

ASSESSMENT OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS BY EACH MEMBER FEDERATION

Q1: For each country specific recommendation Member Federations were asked to answer whether it is 1: extremely important; 2: Important; 3: Helpful (but not a priority); 4: Irrelevant; 5: Contrary to federation's advice;

Q2: For each recommendation, Member Federations were asked to answer whether government's efforts to implement it were: 1: Excellent, 2: Satisfactory; 3: Mixed; 4: Unsatisfactory; 5: no progress observed.

N.B.: Federations in countries under financial assistance commented on recommendations made by the Troika in Economic Adjustment Programmes; Non EU countries commented on recommendations made by the OECD

SPRING 2015 REFORM BAROMETER - LATVIA

European Semester - Overall assessment of 2015 cycle

	To what extent do you agree with these statements:		Detailed comments
1.	The National Reform Programme submitted by your Government (April 2015) is appropriate	To a large extent	
2.	The Commission's country specific recommendations for your country are appropriate.	To some extent	We think that Commission's CSR is not encouraging enough the competitiveness and growth.
3.	The Commission assessment of reform implementation the year before is appropriate.	To some extent	
4.	The Commission assessment of excessive imbalances (in-depth review) is appropriate.	To a large extent	

Assessment of Country Specific recommendations 2015 in detail

		Q1 : the recommendation is	Q2 : Implementation on effort is :	Detailed comments
CSR 1	Ensure that the deviation from the medium-term objective in 2015 and 2016 is limited to the allowance linked to the systemic pension reform.	Important	Satisfactory	
CSR 2	Improve vocational education and training, speed up the curricula reform and increase the offer of apprenticeships. Ensure that the new financing model of the higher education system rewards quality. Better target research financing and incentivise private investment in innovation on the basis on of the Smart Specialisation Framework.	Important	Mixed	There is very low R&D expenditure (0,68% from GDP)
CSR 3	Take concrete steps to reform social assistance, ensuring adequacy of benefits, and take measures to increase employability. Reduce the high tax wedge for low-income earners by shifting tax burden to other sources less detrimental to growth. Take action to improve accessibility, cost-effectiveness and quality of the healthcare system and link hospital financing to performance mechanisms.	Important	Mixed	

		Q1 : the recommendation is	Q2 : Implementation on effort is :	Detailed comments
CSR 4	Improve efficiency of the judicial system, by increasing accountability of all parties (including insolvency administrators), by providing adequate means to fight tax evasion and by strengthening the role of the Judicial Council. Improve the public service legislation to strengthen the conflict of interest regime and link remuneration to responsibilities.	Important	Unsatisfactory	

Reform Progress in your Member State in 2015

How would you assess reform progress in 2015, for the following broad areas:

Taxation and Public Finances	Unsatisfactory
Business environment (regulation/access to markets)	Satisfactory
Labour market	Satisfactory
Innovation and skills	Mixed
Access to finance and Financial stability	Mixed

Reform priorities for 2015

	I. Policy Area	II. Concrete Recommendations	III. Are the proposed recommendations already in the agenda of your Government?
Priority 1	Sector specific regulation (telecom, energy)	Accelerate the development of gas and electricity interconnections to neighbouring Member States to diversify energy source	yes
Priority 2	Tax reforms	Increasing of revenues from shadow economy, increasing the chargeability of taxes, increasing the share of taxes in GDP	yes
Priority 3	Long term investment instruments	Increasing of foreign direct investments in real economy sectors	no
Priority 4	Bank lending conditions	Improvement of legal environment in order to promote business lending	no
Priority 5	Labour supply measures for specific groups (older workers, women...)	Increasing of employment of young people, older workers, stopping the brain- drain and emigration.	no