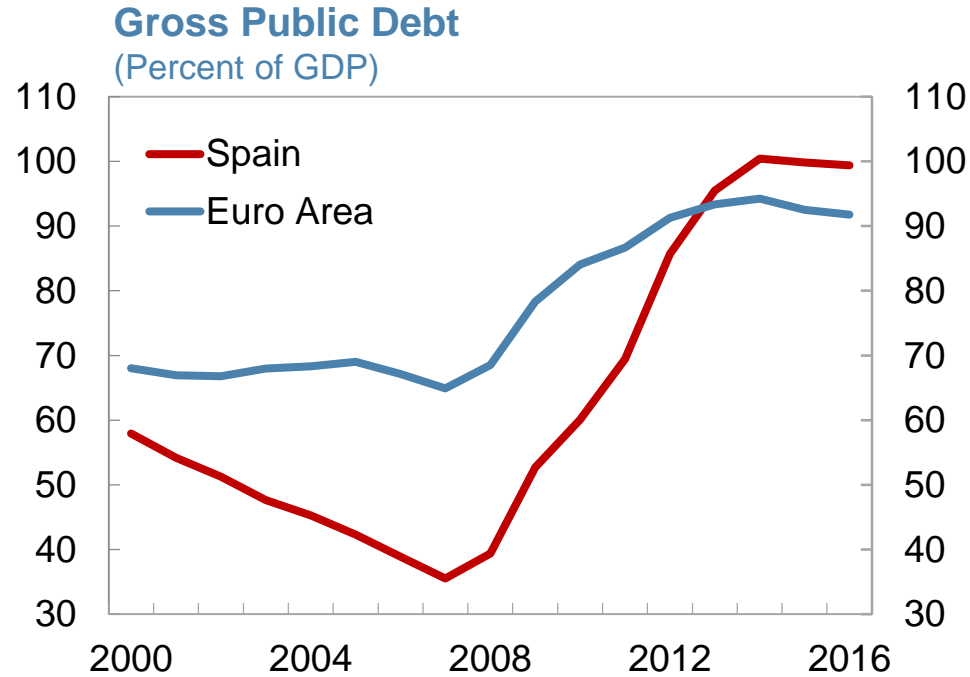


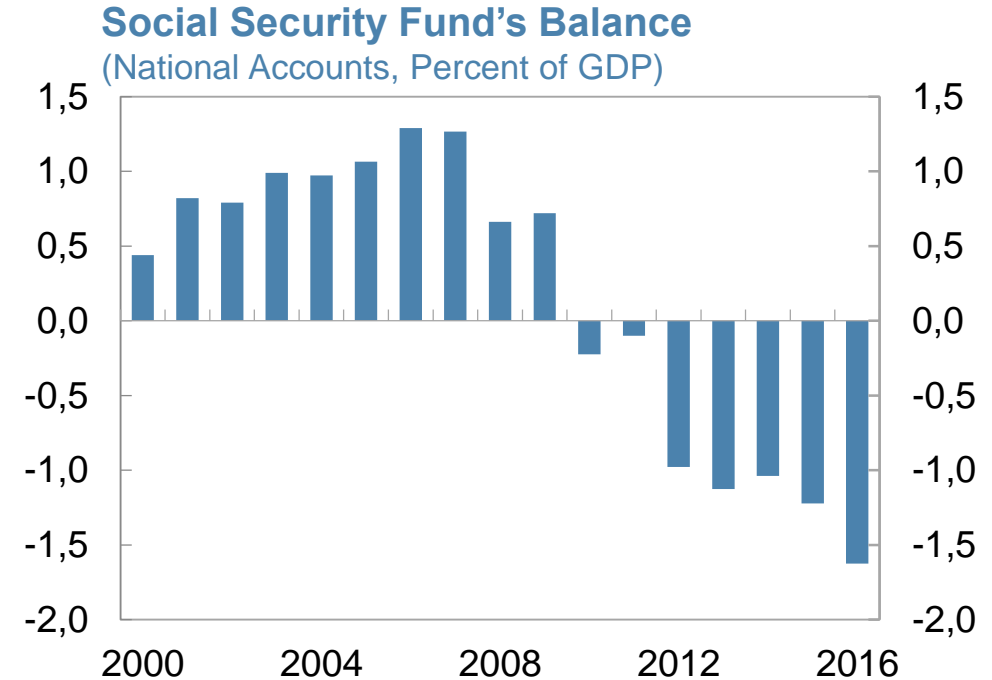
# Session 1: Lowering Fiscal Vulnerabilities

Public debt increased nearly threefold following the global financial crisis ...



Source: Eurostat; and Banco de España.

... and the social security budget has come under pressure, due to the downturn and population aging.



Source: IGAE.

This session will focus on the policy priorities for addressing medium-term fiscal challenges in Spain. The session will explore options to bring down the still high level of public debt while supporting growth, and reform needs to handle rising pressures from population ageing. The session will also discuss how to improve the fiscal governance framework, both at the national and European Union levels, to support the achievement of fiscal objectives in the medium term.