

IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS

2017 Country Specific Recommendations: A comparison of the Commission and Council recommendations (the ‘comply or explain’ principle)

The table overleaf compares the draft 2017 Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) proposed by the Commission on [22 May 2017](#) with the 2017 CSRs agreed on the Council Committee level (documents dated 12 June 2017) and submitted to the Council (ECOFIN) for approval on 16 June 2017. These CSRs are to be generally endorsed by the European Council on 22-23 June 2017 and formally adopted by the Council (ECOFIN) on 11 July 2017.

The comparison is provided in order to facilitate the assessment of the "*comply or explain*" rule stipulated in Article 2-ab(2) of EU Regulation No 1175/2011: "*The Council is expected to, as a rule, follow the recommendations and proposals of the Commission or explain its position publicly*".

The table overleaf provides an overview of all modifications introduced by the Council. The text **marked in grey** (~~striked through~~) has been **added/changed (deleted)** in the Council text compared with the Commission text.

[BE](#), [BG](#), [CZ](#), [DK](#), [DE](#), [EE](#), [IE](#), [EL](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [HR](#), [IT](#), [CY](#), [LV](#), [LT](#), [LU](#), [HU](#), [MT](#), [NL](#), [AT](#), [PL](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SI](#), [SK](#), [FI](#), [SE](#), [UK](#)

 BE	<p align="center"> Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: CSR 1 and MIP: - </p>	<p align="center"> <u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017 </p>
	<p>1. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which translates into a substantial fiscal effort for 2018. When taking policy action, consideration should be given to achieving a fiscal stance that contributes to both strengthening the ongoing recovery and ensuring the sustainability of Belgium’s public finances. Agree on an enforceable distribution of fiscal targets among government levels and ensure independent fiscal monitoring. Remove distortive tax expenditures. Improve the composition of public spending in order to create room for infrastructure investment, including on transport infrastructure.</p> <p>2. Ensure that the most disadvantaged groups, including people with migrant background, have equal access to quality education, vocational training, and the labour market.</p> <p>3. Foster investment in knowledge-based capital, notably with measures to increase digital technologies adoption, and innovation diffusion. Increase competition in professional services markets and retail, and enhance market mechanisms in network industries.</p>	<p>1. Pursue a substantial its fiscal effort in 2018 policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, taking which translates into account the need a substantial fiscal effort for 2018. When taking policy action, consideration should be given to strengthen achieving a fiscal stance that contributes to both strengthening the ongoing recovery and to ensure ensuring the sustainability of Belgium’s public finances. Use windfall gains, such as proceeds from asset sales, to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. Agree on an enforceable distribution of fiscal targets among government levels and ensure independent fiscal monitoring. Remove distortive tax expenditures. Improve the composition of public spending in order to create room for infrastructure investment, including on transport infrastructure.</p> <p>2. Ensure that the most disadvantaged groups, including people with a migrant background, have equal opportunities access to participate in quality education, vocational training, and the labour market.</p> <p>3. Foster investment in knowledge-based capital, in particular notably with measures to increase digital technologies adoption, and innovation diffusion. Increase competition in professional services markets and retail, and enhance market mechanisms in network industries.</p>

 BG	Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: - and MIP: CSR 2, 3	<u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017
	1. Further improve tax collection and tax compliance , including through a comprehensive set of measures beyond 2017. Step up enforcement of measures to reduce the extent of the informal economy , in particular undeclared work.	1. Further improve tax collection and tax compliance, including through a comprehensive set of measures beyond 2017. Step up enforcement of measures to reduce the extent of the informal economy, in particular undeclared work.
	2. Take follow-up measures on the financial sector reviews , in particular concerning reinsurance contracts, group-level oversight, hard-to-value assets and related-party exposures. Improve banking and non-banking supervision through the implementation of comprehensive action plans, in close cooperation with European bodies. Facilitate the reduction of still high corporate non-performing loans , by drawing on a comprehensive set of tools, including by accelerating the reform of the insolvency framework and by promoting a functioning secondary market for non-performing loans.	2. Take follow-up measures on the financial sector reviews, in particular concerning reinsurance contracts, group-level oversight, hard-to-value assets and related-party exposures. Improve banking and non-banking supervision through the implementation of comprehensive action plans, in close cooperation with European bodies. Facilitate the reduction of still high corporate non-performing corporate loans, by drawing on a comprehensive set of tools, including by accelerating the reform of the insolvency framework and by promoting a functioning secondary market for non-performing loans.
	3. Improve the targeting of active labour market policies and the integration between employment and social services for disadvantaged groups. Increase the provision of quality mainstream education, in particular for Roma. Increase health insurance coverage , reduce out-of-pocket payments and address shortages of healthcare professionals. In consultation with social partners, establish a transparent mechanism for setting the minimum wage . Improve the coverage and adequacy of the minimum income.	3. Improve the targeting of active labour market policies and the integration between employment and social services for disadvantaged groups. Increase the provision of quality mainstream education, in particular for Roma. Increase health insurance coverage, reduce out-of-pocket payments and address shortages of healthcare professionals. In consultation with social partners, establish a transparent mechanism for setting the minimum wage. Improve the coverage and adequacy of the minimum income.
	4. Ensure efficient implementation of the 2014-2020 National Public Procurement Strategy.	4. Ensure efficient implementation of the 2014-2020 National Public Procurement Strategy.

<p>CZ</p> 	<p>Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: - and MIP: -</p>	<p><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. Ensure the long-term sustainability of public finances, in view of the ageing population. Increase the effectiveness of public spending, notably by fighting corruption and inefficient practices in public procurement.</p>	<p>1. Ensure the long-term sustainability of public finances, in view of the ageing population. Increase the effectiveness of public spending, in particular notably by fighting corruption and inefficient practices in public procurement.</p>
	<p>2. Remove obstacles to growth, in particular by streamlining procedures for granting building permits and further reducing the administrative burden on businesses, by rolling out key e-government services, by improving the quality of R&D and by fostering employment of underrepresented groups.</p>	<p>2. Remove obstacles to growth, in particular by streamlining procedures for granting building permits and further reducing the administrative burden on businesses, by rolling out key e-government services, by improving the quality of R&D and by fostering employment of underrepresented groups.</p>

