

SPRING 2014 REFORM BAROMETER - LATVIA

		Q1: the recommendation is:	Q2: implementation effort is:	Detailed comments
CSR 1	Reinforce the budgetary strategy to ensure that the deviation from the MTO only reflects the incremental impact of the systemic pension reform. Within this strategy, reduce taxation of low-income earners by shifting taxation to areas such as excise duties, recurrent property taxes and/or environmental taxes. Maintain efforts to improve tax compliance and combat the shadow economy. Continue strengthening the fiscal framework through effective implementation of the Fiscal Discipline Law and multi-annual budgeting.	Extremely important	Mixed	
CSR 2	Tackle long-term and youth unemployment by increasing coverage and effectiveness of active labour market policies and targeted social services. Improve the employability of young people, for example through a Youth Guarantee, establish comprehensive career guidance, implement reforms in the field of vocational education and training, and improve the quality and accessibility of apprenticeships.	Extremely important	Satisfactory	
CSR 3	Tackle high rates of poverty by reforming social assistance for better coverage, by improving benefit adequacy and strengthening activation measures for benefit recipients. Reinforce the delivery mechanisms to effectively reduce child poverty.	Important	Satisfactory	
CSR 4	Implement the planned reforms of higher education concerning, in particular, the establishment of a quality-rewarding financing model, reform of the accreditation system, consolidation of the institutions and promotion of internationalization. Take further steps to modernise research institutions based on the on-going independent assessment.	Extremely important	Unsatisfactory	

CSR 5	Continue improving energy efficiency, especially of residential buildings and district heating networks; provide incentives for reducing energy costs and shift consumption towards energy-efficient products. Improve connectivity with EU energy networks and take steps towards liberalisation of the natural gas market, including provision of clear rules for third-party access to storage capacities	Helpful	Mixed	
CSR 6	Complete pending reforms to improve the efficiency and quality of the judiciary and reduce the backlog and length of proceedings, including as regards insolvency. Put in place a comprehensive human resources policy and take steps to implement the mediation laws and streamline the arbitration court system.	Important	Mixed	