

**SPRING 2018 REFORM BAROMETER – AUSTRIA**

**European Semester - Overall assessment of 2017 cycle**

|    | <b>To what extent do you agree with these statements:</b>                               |                   | <b>Detailed comments</b> |
|----|---|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | The National Reform Programme submitted by your Government (April 2017) is appropriate. | To a large extent |                          |
| 2. | The Commission's country specific recommendations for your country are appropriate.     | To a large extent |                          |
| 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 2017 in detail

|        |  | Q1: The recommendation is: | Q2: implementation on effort is: | Detailed comments   |
|--------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| CSR 1a | Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact,   | Extremely important        | Mixed                            | Austria is currently in the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact but council is concerned that AT might miss MTO                       |
| CSR 1b | which entails achieving its medium-term budgetary objective in 2018, taking into account the allowance linked to unusual events.   | Important                  | Mixed                            | While the labour market performs better in Austria than in most Member States, challenges remain.   |
| CSR 1c | Ensure the sustainability of the healthcare system and of the pension system.  | Extremely important        | Mixed                            | Ensure the sustainability of the healthcare system and of the pension system  |
| CSR 1d | Rationalise and streamline competencies across the various layers of government and align their financing and spending responsibilities.   | Extremely important        | Mixed                            | Rationalise and streamline competencies across the various layers of government and align their financing and spending responsibilities.          |
| CSR 2a | Improve labour market outcomes for women through, inter alia, the provision of full-time care services. Improve the educational achievements of disadvantaged young people, in particular those from a migrant background. | Extremely important        | Mixed                            | Improve the educational achievements of disadvantaged young people, in particular those from a migrant background                                 |
| CSR 2b | Foster investment in the services sector by reducing administrative and regulatory barriers, easing market entry and facilitating company growth.  | Extremely important        | Mixed                            | Foster investment in the services sector by reducing administrative and regulatory barriers, easing market entry and facilitating company growth. |

## Reform Progress in your Member State in 2017

How would you assess reform progress in 2017, for the following broad areas:

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| <b>Taxation and Public Finances</b>                        | Mixed        |
| <b>Business environment (regulation/access to markets)</b> | Mixed        |
| <b>Labour market</b>                                       | Mixed        |
| <b>Innovation and skills</b>                               | Satisfactory |
| <b>Access to finance and Financial stability</b>           | Satisfactory |

## Reform priorities for 2018

|                   | <b>I. Policy Area</b>  | <b>II. Concrete Recommendations</b> | <b>III. Are the proposed recommendations already in the agenda of your Government?</b> |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Priority 1</b> | Consolidation of public expenditures                           |                                     | yes  |
| <b>Priority 2</b> | Public sector efficiency                                       |                                     | yes  |
| <b>Priority 3</b> | Pension and health care reforms                                |                                     | yes  |
| <b>Priority 4</b> | Quality of fiscal institutions and budgetary framework         |                                     | yes  |
| <b>Priority 5</b> | Business Environment - Regulatory barriers to entrepreneurship | In the service sector               | Not yet clear  |