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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 - NETHERLANDS

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	Reforms on housing market, government finance, labour market have been taken place.
2.	The Commission's country specific recommendations for your country are appropriate.	To a large extent	We do acknowledge and support the recommendations 1 and 3 to increase spending on R&D and decrease pension contributions for younger people. W.r.t. the housing market we do think that a mature commercial rental market is necessary before embarking on a possible further decrease of the mortgage interest deductibility
3.	The Commission assessment of reform implementation the year before is appropriate.	To a large extent	We do think the reform on the housing market when it comes to the MID is enough. For now the focus should be on a well-functioning rental market.
4.	The Commission assessment of excessive imbalances (in-depth review) is appropriate.	Yes, absolutely	The high current account surplus is a structural characteristic of the very internationalised Dutch economy and thus not an excessive imbalance.

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Assessment of Country Specific recommendations 2015 in detail

		Q1 : the recommendation is :	Q2 : Implementation on effort is :	Detailed comments
CSR **1**	Shift government expenditure to R&D expenditures in order to stop the decrease in public R&D spending en increase the economic potential growth	Extremely important	Satisfactory	Public R&D could be further enhanced. That is our aim for the next government period starting in 2017.
CSR **2**	In case of broad economic recovery, limit the mortgage interest deductibility at a faster pace and include a more marketdriven pricing mechanism in the rental market. Link the rents in the social housing sector to peoples incomes.	Important	Excellent/no further progress needed	We should not limit the development of the housing market by further reduction of MID, before a mature private rental market has emerged as a proper alternative to owning a house.
CSR **3**	Decrease the pension contributions of younger people	Helpful (but not a priority)	Satisfactory	the pension system will be looked into on an integral basis next year. This is just a slight part of the Dutch pension system as a whole. The important rationale for further reforms should be that the pension system should adjust to the fact of an increasing flexible labour market with increasing individually different career paths.

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

Reform priorities for 2015

	I. Policy Area	II. Concrete Recommendations	III. Are the proposed recommendations already in the agenda of your Government?
Priority 1	Public investment	Enhance quality of infrastructure: main port (Schiphol airport and Rotterdam harbor).	No
Priority 2	Access to equity markets	Decrease bank dependency and stimulate alternative forms of finance, especially in the field of equity. Make use of EFSI on a more large scale and more efficient base.	No
Priority 3	Tax reforms	Decrease profit tax and make work pay more by bringing down the tax on labor.	No
Priority 4	Market integration	A new public-private initiative for export promotion	No
Priority 5	R&D and innovation	A new industrial policy with enhanced attention to societal challenge, energy transition and and ICT absorption	No