0.5%. This is sizeable, but does not seem excessively large compared to a median equity return of 0.7% and a standard deviation of 1% for the 20 countries in the sample. It confirms that the identified shocks in our sample are indeed important ones.

More importantly, δ_1^{dom} for domestic shocks is negative and significant, implying that EMU has reduced the sensitivity of financial markets of euro area countries to domestic shocks. By contrast, δ_1^{ea} for (non-domestic) euro area shocks is positive and significant, indicating that EMU countries have become significantly more sensitive to shocks taking place elsewhere in the euro area. Moreover, the magnitude of the coefficients is sizeable. For instance for domestic shocks, the right-hand panel of Table 1 shows that the sensitivity of euro area countries to domestic shocks has fallen substantially stronger (from 1.584 to 0.839) than that of non-euro area countries (from 1.216 to 1.072).

To better understand these differences, Figures 3-5 present several empirical tests for the time variations of the transmission process. Figure 3 plots the corresponding time evolution of the sensitivity of euro area and non-euro area countries to domestic and euro area shocks, using recursive estimations in which one year of data at a time is added sequentially. It confirms the stronger decline in the effect of domestic shocks and the faster increase in importance of euro area shocks over time for euro area countries, as compared to other European economies.

As a next step, one would like to gauge the differences in the transmission process *across euro area countries*. We do so by first splitting the countries into different groups. Figures 4.A and 4.B distinguishes between “core” euro area countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands) and “periphery” euro area countries (Finland, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Spain). This distinction may be somewhat arbitrary, but the objective is to distinguish between countries that have been at the core of the European integration process from those that have economies, economic policies and institutions that are relatively more different from the regime prevailing after the introduction of the euro. Using the benchmark specification of equation (1), Figure 4.A for the domestic transmission coefficient β^{dom} and Figure 4.B for the spillover of euro area shocks β^{ea} show indeed that there is a marked difference across these two country groups. Countries in the periphery exhibit a much more dramatic decline in the transmission of domestic shocks and a stronger increase in the exposure to euro area shocks. For the effect of domestic shocks, there seems

to be a clear convergence process in that markets nowadays react in a very similar extent to domestic political economy shocks.

To illustrate this cross-country heterogeneity, Figure 5 presents a dispersion measure in the transmission process. This dispersion measure is the standard deviation across the domestic transmission coefficients β^{dom} and euro area transmission coefficients β^{ea} across the 12 euro area countries at any point in time. Each of these coefficients is obtained by estimating equation (1) recursively for each of the 12 euro area countries, which are then taken to construct the dispersion index. Figure 5 indicates that there is a strong decline in the cross-country heterogeneity to domestic shocks, from more than 1.5 standard deviations in the early 1990s to less than 0.5 standard deviations in 2007. By contrast, cross-country differences for the transmission of euro area shocks have remained relatively stable, confirming that the increase in the importance of shocks elsewhere in the euro area is similar across countries.

The next section will investigate these differences and similarities, and in particular their explanations, in detail. Before doing so, we conduct various extensions and modifications in order to check for the robustness of the findings. Table 2 conducts four such tests. First, we ask whether the findings are sensitive to the choice of the time break in 1999, D_t^{99} , as EMU membership may have been anticipated well before 1999. Column (1) of Table 2 shows that this is not the case when e.g. using an earlier break already in 1997. Model (2) checks for the sensitivity of the results to the inclusion of Denmark and other countries that have been highly integrated with and have pursued policies similar to those of the euro area. Model (2) of Table 2, where we exclude the three “old” EU members Denmark, Sweden and UK, indicates that the main findings are robust to this change.

As a third sensitivity test, note that in our benchmark specification we include only those days in the sample when there was a shock in at least one of the 30 countries in the sample. Model (3) of Table 2 includes all days in the estimation, i.e. not only those with shocks but also days when no shock occurred in any of the 30 countries in the sample. Comparing the coefficients with those of Table 1 indicates that the coefficients are very similar in both specifications. And they should be, because adding observations in which no shocks occurred should change the empirical estimates only if the days with shocks are systematically different from those without in ways which we do not capture in our empirical model. The fact that the estimates are almost identical confirms that this is indeed not the case.

A fourth robustness check concerns the signing of the political news (as positive, neutral or negative), which is to some extent arbitrary, as noted above. We run the model by using absolute returns regressed on absolute shocks (i.e. defined as 0-1 dummy variables). This is reported in column (4) in Table 2. The results of this alternative specification indicate that the main results are found to be overall robust, in particular as concerns the domestic political shocks which are the focus of our analysis.

A fifth issue is the question of what dependent variable to choose. As we have explained in detail above, we choose equity market returns as these are fairly good proxies for the

prospects of the domestic economy. However, domestic equity markets may not only reflect developments in the domestic economy but also those in foreign markets as e.g. there are cross-listings of firms or at least many domestic firms have substantial exposure to developments abroad due to trade or subsidiaries abroad. Unfortunately, we cannot construct equity indices that include only the domestic components of firms. However, we try using the equity returns in the financial sector, which may be less subject to international influences, although this reduces the sample size to 24 countries. The results are reported in model (5) of Table 2, and again they are qualitatively similar to the baseline case.

Finally, we extend the empirical model to include a much more comprehensive set of controls, and specifically macroeconomic news emanating from the United States and euro area countries, euro area monetary policy shocks and a proxy for risk aversion (Table 3). Our global risk aversion proxy is the VIX, which is derived from option prices of the S&P500. For monetary policy and macroeconomic news, we follow the approach of Andersen et al. (2003, 2007) and Fratzscher (2008) and use the surprise component of macroeconomic and monetary policy announcements. The surprise is the unexpected element, measured as the difference between the announcement and prior market expectations which come from surveys of investors conducted by MMS International and Bloomberg.

Overall, the results of Table 3 confirm that while these controls mostly do exhibit a significant effect on equity returns, the effect of EMU on the transmission of political economy shocks is virtually unchanged when adding these controls. This is what one would expect as it confirms that the timing of the political shocks we identify is truly exogenous to other factors. We again emphasise that the occurrence of political shocks may not be entirely exogenous, as e.g. a government collapse may be influenced e.g. by deteriorating economic conditions, but the precise timing is as the day on which they take place should be largely independent of such factors. As we have discussed above, this point is important for the validity of the identification of political shocks and their impact on equity markets.

In summary, political economy shocks in Europe exert a significant effect not only on the domestic economy but also on other economies across Europe. This section has presented evidence that suggests that EMU may have played an important role in integrating European markets by lowering the relative importance of domestic shocks and raising the relevance of shocks occurring elsewhere within the euro area. In particular, there appears to have been a large degree of heterogeneity across euro area countries in the way domestic markets reacted to shocks before EMU but a strong convergence in the transmission process with EMU. The next section turns to potential explanations of this convergence process and how EMU may have contributed to it.

4 The role of economic policy and institutions

The evidence of the previous section shows that there has been a significant convergence process in the way European and in particular euro area economies respond to political

economy shocks, and that EMU has played a pivotal role in this process. What explains this convergence; and through what channels has EMU contributed to this process?

Our main focus is on the role of policy and of institutions, and the question whether the transfer of policy autonomy in areas such as monetary policy and fiscal policy has played a role. As discussed in section 3.1, in particular for countries with relatively weaker policies and institutions, such a transfer of or constraints on policy autonomy may imply that domestic factors become less important for the domestic economy. Accordingly, our prior is that the convergence process in the transmission of political shocks described in section 3 is at least in part explained by this convergence process in policy and the quality of institutions.

Our empirical strategy to get at this question is first of all to extend the model of equation (2) through the inclusion of variables $X_{i,t}$ that proxy the quality of domestic policy and institutions at any point in time and in each of the 30 European economies in the sample:

$$r_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 S_{i,t} + \beta_2 D_t^{99} + \beta_3 EA_i + \gamma_1 (S_{i,t} D_t^{99}) + \gamma_2 (S_{i,t} EA_i) + \gamma_3 (S_{i,t} X_{i,t}) + \omega Z_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (3)$$

where all other variables are defined as before and $Z_{i,t}$ includes the linear effects of $X_{i,t}$. The final step of the empirical analysis is to ask whether EMU has changed this transmission process, which we test by including a further interaction term for the role of policy and institutions $X_{i,t}$:

$$r_{it} = \dots + \gamma_3 (S_{i,t} X_{i,t}) + \mu_1 (S_{i,t} D_t^{99} X_{i,t}) + \mu_2 (S_{i,t} EA_i X_{i,t}) + \delta_2 (S_{i,t} D_t^{99} EA_i X_{i,t}) + \omega Z_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (4)$$

where "..." implies that all linear and interaction terms regarding $S_{i,t}$, D_t^{99} and EA_i are included, identical to equation (2), and $Z_{i,t}$ includes also the linear effects of $X_{i,t}$. In essence, this specification includes the various interactions of the policy or institutional variables $X_{i,t}$ with the euro area country dummy (EA_i), the time dummy (D_t^{99}), the vector of shocks ($S_{i,t}$) and the combination of the three. Our main parameter of interest is δ_2 , which measures whether the policy or institutional variables $X_{i,t}$ has changed the sensitivity to shocks by euro area countries with EMU after 1999. In particular, the main question here is whether or not EMU has helped euro area countries with poorer policies and worse institutions to insulate their economies from domestic shocks. If a higher $X_{i,t}$ indicates better policies or institutions, this null hypothesis implies that $\delta_2^{dom} > 0$ (and accordingly $\delta_2^{dom} < 0$ if a higher $X_{i,t}$ means worse policies or institutions).

Starting with the role of monetary policy, we use the level of inflation and the volatility of inflation – measured as the standard deviation of CPI inflation over the past five years – to proxy the performance of a country's monetary policy. Table 4 shows the estimates for these two monetary policy proxies for the model of equation (3) and the full model of equation (4). Overall, there is significant evidence in favour of the above-mentioned hypotheses. For instance, countries with higher inflation have become significantly less sensitive to domestic political shocks ($\delta_2^{dom} < 0$) and more responsive to foreign shocks in the euro area ($\delta_2^{ea} > 0$).