<p>DK</p> 	<p>Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: - and MIP: -</p>	<p><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. Foster competition in the domestically oriented services sector.</p>	<p>1. Foster competition in the domestically oriented services sector.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">DE</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: - and MIP: CSR 1, 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. Use fiscal policy to support domestic demand and achieve a sustained upward trend in investment. Accelerate public investment at all levels of government, especially in education, research and innovation, and address capacity and planning constraints for infrastructure investments. Further improve the efficiency and investment-friendliness of the tax system. Stimulate competition in business services and regulated professions.</p> <p>2. Reduce disincentives to work for second earners and facilitate transitions to standard employment. Reduce the high tax wedge for low-wage earners. Create conditions to promote higher real wage growth, respecting the role of the social partners.</p>	<p>1. While respecting the medium-term objective, use Use fiscal and structural policies policy to support potential growth and domestic demand as well as to and achieve a sustained upward trend in investment. Accelerate public investment at all levels of government, especially in education, research and innovation, and address capacity and planning constraints for infrastructure investments. Further improve the efficiency and investment-friendliness of the tax system. Stimulate competition in business services and regulated professions.</p> <p>2. Reduce disincentives to work for second earners and facilitate transitions to standard employment. Reduce the high tax wedge for low-wage earners. Create conditions to promote higher real wage growth, respecting the role of the social partners.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">EE</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: CSR 1 and MIP: -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which implies to remain at its medium-term budgetary objective in 2018. Ensure better adequacy of the social safety net. Take measures to reduce the gender pay gap, in particular by improving wage transparency and reviewing the parental leave system.</p> <p>2. Promote private investment in research, technology and innovation, including by implementing measures for strengthening the cooperation between academia and businesses.</p>	<p>1. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which entails remaining implies to remain at its medium-term budgetary objective in 2018. Improve the Ensure better adequacy of the social safety net. Take measures to reduce the gender pay gap, in particular by improving wage transparency and reviewing the parental leave system.</p> <p>2. Promote private investment in research, technology and innovation, including by implementing measures for strengthening the cooperation between academia and businesses.</p>

 IE	Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: CSR 1 and MIP: CSR 1, 3	<u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017
	1. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact , which translates into a substantial fiscal effort for 2018. Use any windfall gains, such as proceeds from asset sales, to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. Limit the scope and the number of tax expenditures and broaden the tax base.	1. Pursue a substantial fiscal effort in 2018 policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact. – which translates into a substantial fiscal effort for 2018. Use any windfall gains arising from the strong economic and financial conditions, including, such as proceeds from asset sales, to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. Limit the scope and the number of tax expenditures and broaden the tax base.
	2. Better target government expenditure , by prioritising public investment in transport, water services, and innovation in particular in support of SMEs. Enhance social infrastructure , including social housing and quality childcare; deliver an integrated package of activation policies to increase employment prospects of low-skilled people and to address low work intensity of households.	2. Better target government expenditure, by prioritising public investment in transport, water services, and innovation in particular in support of SMEs. Enhance social infrastructure, including social housing and quality childcare; deliver an integrated package of activation policies to increase employment prospects of low-skilled people and to address low work intensity of households.
	3. Encourage a more durable reduction in non-performing loans through resolution strategies that involve write-offs for viable businesses and households, with a special emphasis on resolving long-term arrears	3. Encourage a continued and more durable reduction in non-performing loans through resolution strategies that involve write-offs for viable businesses and households, with a special emphasis on resolving long-term arrears.

<p>EL</p> 	<p>Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017</p>	<p>Council Draft Recommendation(s) as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>To avoid duplication with measures set out in the Economic Adjustment Programme, there are no additional recommendations for Greece.</p>	<p>To avoid duplication with measures set out in the Economic Adjustment Programme, there are no additional recommendations for Greece.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">ES</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: CSR 1 and MIP: CSR 1, 2, 3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. Ensure compliance with the Council decision of 8 August 2016 giving notice under the excessive deficit procedure, including also measures to strengthen the fiscal and public procurement frameworks. Undertake a comprehensive expenditure review in order to identify possible areas for improving spending efficiency.</p> <p>2. Reinforce the coordination between regional employment services, social services and employers, to better respond to jobseekers' and employers' needs. Take measures to promote hiring on open-ended contracts. Address regional disparities and fragmentation in income guarantee schemes and improve family support, including access to quality childcare. Increase labour market relevance of tertiary education. Address regional disparities in educational outcomes, notably by strengthening teachers' training and individual students' support.</p> <p>3. Ensure adequate and sustained investment in research and innovation and strengthen its governance across government levels. Ensure a thorough and timely implementation of the law on market unity for existing and forthcoming legislation.</p>	<p>1. Ensure compliance with the Council Decision decision of 8 August 2016 giving notice under the excessive deficit procedure, including also measures to strengthen the fiscal and public procurement frameworks. Undertake a comprehensive expenditure review in order to identify possible areas for improving spending efficiency.</p> <p>2. Reinforce the coordination between regional employment services, social services and employers, to better respond to jobseekers' and employers' needs. Take measures to promote hiring on open-ended contracts. Address regional disparities and fragmentation in income guarantee schemes and improve family support, including access to quality childcare. Increase the labour market relevance of tertiary education. Address regional disparities in educational outcomes, in particular notably by strengthening teacher teachers' training and support for individual students. students' support.</p> <p>3. Ensure adequate and sustained investment in research and innovation and strengthen its governance across government levels. Ensure a thorough and timely implementation of the law on market unity for existing and forthcoming legislation.</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: CSR 1 and MIP: CSR 1, 2, 3, 4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. Ensure compliance with the Council recommendation of 10 March 2015 under the excessive deficit procedure. Thereafter, pursue fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which translates into a substantial fiscal effort for 2018. When taking policy action, consideration should be given to achieving a fiscal stance that contributes to both strengthening the ongoing recovery and ensuring the sustainability of France’s public finances. Comprehensively review expenditure items with the aim to make efficiency gains that translate into expenditure savings.</p> <p>2. Consolidate the measures reducing the cost of labour to maximise their efficiency in a budget neutral manner and in order to scale up their effects on employment and investment. Broaden the overall tax base and take further action to implement the planned decrease in the corporate income statutory rate.</p> <p>3. Improve the access to the labour market for jobseekers, notably the less qualified workers and people with a migrant background, including by revising the system of vocational education and training. Ensure that minimum wage developments are consistent with job creation and competitiveness.</p> <p>4. Further reduce the regulatory burden for firms, including by pursuing the simplification programme. Continue to lift barriers to competition in the services sector, including in business services and regulated professions. Simplify and improve the efficiency of public support schemes for innovation.</p>	<p>1. Ensure compliance with the Council recommendation of 10 March 2015 under the excessive deficit procedure. Pursue a substantial Thereafter, pursue fiscal effort in 2018 policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, taking which translates into account the need a substantial fiscal effort for 2018. When taking policy action, consideration should be given to strengthen achieving a fiscal stance that contributes to both strengthening the ongoing recovery and to ensure ensuring the sustainability of France’s public finances. Comprehensively review expenditure items with the aim to make efficiency gains that translate into expenditure savings.</p> <p>2. Consolidate the measures reducing the cost of labour to maximise their efficiency in a budget-neutral manner and in order to scale up their effects on employment and investment. Broaden the overall tax base and take further action to implement the planned decrease in the statutory corporate-income statutory rate.</p> <p>3. Improve access to the labour market for jobseekers, in particular notably the less-qualified workers and people with a migrant background, including by revising the system of vocational education and training. Ensure that minimum wage developments are consistent with job creation and competitiveness.</p> <p>4. Further reduce the regulatory burden for firms, including by pursuing the simplification programme. Continue to lift barriers to competition in the services sector, including in business services and regulated professions. Simplify and improve the efficiency of public support schemes for innovation.</p>

