

Ireland

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?	Unchanged
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?	Slightly worse
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. Regulatory environment and Housing and infrastructure underinvestment key bottlenecks in growth 2. Tax regime

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?	Satisfied
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?	Satisfied
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
CSR 1	Wind down the emergency energy support measures in force, 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. While maintaining a sound fiscal position in 2024, 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 investments and reforms conducive to higher sustainable growth and preserve a prudent medium-term fiscal position. Ensure the fiscal sustainability of the State pension system by specifying its financing arrangements.	Irrelevant	No progress	Energy subsidies to households are ongoing into spring 2024 as part of budget 2024 package. No significant business opposition to this
CSR 2	Significantly accelerate the implementation of its recovery and resilience plan, including by ensuring sufficient resources, and swiftly finalise the addendum and the REPowerEU chapter with a view to rapidly starting the implementation thereof. Proceed with the speedy implementation of cohesion policy programmes, in close complementarity and synergy with the recovery and resilience plan.	Helpful (but not a priority)	Satisfactory	---

		Q1: The recommendation is:	Q2: implementation on effort is:	Detailed comments
CSR 3	Accelerate investments to speed up the circular economy. Further develop both waste treatment infrastructure associated with the higher steps of the waste hierarchy and economic instruments to prevent waste and to increase reused, remanufactured and recycled content. Develop a more effective system for the separate collection of recyclable waste, including biodegradable waste. Divert waste, in particular plastic and biowaste, from landfilling and incineration. Increase efforts to accelerate investments in the drinking-water and wastewater infrastructure	Important	Mixed	Some recycling schemes implemented but more work needed.
CSR 4	Reduce overall reliance on fossil fuels. Focus efforts on improving flexibility in the electricity system and on improving energy system integration. Design and implement a dedicated strategy for the development of demand-side response and accelerate the roll-out of smart metering infrastructure and smart grid technologies. Streamline the planning and permitting framework for renewables, storage and grid connectors. Implement additional measures that support energy efficiency in private and public buildings in order to reduce energy bills and energy system costs. Accelerate the installation of public charging points for zero-emission vehicles. Step up policy efforts aimed at the provision and acquisition of skills and competences needed for the green transition	Important	Satisfactory	Investment in renewables, planned increases in carbon tax, higher electric vehicle uptake and a shift towards higher share of renewables in energy mix are all ongoing per government policy.

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	Satisfactory
Business environment (regulation/access to markets)	Unsatisfactory
Labour market	Mixed
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 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	Wage bargaining and wage-setting policies	One umbrella policy coordinating staggered introduction of policy-driven labour cost increases	no
Priority 2	Labour market mismatch and labour mobility	Increased work permits, increased apprenticeships in construction and technical trades	no
Priority 3	Public investment	Increased investment in public infrastructure, housing, climate transition/energy	yes
Priority 4	Making work-pay: interplay of tax and benefit system	Adjustments to income tax, tax treatment of pensions (e.g indexation) and recruitment incentives to allow for more effective recruitment into Irish labour market	yes
Priority 5	Public sector efficiency	Increased staffing of civil service, particularly regulators	yes