The lower rows of Table 4 indicate that euro area countries with high inflation indeed reacted more strongly to domestic shocks before 1999, but that inflation no longer played such a role after 1999.

We next turn to the role of fiscal policy, and use two proxies to assess the policy stance of countries. The first one is the fiscal position, measured as the ratio of a country's fiscal position to GDP; the second is the level of government debt to GDP. Table 5 provides the estimates and suggests a break in the relationship between government debt and the transmission of political economy shocks through the introduction of EMU. In particular, EMU has induced that financial markets in countries with a high level of government debt are relatively less sensitive to domestic shocks and relatively more responsive to foreign shocks.

One has to be careful in drawing a causal inference from these findings as many other changes occurred with EMU, which may to some extent be correlated with the shift and changes in monetary policy and fiscal policy. One such factor is the increase in financial integration, in particular across EMU countries, as well as the higher degree of real integration. Higher financial and real integration may play a similar role as a transfer and unification of policy autonomy with the euro area in that they raise the interdependence of the economies, thus implying that domestic shocks become relatively less important for the domestic economy and are more strongly transmitted across borders to other European economies. It is obviously difficult to capture the many facets of European financial and real integration. We try to do so (partially) through three proxies. As our focus is in particular on equity markets, we use the size of the domestic stock market – measured as the domestic equity market capitalisation to GDP ratio – and the cross-border holdings of portfolio investment (assets plus liabilities) to GDP as two measures of financial openness and integration. As to real integration, we proxy this through the ratio of trade with the other European countries to a country's GDP. Again, we emphasise that all these measures capture certain aspects of European financial and real integration, and are by no means exhaustive.

Table 6 indicates that countries with a higher stock market capitalisation and more financial integration have tended to react less to domestic shocks before EMU, but that this link has disappeared with EMU. In fact, for both of these proxies we find that $\delta_2^{dom} > 0$, indicating that financial integration now plays a smaller role in explaining differences in the transmission of shocks for euro area countries than before EMU or for non-euro area countries. By contrast, the transmission mechanism related to differences in trade integration does not seem to have changed due to EMU.

We next turn to the role of the quality of institutions in the transmission process. Table 7 indicates that there is, overall, indeed a close link in that countries with better institutions are less sensitive and responsive to domestic shocks ($\gamma_3^{dom} < 0$). However, EMU seems to have eliminated this disciplinary effect of institutions as the sensitivity of euro area countries to domestic shocks is no longer related to institutions after 1999. This finding applies almost equally to the degree of political stability, government effectiveness and accountability, the regulatory quality, the rule of law and the enforcement of contracts.

A further issue is the definition of EMU. As discussed above, our measure D_i is equal

to one since 1999. However, the true structural break of EMU may have taken place earlier, e.g. when it became clear that EMU takes place and which countries participate. In fact, Figures 3-5 on the time variations of the transmission of shocks indeed suggests that the convergence process started already in the mid-1990s. It is hard to determine the precise timing of such a break, which moreover may differ across countries.⁹ Table 8 shows the model estimates when using 1 January 1997 as an alternative break and starting point of EMU. The results confirm those of Tables 4-6 in that EMU indeed has brought about a break in the relationship between policy and institutions, on the one hand, and the transmission of shocks, on the other.

We cannot emphasise enough that EMU has many dimensions and that it is difficult to capture them all. We take a limited step in this direction by gauging the robustness of the above findings by extending the models of equations (3) and (4) by including multiple determinants. Table 9 shows the empirical estimates for some of the policy and institutional proxies when controlling for financial market integration (the parameters for the latter are not shown for brevity reasons, but are similar to those shown in Table 6). The table indicates that the results for monetary policy and fiscal policy and for institutions are qualitatively robust to this extension, though the size of the point estimates do change somewhat.

To sum up, the section has presented evidence that the completion of EMU has fundamentally altered the transmission of political economy shocks in Europe. This evidence of a political economy channel suggests that a worse quality of monetary policy, fiscal policy and institutions used to imply that the domestic economy is more exposed to domestic political shocks. But with EMU, differences in policy and institutions across countries seem to have become much smaller, and we find no evidence that financial markets discriminate in their sensitivity to different policies under EMU.

5 Conclusions and policy implications

The paper has attempted to identify a political economy channel through which EMU has influenced European integration. Specifically, the paper has analysed the transmission process through which important political events are transmitted to the domestic and foreign financial markets. The main focus has been on understanding how this transmission process has evolved over time, and what the regime change in monetary policy and in fiscal policy with EMU has meant for EMU member states.

Two main findings have emerged from our empirical analysis, which is based on data of important political events in 30 European countries since 1989. First, we find that political news do move domestic stock markets, and increasingly other markets in Europe. In particular, with the introduction of EMU there has been a significant convergence process

⁹Ehrmann et al. (2007) find structural breaks in the relationship across European bond markets, using break-point tests of daily data, between late 1996 and late 1998, but that the precise timing differs across countries.

in that political shocks have increasingly less influence on domestic markets and more and more relevance for foreign markets, underlining the overall financial integration process in Europe. However, there has been a distinct shift over time in the influence of domestic news as opposed to news happening in other euro area and European countries, with the countries in the so-called "EMU periphery" being affected the most.

The second main finding of the paper is that quality of economic policy and institutions have played an important role in this convergence process. Before EMU, economies with a relatively weaker economic and institutional track record were much more sensitive to domestic political shocks. However, EMU has helped insulate such economies from adverse domestic shocks as domestic policies and institutions have become less relevant as domestic policy autonomy in several areas, and in particular in monetary policy and fiscal policy, were transferred or at least curtailed.

We emphasise that the fact that EMU appears to have a dampening impact on the effect of national politics on domestic economies entails both costs and benefits. An important benefit is that countries with relatively weaker policies and institutions have gained stability and become less affected by domestic shocks. Moreover, the transfer and harmonisation of economic policies appear to have contributed to a marked convergence both in policies and economic structures across the euro area. However, although national credit risk premia have not disappeared entirely, the process may also entail a cost for member states as the diminished importance of national politics could mean that financial markets lose some of their disciplinary role for politicians, who may face fewer incentives to reform or behave responsibly. This, in turn, may create or exacerbate the coordination challenge at an EU-wide level to provide incentives to reform and reduce adverse effects of domestic policy failures that are nowadays more strongly externalised to other EMU member states.

One important issue that this paper has not addressed is how EMU may have affected the making of domestic politics itself. Figure 6 reports the World Bank indicator for Political Stability between 1996 and 2006 (see Kaufmann et al. 2007). The figure tells something interesting: also in this field, there appears to have been a convergence of the euro "periphery" countries to the "core" countries, even though to levels somewhat below that of the control group, which includes very politically stable countries (the UK, Sweden, Denmark and Switzerland). It is also interesting that since 2002 there appears to have been a fall in political stability in both core and periphery countries. One might almost be tempted to see evidence of the fact that EMU has reduced incentives for political stability, although one notes that a similar dynamics can be seen for the countries in the control group and short-term fluctuations in such an index should certainly not be over-interpreted. Finally, the new EU member countries that have not adopted the euro have a relatively low reading for political stability, which implies that their domestic politics may be less stable than those of member states, and that uncertainty from the political sphere may be more frequent. If this remains the case in the future, one may expect that the euro adoption will play a particularly important role in how political shocks are transmitted to their economies. Overall, these appear to be intriguing issues for future research.

References

- [1] Alesina, A., and H. Rosenthal. (1995) *Partisan politics, divided government and the economy*, New York: Cambridge University Press.
- [2] Alesina, A. and R. Perotti. (1996) "Income distribution, political instability, and investment," *European Economic Review*, 40, 6, pp. 1203-12.
- [3] Alesina, A., Roubini, N. and G. Cohen. (1997) *Political cycles and the macroeconomy*, Cambridge: The MIT Press.
- [4] Andersen, T., T. Bollerslev, F. Diebold and C. Vega. (2003) "Micro Effects of Macro Announcements: Real-Time Price Discovery in Foreign Exchange," *American Economic Review* 39(1), 38-62.
- [5] Andersen, T., T. Bollerslev, F. Diebold and C. Vega. (2007) "Real Time Price Discovery in Global Stock, Bond, and Foreign Exchange Markets" *Journal of International Economics*.
- [6] Baele, L., A. Ferrando, P. Hördahl, E. Krylova and C. Monnet. (2004) "Measuring Financial Integration in the Euro Area" ECB Occasional Paper #14.
- [7] Baldwin, R.E.. (2006) *In or Out: Does It Matter? An Evidence-Based Analysis of the Euro's Trade Effects*, CEPR.
- [8] Barro, R. J.. (1991) "Economic growth in a cross-section of countries", *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 106, pp. 407-443.
- [9] Bekaert, G. and C. R. Harvey (2004): *A Chronology of Important Financial, Economic and Political Events in Emerging Markets*, available at http://www.duke.edu/~charvey/Country_risk/chronology/chronology_index.htm.
- [10] Bertola, G. and R. Caballero (1992): "Target Zones and Realignments", *American Economic Review* 82:3, pp.520-536.
- [11] Brown, S. J. and J. B. Warner. (1985) "Using daily stock returns: the case of event studies", *Journal of Financial Economics*, 14, pp. 3-31.
- [12] Calvo, C. A. and C. M. Reinhart. (2002) "Fear Of Floating", *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 117, 2, pp. 379-408.
- [13] Canova, F., M. Ciccarelli and E. Ortega. (2006) "Similarities and Convergence of G-7 Cycles," *Journal of Monetary Economics*.
- [14] Carmignani, F.. (2003) "Political instability, uncertainty and economics", *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 17, 1, pp. 1-54.

