

Country-Specific Recommendations for 2018

A comparison of Commission and
Council texts
(‘comply or explain’ principle)



DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNAL POLICIES OF THE UNION

ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE SUPPORT UNIT

Country Specific Recommendations for 2018

A comparison of Commission and Council recommendations
(‘comply or explain’ principle)


The table overleaf compares the draft 2018 Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) proposed by the Commission on [23 May 2018](#) with the 2018 CSRs agreed on the Council Committee level and approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on [22 June 2018](#). These CSRs are to be generally endorsed by the European Council on 28-29 June 2018 and formally adopted by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018.


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. When compared against the Commission text, the **strikethrough yellow text** has been deleted from the Council text, while the **green text** has been added to the Council text. In general terms, the Council has introduced only a few material changes to the text as proposed by the Commission. Only a few changes were introduced in the CSRs addressed to DK, IE, ES, HU and PT.


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 BE	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 1.8 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.6 % of GDP. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. Pursue the envisaged pension reforms and contain the projected increase in long-term care expenditure. Pursue the full implementation of the 2013 Cooperation Agreement to coordinate fiscal policies of all government levels. Improve the efficiency and composition of public spending at all levels of government to create room for public investment, notably by carrying out spending reviews.</p> <p>2. Remove disincentives to work and strengthen the effectiveness of active labour market policies, notably for the low-skilled, people with a migrant background and older workers. Pursue the education and training reforms, including by fostering equity and increasing the proportion of graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.</p> <p>3. Reduce the regulatory and administrative burden to incentivise entrepreneurship and increase competition in services, particularly retail, construction and professional services. Tackle the growing mobility challenges, in particular through investment in new or existing transport infrastructure and reinforcing incentives to use collective and low emission transport.</p>	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 1.8 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.6 % of GDP. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. Pursue the envisaged pension reforms and contain the projected increase in long-term care expenditure. Pursue the full implementation of the 2013 Cooperation Agreement to coordinate fiscal policies of all government levels. Improve the efficiency and composition of public spending at all levels of government to create room for public investment, notably by carrying out spending reviews.</p> <p>2. Remove disincentives to work and strengthen the effectiveness of active labour market policies, notably for the low-skilled, people with a migrant background and older workers. Pursue the education and training reforms, including by fostering equity and increasing the proportion of graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.</p> <p>3. Reduce the regulatory and administrative burden to incentivise entrepreneurship and increase competition in services, particularly retail, construction and professional services. Tackle the growing mobility challenges, in particular through investment in new or existing transport infrastructure and reinforcing incentives to use collective and low-emission transport.</p>	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 1,8 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0,6 % of GDP. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. Pursue the envisaged pension reforms and contain the projected increase in long-term care expenditure. Pursue the full implementation of the 2013 Cooperation Agreement to coordinate fiscal policies of all government levels. Improve the efficiency and composition of public spending at all levels of government to create room for public investment, in particular by carrying out spending reviews.</p> <p>2. Remove disincentives to work and strengthen the effectiveness of active labour market policies, in particular for the low-skilled, people with a migrant background and older workers. Pursue the education and training reforms, including by fostering equity and increasing the proportion of graduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.</p> <p>3. Reduce the regulatory and administrative burden to incentivise entrepreneurship and increase competition in services, particularly retail, construction and professional services. Tackle the growing mobility challenges, in particular through investment in new or existing transport infrastructure and reinforcing incentives to use collective and low-emission transport.</p>


 BG	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	1. Improve tax collection and the efficiency of public spending, including by stepping up enforcement of measures to reduce the extent of the informal economy. Upgrade the State owned enterprise corporate governance framework in line with international good practices.	1. Improve tax collection and the efficiency of public spending, including by stepping up enforcement of measures to reduce the extent of the informal economy. Upgrade the State owned enterprise corporate governance framework in line with international good practices.	1. Improve tax collection and the efficiency of public spending, including by stepping up enforcement of measures to reduce the extent of the informal economy. Upgrade the State owned enterprise corporate governance framework in line with international good practices.
	2. Take follow-up measures resulting from the financial sector reviews and implement the supervisory action plans in order to strengthen the oversight and stability of the sector. Ensure adequate valuation of assets, including bank collateral, by enhancing the appraisal and audit processes. Complete the reform of the insolvency framework and promote a functioning secondary market for non-performing loans.	2. Take follow-up measures resulting from the financial sector reviews and implement the supervisory action plans in order to strengthen the oversight and stability of the sector. Ensure adequate valuation of assets, including bank collateral, by enhancing the appraisal and audit processes. Complete the reform of the insolvency framework and promote a functioning secondary market for non-performing loans.	2. Take follow-up measures resulting from the financial sector reviews and implement the supervisory action plans in order to strengthen the oversight and stability of the sector. Ensure adequate valuation of assets, including bank collateral, by enhancing the appraisal and audit processes. Complete the reform of the insolvency framework and promote a functioning secondary market for non-performing loans.
	3. Increase the employability of disadvantaged groups by upskilling and strengthening activation measures. Improve the provision of quality inclusive mainstream education, particularly for Roma and other disadvantaged groups. In line with the National Health Strategy and its action plan, improve access to health services, including by reducing out-of-pocket payments and addressing shortages of health professionals. Introduce a regular and transparent revision scheme for the minimum income and improve its coverage and adequacy.	3. Increase the employability of disadvantaged groups by upskilling and strengthening activation measures. Improve the provision of quality inclusive mainstream education, particularly for Roma and other disadvantaged groups. In line with the National Health Strategy and its action plan, improve access to health services, including by reducing out-of-pocket payments and addressing shortages of health professionals. Introduce a regular and transparent revision scheme for the minimum income and improve its coverage and adequacy.	3. Increase the employability of disadvantaged groups by upskilling and strengthening activation measures. Improve the provision of quality inclusive mainstream education, particularly for Roma and other disadvantaged groups. In line with the National Health Strategy and its action plan, improve access to health services, including by reducing out-of-pocket payments and addressing shortages of health professionals. Introduce a regular and transparent revision scheme for the minimum income and improve its coverage and adequacy.

