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*The European Commission says three of its biggest economies, Britain, Germany and Spain, will drift into recession before the year is out. The Commission has also said growth throughout the eurozone will be below its previous forecast. Rodney Smith reports:*

In a **gloomy prognosis** on **economic prospects for** the 15 member **eurozone**, the European Commission's latest **interim forecast** indicates that overall growth will **struggle to** reach just over 1%. 1.3% in fact this year. However in the detail, it thinks the **eurozone** is going through **the worst of the storm** right now and may **show a very modest improvement** from October through to December.

This does mean that the **eurozone** as a whole could **be spared recession**, but the Commission also reports that the individual economies of some of the biggest members won't be so lucky. Germany and Spain are expected **to tip into** recession.

And so is Britain, but it is not a member of the **eurozone**. This **reinforces** a recent forecast by the OECD that the British economy is particularly weak.

Rodney Smith, BBC

## Vocabulary and definitions

<b>a gloomy prognosis</b>	a forecast, or prediction that offers little hope or causes a feeling of despair
<b>economic prospects for</b>	the likely future of the economy of
<b>eurozone</b>	all the countries that use the euro as their currency
<b>interim forecast</b>	a prediction that is not yet final
<b>struggle to</b>	not easily, with difficulty
<b>the worst of the storm</b>	the hardest times
<b>show a very modest improvement</b>	get very slightly better
<b>be spared recession</b>	avoid, or prevent a period (shorter than a depression) when the economy of a country is not successful and conditions for business are bad
<b>to tip into</b>	to lose economic stability and to experience
<b>reinforces</b>	confirms, gives more credibility to

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