

Budget deficit from 2009 will not change, according to Department of Finance

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According to Sloboda a solidarita (Freedom and solidarity) political party, Robert Fico's government is camouflaging their economic results like in Greece. The public finance deficit for last year, preliminarily confirmed by the European statistical office Eurostat, could increase from 6,8 % of gross domestic product (GDP) to 7,5 % of economic performance. "The government, the statistical office as well as Eurostat should have included in the deficit for 2009 four so called repayable assistances where there is nearly zero chance of them being ever repaid," said member of the party's republic concil Martin Chren. The amount of deficit could be negatively influenced by "repayable" financial assistance to hospitals amounting to EUR 130 mill., a loan to ŽSSK Cargo of EUR 166 mill. and a loan to Železnice SR amounting to EUR 70 mill. The final deficit will be influenced by subsidy for construction of Bratislava airport amounting to EUR 70 mill.

The Slovak Finance Department emphasises that the decision to include the expenses can only be made by Eurostat. According to the department's spokesman Miroslav Šmál, Eurostat is currently strictly evaluating rules compliance in each country. The Finance Department originally expected public deficit for the last year to be at 1,7 % of GDP. When approving the Law of State Budget in the parliament, the deficit was increased to 2,1 % of economic performance as a result of the economic crisis. The deficit was ultimately revised to more than triple the level in October last year.

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