 CZ	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	<p>1. Improve the long-term fiscal sustainability, in particular of the pension system. Address weaknesses in public procurement practices, notably by enabling more quality-based competition and by implementing anti-corruption measures.</p>	<p>1. Improve the long-term fiscal sustainability, in particular of the pension system. Address weaknesses in public procurement practices, notably by enabling more quality-based competition and by implementing anti-corruption measures.</p>	<p>1. Improve the long-term fiscal sustainability, in particular of the pension system. Address weaknesses in public procurement practices, in particular by enabling more quality-based competition and by implementing anti-corruption measures.</p>
	<p>2. Reduce the administrative burden on investment, including by speeding up permit procedures for infrastructure work. Remove the bottlenecks hampering research, development and innovation, in particular by increasing the innovation capacity of domestic firms. Strengthen the capacity of the education system to deliver quality inclusive education, including by promoting the teaching profession. Foster the employment of women, the low-skilled and disabled people, including by improving the effectiveness of active labour market policies.</p>	<p>2. Reduce the administrative burden on investment, including by speeding up permit procedures for infrastructure work. Remove the bottlenecks hampering research, development and innovation, in particular by increasing the innovation capacity of domestic firms. Strengthen the capacity of the education system to deliver quality inclusive education, including by promoting the teaching profession. Foster the employment of women, the low-skilled and disabled people, including by improving the effectiveness of active labour market policies.</p>	<p>2. Reduce the administrative burden on investment, including by speeding up permit procedures for infrastructure work. Remove the bottlenecks hampering research, development and innovation, in particular by increasing the innovation capacity of domestic firms. Strengthen the capacity of the education system to deliver quality inclusive education, including by promoting the teaching profession. Foster the employment of women, the low-skilled and disabled people, including by improving the effectiveness of active labour market policies.</p>


DK 	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	1. Increase competition in domestically oriented services sectors, for instance in the distribution of utilities, network industries and in the financial sector.	1. Increase competition in domestically oriented services sectors, for instance in the distribution of utilities, network industries and in the financial sector.	1. Increase competition in domestically oriented services sectors, for instance in the distribution of utilities and in the financial sector.

DE 	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	<p>1. While respecting the medium-term objective, use fiscal and structural policies to achieve a sustained upward trend in public and private investment, and in particular on education, research and innovation at all levels of government, notably at regional and municipal levels. Step up efforts to ensure the availability of very high-capacity broadband infrastructure nationwide. Improve the efficiency and investment friendliness of the tax system. Strengthen competition in business services and regulated professions.</p> <p>2. Reduce disincentives to work more hours, including the high tax wedge, in particular for low-wage and second earners. Take measures to promote longer working lives. Create conditions to promote higher wage growth, while respecting the role of the social partners. Improve educational outcomes and skills levels of disadvantaged groups.</p>	<p>1. While respecting the medium-term objective, use fiscal and structural policies to achieve a sustained upward trend in public and private investment, and in particular on education, research and innovation at all levels of government, notably at regional and municipal levels. Step up efforts to ensure the availability of very high-capacity broadband infrastructure nationwide. Improve the efficiency and investment friendliness of the tax system. Strengthen competition in business services and regulated professions.</p> <p>2. Reduce disincentives to work more hours, including the high tax wedge, in particular for low-wage and second earners. Take measures to promote longer working lives. Create conditions to promote higher wage growth, while respecting the role of the social partners. Improve educational outcomes and skills levels of disadvantaged groups.</p>	<p>1. While respecting the medium-term objective, use fiscal and structural policies to achieve a sustained upward trend in public and private investment, and in particular on education, research and innovation at all levels of government, in particular at regional and municipal levels. Step up efforts to ensure the availability of very high-capacity broadband infrastructure nationwide. Improve the efficiency and investment-friendliness of the tax system. Strengthen competition in business services and regulated professions.</p> <p>2. Reduce disincentives to work more hours, including the high tax wedge, in particular for low wage and second earners. Take measures to promote longer working lives. Create conditions to promote higher wage growth, while respecting the role of the social partners. Improve educational outcomes and skills levels of disadvantaged groups.</p>


 EE	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 4.1 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.6 % of GDP. Improve the adequacy of the social safety net, in particular for older people and people with disabilities. Take measures to reduce the gender pay gap, including by improving wage transparency in the private sector.</p> <p>2. Promote research and innovation, in particular by providing effective incentives for broadening the innovation base.</p>	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 4.1 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.6 % of GDP. Improve the adequacy of the social safety net, in particular for older people and people with disabilities. Take measures to reduce the gender pay gap, including by improving wage transparency in the private sector.</p> <p>2. Promote research and innovation, in particular by providing effective incentives for broadening the innovation base.</p>	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 4,1 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0,6 % of GDP. Improve the adequacy of the social safety net, in particular for older people and people with disabilities. Take measures to reduce the gender pay gap, including by improving wage transparency in the private sector.</p> <p>2. Promote research and innovation, in particular by providing effective incentives for broadening the innovation base.</p>


 IE	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	1. Achieve the medium-term budgetary objective in 2019. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. Limit the scope and the number of tax expenditures, and broaden the tax base. Address the expected increase in age-related expenditure by increasing the cost-effectiveness of the healthcare system and by pursuing the envisaged pension reforms.	1. Achieve the medium-term budgetary objective in 2019. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. Limit the scope and the number of tax expenditures, and broaden the tax base. Address the expected increase in age-related expenditure by increasing the cost-effectiveness of the healthcare system and by pursuing the envisaged pension reforms.	1. Achieve the medium-term budgetary objective in 2019. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. Limit the scope and the number of tax expenditures, and broaden the tax base. Address the expected increase in age-related expenditure by increasing the cost-effectiveness of the healthcare system and by pursuing the envisaged pension reforms.
	2. Ensure the timely and effective implementation of the National Development Plan, including in terms of clean energy, transport, housing, water services and affordable quality childcare. Prioritise the upskilling of the adult working-age population, with a focus on digital skills.	2. Ensure the timely and effective implementation of the National Development Plan, including in terms of clean energy, transport, housing, water services and affordable quality childcare. Prioritise the upskilling of the adult working-age population, with a focus on digital skills.	2. Ensure the timely and effective implementation of the National Development Plan, including in terms of clean energy, transport, housing, water services and affordable quality childcare. Prioritise the upskilling of the adult working-age population, with a focus on digital skills.
	3. Foster the productivity growth of Irish firms, and of small and medium enterprises in particular, by stimulating research and innovation with targeted policies, more direct forms of funding and more strategic cooperation with foreign multinationals, public research centres and universities. Promote faster and durable reductions in long-term arrears, building on initiatives for vulnerable households and encouraging write-offs of non-recoverable exposures.	3. Foster the productivity growth of Irish firms, and of small and medium enterprises in particular, by stimulating research and innovation with targeted policies, more direct forms of funding and more strategic cooperation with foreign multinationals, public research centres and universities. Promote faster and durable reductions in long-term arrears by the use of secondary markets, building on initiatives for vulnerable households and encouraging, where necessary, using write-offs of non-recoverable exposures.	3. Foster the productivity growth of Irish firms, and of small and medium enterprises in particular, by stimulating research and innovation with targeted policies, more direct forms of funding and more strategic cooperation with foreign multinationals, public research centres and universities. Promote faster and durable reductions in long-term arrears by the use of secondary markets, building on initiatives for vulnerable households and, where necessary, using write-offs of non-recoverable exposures.

 EL	Commission Recommendation(s) As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	Council Recommendation(s) to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	To avoid duplication with measures set out in the Economic Adjustment Programme , there are no additional recommendations for Greece.		