	<p>Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: CSR 1 and MIP: CSR 1, 2, 3, 4, 5</p>	<p><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which implies to remain at its medium-term budgetary objective in 2018. By September 2017, reinforce budgetary planning and the multi-annual budgetary framework, including by strengthening the independence and mandate of the Fiscal Policy Commission. Take the necessary steps for the introduction of the value based property tax. Reinforce the framework for public debt management, including by ensuring annual updates of the debt management strategy.</p> <p>2. Discourage early retirement, accelerate the transition to the higher statutory retirement age, and align pension provisions for specific categories with the rules of the general scheme. Improve coordination and transparency of social benefits.</p> <p>3. Improve adult education, in particular of older workers, the low-skilled, and the long-term unemployed. Accelerate the reform of the education system.</p> <p>4. Reduce the fragmentation and improve the functional distribution of competencies in public administration, while enhancing the efficiency and reducing territorial disparities in the delivery of public services. In consultation with social partners, harmonise the wage-setting frameworks across the public administration and public services.</p> <p>5. Speed up the divestment of State-owned enterprises and other State assets, and improve corporate governance in the State-owned enterprise sector. Significantly reduce the burden on businesses stemming from costs of regulation and from administrative burdens. Remove regulatory restrictions hampering access to and the practice of regulated professions and professional and business services. Improve the quality and efficiency of the justice system, in particular by reducing the length in civil and commercial cases.</p>	<p>1. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which implies to remain entails remaining at its medium-term budgetary objective in 2018. By September 2017, reinforce budgetary planning and the multi-annual budgetary framework, including by strengthening the independence and mandate of the Fiscal Policy Commission. Take the necessary steps for the introduction of the value-based property tax. Reinforce the framework for public debt management, including by ensuring annual updates of the debt management strategy.</p> <p>2. Discourage early retirement, accelerate the transition to the higher statutory retirement age, and align pension provisions for specific categories with the rules of the general scheme. Improve coordination and transparency of social benefits.</p> <p>3. Improve adult education, in particular of for older workers, the low-skilled, and the long-term unemployed. Accelerate the reform of the education system.</p> <p>4. Reduce the fragmentation and improve the functional distribution of competencies in public administration, while enhancing the efficiency and reducing territorial disparities in the delivery of public services. In consultation with social partners, harmonise the wage-setting frameworks across the public administration and public services.</p> <p>5. Speed up the divestment of state-owned enterprises and other state assets, and improve corporate governance in the state-owned enterprise sector. Significantly reduce the burden on businesses stemming from costs of regulation and from administrative burdens. Remove regulatory restrictions hampering access to and the practice of regulated professions and professional and business services. Improve the quality and efficiency of the justice system, in particular by reducing the length in of civil and commercial cases.</p>

 IT	<p align="center">Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: CSR 1 and MIP: CSR 1, 2, 3, 4</p>	<p align="center"><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which translates into a substantial fiscal effort for 2018. When taking policy action, consideration should be given to achieving a fiscal stance that contributes to both strengthening the ongoing recovery and ensuring the sustainability of Italy’s public finances. Shift the tax burden from the factors of production onto taxes less detrimental to growth in a budgetary neutral way by taking decisive action to reduce the number and scope of tax expenditures, reforming the outdated cadastral system and reintroducing the first residence tax for high-income households. Broaden the compulsory use of electronic invoicing and payments.</p>	<p>1. Pursue its a substantial fiscal policy effort in 2018, in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which translates taking into a substantial fiscal effort for 2018. When taking policy action, consideration should be given account the need to achieving a fiscal stance that contributes to both strengthening strengthen the ongoing recovery and ensuring to ensure the sustainability of Italy’s public finances. Ensure timely implementation of the privatisation programme and use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt-to-GDP ratio. Shift the tax burden from the factors of production onto taxes less detrimental to growth in a budgetary budget-neutral way by taking decisive action to reduce the number and scope of tax expenditures, reforming the outdated cadastral system and reintroducing the first residence tax for high-income households. Broaden the compulsory use of electronic invoicing and payments.</p>
	<p>2. Reduce the trial length in civil justice through effective case management and rules ensuring procedural discipline. Step up the fight against corruption, in particular by revising the statute of limitations. Complete reforms of public employment and improve the efficiency of publicly-owned enterprises. Promptly adopt and implement the pending law on competition and address the remaining restrictions to competition.</p>	<p>2. Reduce the trial length in civil justice through effective case management and rules ensuring procedural discipline. Step up the fight against corruption, in particular by revising the statute of limitations. Complete reforms of public employment and improve the efficiency of publicly-owned enterprises. Promptly adopt and implement the pending law on competition and address the remaining restrictions to competition.</p>
	<p>3. Accelerate the reduction in the stock of non-performing loans and step up incentives for balance-sheet clean-up and restructuring, in particular in the segment of banks under national supervision. Adopt a comprehensive overhaul of the regulatory framework for insolvency and collateral enforcement.</p>	<p>3. Accelerate the reduction in the stock of non-performing loans and step up incentives for balance-sheet clean-up and restructuring, in particular in the segment of banks under national supervision. Adopt a comprehensive overhaul of the regulatory framework for insolvency and collateral enforcement.</p>
	<p>4. With the involvement of social partners, strengthen the collective bargaining framework to allow collective agreements to better take into account local conditions. Ensure effective active labour market policies. Facilitate the take-up of work for second earners. Rationalise social spending and improve its composition.</p>	<p>4. With the involvement of social partners, strengthen the collective bargaining framework to allow collective agreements to better take into account local conditions. Ensure effective active labour market policies. Facilitate the take-up of work for second earners. Rationalise social spending and improve its composition.</p>

