

SPRING 2015 REFORM BAROMETER – AUSTRIA

		Q1 : the recommendation is :	Q2 : implementation on effort is :	Detailed comments
CSR 1	Following the correction of the excessive deficit, reinforce the budgetary measures for 2014 in the light of the emerging gap of 0,5 % of GDP based on the Commission services 2014 Spring forecast and after taking into account additional consolidation measures announced by Austria, pointing to a risk of significant deviation relative to the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact requirements. In 2015, significantly strengthen the budgetary strategy to ensure that the medium-term objective is reached and, thereafter, maintained, and ensure that the debt rule is met in order to keep the general government debt ratio on a sustained downward path. Further streamline fiscal relations between layers of government, for example by simplifying the organisational setting and aligning spending and funding responsibilities.	Extremely important	Mixed	Sweden and Germany have done much more
CSR 2	Improve the long-term sustainability of the pension system, in particular by bringing forward the harmonisation of the statutory retirement age for men and women, by increasing the effective retirement age and by aligning the retirement age to changes in life expectancy. Monitor the implementation of recent reforms restricting access to early retirement. Further improve the cost effectiveness and sustainability of healthcare and long-term care services.	Extremely important	Unsatisfactory	
CSR 3	Reduce the high tax wedge on labour for low-income earners by shifting taxation to sources less detrimental to growth, such as recurrent taxes on immovable property, including by	Important	Mixed	

	<p>updating the tax base. Reinforce measures to improve labour market prospects of people with a migrant background, women and older workers. This includes further improving childcare and long-term care services and the recognition of migrants' qualifications. Improve educational outcomes in particular for disadvantaged young people including those with a migrant background, by enhancing early childhood education and reducing the negative effects of early tracking. Further improve strategic planning in higher education and enhance measures to reduce dropouts.</p>			
CSR 4	<p>Remove excessive barriers for services providers, including as regards legal form and shareholding requirements and with respect to setting up interdisciplinary services companies. Review whether restrictions on entry into and conduct in regulated professions are proportionate and justified by general interest. Identify the reasons behind the low value of public contracts open to procurement under EU legislation. Substantially strengthen the resources of the Federal Competition Authority.</p>	Important	Mixed	
CSR 5	<p>Continue to closely oversee and advance effectively the orderly restructuring of the nationalised and partly nationalised banks.</p>	Extremely important	Unsatisfactory	Hypo disaster