 ES	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	<p>1. Ensure compliance with the Council Decision of 8 August 2016 giving notice under the excessive deficit procedure, including through measures to enforce the fiscal and public procurement frameworks at all levels of government. Thereafter, ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 0.6% in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.65 % of GDP. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio.</p>	<p>1. Ensure compliance with the Council Decision of 8 August 2016 giving notice under the excessive deficit procedure, including through measures to enforce the fiscal and public procurement frameworks at all levels of government. Thereafter, ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 0.6% in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.65 % of GDP. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio.</p>	<p>1. Ensure compliance with Council Decision (EU) 2017/984 giving notice under the excessive deficit procedure, including through measures to enforce the fiscal and public procurement frameworks at all levels of government. Thereafter, ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 0,6 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0,65 % of GDP. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio.</p>
	<p>2. Ensure that employment and social services have the capacity to provide effective support for jobseekers, including through better cooperation with employers. Foster transitions towards open-ended contracts. Improve family support and address coverage gaps in income guarantee schemes, by simplifying the system of national schemes and reducing disparities in access conditions to regional ones. Reduce early school leaving and regional disparities in educational outcomes, in particular by better supporting students and teachers.</p>	<p>2. Ensure that employment and social services have the capacity to provide effective support for jobseekers, including through better cooperation with employers. Foster transitions towards open-ended contracts. Improve family support and address coverage gaps in increase the effectiveness of income guarantee schemes, by addressing coverage gaps, simplifying the system of national schemes and reducing disparities in access conditions to regional ones. Reduce early school leaving and regional disparities in educational outcomes, in particular by better supporting students and teachers.</p>	<p>2. Ensure that employment and social services have the capacity to provide effective support for jobseekers, including through better cooperation with employers. Foster transitions towards open-ended contracts. Improve family support and increase the effectiveness of income guarantee schemes, by addressing coverage gaps, simplifying the system of national schemes and reducing disparities in access conditions to regional ones. Reduce early school leaving and regional disparities in educational outcomes, in particular by better supporting students and teachers.</p>
	<p>3. Increase public investment in research and innovation and systematically carry out evaluations of support policies in this area to ensure their effectiveness. Increase cooperation between education and businesses with a view to mitigating existing skills mismatches. Further the implementation of the Law on Market Unity by ensuring that, at all levels of government, rules governing access to and exercise of economic</p>	<p>3. Increase public investment in research and innovation and systematically carry out evaluations of support policies in this area to ensure their effectiveness. Increase cooperation between education and businesses with a view to mitigating existing skills mismatches. Further the implementation of the Law on Market Unity by ensuring that, at all levels of government, rules governing access to and exercise of economic</p>	<p>3. Increase public investment in research and innovation and systematically carry out evaluations of support policies in this area to ensure their effectiveness. Increase cooperation between education and businesses with a view to mitigating existing skills mismatches. Further the implementation of the Law on Market Unity by ensuring that, at all levels of government, rules governing access to and exercise of economic</p>

	activities, notably for services, are in line with principles of that law and by improving cooperation between administrations.	activities, notably for services, are in line with principles of that law and by improving cooperation between administrations.	activities, in particular for services, are in line with principles of that Law and by improving cooperation between administrations.
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FR 	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 1.4 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.6 % of GDP. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. Implement expenditure savings in 2018 and fully specify the objectives and new measures needed in the context of Public Action 2022, for them to translate into concrete expenditure savings and efficiency gains measures in the 2019 budget. Progressively unify the rules of the different pension regimes to enhance their fairness and sustainability.</p> <p>2. Pursue the reforms of the vocational education and training system, to strengthen its labour market relevance and improve access to training, in particular for low qualified workers and jobseekers. Foster equal opportunities and access to the labour market, including for people with a migrant background and people living in deprived areas. Ensure that minimum wage developments are consistent with job creation and competitiveness.</p> <p>3. Simplify the tax system, by limiting the use of tax expenditures, removing inefficient taxes and reducing taxes on production levied on companies. Reduce the regulatory and administrative burden to increase competition in the services sector and to foster firms' growth. Step up efforts to increase the performance of the innovation system notably by improving the efficiency of public support schemes and strengthening knowledge transfer between public research institutions and firms.</p>	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 1.4 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.6 % of GDP. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. Implement expenditure savings in 2018 and fully specify the objectives and new measures needed in the context of Public Action 2022, for them to translate into concrete expenditure savings and efficiency gains measures in the 2019 budget. Progressively unify the rules of the different pension regimes to enhance their fairness and sustainability.</p> <p>2. Pursue the reforms of the vocational education and training system; to strengthen its labour market relevance and improve access to training, in particular for low-qualified workers and jobseekers. Foster equal opportunities and access to the labour market, including for people with a migrant background and people living in deprived areas. Ensure that minimum wage developments are consistent with job creation and competitiveness.</p> <p>3. Simplify the tax system, by limiting the use of tax expenditures, removing inefficient taxes and reducing taxes on production levied on companies. Reduce the regulatory and administrative burden to increase competition in the services sector and to foster firms' growth. Step up efforts to increase the performance of the innovation system notably by improving the efficiency of public support schemes and strengthening knowledge transfer between public research institutions and firms.</p>	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 1,4 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0,6 % of GDP. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. Implement expenditure savings in 2018 and fully specify the objectives and new measures needed in the context of Public Action 2022, for them to translate into concrete expenditure savings and efficiency gains measures in the 2019 budget. Progressively unify the rules of the different pension regimes to enhance their fairness and sustainability.</p> <p>2. Pursue the reforms of the vocational education and training system to strengthen its labour market relevance and improve access to training, in particular for low-qualified workers and jobseekers. Foster equal opportunities and access to the labour market, including for people with a migrant background and people living in deprived areas. Ensure that minimum wage developments are consistent with job creation and competitiveness.</p> <p>3. Simplify the tax system, by limiting the use of tax expenditures, removing inefficient taxes and reducing taxes on production levied on companies. Reduce the regulatory and administrative burden to increase competition in the services sector and to foster firms' growth. Step up efforts to increase the performance of the innovation system in particular by improving the efficiency of public support schemes and strengthening knowledge transfer between public research institutions and firms.</p>


