

The  
G7 Research Group  
at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at Trinity College  
in the University of Toronto presents the

## 2018 Charlevoix G7 Final Compliance Report

10 June 2018 — 25 July 2019

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*“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”*

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

*G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?*

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,  
in *G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit*

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#### 4. Macroeconomic Policy: Growth that Works for Everyone

“We will continue monitoring market developments and using all policy tools to support strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth that generates widespread prosperity.”

*G7 Charlevoix Leaders Communiqué*

##### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+1	

##### Background

Echoing the Canadian G7 presidency’s summit priority of inclusive growth, the 2018 Charlevoix summit communiqué states: “global economic outlook continues to improve, but too few citizens have benefitted from that economic growth.”<sup>664</sup> The 2018 Charlevoix Summit acknowledges the sole use of traditional indicators of economic growth, such as gross domestic product, are insufficient to measure economic well-being and prosperity.<sup>665</sup> The communiqué endorses the Charlevoix Commitment on Equality and Economic Growth to “eradicate poverty, advance gender equality, foster income equality, ensure better access to financial resources, and decent work and quality of life for all.”<sup>666</sup> In an effort to improve living standards and facilitate inclusive growth for all sectors of the population, the G7 members commit to monitoring market developments and using all policy tools — fiscal, monetary and structural reforms — to generate widespread prosperity.<sup>667</sup>

Over the past decade, economic growth has been one of the foremost concerns of the G7. The approaches to achieving economic growth have relied on the utilization of different policy tools — monetary, fiscal and structural — with varying degrees of emphasis from one summit to another. At the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit, G7 members committed to using fiscal policy and structural reforms to “foster growth by promoting education and innovation” and “increasing productivity by further implementing structural reforms.”<sup>668</sup> At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 members affirmed the collective intention to use all policy tools at their disposal to “strengthen global demand and address supply constraints, while continuing our efforts to put debt on a sustainable path.”<sup>669</sup> At the

<sup>664</sup> G7 Charlevoix Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

<sup>665</sup> G7 Charlevoix Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

<sup>666</sup> G7 Charlevoix Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

<sup>667</sup> G7 Charlevoix Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>

<sup>668</sup> G7 Schloss Elmau Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

<sup>669</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>

2017 Taormina Summit, a key economic commitment affirmed by G7 members was to “use all policy tools — monetary, fiscal, and structural — individually and collectively to achieve strong, sustainable, balance and inclusive growth.”<sup>670</sup>

## Commitment Features

### Part One: Monitoring Market Developments

The first part of this commitment, to “continue monitoring market developments,” refers to the self-accountability of G7 members in supervising their domestic market developments.<sup>671</sup> This commitment does not necessitate the surveillance or collection of data, but G7 members can substantiate their pledge to “monitor” such developments through actions including but not limited to providing a report, following-up on promises, and employing other self-accountability mechanisms.<sup>672</sup> Such monitoring can be applied to examples such as the labor or financial markets.

#### *A. Labour Market Development*

With regards to the labour market, examples of compliance with monitoring market developments include collaboration with the private sector to ensure that education and workforce development keep pace with technological changes and meet the changing needs of the labour market, or adapting social protection systems to support those in non-standard forms of work.<sup>673</sup>

The G7 communique also emphasizes gender equality in ensuring that the labor market is developing towards inclusiveness.<sup>674</sup> Examples of compliance to the gender dimension of this commitment would include but is not limited to: increased efforts to reduce the gender pay gap, encouraging female leadership in corporations, ensuring inclusive hiring processes and allocating resources towards programming and benefits for maternity and parental leave.<sup>675</sup>

The G7 member also committed to inclusive marketed developments by ensuring equal access to opportunity for all citizens “as reflected by the incomes and opportunities for education within families across generations.”<sup>676</sup> Examples of measures to address this issue include programs and policies that support individuals from families that historically have not been able to attend post-secondary school due to socio-economic or historical circumstances.<sup>677</sup> Other examples include measures to make education accessible to age groups that are not conventionally included.<sup>678</sup>

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<sup>670</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>

<sup>671</sup> Compliance Coding Guide for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 May 2016. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/index.html>

<sup>672</sup> Compliance Coding Guide for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 May 2016. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/index.html>

