

SPRING 2017 REFORM BAROMETER – AUSTRIA

European Semester - Overall assessment of 2016 cycle

	To what extent do you agree with these statements:		Detailed comments
1.	The National Reform Programme submitted by your Government (February/November 2016) is appropriate.	To some extent	Finance equalisation framework reform between federal, provincial and local government still not on track
2.	The Commission's country specific recommendations for your country are appropriate.	Yes, absolutely	Point 1 and 3 of the Council recommendation (of 12 July 2016, Page 4) are very important ((2016/C 299/14)
3.	The Commission assessment of reform implementation the year before is appropriate.	Yes, absolutely	
4.	The Commission assessment of excessive imbalances (in-depth review) is appropriate.	Yes, absolutely	

Assessment of Country Specific recommendations 2016 in detail

		Q1: The recommendation is:	Q2: implementation on effort is:	Detailed comments
CSR 1	Ensure that the deviation from the medium-term budgetary objective in 2016 and in 2017 is limited to the allowance linked to the budgetary impact of the exceptional inflow of refugees in 2015, and to that effect achieve an annual fiscal adjustment of 0,3 % of GDP in 2017 unless the medium-term budgetary objective is respected with a lower effort. Ensure the sustainability of the healthcare system, and of the pension system by linking the statutory pension age to life expectancy. Simplify, rationalise and streamline fiscal relations and responsibilities across the various layers of government.	Extremely important	Mixed	
CSR 2	Improve the labour market participation of women. Take steps to improve the educational achievements of disadvantaged young people, in particular those from a migrant background.	Important	Mixed	
CSR 3	Reduce, in the area of services, administrative and regulatory barriers for investments, such as restrictive authorisation requirements and restrictions on legal form and shareholding, and impediments to setting up interdisciplinary companies.	Important	Unsatisfactory	

Reform Progress in your Member State in 2016

How would you assess reform progress in 2016, for the following broad areas:

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

Reform priorities for 2017

	I. Policy Area	II. Concrete Recommendations	III. Are the proposed recommendations already in the agenda of your Government?
Priority 1	Pension and health care reforms		No
Priority 2	Consolidation of public expenditures		Yes
Priority 3	Public sector efficiency		No
Priority 4	Quality of fiscal institutions and budgetary framework		Yes
Priority 5	Business Environment - Regulatory barriers to entrepreneurship		Yes