SPRING 2017 REFORM BAROMETER – SLOVAKIA

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	New or innovated programs on labour market, reform of employment services.
2.	The Commission's country specific recommendations for your country are appropriate.	To a large extent	Public procurement, justice system and administrative burden are long-term problems.
3.	The Commission assessment of reform implementation the year before is appropriate.	To a large extent	
4.	The Commission assessment of excessive imbalances (in-depth review) is appropriate.	Non-applicable	Slovak republic is not stated within the review.

Assessment of Country Specific recommendations 2016 in detail

		Q1: The recommendation is:	Q2: implementation on effort is:	Detailed comments
CSR **1**	Achieve an annual fiscal adjustment of 0,25 % of GDP towards the medium-term budgetary objective in 2016 and of 0,5 % of GDP in 2017. Improve the cost-effectiveness of the healthcare system. Take measures to increase tax compliance.	Important	Mixed	Government has very good conditions (GDP growth about 3%, unemployment under 10%) for lowering of budget deficit. But government does not make satisfactory steps.

		Q1: The recommendation is:	Q2: implementation on effort is:	Detailed comments
CSR **2**	Improve activation measures for the long-term unemployed and other disadvantaged groups, including individualised services and targeted training. Facilitate the employment of women, in particular by extending the provision of affordable, quality childcare. Improve educational outcomes by making the teaching profession more attractive and by increasing the participation of Roma children from early childhood in mainstream education.	Extremely important	Mixed	Roma problem and educational system are long-terms problems for Slovakia. Government adopted few changes (higher salaries for teachers) but these changes are not enough.
CSR **3**	Consolidate governance, reinforce the shift from price only to quality-based competition and improve the prosecution of illicit practices in public procurement. Improve the transparency, quality and effectiveness of human resources management in public administration, in particular by adopting a new civil service act, and the effectiveness of the justice system. Adopt a comprehensive plan to address administrative and regulatory barriers for businesses.	Important	Unsatisfactory	Public procurement and transparency are also long-terms problems and we are pessimistic in case of solutions.

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

Is there any example of an economic reform, specific to your country that BUSINESSEUROPE could highlight in its 2017 Reform Barometer?

Lowering of corporate tax from 22% to 21%; Changes in tax policy for self-employed; Changes in tax policy in case of dividends.

Reform priorities for 2017

	I. Policy Area	II. Concrete Recommendations	III. Are the proposed recommendations already in the agenda of your Government?
Priority 1	Business Environment - Regulatory barriers to entrepreneurship	Lowering the administrative burden for entrepreneurs.	no
Priority 2	Tax Reforms	Lowering taxes and social security contributions which currently pose a considerable financial burden for SMEs.	no
Priority 3	Access to bond markets	Development of the capital market in Slovakia to support new sources of financing.	no
Priority 4	Labour market mismatch and labour mobility	Better conditions in fire of employees, and lowering of the minimum wage.	yes
Priority 5	Pension and health care reforms	Pension and health care system are long-term problems which need a lot of changes to improve functioning.	yes