- [15] Coeurdacier, N. and P. Martin. (2007) "The Geography of Asset Trade and the Euro: Insiders and Outsiders", CEPR Discussion Paper No. 6032.
- [16] Crowe, C. and E. Meade. (2008) "Central Bank Independence and Transparency: Evolution and Effectiveness," IMF Working Paper 08/119.
- [17] Cukierman, A., S. B. Webb, and B. Neyapti. (1992) "Measuring the Independence of Central Banks and Its Effect on Policy Outcomes," *World Bank Economic Review* 6, 353–398.
- [18] Ehrmann, M. and M. Fratzscher. (2005) "Equal size, equal role? Interest rate interdependence between the euro area and the United States," *Economic Journal* 115: 930-50.
- [19] Ehrmann, M., M. Fratzscher, R. Gürkaynak and E. Swanson (2007). "Convergence and anchoring of yield curves in the euro area", CEPR Discussion Paper No. 6456.
- [20] Engel, C. and J. H. Rogers. (2002) "European product market integration after the euro", *Economic Policy*, July, pp. 347-384.
- [21] European Central Bank. (2008) *1998-2008*, Monthly Bulletin, 10th Anniversary of the ECB.
- [22] European Commission. (2008) *EMU@10: Successes and challenges after 10 years of Economic and Monetary Union*, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Central Bank.
- [23] Feldstein, M.. (1997) "The political economy of the European Economic and Monetary Union: political sources of an economic liability", *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 11, 4, pp. 23-42.
- [24] Frankel, J. and A. Rose. (1997) "Is EMU more justifiable ex post than ex ante?", *European Economic Review*, 41, pp. 753-760.
- [25] Fratzscher, M. (2008) "US shocks and global exchange rate configurations," *Economic Policy*, April 2008, 363–409.
- [26] Giavazzi, F. and F. Torres eds. (1993) *Adjustment and growth in the European Monetary Union*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- [27] Guidolin, M. and E. La Ferrara. (2005) "The economic effects of violent conflict: evidence from asset market reactions", Federal Reserve of St. Louis, Working Paper n. 05/066A.

- [28] Gürkaynak, R., B. Sack, and E. Swanson. (2005) "The Sensitivity of Long-Term Interest Rates to Economic News: Evidence and Implications for Macroeconomic Models" *American Economic Review* 95(1), 425-36.
- [29] Kaufmann, D., Kraay, A. and M. Mastruzzi. (2007) "Governance Matters VI: Governance Indicators for 1996-2006", World Bank Research Working Paper No. 4280.
- [30] Lane, P.. (2006) "Global Bond Portfolios and EMU", *International Journal of Central Banking*, 2, 2, pp. 1-23.
- [31] Rigobon, R. and B. Sack. (2005) "The effects of war risk on US financial markets", *Journal of Banking and Finance*, 29, pp. 1769-1789.
- [32] Rodrik, D., A. Subramanian and F. Trebbi. (2004) "Institutions Rule: The Primacy of Institutions Over Geography and Integration in Economic Development", *Journal of Economic Growth*, 9(2), pp.131-165.
- [33] Rogers, J.. (2007) "Monetary union, price level convergence, and inflation: How close is Europe to the USA?" *Journal of Monetary Economics* 53(3), 785-796.
- [34] Zussman, A. and N. Zussman. (2006) "Assassinations: evaluating the effectiveness of an Israeli counter-terrorism policy using stock market data", *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 20, pp. 193-206.

APPENDIX

Table A.1: Country sample

euro area		non-euro area		
Austria	Ireland	Bulgaria	Latvia	Slovak Rep.
Belgium	Italy	Cyprus	Lithuania	Slovenia
Finland	Luxembourg	Czech Rep.	Malta	Sweden
France	Netherlands	Denmark	Poland	Switzerland
Germany	Portugal	Estonia	Romania	UK
Greece	Spain	Hungary	Russia	Ukraine

Table A.2: Summary of identified shocks

	Total
All	213
Euro area	99
Pre-EMU	38
Post-EMU	61
Non - euro area	114
Pre-EMU	35
Post-EMU	79

Table A.3: Definitions and sources of determinants

Variable	Definition	Source
Elections	Parliamentary and presidential elections, dates	Elections Guide (http://www.electionguide.org/);
Executive changes outside elections	Resignation of the government and / or of the chief executive	Various news agencies; mainly BBC news
Other relevant political events and natural catastrophes	Dates for major terrorist attacks and violence, natural catastrophes, wars, political scandals	Various news agencies; Bekaert and Harvey (2004)
Governance indicators	various measures for the quality of countries' institutions and governance	Kaufman et al. (2007)
Stock price indices	Daily equity market returns, in local currency	MSCI, Bloomberg
Central bank transparency	institutional measure of various sub-components for a central bank's transparency, available for 1998 and 2006	Crowe and Meade (2008)
Central bank independence	institutional measure of various sub-components for a central bank's independence from political influence, available for 1980-89 and 2003	Crowe and Meade (2008)
Growth	Annual real GDP growth	WEO
Inflation	Annual CPI inflation rate	WEO
Inflation volatility	5-year standard deviation of CPI inflation	WEO
Fiscal balance	General government balance to GDP ratio	WEO
Government debt	Government debt to GDP ratio	WEO
Stock market cap.	Stock market capitalisation to GDP ratio	MSCI, Bloomberg
Financial openness	Stock of portfolio investment assets plus liabilities to GDP ratio	IMF
Trade openness	Exports plus imports of goods and services to GDP ratio	WEO

Table A.4: Examples of political news

Event	Country affected	Date
Kaprun fire, 155 die	Austria	11/09/00
White March	Belgium	20/10/96
Suicide of Pierre Berezovoy	France	01/05/93
SPD loses election in North-Rhine Westfalia	Germany	22/05/05
Attack on US embassy in Athens	Greece	11/01/07
Murder of judge Giovanni Falcone	Italy	23/05/92
Murder of politician Fortyun	Netherlands	06/05/02
President Sampaio calls for early elections	Portugal	30/11/04
Madrid bombings	Spain	11/03/04
Shipwreck of Estonia, death of >500 Swedes	Sweden	28/09/94
Crash of Swissair 111	Switzerland	02/09/98
Scandal over leak of Iraq-related documents	United Kingdom	18/09/04

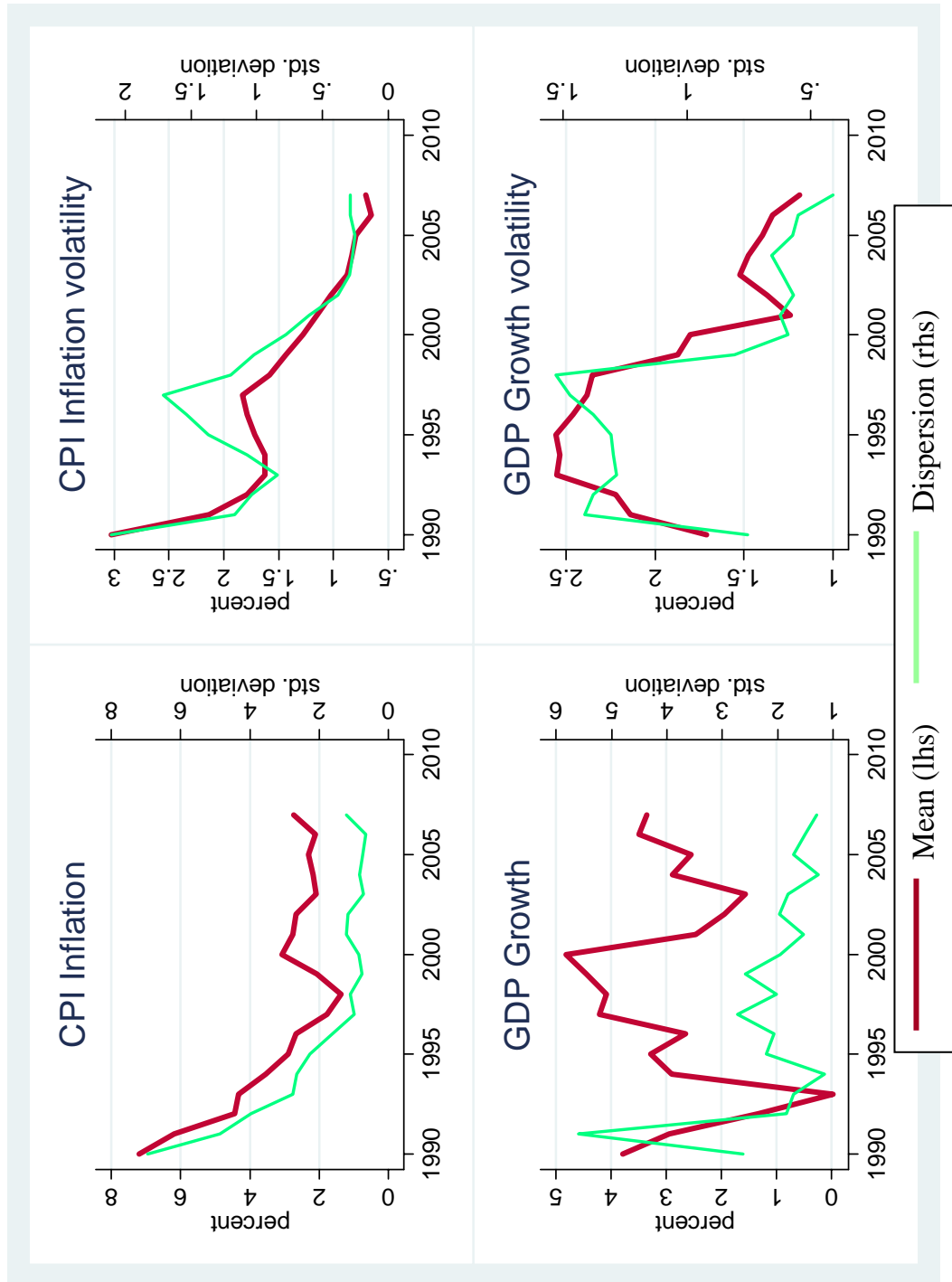
Table A.5: Summary statistics of determinants

	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Inflation	5.554	11.86	-1.319	21.51
Inflation volatility	2.186	2.555	0.263	8.345
Fiscal balance	-2.385	3.421	-16.963	8.339
Government debt	0.408	0.317	-0.442	1.242
Stock market cap.	0.686	0.716	0.004	3.024
Financial openness	5.051	27.51	0.013	135.8
Trade openness	0.291	0.210	0.016	1.085
Political stability	0.844	0.486	-1.036	1.673
Government effectiveness	1.322	0.770	-0.722	2.391
Government accountability	1.126	0.462	-0.869	1.826
Regulatory quality	1.081	0.529	-0.795	2.007
Rule of law	1.692	0.441	0.750	2.220
Enforcement of contracts	7.164	1.388	4.543	8.945