<sup>673</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>

<sup>674</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>

<sup>675</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>

<sup>676</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>

<sup>677</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>

<sup>678</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>

### *B. Financial Market Development*

Examples of inclusive financial market development may include private-public partnerships to foster inclusivity in business ecosystems, or regulations and market policies to ensure that competition is viewed as a source of long-term growth.<sup>679</sup> Other forms of inclusive financial market development may include the digitalization of the economy, such as regulations of cryptocurrency, or acts to close digital loopholes for tax evasion through the use of non-traditional forms of currency.<sup>680</sup>

To achieve compliance in the first section of this commitment, the G7 member must demonstrate that it has continuously monitored market developments such as the aforementioned examples.

### **Part Two: Using Policy Tools**

The second part of this commitment is concerned with the implementation of policy reforms to ensure that market developments are “strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive.”<sup>681</sup> “All policy tools” is interpreted as fiscal policy, monetary policy, and structural reforms — the three pillars of macroeconomic policy tools.

To define the respective macroeconomic policy tools: monetary policy is the macroeconomic policy laid down by the central bank. It involves the management of the money supply and interest rate and is the demand side economic policy used by the government of a country to achieve macroeconomic objectives like inflation, consumption, growth, and liquidity. Fiscal policy is the means by which a government adjusts its spending levels and tax rates to monitor and influence a nation’s economy. It is the sister strategy to monetary policy through which a central bank influences a nation’s money supply. Structural reform refers to a set of economic policies often introduced as a condition for gaining a loan from the International Monetary Fund. Structural adjustment policies usually involve a combination of free-market policies such as privatization, fiscal austerity, free trade, and deregulation.<sup>682</sup>

Examples of each policy tool are listed below.

A. Fiscal Policy: investing in infrastructure that stimulates job creation, accessible education, programming for digital literacy, foundational and social skills.

B. Monetary Policy: reaffirming exchange rate commitments made in Bari during the G7 finance ministers and central banks governor meet during Italy’s G7 Presidency in 2017. This exchange rate commitment strives to reduce global imbalances in a way that supports global growth and refrain from targeted exchange rates or currency devaluation for competitive purposes.

C. Structural Reforms: creating an inclusive and fair tax system that supports continuous tax capacity-building to advance sustainable development.<sup>683</sup> This addresses issues of tax evasion, corruption, money laundering, and terrorist financing. Such actions also incorporate elements of fair tax regulation by creating a job market whereby individuals cannot escape paying taxes, particularly for

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<sup>679</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>

<sup>680</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>

<sup>681</sup> G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html>

<sup>682</sup> 2016 G20 Hangzhou Summit Final Compliance Report, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 6 July 2017. Access Date: 14 October 2018. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/compliance/2016hangzhou-final/2016-g20-final-compliance.pdf>

<sup>683</sup> G7 Finance Ministers and Central Banks Governors Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Bari) 13 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/finance/170513-communique.html>

individuals employed in non-standard forms of work (ex. Informal employment of payment by cash).<sup>684</sup>

To achieve full compliance, the G7 member must both monitor market developments and leverage all three types of policy tools (fiscal, monetary, and structural reforms, as defined above) to support strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth. Partial compliance will be scored if the G7 member only complied with the former or latter half of this commitment. This means that the G7 member takes actions toward implementing some or all three policy tools, or continues to monitor market developments. Non-compliance, or a score of -1, will be assigned if the G7 member fails to monitor market developments, and did not use any of the three policy tools to support inclusive growth.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member did NOT continue to monitor market developments AND has made NO progress towards using all three policy tools to support strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.
0	The G7 member continued to monitor market developments OR made SOME progress towards using all three policy tools to support strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.
+1	The G7 member continued to monitor market developments AND used all three policy tools to support strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

*Compliance Director: Georgina Merhom  
Lead Analyst: Kareem Shabin*

### Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to continue monitoring market developments and using all policy tools to support strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth that generates widespread prosperity.