	<p align="center">Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: CSR 1 and MIP: CSR 1, 2, 3, 4</p>	<p align="center"><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which implies to remain at its medium-term budgetary objective in 2018. By end-2017, adopt key legislative reforms aiming to improve efficiency in the public sector, notably on the functioning of public administration, governance of State-owned entities and local governments.</p> <p>2. Increase the efficiency of the judicial system by modernising civil procedures, implementing appropriate information systems and increasing the specialisation of courts. Take additional measures to eliminate impediments to the full implementation of the insolvency and foreclosure frameworks, and to ensure reliable and swift systems for the issuance of title deeds and the transfer of immovable property rights.</p> <p>3. Accelerate the reduction of non-performing loans by setting related quantitative and time-bound targets for banks and ensuring accurate valuation of collateral for provisioning purposes. Create the conditions for a functional secondary market for non-performing loans. Integrate and strengthen the supervision of insurance companies and pension funds.</p> <p>4. Accelerate the implementation of the action plan for growth, focussing in particular on fast-tracking strategic investments and improving access to finance and by end-2017, resume the implementation of the privatisation plan. Carry out the ownership unbundling of the Electricity Authority of Cyprus by the end of 2017.</p> <p>5. Speed up reforms aimed at increasing the capacity of public employment services and improving the quality of active labour market policies delivery. Complete the reform of the education system to improve its labour market relevance and performance, including teachers' evaluation. By end-2017, adopt legislation for a hospital reform and universal health care coverage.</p>	<p>1. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which implies to remain entails remaining at its medium-term budgetary objective in 2018. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. By the end of 2017, adopt key legislative reforms aiming to improve efficiency in the public sector, notably in particular on the functioning of public administration, governance of state-owned entities and local governments.</p> <p>2. Increase the efficiency of the judicial system by modernising civil procedures, implementing appropriate information systems and increasing the specialisation of courts. Take additional measures to eliminate impediments to the full implementation of the insolvency and foreclosure frameworks, and to ensure reliable and swift systems for the issuance of title deeds and the transfer of immovable property rights.</p> <p>3. Accelerate the reduction of non-performing loans by setting related quantitative and time-bound targets for banks and ensuring accurate valuation of collateral for provisioning purposes. Create the conditions for a functional secondary market for non-performing loans. Integrate and strengthen the supervision of insurance companies and pension funds</p> <p>4. Accelerate the implementation of the action plan for growth, focussing focusing in particular on fast-tracking strategic investments and improving access to finance, and, by the end of 2017, resume the implementation of the privatisation plan. Carry out Take decisive steps towards the ownership unbundling of the Electricity Authority of Cyprus and, in particular, proceed with the functional and accounting unbundling by the end of 2017.</p> <p>5. Speed up reforms aimed at increasing the capacity of public employment services and improving the quality of active labour market policies delivery. Complete the reform of the education system to improve its labour market relevance and performance, including teachers' evaluation. By the end of 2017, adopt legislation for a hospital reform and universal healthcare coverage.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">LV</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: CSR 1 and MIP: -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which implies to achieve its medium term budgetary objective in 2018, taking into account the allowances linked to the implementation of the systemic pension reform and of the structural reforms for which a temporary deviation is granted. Reduce taxation for low-income earners by shifting it to other sources that are less detrimental to growth and by improving tax compliance.</p> <p>2. Improve the adequacy of the social safety net and up-skill the labour force by speeding up the curricula reform in vocational education. Increase cost-effectiveness and access to healthcare, including by reducing out of pocket payments and long waiting times.</p> <p>3. Increase efficiency and accountability in the public sector, notably by simplifying administrative procedures and strengthening the conflict of interest prevention regime, including for insolvency administrators.</p>	<p>1. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which implies to achieve entails achieving its medium-term budgetary objective in 2018, taking into account the allowances linked to the implementation of the systemic pension reform and of the structural reforms for which a temporary deviation is granted. Reduce taxation for low-income earners by shifting it to other sources that are less detrimental to growth and by improving tax compliance.</p> <p>2. Improve the adequacy of the social safety net and upskill the labour force by speeding up the curricula reform in vocational education. Increase the cost-effectiveness of and access to healthcare, including by reducing out-of-pocket payments and long waiting times.</p> <p>3. Increase efficiency and accountability in the public sector, notably in particular by simplifying administrative procedures and strengthening the conflict-of-interest prevention regime, including for insolvency administrators.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">LT</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: CSR 1 and MIP: -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which implies to remain at its medium term budgetary objective in 2018, taking into account the allowances linked to the implementation of the systemic pension reform and of the structural reforms for which a temporary deviation is granted. Improve tax compliance and broaden the tax base to sources that are less detrimental to growth. Take steps to address the medium term fiscal sustainability challenge related to pensions.</p> <p>2. Address skills shortages through effective active labour market policy measures and adult learning and improve educational outcomes by rewarding quality in teaching and in higher education. Improve the performance of the healthcare system by strengthening outpatient care, disease prevention and affordability. Improve the adequacy of the social safety net.</p> <p>3. Take measures to strengthen productivity by improving the efficiency of public investment and strengthening its linkage with the country's strategic objectives.</p>	<p>1. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which implies to remain entails remaining at its medium term budgetary objective in 2018, taking into account the allowances linked to the implementation of the systemic pension reform and of the structural reforms for which a temporary deviation is granted. Improve tax compliance and broaden the tax base to sources that are less detrimental to growth. Take steps to address the medium-term fiscal sustainability challenge related to pensions.</p> <p>2. Address skills shortages through effective active labour market policy measures and adult learning and improve educational outcomes by rewarding quality in teaching and in higher education. Improve the performance of the healthcare system by strengthening outpatient care, disease prevention and affordability. Improve the adequacy of the social safety net.</p> <p>3. Take measures to strengthen productivity by improving the efficiency of public investment and strengthening its linkage with the country's strategic objectives.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">LU</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: - and MIP: -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. Strengthen the diversification of the economy, including by removing barriers to investment and innovation. Remove regulatory restrictions in the business services sector.</p>	<p>1. Strengthen the diversification of the economy, including by removing barriers to investment and innovation. Remove regulatory restrictions in the business services sector.</p>
	<p>2. Ensure the long-term sustainability of the pension system, limit early retirement and increase the employment rate of older people.</p>	<p>2. Ensure the long-term sustainability of the pension system, limit early retirement and increase the employment rate of older people.</p>