Table A.6: Correlations across determinants

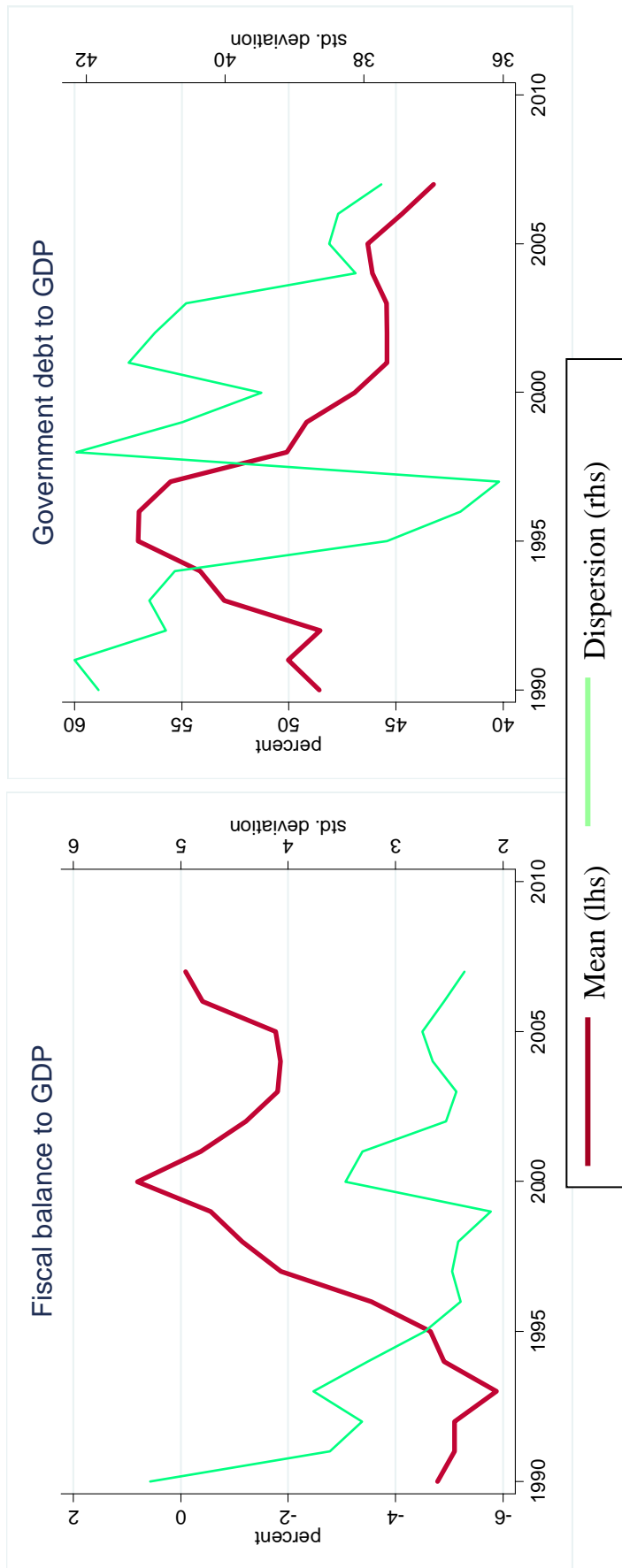
	Inflation	Inflation volatility	Fiscal balance	Govern. debt	Stock mkt cap.	Financial openness	Trade openness	Political stability	Gov. effectiveness	Gov. account.	Regulat. quality	Rule of law
Inflation	1											
Inflation volatility	0.5642	1										
Fiscal balance	-0.4977	-0.4559	1									
Government debt	0.1234	0.0452	-0.4271	1								
Stock market cap.	-0.2897	-0.3006	0.359	-0.0847	1							
Financial openness	-0.049	-0.0038	0.3936	-0.4901	0.2013	1						
Trade openness	-0.2956	-0.4277	0.1912	0.2408	0.2255	-0.1263	1					
Political stability	-0.3698	-0.1561	0.4863	-0.5004	0.2274	0.4596	-0.2083	1				
Gov. effectiveness	-0.4162	-0.3102	0.4895	-0.659	0.1857	0.2468	-0.0729	0.6759	1			
Gov. accountab.	-0.5437	-0.4136	0.626	-0.511	0.3275	0.31	0.1819	0.6419	0.6598	1		
Regulatory quality	-0.3791	-0.4075	0.6571	-0.5365	0.5092	0.425	0.2094	0.5763	0.6444	0.7389	1	
Rule of law	-0.4694	-0.3723	0.5379	-0.6603	0.2142	0.3434	0.0464	0.7282	0.9325	0.7257	0.7186	1
Enforcement	-0.3794	-0.325	0.4409	-0.4474	0.2857	0.1964	0.1791	0.5405	0.8503	0.5623	0.6518	0.8904

Figure 1: Mean and dispersion of inflation and growth across euro area countries



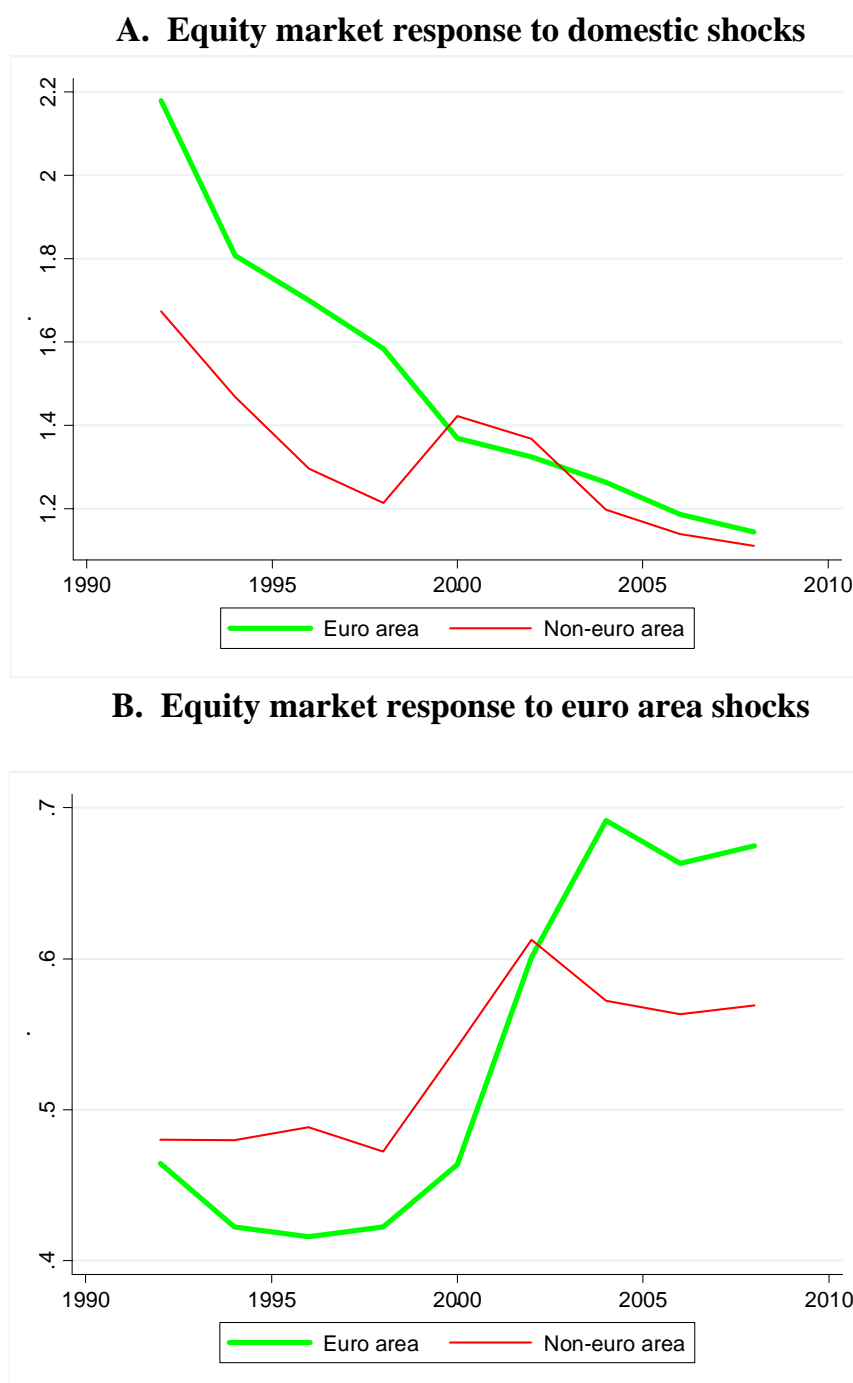
Notes: The figures show the unweighted average (in percent) and the dispersion (measured as the annual standard deviation) across the 12 euro area countries, for CPI inflation, GDP growth and both of their volatilities (measured as the 5-year moving standard deviation).

Figure 2: Mean and dispersion of fiscal balance and government debt across euro area countries



Notes: The figures show the unweighted average (in percent) and the dispersion (measured as the annual standard deviation) across the 12 euro area countries, for the fiscal balance to GDP ratio and the government debt to GDP ratio.