On 13 June 2018, the Bank of Canada announced its partnership with the Creative Destruction Lab. This partnership aims to gain a better understanding of the latest cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, crypto-asset technologies, and quantum computing.<sup>685</sup>

On 21 June 2018, the Department of Finance Canada welcomed the Royal Assent of the Budget Implementation Act, 2018, No. 1.<sup>686</sup> It introduced the Canada Workers Benefit, which “will allow low-income workers to take home more money while they work.”<sup>687</sup> Further, it strengthened the Canada Child Benefit by pegging the benefits that families receive for raising their children with inflation.

<sup>684</sup> G7 Finance Ministers and Central Banks Governors Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Bari) 13 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/finance/170513-communiqué.html>

<sup>685</sup> Bank of Canada Partners with Creative Destruction Lab to Deepen Knowledge of New Technologies, Bank of Canada (Ottawa) 13 June 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2018/06/bank-canada-partners-with-creative-destruction-lab/>

<sup>686</sup> Government’s Plan to Strengthen and Grow the Middle Class Receives Royal Assent, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 21 June 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-051-eng.asp>

<sup>687</sup> Government’s Plan to Strengthen and Grow the Middle Class Receives Royal Assent, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 21 June 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-051-eng.as>

On 21 June 2018, the Government of Canada introduced legislation known as the Multilateral Instrument in Parliament to fight “tax avoidance strategies that lead to base erosion and profit shifting.”<sup>688</sup>

On 16 July 2018, the Government of Canada introduced a programme titled “Future Skills.”<sup>689</sup> This programme intends to “help Canadians prepare for, get and keep jobs as innovation and technology continue to place new demands on workers’ skills and training.”<sup>690</sup> Automation, robotics and artificial intelligence are a few examples of the programming being introduced.<sup>691</sup>

On 9 August 2018, the Department of Finance Canada announced that the Canadian Government is working with private credit card unions such as Visa and MasterCard to lower interchange fees for Canada’s small and medium-sized businesses.<sup>692</sup>

On 13 September 2018, the Government of Canada announced a further reduction in the Employment Insurance premium rate for Canadian workers.<sup>693</sup> The program was designed to help Canadians in times of need and to make “maternity and parental benefits more flexible and inclusive.”<sup>694</sup>

On 30 September 2018, the United States, Canada, and Mexico reached an agreement on a new trilateral trade agreement known as the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA).<sup>695</sup> The agreement will commit the parties to refrain from competitive currency devaluations. It will also introduce mechanisms to review currency policy, once it enters into force.<sup>696</sup> Furthermore, the agreement includes provisions to enforce anti-corruption laws and enhance government transparency.<sup>697</sup>

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<sup>688</sup> Parliament Supports Next Step in Fight Against Aggressive International Tax Avoidance, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 21 June 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-052-eng.asp>

<sup>689</sup> Future Skills, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 16 July 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/future-skills.html>

<sup>690</sup> Future Skills, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 16 July 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/future-skills.html>

<sup>691</sup> Future Skills, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 16 July 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/future-skills.html>

<sup>692</sup> New Agreements to Deliver Lower Credit Card Costs for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 9 August 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-069-eng.asp>

<sup>693</sup> Statement on the Employment Insurance Premium Rate Change for 2019 by the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Department of Finance Canada (Gatineau) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-078-eng.asp>

<sup>694</sup> Statement on the Employment Insurance Premium Rate Change for 2019 by the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Department of Finance Canada (Gatineau) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-078-eng.asp>

<sup>695</sup> Joint Statement from United States Representative Robert Lighthizer and Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 30 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2018/09/joint-statement-from-united-states-trade-representative-robert-lighthizer-and-canadian-foreign-affairs-minister-chrystia-freeland.html>

<sup>696</sup> Joint Statement by the Secretary of the Treasury and Finance Minister of Mexico, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 17 October 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm527>

<sup>697</sup> United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Text, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington D.C.) 1 October 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://ustr.gov/trade-agreements/free-trade-agreements/united-states-mexico-canada-agreement/united-states-mexico>

On 10 October 2018, the Bank of Canada launched the Partnerships in Innovation and Technology program. This program works with the private sector to “fast-track innovation in its economic analysis and research, as well as in its day-to-day operations.”<sup>698</sup>

On 19 October 2018, the Government of Canada announced the launch of the Women Entrepreneurship Fund to advance gender equality and help women-owned and women-led businesses in Canada.<sup>699</sup>

On 19 October 2018, the Government of Canada announced an investment commitment of up to CAD49.9 million to protect Canadian steelworkers in Ontario and Quebec.<sup>700</sup> This investment aims to support the steel producers’ capabilities to enhance their productivity and sustain their competitiveness.

