

SPRING 2017 REFORM BAROMETER – THE NETHERLANDS

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 a large extent	It gives a good overview of the policy measures taken in the light of the country specific recommendations.
2.	The Commission's country specific recommendations for your country are appropriate.	To a large extent	Largely, the analysis is correct.
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.	To a large extent	

Assessment of Country Specific recommendations 2016 in detail

		Q1: The recommendation is:	Q2: implementation on effort is:	Detailed comments
CSR 1	Limit the deviation from the medium-term budgetary objective in 2016 and achieve an annual fiscal adjustment of 0,6 % of GDP in 2017. Prioritise public expenditure towards supporting more investment in research and development.	Helpful but not a priority	Excellent/no further progress needed	We have reached the MTO.

		Q1: The recommendation is:	Q2: implementation on effort is:	Detailed comments
CSR 2	Tackle remaining barriers to hiring staff on permanent contracts and facilitate the transition from temporary to permanent contracts. Address the high increase in self-employed without employees, including by reducing tax distortions favouring self-employment, without compromising entrepreneurship, and by promoting access of the self-employed to affordable social protection.	Important	Satisfactory	Permanent contracts are very rigid; while temporary contracts are loose. Rebalancing is necessary but the tax incentives of the self-employed are part of ongoing discussions
CSR 3	Take measures to make the second pillar of the pension system more transparent, inter-generationally fairer and more resilient to shocks. Take measures to reduce the remaining distortions in the housing market and the debt bias for households, in particular by decreasing mortgage interest tax deductibility.	Important	Satisfactory	Mortgage interest deduction has been built off, however not fast enough says the commission. Pension is to be reformed next coalition period

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)	Excellent
Labour market	Satisfactory
Innovation and skills	Satisfactory
Access to finance and Financial stability	Satisfactory

Reform priorities for 2017

	I. Policy Area	II. Concrete Recommendations	III. Are the proposed recommendations already in the agenda of your Government?
Priority 1	Tax reforms	Lower CIT	no
Priority 2	R&D and Innovation	Continue broad fiscal stimulation of innovation	no
Priority 3	Pension and health care reforms	Reform pension system	no
Priority 4	Public investment	Increase public and private investment	no
Priority 5	Job protection	Job protection is too rigid now	no