Figure 3: Time-varying equity market responses to shocks – euro area countries versus non-euro area countries



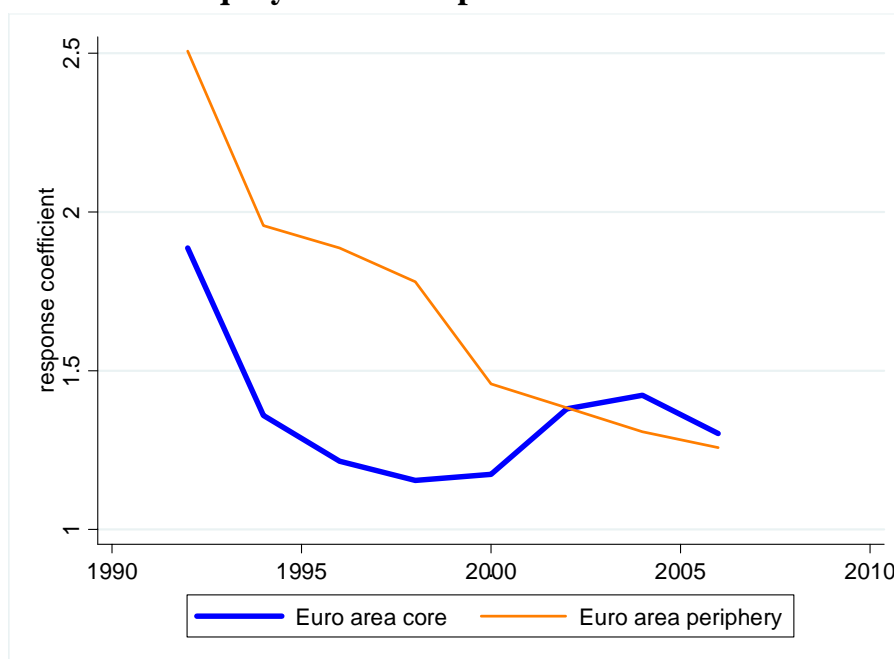
Notes: The figure show the equity market response of the 12 euro area countries and the 18 non-euro area countries to domestic shocks (Panel A) and to shocks in other euro area countries (Panel B), using recursive panel estimations by adding one year of data sequentially. The model specification is that of equation (1):

$$r_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta S_{i,t} + \omega Z_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \quad (1)$$

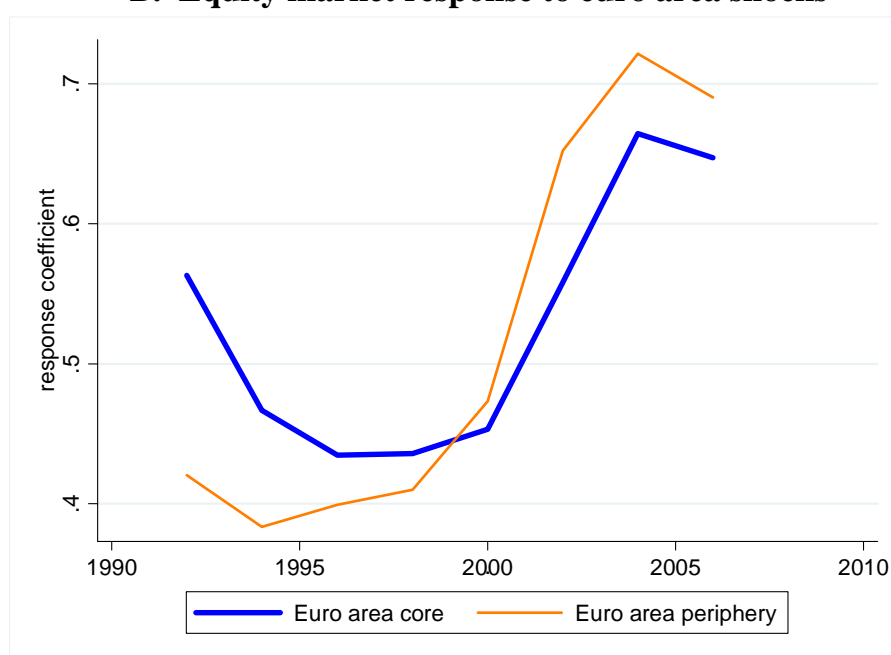
where $r_{i,t}$ are the daily equity returns, $S = [S^{\text{dom}}, S^{\text{ea}}, S^{\text{nea}}]$ is a vector of the three types of shocks and Z_t is a vector of controls.

Figure 4: Time-varying responses – euro area core versus periphery

A. Equity market response to domestic shocks



B. Equity market response to euro area shocks

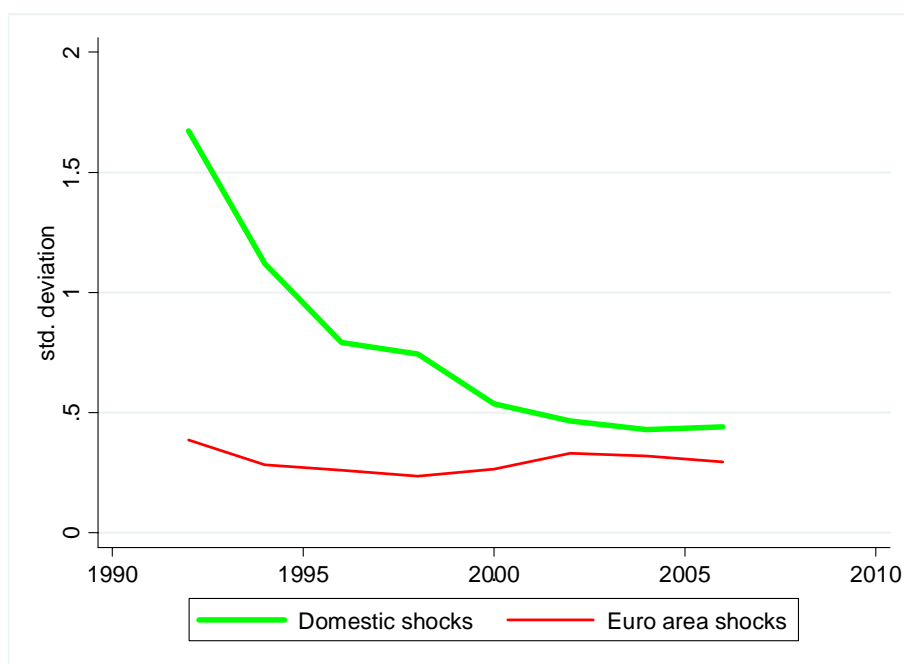


Notes: The figures show the equity market response of the euro area “core” countries versus the “periphery” countries to domestic shocks (Panel A) and shocks in other euro area countries (Panel B), using recursive panel estimations. The model specification is that of equation (1):

$$r_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta S_{i,t} + \omega Z_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \quad (1)$$

where $r_{i,t}$ are the daily equity returns, $S=[S^{\text{dom}}, S^{\text{ea}}, S^{\text{nea}}]$ is a vector of the three types of shocks and Z_t is a vector of controls, only that the panel is split into two country samples.

Figure 5: Time-varying heterogeneity in equity market responses to shocks – euro area countries

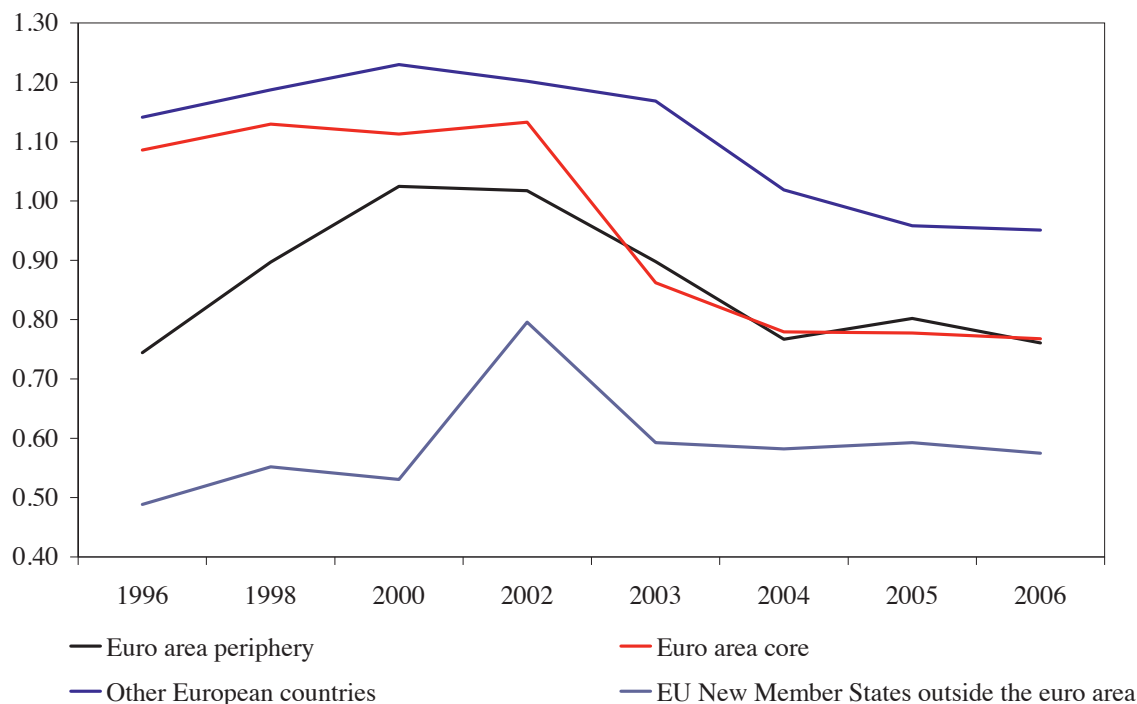


Notes: The figure show the dispersion – measured as the annual standard deviation across the response coefficients – in the equity market responses across the euro area 12 countries to domestic shocks and to shocks in other euro area countries, using recursive estimations for each country separately, using a model specification akin to that of equation (1):

$$r_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta S_{i,t} + \omega Z_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \quad (1)$$

only that here the model is estimated separately for each euro area country.

Figure 6: World Bank indicator for political stability in selected country groups



Notes: The figure shows the indicator for Political Stability and Absence of Violence in the selected country groups. A higher reading of the indicator implies a more politically stable country. The indicator measures, inter alia, perceptions of the likelihood that the government will be destabilised or overthrown by unconstitutional or violent means, including domestic violence and terrorism. See Kaufmann et al. (2007) for further explanations. New EU Member States outside the euro area include Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania.

