

Austria

1. EU Competitiveness

Question 1	To what extent do you consider the European Commission's overall policy stance supportive of competitiveness and growth compared to 12 months ago?	Slightly better
Question 2	In light of the legislative changes introduced and implemented by the European Commission, how would you evaluate the evolution of administrative burden compared to a year ago?	Increased slightly
Question 3	How do you think the EU investment environment is seen by global firms compared to 12 months ago?	Unchanged
Question 4	What does your federation see as the three main challenges threatening the attractiveness of the EU as an investment environment vis-a-vis international competitors?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Energy prices 2. Environmental policies 3. Access to raw materials

2. National Recovery and Resilience Plans

Question 8	How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way your country is implementing the national recovery and resilience plan?	Neutral
Question 9	How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the involvement of social partners in the implementation so far of your national recovery and resilience plan?	Neutral
Question 10	How effective do you think the European Commission is being in ensuring strong implementation of the reforms in the national recovery and resilience plans across the EU?	Somewhat confident

3. Assessment of Country Specific recommendations 2023 in detail

	Q1: The recommendation is:	Q2: implementation on effort is:	Detailed comments	
<p>CSR 1</p>	<p>Wind down the emergency energy support measures in force, using the related savings to reduce the government deficit, as soon as possible in 2023 and 2024. Should renewed energy price increases necessitate new or continued support measures, ensure that such support measures are targeted at protecting vulnerable households and firms, are fiscally affordable and preserve incentives for energy savings. Ensure prudent fiscal policy, in particular by limiting the nominal increase in nationally financed net primary expenditure in 2024 to not more than 4,6 %. Preserve nationally financed public investment and ensure the effective absorption of grants under the Facility and of other Union funds, in particular to foster the green and digital transitions. For the period beyond 2024, continue to pursue a medium-term fiscal strategy of gradual and sustainable consolidation, combined with investments and reforms conducive to higher sustainable growth, in order to achieve a prudent medium-term fiscal position. Ensure the adequacy and fiscal sustainability of the long-term care system and the fiscal sustainability of the health care system. Simplify and rationalise fiscal relationships and responsibilities across layers of government and align financing and spending responsibilities. Improve the tax mix to support inclusive and sustainable growth.</p>	<p>Important</p>	<p>Mixed</p>	
<p>CSR 2</p>	<p>Continue the steady implementation of its recovery and resilience plan and swiftly finalise the REPowerEU chapter with a view to rapidly starting its implementation. Proceed with the speedy implementation of cohesion policy programmes, in close complementarity and synergy with the recovery and resilience plan.</p>	<p>Important</p>	<p>Mixed</p>	

		Q1: The recommendation is:	Q2: implementation on effort is:	Detailed comments
CSR 3	Boost the labour market participation of women, including by enhancing quality childcare services, and of older workers. Improve labour market outcomes for disadvantaged groups, such as low-skilled jobseekers and people with a migrant background, including by raising their levels of basic skills.	Helpful (but not a priority)	Satisfactory	
CSR 4	Reduce overall reliance on fossil fuels and diversify gas supply sources in order to significantly decrease dependence on Russia. Accelerate the deployment of renewable energy and the necessary infrastructure, in particular by simplifying permitting procedures and putting in place dedicated acceleration areas. Improve energy efficiency. Reduce emissions, in particular in the transport sector. Step up policy efforts aimed at the provision and acquisition of skills and competences needed for the green transition.	Important	Mixed	

4. Reform Progress in your Member State in 2023

How would you assess reform progress in 2023, for the following broad areas:

Taxation and Public Finances	Mixed
Business environment (regulation/access to markets)	Satisfactory
Labour market	Satisfactory
Innovation and skills	Satisfactory
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 2024 Reform Barometer?

5. Reform priorities for 2024

	I. Policy Area	II. Concrete Recommendations	III. Are the proposed recommendations already in the agenda of your Government?
Priority 1	Labour market mismatch and labour mobility		yes
Priority 2	Making work-pay: interplay of tax and benefit system		no
Priority 3	Pension and health care reforms		no
Priority 4	Consolidation of public expenditures		yes
Priority 5	Quality of fiscal institutions and budgetary framework		yes