 HR	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	1. Strengthen the fiscal framework, including by strengthening the mandate and independence of the Fiscal Policy Commission. Introduce a recurrent property tax.	1. Strengthen the fiscal framework, including by strengthening the mandate and independence of the Fiscal Policy Commission. Introduce a recurrent property tax.	1. Strengthen the fiscal framework, including by strengthening the mandate and independence of the Fiscal Policy Commission. Introduce a recurrent property tax.
	2. Discourage early retirement, accelerate the transition to a higher statutory retirement age and align pension provisions for specific categories with the rules of the general scheme. Deliver on the reform of the education and training system to improve its quality and labour market relevance for both young people and adults. Consolidate social benefits and improve their poverty reduction capacity.	2. Discourage early retirement, accelerate the transition to a higher statutory retirement age and align pension provisions for specific categories with the rules of the general scheme. Deliver on the reform of the education and training system to improve its quality and labour market relevance for both young people and adults. Consolidate social benefits and improve their poverty reduction capacity.	2. Discourage early retirement, accelerate the transition to a higher statutory retirement age and align pension provisions for specific categories with the rules of the general scheme. Deliver on the reform of the education and training system to improve its quality and labour market relevance for both young people and adults. Consolidate social benefits and improve their poverty reduction capacity.
	3. Reduce the territorial fragmentation of the public administration, streamline the functional distribution of competencies and enhance the capacity to design and implement public policies. In consultation with social partners, introduce harmonised wage-setting frameworks across the public administration and public services.	3. Reduce the territorial fragmentation of the public administration, streamline the functional distribution of competencies and enhance the capacity to design and implement public policies. In consultation with social partners, introduce harmonised wage-setting frameworks across the public administration and public services.	3. Reduce the territorial fragmentation of the public administration, streamline the functional distribution of competencies and enhance the capacity to design and implement public policies. In consultation with social partners, introduce harmonised wage-setting frameworks across the public administration and public services.
	4. Improve corporate governance in state-owned enterprises and intensify the sale of state-owned enterprises and non-productive assets. Significantly reduce the burden on businesses arising from parafiscal charges and from cumbersome administrative and legislative requirements. Enhance competition in business services and regulated professions. Reduce the duration of court proceedings and improve electronic communication in courts.	4. Improve corporate governance in state-owned enterprises and intensify the sale of state-owned enterprises and non-productive assets. Significantly reduce the burden on businesses arising from parafiscal charges and from cumbersome administrative and legislative requirements. Enhance competition in business services and regulated professions. Reduce the duration of court proceedings and improve electronic communication in courts.	4. Improve corporate governance in state-owned enterprises and intensify the sale of state-owned enterprises and non-productive assets. Significantly reduce the burden on businesses arising from parafiscal charges and from cumbersome administrative and legislative requirements. Enhance competition in business services and regulated professions. Reduce the duration of court proceedings and improve electronic communication in courts.


 IT	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 0.1 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.6 % of GDP. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. Shift taxation away from labour, including by reducing tax expenditure and reforming the outdated cadastral values. Step up efforts to tackle the shadow economy, including by strengthening the compulsory use of e-payments through lower legal thresholds for cash payments. Reduce the share of old-age pensions in public spending to create space for other social spending.</p> <p>2. Reduce the length of civil trials at all instances by enforcing and streamlining procedural rules, including those under consideration by the legislator. Achieve more effective prevention and repression of corruption by reducing the length of criminal trials and implementing the new anti-corruption framework. Ensure enforcement of the new framework for publicly-owned enterprises and increase the efficiency and quality of local public services. Address restrictions to competition, including in services, also through a new annual competition law.</p> <p>3. Maintain the pace of reducing the high stock of non-performing loans and support further bank balance sheet restructuring and consolidation, including for small and medium-sized banks, and promptly implement the insolvency reform. Improve market-based access to finance for firms.</p>	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 0.1 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.6 % of GDP. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. Shift taxation away from labour, including by reducing tax expenditure and reforming the outdated cadastral values. Step up efforts to tackle the shadow economy, including by strengthening the compulsory use of e-payments through lower legal thresholds for cash payments. Reduce the share of old-age pensions in public spending to create space for other social spending</p> <p>2. Reduce the length of civil trials at all instances by enforcing and streamlining procedural rules, including those under consideration by the legislator. Achieve more effective prevention and repression of corruption by reducing the length of criminal trials and implementing the new anti-corruption framework. Ensure enforcement of the new framework for publicly-owned enterprises and increase the efficiency and quality of local public services. Address restrictions to competition, including in services, also through a new annual competition law.</p> <p>3. Maintain the pace of reducing the high stock of non-performing loans and support further bank balance sheet restructuring and consolidation, including for small and medium-sized banks, and promptly implement the insolvency reform. Improve market-based access to finance for firms.</p>	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 0,1 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0,6 % of GDP. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. Shift taxation away from labour, including by reducing tax expenditure and reforming the outdated cadastral values. Step up efforts to tackle the shadow economy, including by strengthening the compulsory use of e-payments through lower legal thresholds for cash payments. Reduce the share of old-age pensions in public spending to create space for other social spending.</p> <p>2. Reduce the length of civil trials at all instances by enforcing and streamlining procedural rules, including those under consideration by the legislator. Achieve more effective prevention and repression of corruption by reducing the length of criminal trials and implementing the new anti-corruption framework. Ensure enforcement of the new framework for publicly-owned enterprises and increase the efficiency and quality of local public services. Address restrictions to competition, including in services, also through a new annual competition law.</p> <p>3. Maintain the pace of reducing the high stock of non-performing loans and support further bank balance sheet restructuring and consolidation, including for small and medium-sized banks, and promptly implement the insolvency reform. Improve market-based access to finance for firms.</p>


	<p>4. Step up implementation of the reform of active labour market policies to ensure equal access to effective job-search assistance and training. Encourage labour market participation of women through a comprehensive strategy, rationalising family-support policies and increasing the coverage of childcare facilities. Foster research, innovation, digital skills and infrastructure through better-targeted investment and increase participation in vocational-oriented tertiary education.</p>	<p>4. Step up implementation of the reform of active labour market policies to ensure equal access to effective job-search assistance and training. Encourage labour market participation of women through a comprehensive strategy, rationalising family-support policies and increasing the coverage of childcare facilities. Foster research, innovation, digital skills and infrastructure through better-targeted investment and increase participation in vocational-oriented tertiary education.</p>	<p>4. Step up implementation of the reform of active labour market policies to ensure equal access to effective job-search assistance and training. Encourage labour market participation of women through a comprehensive strategy, rationalising family-support policies and increasing the coverage of childcare facilities. Foster research, innovation, digital skills and infrastructure through better-targeted investment and increase participation in vocational-oriented tertiary education.</p>
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 CY	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	<p>1. Adopt key legislative reforms to improve efficiency in the public sector, in particular as regards the functioning of the public administration and the governance of state-owned entities and local governments.</p>	<p>1. Adopt key legislative reforms to improve efficiency in the public sector, in particular as regards the functioning of the public administration and the governance of state-owned entities and local governments.</p>	<p>1. Adopt key legislative reforms to improve efficiency in the public sector, in particular as regards the functioning of the public administration and the governance of State-owned entities and local governments.</p>
	<p>2. Step up efforts to improve the efficiency of the judicial system by revising civil procedures, increasing the specialisation of courts and setting up a fully operational e-justice system. Take measures to fully operationalise the insolvency and foreclosure frameworks and ensure reliable and swift systems for the issuance of title deeds and the transfer of immovable property rights.</p>	<p>2. Step up efforts to improve the efficiency of the judicial system by revising civil procedures, increasing the specialisation of courts and setting up a fully operational e-justice system. Take measures to fully operationalise the insolvency and foreclosure frameworks and ensure reliable and swift systems for the issuance of title deeds and the transfer of immovable property rights.</p>	<p>2. Step up efforts to improve the efficiency of the judicial system by revising civil procedures, increasing the specialisation of courts and setting up a fully operational e-justice system. Take measures to fully operationalise the insolvency and foreclosure frameworks and 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 implementing a comprehensive strategy, including legislative amendments allowing for the effective enforcement of claims and facilitating the sale of loans. Integrate and strengthen the supervision of insurance companies and pension funds.</p>	<p>3. Accelerate the reduction of non-performing loans by implementing a comprehensive strategy, including legislative amendments allowing for the effective enforcement of claims and facilitating the sale of loans. Integrate and strengthen the supervision of insurance companies and pension funds.</p>	<p>3. Accelerate the reduction of non-performing loans by implementing a comprehensive strategy, including legislative amendments allowing for the effective enforcement of claims and facilitating the sale of loans. Integrate and strengthen the supervision of insurance companies and pension funds.</p>
	<p>4. Prioritise the implementation of key elements of the action plan for growth, in particular fast-tracking strategic investments, and take additional measures to improve access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises. Improve the performance of state-owned enterprises including by resuming the implementation of privatisation projects.</p>	<p>4. Prioritise the implementation of key elements of the action plan for growth, in particular fast-tracking strategic investments, and take additional measures to improve access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises. Improve the performance of state-owned enterprises including by resuming the implementation of privatisation projects.</p>	<p>4. Prioritise the implementation of key elements of the action plan for growth, in particular fast-tracking strategic investments, and take additional measures to improve access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises. Improve the performance of State-owned enterprises including by resuming the implementation of privatisation projects.</p>
	<p>5. Complete reforms aimed at increasing the capacity and effectiveness of the public employment services and reinforce outreach and activation support for young people who are not in employment education or training. Complete the reform of the education and training system,</p>	<p>5. Complete reforms aimed at increasing the capacity and effectiveness of the public employment services and reinforce outreach and activation support for young people who are not in employment education or training. Complete the reform of the education and training system,</p>	<p>5. Complete reforms aimed at increasing the capacity and effectiveness of the public employment services and reinforce outreach and activation support for young people who are not in employment education or training. Complete the reform of the education and training system,</p>