Table 1: Baseline results – transmission of shocks to domestic equity markets

	Benchmark		Overall effects	
	coef.	s.e.	coef.	s.e.
A. EMU effect: $\delta_1 (S_t * D_t * EA_i)$			Euro area countries - pre-1999: $\beta_1 + \gamma_2$	
Domestic	-0.601 **	0.269	Domestic	1.584 *** 0.192
Euro area	0.362 **	0.145	Euro area	0.423 *** 0.064
Non - euro area	0.102	0.096	Non - euro area	0.217 *** 0.025
B. Post-99 common effect: $\gamma_1 (S_t * D_t)$			Euro area countries - post-1999: $\beta_1 + \gamma_2 + \gamma_1 + \delta_1$	
Domestic	-0.144	0.189	Domestic	0.839 *** 0.082
Euro area	0.138	0.100	Euro area	0.922 *** 0.114
Non - euro area	-0.071	0.076	Non - euro area	0.249 *** 0.051
C. Euro area-specific effect: $\gamma_2 (S_t * EA_i)$			Non-euro area countries - pre-1999: β_1	
Domestic	0.368	0.235	Domestic	1.216 *** 0.135
Euro area	-0.050	0.094	Euro area	0.472 *** 0.069
Non - euro area	0.055	0.052	Non - euro area	0.163 *** 0.050
D. Common overall effect: $\beta_1 S_t$			Non-euro area countries - post-1999: $\beta_1 + \gamma_1$	
Domestic	1.216 ***	0.135	Domestic	1.072 *** 0.191
Euro area	0.472 ***	0.069	Euro area	0.610 *** 0.107
Non - euro area	0.163 ***	0.050	Non - euro area	0.092 * 0.052
Countries		30		
Obs.		5200		
R ²		0.101		

Notes: The table shows the effect of shocks from various origins (domestic, euro area, non – euro area) on equity markets, using the difference-in-difference specification of equation (2):

$$r_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta_1 S_{i,t} + \beta_2 D_t^{99} + \beta_3 EA_i + \gamma_1 (S_{i,t} * D_t^{99}) + \gamma_2 (S_{i,t} * EA_i) + \delta_1 (S_{i,t} * D_t^{99} * EA_i) + \omega Z_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \quad (2)$$

where $EA_i = 1$ for a euro area country and zero otherwise, and $D_t = 1$ for the period since 1999. The left-hand panel shows the individual coefficients of (2); the right-hand panel gives the overall effects of shocks for different country groups and periods. The OLS estimator takes into account clustering across residuals by country. ***, **, and * indicates statistical significance at the 1%, 5%, and 10% levels, respectively.

Table 2: Robustness – alternative EMU break date, country sample and time sample

	EMU-break 1997		Europe 27		All days		Absolute returns		Banking returns	
	coef.	s.e.	coef.	s.e.	coef.	s.e.	coef.	s.e.	coef.	s.e.
	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)		(5)	
i. EMU effect: $\delta_1 (S_t * D_t * EA_t)$										
Domestic	-0.618 **	0.286	-0.716 **	0.339	-0.603 **	0.271	-0.613 **	0.270	-0.586 **	0.275
Euro area	0.367 **	0.148	0.478 ***	0.141	0.362 **	0.146	0.133	0.140	0.060	0.132
Non - euro area	0.091	0.098	0.145	0.090	0.101	0.095	0.267 *	0.134	-0.057	0.103
j. Post-99 common effect: $\gamma_1 (S_t * D_t)$										
Domestic	-0.237	0.203	-0.030	0.279	-0.150	0.188	-0.133	0.189	-0.159	0.197
Euro area	0.108	0.091	0.021	0.092	0.129	0.100	0.158 *	0.090	0.440 ***	0.079
Non - euro area	0.141 **	0.067	-0.118 *	0.066	-0.075	0.073	-0.030	0.092	0.093	0.086
k. Euro area-specific effect: $\gamma_2 (S_t * EA_t)$										
Domestic	0.402 *	0.235	0.305	0.351	0.368	0.234	0.377	0.235	0.298	0.240
Euro area	-0.072	0.097	-0.073	0.117	-0.050	0.094	0.010	0.103	-0.076	0.100
Non - euro area	0.080	0.048	0.031	0.040	0.057	0.049	-0.070	0.101	0.071	0.061
l. Common overall effect: $\beta_1 S_t$										
Domestic	1.298 ***	0.110	1.279 ***	0.294	1.216 ***	0.135	1.207 ***	0.132	1.286 ***	0.142
Euro area	0.488 ***	0.066	0.495 ***	0.098	0.472 ***	0.069	0.838 ***	0.069	0.499 ***	0.076
Non - euro area	-0.001	0.033	0.190 ***	0.033	0.162 ***	0.046	0.916 ***	0.090	0.143 **	0.059
Countries	30		27		30		30		24	
Obs.	5200		4594		148545		5200		4231	
R ²	0.103		0.101		0.003		0.101		0.003	

vs the effect of shocks from various origins on equity markets, using the difference-in-difference specification of equation (2):

$$r_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta_1 S_{i,t} + \beta_2 D_t^{99} + \beta_3 EA_t + \gamma_1 (S_{i,t} * D_t^{99}) + \gamma_2 (S_{i,t} * EA_t) + \delta_1 (S_{i,t} * D_t^{99} * EA_t) + \omega Z_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t}$$

for a euro area country and zero otherwise, and $D_t = 1$ for the period since 1999. Model (1) replaces the dummy for the beginning of EMU in 1999. Model (2) uses a reduced country sample that excludes the three “old” EU members Denmark, Sweden and UK. Model (3) uses only those with shocks but also days when no shock occurred in any of the 30 countries in the sample. Model (4) uses absolute returns, while (5) takes returns of financial sector equity indices as dependent variable. The OLS estimator takes into account clustering across residuals to indicate statistical significance at the 1%, 5%, and 10% levels, respectively.

Table 3: Robustness tests – control for risk aversion, monetary policy shocks and macro shocks

	Benchmark		with all controls		with VIX & int. rates		with macro news	
	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)	
	coef.	s.e.	coef.	s.e.	coef.	s.e.	coef.	s.e.
A. EMU effect: $\delta_1 (S_t * D_t * EA_t)$								
Domestic	-0.601 **	0.269	-0.531 *	0.290	-0.607 **	0.266	-0.522 *	0.292
Euro area	0.362 **	0.145	0.366 **	0.147	0.363 **	0.146	0.365 **	0.146
Non - euro area	0.102	0.096	0.100	0.095	0.102	0.096	0.099	0.095
Controls:								
1. VIX								
			0.033 **	0.016	0.033 **	0.016		
2. EA interest rates								
			-3.170 ***	0.517	-3.108 ***	0.498		
3. US & EA macro news:								
<i>US news</i>								
Industrial production			1.608 ***	0.449			1.656 ***	0.454
ISM - NAPM			-0.006	0.031			-0.004	0.031
Nonfarm payroll			-0.001	0.002			-0.001	0.002
Unemployment			0.664	0.417			0.697 *	0.407
Consumer confidence			-0.032	0.024			-0.031	0.023
Trade balance			0.090 **	0.033			0.098 ***	0.034
Advance GDP			0.305 *	0.160			0.303 *	0.153
CPI			0.889	1.210			0.781	1.204
PPI			2.080 *	1.216			1.992	1.231
Housing starts			0.000	0.001			0.000	0.001
Retail sales			0.372 *	0.217			0.388 *	0.216
Workweek			5.185 ***	1.180			5.096 ***	1.095
<i>Euro area news</i>								
CPI Ger			0.518	0.531			0.590	0.512
Trade balance Ger			0.005	0.042			0.002	0.042
Current account Fra			0.000				0.000	
Consumer confid. Fra			-0.009	0.045			0.006	0.046
GDP Ita			2.875 ***	0.744			2.772 ***	0.740
CPI euro area			. ***	1.143			4.829 ***	1.133
GDP euro area			0.000				0.000	
Retail sales euro area			0.569 ***	0.135			0.568 ***	0.132
Unemployment euro area			1.260	1.027			1.262	1.021
Cty.	30		30		30		30	
Obs.	5200		5200		5200		5200	
R ²	0.101		0.119		0.107		0.113	

Notes: The table shows the effect of shocks from various origins on equity markets, while controlling for risk aversion, monetary policy shocks and various US and euro area macro news in the vector $Z_{i,t}$, based on equation (2):

$$r_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta_1 S_{i,t} + \beta_2 D_t^{99} + \beta_3 EA_i + \gamma_1 (S_{i,t} * D_t^{99}) + \gamma_2 (S_{i,t} * EA_i) + \delta_1 (S_{i,t} * D_t^{99} * EA_i) + \omega Z_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \quad (2)$$

where $EA_i = 1$ for a euro area country and zero otherwise, and $D_t = 1$ for the period since 1999. The OLS estimator takes into account clustering across residuals by country. ***, **, and * indicates statistical significance at the 1%, 5%, and 10% levels, respectively.

