



BANCO DE GUATEMALA

PRESS RELEASE

THE MONETARY BOARD KEEPS THE LEVEL OF THE LEADING INTEREST RATE OF THE MONETARY POLICY INVARIABLE AT 6.75%

The Monetary Board, in its session celebrated on April 23, 2008, after having heard the inflation risks balance, the mechanical running of the Semi-structural Macroeconomic Model and the orientation of the indicative variables, decided to keep the level of the leading interest rate of the monetary policy invariable.

The Monetary Board, in its analysis took into account the following factors: a) That the monetary issue continues to behave within the programmed runner; b) that the banking credit to the private sector has continued decelerating in 2008, located in the last six weeks within the estimated runner; c) That to March 2008, the public finances registered a surplus of Q1,358.5 million, equivalent to 0.5% of the GDP; and, d) That the turbulence in the international financial markets persists.

The Monetary Board, notwithstanding, advises that the inflationary pressures prevail on behalf of supply factors, mainly because the international price of oil and of corn continues showing a tendency to rise, while the price of wheat remains high, so it will continue giving close follow up to the inflation behavior and of its main components of internal or external origin, with the purpose of counteracting the secondary effects due to imported inflation and of moderating inflationary expectations.

Guatemala, April 24, 2008

Within a month, a summary of the arguments presented in each session of the Monetary Board, where the leading interest rate of the Monetary Policy is decided, will be able to be available on the web page of the Banco de Guatemala at www.banguat.gob.gt