Monetary policy meeting of the Executive Board, 11 March 2004

1. The current monetary policy situation

Related documents: CONFIDENTIAL memo 5 March 2004 "Developments

since 21 January 2004" from Monetary Policy

CONFIDENTIAL draft minutes of the meeting between the Ministry of Finance and Norges Bank on 27 January

2004

Memo 3 March 2004 with reports from Norges Bank's

regional network – Region North

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL memo 11 March 2004 (background and general assessment) from Monetary

Policy

Mr. Erlend Bullvåg, Kunnskapsparken, Bodø, presented a review of work related to Norges Bank's regional network.

The Deputy Governor presented a review of the main economic developments since the previous Executive Board meeting, with particular emphasis on developments in money, foreign exchange and capital markets and his assessment of these developments in relation to the monetary policy strategy.

On this basis, the <u>Executive Board</u> had a discussion and decided to reduce the rate on banks' deposit and borrowing rates with Norges Bank (sight deposit and D-loan rates in Norges Bank) by 0.25 percentage point to 1.75 and 3.75 percent respectively with effect as from 12 March 2004.

The Executive Board also took note of the memo "Developments since 21 January 2004". The Governor informed the Board that the minutes of the meeting between the Ministry of Finance and Norges Bank on 27 January 2004 had now been approved.