	including teacher evaluation and actions to increase the capacity of vocational education and training. Take measures to ensure that the National Health System becomes fully functional in 2020, as planned.	including teacher evaluation and actions to increase the capacity of vocational education and training. Take measures to ensure that the National Health System becomes fully functional in 2020, as planned.	including teacher evaluation and actions to increase the capacity of vocational education and training. Take measures to ensure that the National Health System becomes fully functional in 2020, as planned.
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LV 	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	1. Achieve the medium-term budgetary objective in 2019, taking into account the allowances linked to the implementation of the structural reforms for which a temporary deviation is granted. Reduce taxation for low-income earners by shifting it to other sources, particularly capital and property, and by improving tax compliance.	1. Achieve the medium-term budgetary objective in 2019, taking into account the allowances linked to the implementation of the structural reforms for which a temporary deviation is granted. Reduce taxation for low-income earners by shifting it to other sources, particularly capital and property, and by improving tax compliance.	1. Achieve the medium-term budgetary objective in 2019, taking into account the allowances linked to the implementation of the structural reforms for which a temporary deviation is granted. Reduce taxation for low-income earners by shifting it to other sources, particularly capital and property, and by improving tax compliance.
	2. Improve the adequacy of minimum income benefits, minimum old-age pensions and income support for people with disabilities. Increase the labour market relevance of vocational education and training, and foster upskilling of low-skilled workers and jobseekers. Increase the accessibility, quality and cost-effectiveness of the healthcare system.	2. Improve the adequacy of minimum income benefits, minimum old-age pensions and income support for people with disabilities. Increase the labour market relevance of vocational education and training, and foster upskilling of low-skilled workers and jobseekers. Increase the accessibility, quality and cost-effectiveness of the healthcare system.	2. Improve the adequacy of minimum income benefits, minimum old-age pensions and income support for people with disabilities. Increase the labour market relevance of vocational education and training, and foster upskilling of low-skilled workers and jobseekers. Increase the accessibility, quality and cost-effectiveness of the healthcare system.
	3. Strengthen the efficiency of the public sector, in particular with regard to local authorities and state-owned enterprises. Strengthen the accountability of public administration by protecting whistleblowers, preventing conflicts of interest and following-up on the results of the ongoing assessment of past insolvency proceedings.	3. Strengthen the efficiency of the public sector, in particular with regard to local authorities and state-owned enterprises. Strengthen the accountability of public administration by protecting whistleblowers, preventing conflicts of interest and following-up on the results of the ongoing assessment of past insolvency proceedings.	3. Strengthen the efficiency of the public sector, in particular with regard to local authorities and state-owned enterprises. Strengthen the accountability of public administration by protecting whistleblowers, preventing conflicts of interest and following-up on the results of the ongoing assessment of past insolvency proceedings.


 LT	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	1. Improve tax compliance and broaden the tax base to sources less detrimental to growth. Ensure the long-term sustainability of the pension system while addressing the adequacy of pensions.	1. Improve tax compliance and broaden the tax base to sources less detrimental to growth. Ensure the long-term sustainability of the pension system while addressing the adequacy of pensions.	1. Improve tax compliance and broaden the tax base to sources less detrimental to growth. Ensure the long-term sustainability of the pension system while addressing the adequacy of pensions.
	2. Improve the quality, efficiency and labour market relevance of education and training, including adult learning. Improve the performance of the healthcare system by a further shift from hospital to outpatient care, strengthening disease prevention measures, including at local level, and increasing the quality and affordability of care. Improve the design of the tax and benefit system to reduce poverty and income inequality.	2. Improve the quality, efficiency and labour market relevance of education and training, including adult learning. Improve the performance of the healthcare system by a further shift from hospital to outpatient care, strengthening disease prevention measures, including at local level, and increasing the quality and affordability of care. Improve the design of the tax and benefit system to reduce poverty and income inequality.	2. Improve the quality, efficiency and labour market relevance of education and training, including adult learning. Improve the performance of the healthcare system by a further shift from hospital to outpatient care, strengthening disease prevention measures, including at local level, and increasing the quality and affordability of care. Improve the design of the tax and benefit system to reduce poverty and income inequality.
	3. Stimulate productivity growth by improving the efficiency of public investment, ensuring efficient governmental coordination of research and innovation policy and tackling gaps and inefficiencies in public measures supporting science-industry cooperation.	3. Stimulate productivity growth by improving the efficiency of public investment, ensuring efficient governmental coordination of research and innovation policy and tackling gaps and inefficiencies in public measures supporting science-industry cooperation.	3. Stimulate productivity growth by improving the efficiency of public investment, ensuring efficient governmental coordination of research and innovation policy and tackling gaps and inefficiencies in public measures supporting science-industry cooperation.


 LU	Commission Recommendation(s) As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	Council Recommendation(s) to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	1. Increase the employment rate of older people by enhancing their employment opportunities and employability while further limiting early retirement, with a view to also improving the long-term sustainability of the pension system.	1. Increase the employment rate of older people by enhancing their employment opportunities and employability while further limiting early retirement, with a view to also improving the long-term sustainability of the pension system.	1. Increase the employment rate of older people by enhancing their employment opportunities and employability while further limiting early retirement, with a view to also improving the long-term sustainability of the pension system.
	2. Further reduce regulatory restrictions in the business services sector.	2. Further reduce regulatory restrictions in the business services sector.	2. Further reduce regulatory restrictions in the business services sector.


