

remained subdued this year, primarily as a consequence of large declines in energy prices.

Most market interest rates have declined slightly on balance over the intermeeting period. Share prices in U.S. equity markets have moved up a little further. In foreign exchange markets, the trade-weighted value of the dollar in terms of major currencies has changed little on net over the period. However, the dollar has risen on balance against the currencies of key emerging market economies, particularly those in Asia. Equity markets in Asia have fallen substantially over the period to near their lows of late 1997, while those in Europe have risen to new highs.

M2 and M3 expanded briskly further in April, but data for late April and early May show M2 declining and M3 leveling out. The swing in these measures seemed to be related largely to movements of funds associated with tax payments. Expansion of total domestic nonfinancial debt appears to have moderated somewhat after a pickup earlier in the year.

The Federal Open Market Committee seeks monetary and financial conditions that will foster price stability and promote sustainable growth in output. In furtherance of these objectives, the Committee at its meeting in February established ranges for growth of M2 and M3 of 1 to 5 percent and 2 to 6 percent respectively, measured from the fourth quarter of 1997 to the fourth quarter of 1998. The range for growth of total domestic nonfinancial debt was set at 3 to 7 percent for the year. The behavior of the monetary aggregates will continue to be evaluated in the light of progress toward price level stability, movements in their velocities, and developments in the economy and financial markets.

In the implementation of policy for the immediate future, the Committee seeks conditions in reserve markets consistent with maintaining the federal funds rate at an average of around 5-1/2 percent. In the context of the Committee's long-run objectives for price stability and sustainable economic growth, and giving careful consideration to economic, financial, and monetary developments, a somewhat higher federal funds rate would or a slightly lower federal funds rate might be acceptable in the intermeeting period. The contemplated reserve conditions are expected to be consistent with considerable moderation in the growth in M2 and M3 over coming months.

By order of the Federal Open Market Committee, July 13, 1998.

Donald L. Kohn,

Secretary, Federal Open Market Committee.

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FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

TIME AND DATE: 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 29, 1998.

PLACE: Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building, 20th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Personnel actions (appointments, promotions, assignments, reassignments, and salary actions) involving individual Federal Reserve System employees.

2. Any matters carried forward from a previously announced meeting.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Lynn S. Fox, Assistant to the Board; 202-452-3204.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: You may call 202-452-3206 beginning at approximately 5 p.m. two business days before the meeting for a recorded announcement of bank and bank holding company applications scheduled for the meeting; or you may contact the Board's Web site at <http://www.bog.frb.fed.us> for an electronic announcement that not only lists applications, but also indicates procedural and other information about the meeting.

Dated: July 22, 1998.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Associate Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 98-19942 Filed 7-22-98; 11:06 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

21 CFR Chapter I

[Docket No. 98N-0339]

Public Meetings on Section 406(b) of the FDA Modernization Act of 1997

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the following series of meetings on section 406(b) of the FDA Modernization Act of 1997 (FDAMA) to discuss how FDA can best meet its statutory obligations under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the act). The agency intends to involve participants from consumer and scientific groups and the regulated industry in drafting FDA's developmental plan to meet the objectives of FDAMA.

DATES: Comments may be submitted by September 11, 1998. For the dates of each meeting, see section III of this document.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852; e-mail "FDADockets@bangate.fda.gov" or via the FDA website "<http://www.fda.gov>". For the address of each meeting, see section III of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Catherine P. Beck, Office of Management and Systems (HF-20), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-827-3443.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Under section 406(b) of FDAMA, the agency is required to consult with its external stakeholders, specifically "appropriate scientific and academic experts, health care professionals, representatives of patient and consumer advocacy groups, and the regulated industry." Following these consultations, FDA is to develop and publish a plan for achieving compliance with each of its obligations under the act.

Under section 406(b) of FDAMA, the plan, which must be published in the **Federal Register** by November 21, 1998, should address, but may not be confined to, the following six objectives: (1) Maximizing the availability and clarity of information about the agency application and submission review processes; (2) maximizing the availability and clarity of information for consumers and patients concerning new products; (3) implementing inspection and postmarket monitoring provisions of the act; (4) assuring access to the scientific and technical expertise needed to carry out FDA's obligations; (5) establishing mechanisms, by July 1, 1999, for meeting specified time periods for the review of applications and submissions; and (6) eliminating backlogs in the review of applications and submissions.