Table 4: The role of monetary policy performance

<i>Determinant</i> $X_{i,t}$:	Inflation				Inflation volatility			
	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)	
	coef.	s.e.	coef.	s.e.	coef.	s.e.	coef.	s.e.
EMU effect: δ_2								
Domestic			-0.493 ***	0.138			-0.360	0.485
Euro area			0.293 ***	0.090			-0.154	0.148
Non - euro area			-0.081	0.147			-0.256	0.220
Euro area countries - pre-1999: $\gamma_3 + \mu_2$								
Domestic			0.181 ***	0.043			0.002	0.161
Euro area			0.302 ***	0.073			0.201	0.276
Non - euro area			0.221 **	0.076			-0.263	0.361
Euro area countries - post-1999: $\gamma_3 + \mu_2 + \mu_1 + \delta_2$								
Domestic			-0.020	0.075			-0.111 **	0.045
Euro area			0.100	0.096			0.087	0.231
Non - euro area			0.019	0.097			-0.376	0.326
Non-euro area countries - pre-1999: γ_3								
Domestic	0.108	0.068	-0.104	0.075	-0.030	0.088	0.028	0.193
Euro area	-0.034 *	0.016	0.017	0.055	-0.091 *	0.049	0.226 ***	0.046
Non - euro area	-0.033 **	0.012	-0.064 **	0.028	-0.015	0.043	-0.237	0.153
Non-euro area countries - post-1999: $\gamma_3 + \mu_1$								
Domestic			0.187 ***	0.038			0.273	0.371
Euro area			0.308 ***	0.081			0.472	0.470
Non - euro area			0.227 **	0.094			0.008	0.477
Countries	30		30		30		30	
Obs.	5081		5081		5065		5065	
R ²	0.099		0.107		0.100		0.104	

Notes: The table shows the effect of shocks, interacted with policy proxies $X_{i,t}$, for (1) and (3) based on equation (3):

$$r_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta_1 S_{i,t} + \beta_2 D_t^{99} + \beta_3 EA_i + \gamma_1 (S_{i,t} * D_t^{99}) + \gamma_2 (S_{i,t} * EA_i) + \gamma_3 (S_{i,t} * X_{i,t}) + \omega Z_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \quad (3)$$

and for (2) and (4) based on equation (4):

$$r_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta_1 S_{i,t} + \beta_2 D_t^{99} + \beta_3 EA_i + \gamma_1 (S_{i,t} * D_t^{99}) + \gamma_2 (S_{i,t} * EA_i) + \gamma_3 (S_{i,t} * X_{i,t}) + \mu_1 (S_{i,t} * D_t^{99} * X_{i,t}) + \mu_2 (S_{i,t} * EA_i * X_{i,t}) + \delta_1 (S_{i,t} * D_t^{99} * EA_i) + \delta_2 (S_{i,t} * D_t^{99} * EA_i * X_{i,t}) + \omega Z_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \quad (4)$$

where $Z_{i,t}$ includes the linear effects of $X_{i,t}$. The OLS estimator takes into account clustering across residuals by country. ***, **, and * indicates statistical significance at the 1%, 5%, and 10% levels, respectively.

Table 5: The role of fiscal policy

<i>Determinant $X_{i,t}$:</i>	Fiscal balance				Government debt			
	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)	
	coef.	<i>s.e.</i>	coef.	<i>s.e.</i>	coef.	<i>s.e.</i>	coef.	<i>s.e.</i>
EMU effect: δ_2								
Domestic			-0.041	0.086			-1.748 *	0.912
Euro area			-0.066	0.069			1.026 *	0.497
Non - euro area			-0.041	0.037			1.369 ***	0.439
Euro area countries - pre-1999: $\gamma_3 + \mu_2$								
Domestic			-0.135 **	0.057			0.225	0.407
Euro area			0.011	0.068			2.281	4.588
Non - euro area			0.019	0.075			2.317	4.958
Euro area countries - post-1999: $\gamma_3 + \mu_2 + \mu_1 + \delta_2$								
Domestic			-0.049 **	0.022			-0.061	0.414
Euro area			0.097 **	0.043			1.995	4.589
Non - euro area			0.105 *	0.053			2.031	4.959
Non-euro area countries - pre-1999: γ_3								
Domestic	-0.082 ***	0.019	-0.156 ***	0.047	0.128	0.226	-0.948	5.003
Euro area	0.013	0.015	-0.011	0.021	0.036	0.245	1.108 **	0.462
Non - euro area	0.007	0.008	-0.003	0.015	0.130	0.090	1.144 *	0.626
Non-euro area countries - post-1999: $\gamma_3 + \mu_1$								
Domestic			-0.029 *	0.016			0.515 ***	0.089
Euro area			0.117 ***	0.040			2.571	4.529
Non - euro area			0.125 **	0.053			2.607	4.910
Countries	30		30		30		30	
Obs.	5198		5198		4819		4819	
R ²	0.102		0.105		0.096		0.099	

Notes: See Table 4.

Table 6: The role of financial openness and trade openness

<i>Determinant $X_{i,t}$:</i>	Stock market capitalisation				Financial openness				Trade openness			
	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)		(5)		(6)	
	coef.	s.e.	coef.	s.e.	coef.	s.e.	coef.	s.e.	coef.	s.e.	coef.	s.e.
EMU effect: δ_2												
Domestic			1.504 **	0.684			2.214 **	0.887			-0.829	1.238
Euro area			-0.082	0.274			-0.006	0.014			0.213	0.231
Non - euro area			0.142	0.213			0.006	0.009			0.279 **	0.115
Euro area countries - pre-1999: $\gamma_3 + \mu_2$												
Domestic			-0.453 *	0.246			-0.001	0.001			0.764	1.229
Euro area			-0.981 *	0.581			-0.810	1.166			0.971	1.239
Non - euro area			-0.558	0.578			-0.749	1.169			1.087	1.241
Euro area countries - post-1999: $\gamma_3 + \mu_2 + \mu_1 + \delta_2$												
Domestic			0.192 ***	0.063			0.100	0.159			0.229 ***	0.024
Euro area			-0.336	0.487			-0.709	1.176			0.437 **	0.161
Non - euro area			0.087	0.482			-0.648	1.179			0.552 ***	0.173
Non-euro area countries - pre-1999: γ_3												
Domestic	-0.223	0.166	0.311	0.660	0.000	0.001	0.740	1.170	0.030	0.106	-0.298 *	0.170
Euro area	0.086	0.092	-0.218	0.180	-0.003 ***	0.001	-0.069 ***	0.010	-0.111 ***	0.017	-0.090	0.066
Non - euro area	0.005	0.047	0.206	0.193	-0.002 ***	0.000	-0.008	0.006	-0.028 **	0.012	0.025	0.040
Non-euro area countries - post-1999: $\gamma_3 + \mu_1$												
Domestic			-0.549 ***	0.125			-1.373 ***	0.374			-0.003	0.120
Euro area			-1.077 **	0.418			-2.182 **	0.867			0.205	0.169
Non - euro area			-0.653	0.417			-2.121 **	0.870			0.320 *	0.179
Countries	30		30		30		30		30		30	
Obs.	4137		4137		4789		4789		4595		4595	
R ²	0.130		0.133		0.109		0.113		0.116		0.119	

Notes: See Table 4.

Table 7: The role of institutions

<i>Determinant</i> X_{it} :	Political stability				Government effectiveness				Government accountability			
	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)		(5)		(6)	
	coef.	<i>s.e.</i>	coef.	<i>s.e.</i>	coef.	<i>s.e.</i>	coef.	<i>s.e.</i>	coef.	<i>s.e.</i>	coef.	<i>s.e.</i>
EMU effect: δ_2												
Domestic			1.426 ***	0.330			1.100 ***	0.163			2.204 ***	0.476
Euro area			-0.339	0.398			-0.226	0.298			-0.462	0.525
Non - euro area			-0.337	0.219			-0.251	0.220			-0.458	0.395
Euro area countries - pre-1999: $\gamma_3 + \mu_2$												
Domestic			-1.079 **	0.437			-0.617 ***	0.205			-1.891 ***	0.511
Euro area			-1.045 **	0.451			-0.595 **	0.231			-1.716 ***	0.531
Non - euro area			-0.955 **	0.454			-0.627 **	0.240			-1.652 ***	0.536
Euro area countries - post-1999: $\gamma_3 + \mu_2 + \mu_1 + \delta_2$												
Domestic			0.122	0.316			0.120	0.207			0.247	0.331
Euro area			0.156	0.333			0.142	0.232			0.423	0.360
Non - euro area			0.246	0.337			0.111	0.242			0.487	0.368
Non-euro area countries - pre-1999: γ_3												
Domestic	-0.357 ***	0.090	-0.136	0.139	-0.298 ***	0.078	-0.030	0.128	-0.385 ***	0.087	-0.259 *	0.134
Euro area	0.010	0.154	-0.102	0.137	0.178 **	0.086	-0.008	0.074	0.138	0.161	-0.083	0.116
Non - euro area	-0.054	0.059	-0.012	0.094	-0.003	0.036	-0.040	0.048	0.056	0.087	-0.019	0.102
Non-euro area countries - post-1999: $\gamma_3 + \mu_1$												
Domestic			-0.362 ***	0.084			-0.393 ***	0.096			-0.324 ***	0.094
Euro area			-0.327 **	0.125			-0.371 ***	0.092			-0.149	0.155
Non - euro area			-0.237	0.152			-0.402 ***	0.116			-0.085	0.196
Countries	30		30		30		30		30		30	
Obs.	4900		4900		4900		4900		4900		4900	
R ²	0.094		0.098		0.097		0.100		0.095		0.098	

(cont.)

Table 7: The role of institutions (continued)

<i>Determinant</i> X_{it} :	Regulatory quality		Rule of law		Enforcement of contracts							
	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)						
	coef.	<i>s.e.</i>	coef.	<i>s.e.</i>	coef.	<i>s.e.</i>						
EMU effect: δ_2												
Domestic		1.745 ***	0.374		1.222 ***	0.211		0.846 ***	0.265			
Euro area		-0.315	0.447		-0.497	0.367		-0.135	0.082			
Non - euro area		-0.436	0.299		-0.249	0.236		0.058	0.065			
Euro area countries - pre-1999: $\gamma_3 + \mu_2$												
Domestic		-1.320 **	0.491		-0.851 ***	0.279		-0.163 *	0.081			
Euro area		-1.378 **	0.511		-0.843 **	0.304		-0.685 **	0.288			
Non - euro area		-1.110 **	0.513		-0.849 **	0.310		-0.609 **	0.274			
Euro area countries - post-1999: $\gamma_3 + \mu_2 + \mu_1 + \delta_2$												
Domestic		0.217	0.262		0.078	0.247		0.088 *	0.045			
Euro area		0.159	0.299		0.087	0.273		-0.433	0.281			
Non - euro area		0.427	0.307		0.081	0.282		-0.357	0.268			
Non-euro area countries - pre-1999: γ_3												
Domestic	-0.414 ***	0.092	-0.221 *	0.118	-0.290 ***	0.066	-0.038	0.145	-0.061	0.052	0.438	0.274
Euro area	0.119	0.132	-0.278 ***	0.090	0.156	0.104	-0.029	0.085	0.038	0.042	-0.083	0.058
Non - euro area	0.000	0.063	-0.011	0.122	0.007	0.044	-0.035	0.060	0.004	0.013	-0.008	0.027
Non-euro area countries - post-1999: $\gamma_3 + \mu_1$												
Domestic		-0.429 ***	0.101		-0.330 ***	0.062		-0.157 ***	0.028			
Euro area		-0.486 ***	0.154		-0.321 ***	0.106		-0.678 **	0.253			
Non - euro area		-0.219	0.192		-0.327 **	0.132		-0.602 **	0.241			
Countries	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30			
Obs.	4900	4900	4900	4900	4900	4900	3471	3471	3471			
R ²	0.095	0.098	0.096	0.096	0.099	0.099	0.137	0.137	0.139			

Notes: See Table 4.