 HU	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	<p>1. In 2018, ensure compliance with the Council recommendation of XX June 2018 with a view to correcting the significant deviation from the adjustment path toward the medium-term budgetary objective. In 2019, ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 3.9 %, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.75 % of GDP.</p> <p>2. Continue simplifying the tax system, in particular by reducing sector specific taxes. Improve the quality and transparency of the decision-making process through effective social dialogue and engagement with other stakeholders and by regular, adequate impact assessments. Reinforce the anti-corruption framework, strengthen prosecutorial efforts and improve transparency and competition in public procurement inter alia through making data gained from the e-procurement system accessible to the public. Strengthen competition, regulatory stability and transparency in the services sector, notably in retail.</p> <p>3. Unlock labour reserves through improving the quality of active labour market policies. Improve education outcomes and increase the participation of disadvantaged groups, in particular Roma, in quality and inclusive mainstream education. Improve the adequacy and coverage of social assistance and unemployment benefits</p>	<p>1. In 2018, ensure compliance with the Council recommendation of XX June 2018 with a view to correcting the significant deviation from the adjustment path toward the medium-term budgetary objective. In 2019, ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 3.9 %, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.75 % of GDP.</p> <p>2. Continue simplifying the tax system, in particular by reducing sector-specific taxes. Improve the quality and transparency of the decision-making process through effective social dialogue and engagement with other stakeholders and by regular, adequate impact assessments. Reinforce the anti-corruption framework, strengthen prosecutorial efforts and improve transparency and competition in public procurement inter alia through making data gained from further developing the e-procurement system accessible to the public. Strengthen competition, regulatory stability and transparency in the services sector, notably in retail.</p> <p>3. Unlock labour reserves through improving the quality of active labour market policies. Improve education outcomes and increase the participation of disadvantaged groups, in particular Roma, in quality and inclusive mainstream education. Improve the adequacy and coverage of social assistance and unemployment benefits.</p>	<p>1. In 2018, ensure compliance with the Council recommendation of ... June 2018 with a view to correcting the significant deviation from the adjustment path toward the medium-term budgetary objective. In 2019, ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 3,9 %, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0,75 % of GDP.</p> <p>2. Continue simplifying the tax system, in particular by reducing sector-specific taxes. Improve the quality and transparency of the decision-making process through effective social dialogue and engagement with other stakeholders and by regular, adequate impact assessments. Reinforce the anti-corruption framework, strengthen prosecutorial efforts and improve transparency and competition in public procurement inter alia through further developing the e-procurement system. Strengthen competition, regulatory stability and transparency in the services sector, in particular in retail.</p> <p>3. Unlock labour reserves through improving the quality of active labour market policies. Improve education outcomes and increase the participation of disadvantaged groups, in particular Roma, in quality and inclusive mainstream education. Improve the adequacy and coverage of social assistance and unemployment benefits.</p>


 MT	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	1. Strengthen the overall governance framework by enhancing the national supervision of internationally oriented financial businesses licensed in Malta, by ensuring the effective enforcement of the Anti-Money Laundering framework and by continuing to step up the fight against corruption.	1. Strengthen the overall governance framework by enhancing the national supervision of internationally oriented financial businesses licensed in Malta, by ensuring the effective enforcement of the Anti-Money Laundering framework and by continuing to step up the fight against corruption.	1. Strengthen the overall governance framework by enhancing the national supervision of internationally oriented financial businesses licensed in Malta, by ensuring the effective enforcement of the Anti-Money Laundering framework and by continuing to step up the fight against corruption.
	2. Ensure the sustainability of the health care and the pension systems, including by increasing the statutory retirement age and by restricting early retirement.	2. Ensure the sustainability of the health care and the pension systems, including by increasing the statutory retirement age and by restricting early retirement.	2. Ensure the sustainability of the healthcare and the pension systems, including by increasing the statutory retirement age and by restricting early retirement.


 AT	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	<p>1. Achieve the medium-term budgetary objective in 2019, taking into account the allowance linked to unusual events for which a temporary deviation is granted. Ensure the sustainability of the health and long-term care and the pension systems, including by increasing the statutory retirement age and by restricting early retirement. Make public services more efficient, including through aligning financing and spending responsibilities.</p> <p>2. Reduce the tax wedge, especially for low-income earners, by shifting the tax burden to sources of revenue less detrimental to growth. Improve labour market outcomes of women. Improve basic skills for disadvantaged young people and people with a migrant background. Support productivity growth by stimulating digitalisation of businesses and company growth and by reducing regulatory barriers in the service sector.</p>	<p>1. Achieve the medium-term budgetary objective in 2019, taking into account the allowance linked to unusual events for which a temporary deviation is granted. Ensure the sustainability of the health and long-term care and the pension systems, including by increasing the statutory retirement age and by restricting early retirement. Make public services more efficient, including through aligning financing and spending responsibilities.</p> <p>2. Reduce the tax wedge, especially for low-income earners, by shifting the tax burden to sources of revenue less detrimental to growth. Improve labour market outcomes of women. Improve basic skills for disadvantaged young people and people with a migrant background. Support productivity growth by stimulating digitalisation of businesses and company growth and by reducing regulatory barriers in the service sector.</p>	<p>1. Achieve the medium-term budgetary objective in 2019, taking into account the allowance linked to unusual events for which a temporary deviation is granted. Ensure the sustainability of the health and long-term care and the pension systems, including by increasing the statutory retirement age and by restricting early retirement. Make public services more efficient, including through aligning financing and spending responsibilities.</p> <p>2. Reduce the tax wedge, especially for low-income earners, by shifting the tax burden to sources of revenue less detrimental to growth. Improve labour market outcomes of women. Improve basic skills for disadvantaged young people and people with a migrant background. Support productivity growth by stimulating digitalisation of businesses and company growth and by reducing regulatory barriers in the service sector.</p>


PL 	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 4.2 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.6 % of GDP. Take steps to improve the efficiency of public spending, including by improving the budgetary process.	1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 4.2 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.6 % of GDP. Take steps to improve the efficiency of public spending, including by improving the budgetary process.	1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 4,2 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0,6 % of GDP. Take steps to improve the efficiency of public spending, including by improving the budgetary process.
	2. Take steps to increase labour market participation, including by improving access to childcare and by fostering labour market relevant skills, especially through adult learning, and remove remaining 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 reforming the preferential pension schemes.	2. Take steps to increase labour market participation, including by improving access to childcare and by fostering labour market relevant skills, especially through adult learning, and remove remaining 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 reforming the preferential pension schemes.	2. Take steps to increase labour market participation, including by improving access to childcare and by fostering labour market relevant skills, especially through adult learning, and remove remaining 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 reforming the preferential pension schemes.
	3. Strengthen the innovative capacity of the economy, including by supporting closer collaboration between business and research institutions. Improve the regulatory environment, in particular by ensuring effective public and social consultations in the legislative process.	3. Strengthen the innovative capacity of the economy, including by supporting closer collaboration between business and research institutions. Improve the regulatory environment, in particular by ensuring effective public and social consultations in the legislative process.	3. Strengthen the innovative capacity of the economy, including by supporting closer collaboration between business and research institutions. Improve the regulatory environment, in particular by ensuring effective public and social consultations in the legislative process.