 HU	Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: CSR 1 and MIP: -	<u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017
	<p>1. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which translates into a substantial fiscal effort for 2018. When taking policy action, consideration should be given to achieving a fiscal stance that contributes to both strengthening the ongoing recovery and ensuring the sustainability of Hungary's public finances.</p> <p>2. Complete the reduction of the tax wedge for low-income earners and simplify the tax structure, notably by reducing the most distortive sector-specific taxes. Strengthen transparency and competition in public procurement, by implementing a comprehensive and efficient e-procurement system, and strengthen the anti-corruption framework. Strengthen regulatory predictability, transparency and competition in particular in the services sector, notably in retail.</p> <p>3. Better target the public works scheme to those furthest away from the labour market and provide effective support to jobseekers in order to facilitate transitions to the labour market, including by reinforcing active labour market policies. Take measures to improve education outcomes and to increase the participation of disadvantaged groups, in particular Roma, in inclusive mainstream education. Improve the adequacy and coverage of social assistance and the duration of unemployment benefits.</p>	<p>1. Pursue its a substantial fiscal policy effort in 2018 in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which translates taking into a substantial fiscal effort for 2018. When taking policy action, consideration should be given account the need to achieving a fiscal stance that contributes to both strengthening strengthen the ongoing recovery and ensuring to ensure the sustainability of Hungary's public finances.</p> <p>2. Complete the reduction of the tax wedge for low-income earners and simplify the tax structure, notably in particular by reducing the most distortive sector-specific taxes. Strengthen transparency and competition in public procurement, by implementing a comprehensive and efficient e-procurement system, and strengthen the anti-corruption framework. Strengthen regulatory predictability, transparency and competition in particular in the services sector, notably in retail.</p> <p>3. Better target the public works scheme to those furthest away from the labour market and provide effective support to jobseekers in order to facilitate transitions to the labour market, including by reinforcing active labour market policies. Take measures to improve education outcomes and to increase the participation of disadvantaged groups, in particular Roma, in inclusive mainstream education. Improve the adequacy and coverage of social assistance and the duration of unemployment benefits.</p>

<p>MT</p> 	<p>Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: CSR 1 and MIP: -</p>	<p><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. Expand the scope of the ongoing spending reviews to the broader public sector and introduce performance-based public spending.</p>	<p>1. Expand the scope of the ongoing spending reviews to the broader public sector and introduce performance-based public spending.</p>
	<p>2. Ensure the effective supervision of internationally oriented business by financial institutions, licensed in Malta in cooperation with the host supervisors in the countries where they operate.</p>	<p>2. Ensure the effective national supervision of internationally oriented business by financial institutions, licensed in Malta in by strengthening cooperation with the host supervisors in the countries where they operate.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">NL</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: - and MIP: CSR 1, 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. Use fiscal policy to support 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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>1. Use While respecting the medium-term objective, use fiscal policy 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.</p> <p>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.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">AT</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: CSR 1 and MIP: -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which implies to achieve its medium term budgetary objective in 2018, taking into account the allowance linked to unusual events. Ensure the sustainability of the healthcare system and of the pension system. Rationalise and streamline competencies across the various layers of government and align their financing and spending responsibilities.</p> <p>2. Improve labour market outcomes of women, also through the provision of full-time care services. Improve the educational achievements of disadvantaged young people, in particular those from a migrant background. Foster investment in the services sector by reducing administrative and regulatory barriers, easing market entry and facilitating company growth.</p>	<p>1. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which implies to achieve entails achieving its medium-term budgetary objective in 2018, taking into account the allowance linked to unusual events. Ensure the sustainability of the healthcare system and of the pension system. Rationalise and streamline competencies across the various layers of government and align their financing and spending responsibilities.</p> <p>2. Improve labour market outcomes of for women, also through, <i>inter alia</i>, the provision of full-time care services. Improve the educational achievements of disadvantaged young people, in particular those from a migrant background. Foster investment in the services sector by reducing administrative and regulatory barriers, easing market entry and facilitating company growth.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">PL</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: CSR 1 and MIP: -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which translates into a substantial fiscal effort for 2018. When taking policy action, consideration should be given to achieving a fiscal stance that contributes to both strengthening the ongoing recovery and ensuring the sustainability of Poland's public finances. Take steps to improve the efficiency of public spending and limit the use of reduced VAT rates.</p>	<p>1. Pursue its a substantial fiscal policy effort in 2018, in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which translates taking into a substantial fiscal effort for 2018. When taking policy action, consideration should be given account the need to achieving a fiscal stance that contributes to both strengthening strengthen the ongoing recovery and ensuring to ensure the sustainability of Poland's public finances. Take steps to improve the efficiency of public spending and limit the use of reduced VAT rates.</p>
	<p>2. Take steps to increase labour market participation, in particular for women, low-qualified and older people, including by fostering adequate skills and removing obstacles to more permanent types of employment. Ensure the sustainability and adequacy of the pension system by taking measures to increase the effective retirement age and by starting to reform the preferential pension arrangements.</p>	<p>2. Take steps to increase labour market participation, in particular for women, the low-qualified and older people, including by fostering adequate skills and removing obstacles to more permanent types of employment. Ensure the sustainability and adequacy of the pension system by taking measures to increase the effective retirement age and by starting to reform the preferential pension arrangements.</p>
	<p>3. Take measures to remove barriers to investment, particularly in the transport sector.</p>	<p>3. Take measures to remove barriers to investment, particularly in the transport sector.</p>