Table 8: Robustness – alternative starting point for EMU

<i>Determinant</i> $X_{i,t}$:	Inflation				Government debt				Political stability			
	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)		(5)		(6)	
	coef.	<i>s.e.</i>	coef.	<i>s.e.</i>	coef.	<i>s.e.</i>	coef.	<i>s.e.</i>	coef.	<i>s.e.</i>	coef.	<i>s.e.</i>
EMU effect: δ_2												
Domestic			-0.241 ***	0.080			-4.137 *	2.497			1.327 ***	0.308
Euro area			0.039	0.067			1.685 *	0.871			-0.373	0.425
Non - euro area			-0.016	0.042			0.259	0.416			-0.446 *	0.245
Euro area countries - pre-1997: $\gamma_3 + \mu_2$												
Domestic			0.175 ***	0.058			0.227	0.473			-1.117 **	0.409
Euro area			0.182 ***	0.058			4.949 *	2.738			-0.993 **	0.450
Non - euro area			0.182 ***	0.058			3.947	2.776			-0.982 **	0.417
Euro area countries - post-1997: $\gamma_3 + \mu_2 + \mu_1 + \delta_2$												
Domestic			-0.010	0.062			-0.021	0.331			0.083	0.280
Euro area			-0.002	0.062			4.702 *	2.717			0.207	0.336
Non - euro area			-0.003	0.062			3.699	2.756			0.218	0.289
Non-euro area countries - pre-1997: γ_3												
Domestic	0.001	0.004	-0.008 ***	0.002	0.155	0.238	-3.580	2.565	-0.319 ***	0.089	-0.183 ***	0.063
Euro area	-0.003	0.003	0.000	0.003	-0.008	0.216	1.143	0.841	0.006	0.154	-0.059	0.180
Non - euro area	0.000	0.001	-0.001	0.001	0.109	0.093	0.140	0.365	-0.052	0.065	-0.048	0.037
Non-euro area countries - post-1997: $\gamma_3 + \mu_1$												
Domestic			0.048 ***	0.016			0.309	0.681			-0.310 **	0.116
Euro area			0.056 ***	0.016			5.031 *	2.542			-0.186	0.265
Non - euro area			0.055 ***	0.017			4.029	2.558			-0.174	0.167
Countries	30		30		30		30		30		30	
Obs.	5081		5081		4819		4819		4900		4900	
R ²	0.100		0.107		0.098		0.101		0.096		0.099	

Notes: See Table 4, only that the break point D_t is shifted to 1 January 1997 for all countries in the sample.

Table 9: Robustness – multiple determinants: controlling for financial openness

<i>Determinant X_{it}:</i>	Inflation				Government debt				Political stability			
	(1)		(2)		(3)		(4)		(5)		(6)	
	coef.	s.e.	coef.	s.e.	coef.	s.e.	coef.	s.e.	coef.	s.e.	coef.	s.e.
EMU effect: δ_2												
Domestic			-0.258 **	0.099			-3.039 *	1.558			1.382 ***	0.337
Euro area			0.003	0.074			0.752 *	0.403			-0.489	0.373
Non - euro area			0.068	0.053			-0.111	0.518			-0.360	0.252
Euro area countries - pre-1997: $\gamma_3 + \mu_2$												
Domestic			0.180 ***	0.048			0.223	0.398			-0.962 *	0.507
Euro area			0.188 ***	0.047			1.016	4.813			-0.983 *	0.490
Non - euro area			0.187 ***	0.047			1.012	4.841			-0.968 *	0.495
Euro area countries - post-1997: $\gamma_3 + \mu_2 + \mu_1 + \delta_2$												
Domestic			-0.014	0.081			-0.072	0.425			0.114	0.454
Euro area			-0.006	0.082			0.721	4.843			0.092	0.472
Non - euro area			-0.008	0.082			0.717	4.868			0.108	0.463
Non-euro area countries - pre-1997: γ_3												
Domestic	-0.202	0.180	-0.007 **	0.003	-0.033	0.123	-0.895	4.836	-0.186	0.180	-0.070	0.127
Euro area	0.089	0.091	0.002	0.002	0.112	0.095	-0.102	0.627	0.106	0.098	-0.092	0.203
Non - euro area	0.012	0.046	0.000	0.002	0.025	0.042	-0.106	0.385	0.032	0.042	-0.076	0.132
Non-euro area countries - post-1997: $\gamma_3 + \mu_1$												
Domestic			0.057 ***	0.011			0.120	0.931			-0.377 ***	0.083
Euro area			0.066 ***	0.013			0.913	4.844			-0.399 *	0.209
Non - euro area			0.064 ***	0.011			0.909	4.848			-0.383 **	0.169
Countries	30		30		30		30		30		30	
Obs.	4020		4020		3772		3772		3919		3919	
R ²	0.129		0.136		0.126		0.127		0.121		0.123	

Notes: See Table 4, only that for the estimations for this table all models control, in a linear and a non-linear way, for the degree of financial market openness based on stock market capitalisation as shown in Table 6.

European Central Bank Working Paper Series

For a complete list of Working Papers published by the ECB, please visit the ECB's website (<http://www.ecb.europa.eu>).

- 923 "Resuscitating the wage channel in models with unemployment fluctuations" by K. Christoffel and K. Kuester, August 2008.
- 924 "Government spending volatility and the size of nations" by D. Furceri and M. Poplawski Ribeiro, August 2008.
- 925 "Flow on conjunctural information and forecast of euro area economic activity" by K. Drechsel and L. Maurin, August 2008.
- 926 "Euro area money demand and international portfolio allocation: a contribution to assessing risks to price stability" by R. A. De Santis, C. A. Favero and B. Roffia, August 2008.
- 927 "Monetary stabilisation in a currency union of small open economies" by M. Sánchez, August 2008.
- 928 "Corporate tax competition and the decline of public investment" by P. Gomes and F. Pouget, August 2008.
- 929 "Real convergence in Central and Eastern European EU Member States: which role for exchange rate volatility?" by O. Arratibel, D. Furceri and R. Martin, September 2008.
- 930 "Sticky information Phillips curves: European evidence" by J. Döpke, J. Dovern, U. Fritsche and J. Slacalek, September 2008.
- 931 "International stock return comovements" by G. Bekaert, R. J. Hodrick and X. Zhang, September 2008.
- 932 "How does competition affect efficiency and soundness in banking? New empirical evidence" by K. Schaeck and M. Čihák, September 2008.
- 933 "Import price dynamics in major advanced economies and heterogeneity in exchange rate pass-through" by S. Déés, M. Burgert and N. Parent, September 2008.
- 934 "Bank mergers and lending relationships" by J. Montoriol-Garriga, September 2008.
- 935 "Fiscal policies, the current account and Ricardian equivalence" by C. Nickel and I. Vansteenkiste, September 2008.
- 936 "Sparse and stable Markowitz portfolios" by J. Brodie, I. Daubechies, C. De Mol, D. Giannone and I. Loris, September 2008.
- 937 "Should quarterly government finance statistics be used for fiscal surveillance in Europe?" by D. J. Pedregal and J. J. Pérez, September 2008.
- 938 "Channels of international risk-sharing: capital gains versus income flows" by T. Bracke and M. Schmitz, September 2008.
- 939 "An application of index numbers theory to interest rates" by J. Huerga and L. Steklacova, September 2008.
- 940 "The effect of durable goods and ICT on euro area productivity growth?" by J. Jalava and I. K. Kavonius, September 2008.
- 941 "The euro's influence upon trade: Rose effect versus border effect" by G. Cafiso, September 2008.

- 942 “Towards a monetary policy evaluation framework” by S. Adjemian, M. Darracq Pariès and S. Moyen, September 2008.
- 943 “The impact of financial position on investment: an analysis for non-financial corporations in the euro area” by C. Martinez-Carrascal and A. Ferrando, September 2008.
- 944 “The New Area-Wide Model of the euro area: a micro-founded open-economy model for forecasting and policy analysis” by K. Christoffel, G. Coenen and A. Warne, October 2008.
- 945 “Wage and price dynamics in Portugal” by C. Robalo Marques, October 2008.
- 946 “Macroeconomic adjustment to monetary union” by G. Fagan and V. Gaspar, October 2008.
- 947 “Foreign-currency bonds: currency choice and the role of uncovered and covered interest parity” by M. M. Habib and M. Joy, October 2008.
- 948 “Clustering techniques applied to outlier detection of financial market series using a moving window filtering algorithm” by J. M. Puigvert Gutiérrez and J. Fortiana Gregori, October 2008.
- 949 “Short-term forecasts of euro area GDP growth” by E. Angelini, G. Camba-Méndez, D. Giannone, L. Reichlin and G. Rünstler, October 2008.
- 950 “Is forecasting with large models informative? Assessing the role of judgement in macroeconomic forecasts” by R. Mestre and P. McAdam, October 2008.
- 951 “Exchange rate pass-through in the global economy: the role of emerging market economies” by M. Bussière and T. Peltonen, October 2008.
- 952 “How successful is the G7 in managing exchange rates?” by M. Fratzscher, October 2008.
- 953 “Estimating and forecasting the euro area monthly national accounts from a dynamic factor model” by E. Angelini, M. Bańbura and G. Rünstler, October 2008.
- 954 “Fiscal policy responsiveness, persistence and discretion” by A. Afonso, L. Agnello and D. Furceri, October 2008.
- 955 “Monetary policy and stock market boom-bust cycles” by L. Christiano, C. Ilut, R. Motto and M. Rostagno, October 2008.
- 956 “The political economy under monetary union: has the euro made a difference?” by M. Fratzscher and L. Stracca, November 2008.

ISSN 1561-0810



9 771561 081005