 PT	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 0.7 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.6 % of GDP. Strengthen expenditure control, cost effectiveness and adequate budgeting, in particular in the health sector with a focus on the reduction of arrears in hospitals. Improve the financial sustainability of state-owned enterprises, in particular by increasing their overall net income and by reducing debt.</p>	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 0.7 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.6 % of GDP. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. Strengthen expenditure control, cost effectiveness and adequate budgeting, in particular in the health sector with a focus on the reduction of arrears in hospitals. Improve the financial sustainability of state-owned enterprises, in particular by increasing their overall net income and by reducing debt.</p>	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 0,7 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0,6 % of GDP. Use windfall gains to accelerate the reduction of the general government debt ratio. Strengthen expenditure control, cost effectiveness and adequate budgeting, in particular in the health sector with a focus on the reduction of arrears in hospitals. Improve the financial sustainability of state-owned enterprises, in particular by increasing their overall net income and by reducing debt.</p>
	<p>2. Promote an environment conducive to hiring on open-ended contracts, including by reviewing the legal framework in consultation with social partners. Increase the skills level of the adult population, including digital literacy, by strengthening and broadening the coverage of the training component in adult qualification programmes. Improve higher education uptake, namely in science and technology fields.</p>	<p>2. Promote an environment conducive to hiring on open-ended contracts, including by reviewing the legal framework in consultation with social partners. Increase the skills level of the adult population, including digital literacy, by strengthening and broadening the coverage of the training component in adult qualification programmes. Improve higher education uptake, namely in science and technology fields.</p>	<p>2. Promote an environment conducive to hiring on open-ended contracts, including by reviewing the legal framework in consultation with social partners. Increase the skills level of the adult population, including digital literacy, by strengthening and broadening the coverage of the training component in adult qualification programmes. Improve higher education uptake, namely in science and technology fields.</p>
	<p>3. Increase the efficiency of insolvency and recovery proceedings and reduce impediments to the secondary market for non-performing loans. Improve access to finance for businesses. Reduce the administrative burden by shortening procedural deadlines, using more tacit approval and reducing document submission requirements. Remove persistent regulatory restrictions by ensuring a proper implementation of the framework law for highly regulated professions. Increase the efficiency of administrative courts, inter alia by decreasing the length of proceedings.</p>	<p>3. Increase the efficiency of insolvency and recovery proceedings and reduce impediments to the secondary market for non-performing loans. Improve access to finance for businesses. Reduce the administrative burden by shortening procedural deadlines, using more tacit approval and reducing document submission requirements. Remove persistent regulatory restrictions by ensuring a proper implementation of the framework law for highly regulated professions. Increase the efficiency of administrative courts, inter alia by decreasing the length of proceedings.</p>	<p>3. Increase the efficiency of insolvency and recovery proceedings and reduce impediments to the secondary market for non-performing loans. Improve access to finance for businesses. Reduce the administrative burden by shortening procedural deadlines, using more tacit approval and reducing document submission requirements. Remove persistent regulatory restrictions by ensuring a proper implementation of the framework law for highly regulated professions. Increase the efficiency of administrative courts, inter alia by decreasing the length of proceedings.</p>


 RO	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	<p>1. Ensure compliance with the Council recommendation of XX June 2018 with a view to correcting the significant deviation from the adjustment path toward the medium-term budgetary objective. Ensure the full application of the fiscal framework. Strengthen tax compliance and collection.</p>	<p>1. Ensure compliance with the Council recommendation of XX June 2018 with a view to correcting the significant deviation from the adjustment path toward the medium-term budgetary objective. Ensure the full application of the fiscal framework. Strengthen tax compliance and collection.</p>	<p>1. Ensure compliance with the Council recommendation of ... June 2018 with a view to correcting the significant deviation from the adjustment path toward the medium-term budgetary objective. Ensure the full application of the fiscal framework. Strengthen tax compliance and collection.</p>
	<p>2. Complete the minimum inclusion income reform. Improve the functioning of social dialogue. Ensure minimum wage setting based on objective criteria. Improve upskilling and the provision of quality mainstream education, in particular for Roma and children in rural areas. Improve access to healthcare, including through the shift to outpatient care.</p>	<p>2. Complete the minimum inclusion income reform. Improve the functioning of social dialogue. Ensure minimum wage setting based on objective criteria. Improve upskilling and the provision of quality mainstream education, in particular for Roma and children in rural areas. Improve access to healthcare, including through the shift to outpatient care.</p>	<p>2. Complete the minimum inclusion income reform. Improve the functioning of social dialogue. Ensure minimum wage setting based on objective criteria. Improve upskilling and the provision of quality mainstream education, in particular for Roma and children in rural areas. Improve access to healthcare, including through the shift to outpatient care.</p>
	<p>3. Increase the predictability of decision-making by enforcing the systematic and effective use of regulatory impact assessment and stakeholder consultation and involvement in the design and implementation of reforms. Improve the preparation and prioritization of large infrastructure projects and accelerate their implementation, particularly in the transport, waste and waste water sectors. Improve the transparency and efficiency of public procurement. Strengthen the corporate governance of state-owned enterprises.</p>	<p>3. Increase the predictability of decision-making by enforcing the systematic and effective use of regulatory impact assessment and stakeholder consultation and involvement in the design and implementation of reforms. Improve the preparation and prioritization of large infrastructure projects and accelerate their implementation, particularly in the transport, waste and waste water sectors. Improve the transparency and efficiency of public procurement. Strengthen the corporate governance of state-owned enterprises.</p>	<p>3. Increase the predictability of decision-making by enforcing the systematic and effective use of regulatory impact assessment and stakeholder consultation and involvement in the design and implementation of reforms. Improve the preparation and prioritization of large infrastructure projects and accelerate their implementation, particularly in the transport, waste and waste water sectors. Improve the transparency and efficiency of public procurement. Strengthen the corporate governance of State-owned enterprises.</p>

 SI	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 3.1 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.65 % of GDP. Adopt and implement the healthcare and health insurance act and the planned reform of long-term care. Ensure the long-term sustainability and adequacy of the pension system, including by increasing the statutory retirement age and by restricting early retirement. Increase the employability of low-skilled and older workers through lifelong learning and activation measures.</p>	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 3.1 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.65 % of GDP. Adopt and implement the healthcare and health insurance act and the planned reform of long-term care. Ensure the long-term sustainability and adequacy of the pension system, including by increasing the statutory retirement age and by restricting early retirement. Increase the employability of low-skilled and older workers through lifelong learning and activation measures.</p>	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 3,1 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0,65 % of GDP. Adopt and implement the Healthcare and Health Insurance Act and the planned reform of long-term care. Ensure the long-term sustainability and adequacy of the pension system, including by increasing the statutory retirement age and by restricting early retirement. Increase the employability of low-skilled and older workers through lifelong learning and activation measures.</p>
	<p>2. Develop alternative sources of financing for fast-growing companies. Lower the barriers for market entry through the revision of product market regulation and limiting administrative burden. Enhance competition, professionalisation and independent oversight in public procurement. Carry out the privatisations according to the existing plans.</p>	<p>2. Develop alternative sources of financing for fast-growing companies. Lower the barriers for market entry through the revision of product market regulation and limiting administrative burden. Enhance competition, professionalisation and independent oversight in public procurement. Carry out the privatisations according to the existing plans.</p>	<p>2. Develop alternative sources of financing for fast-growing companies. Lower the barriers for market entry through the revision of Product Market Regulation and limiting administrative burden. Enhance competition, professionalisation and independent oversight in public procurement. Carry out the privatisations in line with to the existing plans.</p>