<p>PT</p> 	<p>Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: CSR 1 and MIP: CSR 1, 2, 3, 4</p>	<p><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. Ensure the durability of the correction of the excessive deficit. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which translates into a substantial fiscal effort for 2018. When taking policy action, consideration should be given to achieving a fiscal stance that contributes to both strengthening the ongoing recovery and ensuring the sustainability of Portugal’s public finances. Step up efforts to finalise a comprehensive expenditure review at all levels of public administration. Strengthen expenditure control, cost effectiveness and adequate budgeting, in particular in the health sector with a focus on the reduction of arrears in hospitals and ensure the sustainability of the pension system. To increase the financial sustainability of state-owned enterprises set sector-specific efficiency targets in time for the 2018 budget, improving state-owned enterprises’ overall net income and decreasing the burden on the State budget.</p>	<p>1. Ensure the durability of the correction of the excessive deficit. Pursue its a substantial fiscal policy effort in 2018 in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which translates taking into a substantial fiscal effort for 2018. When taking policy action, consideration should be given account the need to achieving a fiscal stance that contributes to both strengthening strengthen the ongoing recovery and ensuring to ensure the sustainability of Portugal’s public finances. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt-to-GDP ratio. Step up efforts to finalise a comprehensive broaden the expenditure review at all levels of public administration to cover a significant share of general government spending across several policies. Strengthen expenditure control, cost effectiveness and adequate budgeting, in particular in the health sector with a focus on the reduction of arrears in hospitals and ensure the sustainability of the pension system. To increase the financial sustainability of state-owned enterprises set sector-specific efficiency targets in time for the 2018 budget, improving state-owned enterprises’ overall net income and decreasing the burden on the State budget.</p>
	<p>2. Promote hiring on open-ended contracts, including by reviewing the legal framework. Ensure the effective activation of the long-term unemployed. Together with social partners, ensure that minimum wage developments do not harm employment of the low-skilled.</p>	<p>2. Promote hiring on open-ended contracts, including by reviewing the legal framework. Ensure the effective activation of the long-term unemployed. Together with social partners, ensure that minimum wage developments do not harm employment of the low-skilled.</p>
	<p>3. Step up efforts to clean up the balance sheets of credit institutions by implementing a comprehensive strategy addressing non-performing loans, including by enhancing the secondary market for bad assets. Improve the access to capital, in particular for start-ups and small and medium sized enterprises.</p>	<p>3. Step up efforts to clean up the balance sheets of credit institutions by implementing a comprehensive strategy addressing non-performing loans, including by enhancing the secondary market for bad assets. Improve the access to capital, in particular for start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises.</p>
	<p>4. Implement a roadmap to further reduce the administrative burden and tackle regulatory barriers in construction and business services by end 2017. Increase the efficiency of insolvency and tax proceedings.</p>	<p>4. Implement a roadmap to further reduce the administrative burden and tackle regulatory barriers in construction and business services by the end of 2017. Increase the efficiency of insolvency and tax proceedings.</p>

 RO	<p align="center">Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: CSR 1 and MIP: -</p>	<p align="center"><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. In 2017, ensure compliance with the Council recommendation of [XX] with a view to correcting the significant deviation from the adjustment path toward the medium-term budgetary objective. In 2018, pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which translates into a substantial fiscal effort for 2018. Ensure the full application of the fiscal framework. Strengthen tax compliance and collection. Fight undeclared work, including by ensuring the systematic use of integrated controls.</p> <p>2. Strengthen targeted activation policies and integrated public services, focusing on those furthest away from the labour market. Adopt legislation equalising the pension age for men and women. Establish a transparent mechanism for minimum wage-setting, in consultation with social partners. Improve access to quality mainstream education, in particular for Roma and children in rural areas. In healthcare, shift to outpatient care, and curb informal payments.</p> <p>3. Adopt legislation to ensure a professional and independent civil service, applying objective criteria. Strengthen project prioritisation and preparation in public investment. Ensure the timely full and sustainable implementation of the national public procurement strategy.</p>	<p>1. In 2017, ensure compliance with the Council recommendation Recommendation of [XX] [date of adoption of ST 9999/2017] with a view to correcting the significant deviation from the adjustment path toward the medium-term budgetary objective. In 2018, pursue its a substantial fiscal policy effort in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which translates into a substantial fiscal effort for 2018. Ensure the full application of the fiscal framework. Strengthen tax compliance and collection. Fight undeclared work, including by ensuring the systematic use of integrated controls.</p> <p>2. Strengthen targeted activation policies and integrated public services, focusing on those furthest away from the labour market. Adopt legislation equalising the pension age for men and women. Establish a transparent mechanism for minimum wage-setting, in consultation with social partners. Improve access to quality mainstream education, in particular for Roma and children in rural areas. In healthcare, shift to outpatient care and curb informal payments.</p> <p>3. Adopt legislation to ensure a professional and independent civil service, applying objective criteria. Strengthen project prioritisation and preparation in public investment. Ensure the timely full and sustainable implementation of the national public procurement strategy.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">SI</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: CSR 1 and MIP: CSR 1, 3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which translates into a substantial fiscal effort for 2018. When taking policy action, consideration should be given to achieving a fiscal stance that contributes to both strengthening the ongoing recovery and ensuring the sustainability of Slovenia's public finances. Adopt and implement the proposed reform of the healthcare system and adopt the planned reform of long-term care, increasing cost-effectiveness, accessibility and quality care. Fully tap the potential of centralised procurement in the health sector. Adopt the necessary measures to ensure the long-term sustainability and adequacy of the pension system.</p> <p>2. Intensify efforts to increase the employability of low-skilled and older workers, particularly through targeted lifelong learning and activation measures.</p> <p>3. Improve the financing conditions, including by facilitating a durable resolution of non-performing loans and access to alternative sources of financing. Ensure the full implementation of the bank asset management company strategy. Reduce the administrative burden on business deriving from rules on spatial planning and construction permits and ensure good governance of State-owned enterprises.</p>	<p>1. Pursue its a substantial fiscal policy effort in 2018 in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which translates taking into a substantial fiscal effort for 2018When taking policy action, consideration should be given account the need to achieving a fiscal stance that contributes to both strengthening strengthen the ongoing recovery and ensuring to ensure the sustainability of Slovenia's public finances. Adopt and implement the proposed reform of the healthcare system and adopt the planned reform of long-term care, increasing cost-effectiveness, accessibility and quality care. Fully tap the potential of centralised procurement in the health sector. Adopt the necessary measures to ensure the long-term sustainability and adequacy of the pension system.</p> <p>2. Intensify efforts to increase the employability of low-skilled and older workers, particularly through targeted lifelong learning and activation measures.</p> <p>3. Improve the financing conditions, including by facilitating a durable resolution of non-performing loans and access to alternative sources of financing. Ensure the full implementation of the bank asset management company strategy. Reduce the administrative burden on business deriving from rules on spatial planning and construction permits and ensure good governance of state-owned enterprises.</p>

