

SPRING 2018 REFORM BAROMETER – THE NETHERLANDS

European Semester - Overall assessment of 2017 cycle

	To what extent do you agree with these statements:		Detailed comments
1.	The National Reform Programme submitted by your Government (April 2017) is appropriate.	Yes, absolutely	
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.	Yes, absolutely	
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 1	While respecting the medium-term objective, use fiscal and structural policies to support potential growth and domestic demand, including investment in research and development. 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	In the new coalition agreement, income tax cuts and limiting the mid have been taken care for. Actual progress has not materialized, but it is in the coalition agreement for coming years.

		Q1: The recommendation is:	Q2: implementation on effort is:	Detailed comments
CSR 2	Tackle remaining barriers to hiring staff on permanent contracts. Address the high increase in the 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. Based on the broad preparatory process already launched, make the second pillar of the pension system more transparent, inter-generationally fairer and more resilient to shocks. Create conditions to promote higher real wage growth, respecting the role of the social partners.	Important	Mixed	A new social agreement is not sure to become reality. New arrangements are not known yet, but the priorities are clear.

Reform Progress in your Member State in 2017

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

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

Reform priorities for 2018

	I. Policy Area	II. Concrete Recommendations	III. Are the proposed recommendations already in the agenda of your Government?
Priority 1	Pension and health care reforms	New pension system	yes
Priority 2	ICT	Make SMEs digitize	yes
Priority 3	R&D and Innovation	R&D and innovation, stimulate investments	yes
Priority 4	Sector specific regulation (telecom, energy)	Modernize mobility	yes
Priority 5	Tax reforms	Tax cuts	///