 SK	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 4.1 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.5 % of GDP. Implement measures to increase the cost effectiveness of the healthcare system and develop a more effective healthcare workforce strategy.</p>	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 4.1 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.5 % of GDP. Implement measures to increase the cost effectiveness of the healthcare system and develop a more effective healthcare workforce strategy.</p>	<p>1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 4,1 % in 2019, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0,5 % of GDP. Implement measures to increase the cost effectiveness of the healthcare system and develop a more effective healthcare workforce strategy.</p>
	<p>2. Reinforce activation and upskilling measures, including quality targeted training and individualised services for disadvantaged groups, in particular by delivering on the action plan for the long-term unemployed. Foster women's employment, especially by extending affordable, quality childcare. Improve the quality and inclusiveness of education, including by increasing the participation of Roma children in mainstream education from early childhood onwards.</p>	<p>2. Reinforce activation and upskilling measures, including quality targeted training and individualised services for disadvantaged groups, in particular by delivering on the action plan for the long-term unemployed. Foster women's employment, especially by extending affordable, quality childcare. Improve the quality and inclusiveness of education, including by increasing the participation of Roma children in mainstream education from early childhood onwards.</p>	<p>2. Reinforce activation and upskilling measures, including quality targeted training and individualised services for disadvantaged groups, in particular by delivering on the action plan for the long-term unemployed. Foster women's employment, especially by extending affordable, quality childcare. Improve the quality and inclusiveness of education, including by increasing the participation of Roma children in mainstream education from early childhood onwards.</p>
	<p>3. Increase the use of quality-related and lifecycle cost criteria in public procurement operations. Tackle corruption, including by ensuring enforcement of existing legislation and by increasing accountability at the level of police and prosecution. Improve the effectiveness of the justice system, in particular by safeguarding independence in judicial appointment procedures. Reduce the fragmentation of the public research system and stimulate business innovation, including for small and medium-sized enterprises.</p>	<p>3. Increase the use of quality-related and lifecycle cost criteria in public procurement operations. Tackle corruption, including by ensuring enforcement of existing legislation and by increasing accountability at the level of police and prosecution. Improve the effectiveness of the justice system, in particular by safeguarding independence in judicial appointment procedures. Reduce the fragmentation of the public research system and stimulate business innovation, including for small and medium-sized enterprises.</p>	<p>3. Increase the use of quality-related and lifecycle cost criteria in public procurement operations. Tackle corruption, including by ensuring enforcement of existing legislation and by increasing accountability at the level of police and prosecution. Improve the effectiveness of the justice system, in particular by safeguarding independence in judicial appointment procedures. Reduce the fragmentation of the public research system and stimulate business innovation, including for small and medium-sized enterprises.</p>

 FI	Commission Recommendation(s) As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	Council Recommendation(s) to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	1. Achieve the medium-term budgetary objective in 2019, taking into account the allowances linked to the implementation of the structural reforms for which a temporary deviation is granted. Ensure the adoption and implementation of the administrative reform to improve cost-effectiveness and equal access to social and healthcare services.	1. Achieve the medium-term budgetary objective in 2019, taking into account the allowances linked to the implementation of the structural reforms for which a temporary deviation is granted. Ensure the adoption and implementation of the administrative reform to improve cost-effectiveness and equal access to social and healthcare services.	1. Achieve the medium-term budgetary objective in 2019, taking into account the allowances linked to the implementation of the structural reforms for which a temporary deviation is granted. Ensure the adoption and implementation of the administrative reform to improve cost-effectiveness and equal access to social and healthcare services.
	2. Improve incentives to accept work and ensure adequate and well-integrated services for the unemployed and the inactive.	2. Improve incentives to accept work and ensure adequate and well-integrated services for the unemployed and the inactive.	2. Improve incentives to accept work and ensure adequate and well-integrated services for the unemployed and the inactive.
	3. Strengthen the monitoring of household debt including by setting up a credit registry system.	3. Strengthen the monitoring of household debt including by setting up a credit registry system.	3. Strengthen the monitoring of household debt including by setting up a credit registry system.

 SE	<u>Commission Recommendation(s)</u> As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	<u>Council Recommendation(s)</u> to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	<p>1. Address risks related to high household debt by gradually reducing the tax deductibility of mortgage interest payments or increasing recurrent property taxes. Stimulate residential construction where shortages are most pressing, notably by removing structural obstacles to construction, 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 high household debt by gradually reducing the tax deductibility of mortgage interest payments or increasing recurrent property taxes. Stimulate residential construction where shortages are most pressing, notably by removing structural obstacles to construction, 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 high household debt by gradually reducing the tax deductibility of mortgage interest payments or increasing recurrent property taxes. Stimulate residential construction where shortages are most pressing, in particular by removing structural obstacles to construction, 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>

 UK	Commission Recommendation(s) As proposed on 23 May 2018	Council vs. Commission Text Modifications	Council Recommendation(s) to be approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018
	1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 1.6 % in 2019-2020, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.6 % of GDP.	1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 1.6 % in 2019-2020, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0.6 % of GDP.	1. Ensure that the nominal growth rate of net primary government expenditure does not exceed 1,6 % in 2019-2020, corresponding to an annual structural adjustment of 0,6 % of GDP.
	2. Boost housing supply, particularly in areas of highest demand, including through additional reforms to the planning system.	2. Boost housing supply, particularly in areas of highest demand, including through additional reforms to the planning system.	2. Boost housing supply, particularly in areas of highest demand, including through additional reforms to the planning system.
	3. Address skills and progression needs by setting outcome targets for the quality and the effectiveness of apprenticeships and by investing more in upskilling those already in the labour force.	3. Address skills and progression needs by setting outcome targets for the quality and the effectiveness of apprenticeships and by investing more in upskilling those already in the labour force.	3. Address skills and progression needs by setting targets for the quality and the effectiveness of apprenticeships and by investing more in upskilling those already in the labour force.

This study compares the draft 2018 Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) proposed by the Commission on 23 May 2018 with the 2018 CSRs agreed on the Council Committee level and approved by the Council (ECOFIN) on 22 June 2018. These CSRs are to be generally endorsed by the European Council on 28-29 June 2018 and formally adopted by the Council (ECOFIN) on 13 July 2018. 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*".

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