 SK	<p align="center">Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: CSR 1 and MIP: -</p>	<p align="center"><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which translates into a substantial fiscal effort for 2018. When taking policy action, consideration should be given to achieving a fiscal stance that contributes to both strengthening the ongoing recovery and ensuring the sustainability of Slovakia’s public finances. Improve the cost effectiveness of the healthcare system, including by implementing the value for money project.</p> <p>2. Improve activation measures for disadvantaged groups, including by implementing the action plan for the long-term unemployed and by providing individualised services and targeted training. Enhance employment opportunities for women, especially by extending affordable, quality childcare. Improve the quality of education and increase the participation of Roma in inclusive mainstream education.</p> <p>3. Improve competition and transparency in public procurement operations and step up the fight against corruption by stronger enforcement of existing legislation. Adopt and implement a comprehensive plan to lower administrative and regulatory barriers for businesses. Improve the effectiveness of the justice system, including a reduction in the length of civil and commercial cases.</p>	<p>1. Pursue its a substantial fiscal policy effort in 2018 in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which translates taking into a substantial fiscal effort for 2018. When taking policy action, consideration should be given account the need to achieving a fiscal stance that contributes to both strengthening strengthen the ongoing recovery and ensuring to ensure the sustainability of Slovakia’s public finances. Improve the cost-effectiveness of the healthcare system, including by implementing the value-for-money project.</p> <p>2. Improve activation measures for disadvantaged groups, including by implementing the action plan for the long-term unemployed and by providing individualised services and targeted training. Enhance employment opportunities for women, especially by extending affordable, quality childcare. Improve the quality of education and increase the participation of Roma in inclusive mainstream education.</p> <p>3. Improve competition and transparency in public procurement operations and step up the fight against corruption by stronger enforcement of existing legislation. Adopt and implement a comprehensive plan to lower administrative and regulatory barriers for businesses. Improve the effectiveness of the justice system, including a reduction in the length of civil and commercial cases.</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: CSR 1 and MIP: -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which implies to achieve its medium term budgetary objective in 2018, taking into account the allowances linked to unusual events, the implementation of the structural reforms and investments for which a temporary deviation is granted. Ensure timely adoption and implementation of the administrative reform to improve cost-effectiveness of social and healthcare services.</p> <p>2. Promote the further alignment of wages with productivity developments, fully respecting the role of social partners. Take targeted active labour market policy measures to address employment and social challenges, provide incentives to accept work and promote entrepreneurship.</p> <p>3. Continue to improve the regulatory framework and reduce the administrative burden to increase competition in services and to promote investment.</p>	<p>1. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which implies to achieve entails achieving its medium-term budgetary objective in 2018, taking into account the allowances linked to unusual events, the implementation of the structural reforms and investments for which a temporary deviation is granted. Ensure timely adoption and implementation of the administrative reform to improve cost-effectiveness of social and healthcare services.</p> <p>2. Promote the further alignment of wages with productivity developments, fully respecting the role of social partners. Take targeted active labour market policy measures to address employment and social challenges, provide incentives to accept work and promote entrepreneurship.</p> <p>3. Continue to improve the regulatory framework and reduce the administrative burden to increase competition in services and to promote investment.</p>

<p>SE</p> 	<p>Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: - and MIP: CSR 1</p>	<p><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. Address risks related to household debt, in particular by gradually limiting the tax deductibility of mortgage interest payments or by increasing recurrent property taxes, while constraining lending at excessive debt-to-income levels. Foster investment in housing and improve the efficiency of the housing market, including by introducing more flexibility in setting rental prices and revising the design of the capital gains tax.</p>	<p>1. Address risks related to household debt, in particular by gradually limiting the tax deductibility of mortgage interest payments or by increasing recurrent property taxes, while constraining lending at excessive debt-to-income levels. Foster investment in housing and improve the efficiency of the housing market, including by introducing more flexibility in setting rental prices and revising the design of the capital gains tax.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">UK</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 22 May 2017 <u>Draft Country Specific Recommendations 2017</u> SGP: CSR 1 and MIP: -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Council Draft Recommendation(s)</u> as revised and agreed by various Council committees on 12 June 2017</p>
	<p>1. Pursue its fiscal policy in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which translates into a substantial fiscal effort for 2018. When taking policy action, consideration should be given to achieving a fiscal stance that contributes to both strengthening the ongoing recovery and ensuring the sustainability of United Kingdom’s public finances.</p> <p>2. Take further steps to boost housing supply, including through reforms to planning rules and their implementation.</p> <p>3. Address skills mismatches and provide for skills progression, including by continuing to strengthen the quality of apprenticeships and providing for other funded “Further Education” progression routes.</p>	<p>1. Pursue its a substantial fiscal policy effort in 2018-19 in line with the requirements of the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, which translates taking into a substantial fiscal effort for 2018. When taking policy action, consideration should be given account the need to achieving a fiscal stance that contributes to both strengthening strengthen the ongoing recovery and ensuring to ensure the sustainability of the United Kingdom’s public finances.</p> <p>2. Take further steps to boost housing supply, including through reforms to planning rules and their implementation.</p> <p>3. Address skills mismatches and provide for skills progression, including by continuing to strengthen the quality of apprenticeships and providing for other funded “Further Education” 'further education' progression routes.</p>

<p>Euro Area</p> 	<p>Commission Recommendation(s) as proposed on 16 November 2016 <u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u></p>	<p><u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> approved by the Council on 21 March 2017</p>
	<p>1. Pursue policies that support growth in the short and the long term, and improve adjustment capacity, rebalancing and convergence. Prioritise reforms that increase productivity, improve the institutional and business environment, remove bottlenecks to investment, and support job creation. Member States with current account deficits or high external debt should raise productivity while containing unit labour costs. Member States with large current account surpluses should accelerate the implementation of measures that help to strengthen their domestic demand, in particular investment.</p> <p>2. Deliver an overall positive fiscal stance contributing to a balanced policy mix, to support reforms and to strengthen the recovery through a fiscal expansion of up to 0.5% of GDP in 2017. Combine national efforts to secure long-term fiscal sustainability in respect of the Stability and Growth Pact with short-term macroeconomic stabilisation for the euro area, using all the room for manoeuvre available under the Stability and Growth Pact. Differentiate the fiscal effort by individual Member States by better taking into account their respective position with regard to the requirements under the Stability and Growth Pact, the situation of the euro area aggregate and spillovers across euro area countries: (i) for Member States which are over-achieving their fiscal objectives, use their fiscal space to support domestic demand and quality investments, including cross-border ones, as part of the Investment Plan for Europe; (ii) for Member States that need further fiscal adjustments under the preventive arm of the Pact, make sure to be broadly compliant with the requirements of the Stability and Growth Pact; (iii) for Member States under the corrective arm, ensure a timely correction of their excessive deficits, including by providing fiscal buffers against unforeseen circumstances. Improve the composition of public finances by creating more room for tangible and intangible investment and ensure the effective functioning of national fiscal frameworks.</p>	<p>1. Pursue policies that support sustainable and inclusive growth in the short and the long term, and improve adjustment capacity, rebalancing and convergence. Prioritise reforms that increase productivity, improve the institutional and business environment, remove bottlenecks to investment, and support job creation. Member States with current account deficits or high external debt should raise productivity while containing unit labour costs. Member States with large current account surpluses should accelerate the implementation of implement as a priority measures, including structural reforms and fostering investment, that help to strengthen their domestic demand, in particular investment and growth potential.</p> <p>2. Deliver Aim for an overall positive appropriate balance in fiscal stance contributing policies between the need to a balanced policy mix, ensure sustainability and the need to support reforms and investment to strengthen the recovery through a fiscal expansion of up , thereby contributing to 0.5% of GDP in 2017. Combine national efforts to secure long-term fiscal sustainability in respect of the Stability and Growth Pact with short-term macroeconomic stabilisation for the euro area, using all the room for manoeuvre available under the Stability and Growth Pact. Differentiate the fiscal effort by individual Member States by better taking into account their respective position with regard to the requirements under the Stability and Growth Pact, the situation of the euro area an appropriate aggregate and spillovers across euro area countries: (i) for fiscal stance and a more balanced policy mix. Member States that, according to the Commission assessment, are at risk of not meeting their obligations under the SGP in 2017 should, on that basis, take, in a timely manner, additional measures to ensure compliance. Conversely, Member States which are over-achieving that have outperformed their fiscal medium-term objectives, use their fiscal space are invited to support domestic demand and quality continue to prioritise investments, including cross border ones, as part of the Investment Plan for Europe; (ii) for to boost potential growth while preserving the long-term sustainability of public finances. Member States that need further fiscal adjustments under the preventive arm of the Pact, make sure are projected to be broadly compliant with the requirements of the Stability and Growth Pact; (iii) for SGP in 2017 should ensure compliance with the SGP within their national budgetary processes. Pursue fiscal policies in full respect of the SGP, while making the best use of the flexibility embedded within the existing rules. Overall, Member States under the corrective arm, ensure a timely correction of their excessive deficits, including by providing fiscal buffers against unforeseen circumstances. Improve should improve the composition of public finances, by creating more room for tangible and</p>

		intangible investment and ensure the effective functioning of national fiscal frameworks.
	3. Implement reforms that promote job creation, social fairness and convergence, underpinned by an effective social dialogue. They should combine: (i) reliable labour contracts which provide flexibility and security for employees and employers; (ii) quality and efficient education and training systems and comprehensive lifelong learning strategies targeted at labour market needs; (iii) effective active labour market policies to support labour market participation; (iv) modern and adequate social protection systems that support those in need and provide incentives for labour market integration. Shift taxes away from labour, particularly for low-income earners and in Member States where cost competitiveness lags behind the euro area average, and make it budgetarily neutral in countries without the fiscal room for manoeuvre.	3. Implement reforms that promote competitiveness, job creation, job quality, resilience and economic and social fairness and convergence, underpinned by an effective social dialogue. They should combine: (i) reliable labour contracts which provide flexibility and security for employees and employers; (ii) quality and efficient education and training systems and comprehensive lifelong learning strategies targeted at labour market needs; (iii) effective active labour market policies to support labour market participation; (iv) modern, sustainable and adequate social protection systems that support those in need contribute effectively and provide incentives for efficiently throughout the life cycle to social inclusion and labour market integration. Shift taxes away from labour, particularly for low-income earners and in Member States where cost competitiveness lags behind the euro area average, and make it budgetarily neutral in countries without the fiscal room for manoeuvre.
	4. Agree on a European deposit insurance scheme on the basis of the Commission's proposal of November 2015 and start work on the common backstop for the Single Resolution Fund to make it operational before the end of the Fund's transitional period. Devise and implement an effective euro-area wide strategy to address risks to the viability of the banking sector, including as regards the high level of non-performing loans, inefficient business models and overcapacity. In Member States with large stocks of private debt, promote an orderly deleveraging.	4. Agree on In line with the roadmap of June 2016, continue work to complete the Banking Union with regard to risk reduction and risk sharing, including a European deposit insurance scheme on the basis of the Commission's proposal of November 2015 and start work on and making the common backstop for the Single Resolution Fund to make it operational before at the latest by the end of the Fund's transitional period. Devise and implement an effective euro-area wide strategy to complement prudential supervisory action to address risks to the viability of risks within the banking sector, including as regards the high level of non-performing loans, inefficient business models and overcapacity. In Member States with large stocks of private debt, promote an orderly deleveraging.
	5. Accelerate initiatives to complete the EMU, in full respect of the EU's internal market and in an open and transparent manner. Implement the remaining actions under stage 1 of the Five Presidents' Report on completing Europe's EMU.	5. Accelerate initiatives to complete the Make progress on completing EMU, in full respect of the EU's internal market and in an open and transparent manner. Implement towards non-euro area Member States. Further advance the ongoing initiatives and work on the remaining actions under stage 1 longer-term issues for EMU, taking due account of the Five Presidents' Report on completing Europe's EMU. forthcoming Commission White Paper on the future of Europe.

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