On 25 October 2018, Finance Minister Bill Morneau tabled a Notice of Ways and Means Motion in Parliament.<sup>701</sup> This motion is intended to provide “more help to Canadians most in need, including low-income workers, families, and children.”<sup>702</sup>

On 26 October 2018, the Government of Canada announced an investment of CAD5.3 million for John J. Sark Memorial School, a school located in an indigenous community on Prince Edward Island.<sup>703</sup> This investment will bring upgrades to school facilities and provide “spaces for Mi’kmaq language and culture education.”<sup>704</sup>

On 29 October 2018, the Government of Canada introduced the Pay Equity Act.<sup>705</sup> The legislation will ensure that women working in federally regulated workplaces will be fairly compensated for work

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<sup>698</sup> Bank of Canada Launches New Programs to Foster Collaboration with Innovators, Bank of Canada (Ottawa) 10 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2018/10/bank-canada-launches-new-program-foster-collaboration-with-innovators/>

<sup>699</sup> Minister Ng Announces Funding for Women’s Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Delta) 19 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2018/10/minister-ng-announces-funding-for-womens-entrepreneurship.html>

<sup>700</sup> Government Announces Support for 6,400 Canadian Steel Workers in Ontario and Quebec, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Hamilton) 19 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2018/10/government-announces-support-for-6400-canadian-steel-workers-in-ontario-and-quebec.html>

<sup>701</sup> Minister Morneau Takes Next Steps to Support Equality and Growth for A Strong Middle Class, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 25 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-099-eng.asp>

<sup>702</sup> Minister Morneau Takes Next Steps to Support Equality and Growth for A Strong Middle Class, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 25 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-099-eng.asp>

<sup>703</sup> Lennox Island and Government of Canada Announces Expansion and Upgrades to John J. Sark Memorial School, Indigenous Services Canada (Lennox Island) 26 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2018/10/lennox-island-and-government-of-canada-announce-expansion-and-upgrades-to-john-j-sark-memorial-school.html>

<sup>704</sup> Lennox Island and Government of Canada Announces Expansion and Upgrades to John J. Sark Memorial School, Indigenous Services Canada (Lennox Island) 26 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2018/10/lennox-island-and-government-of-canada-announce-expansion-and-upgrades-to-john-j-sark-memorial-school.html>

<sup>705</sup> Government of Canada introduces historic proactive pay equity legislation, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 29 October 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/10/government-of-canada-introduces-historic-proactive-pay-equity-legislation.html>



of equal value.<sup>706</sup> A Pay Equity Commissioner will be appointed to educate employers and employees about their rights under the new law, and enforce the new regulations of the Pay Equity Act.<sup>707</sup>

On 14 November 2018, the Bank of Canada launched the Financial System Hub to promote “timely analysis and research on financial stability issues.”<sup>708</sup> The Financial System Hub will aid in digitalizing the economy and promoting “a stable and efficient financial system.”<sup>709</sup>

On 21 November 2018, the Department of Finance announced its plan to foster economic growth in its 2018 Fall Economic State: Investing in Middle Class Jobs.<sup>710</sup> This plan includes measures to modernize federal regulations in order to sustain competitiveness, create a Social Finance Fund, and advance gender-based pay equity.<sup>711</sup>

On 11 December 2018, the Government of Canada launched the Apprenticeship Incentive Grant for Women.<sup>712</sup> By providing grants of up to CAD6,000 per year, this initiative is intended to incentivize the participation of women in Red Seal trades, where they are currently under-represented.<sup>713</sup>

On 13 December 2018, the Department of Finance Canada welcomed the Royal Assent of Budget Implementation Act, 2018, No. 2.<sup>714</sup> This plan includes the new Employment Insurance Parental Sharing Benefit, which will “encourage the broader participation of women in the workforce.”<sup>715</sup> It also aims to build a strong middle class and “make it easier for businesses to compete and Canadians to succeed.”<sup>716</sup>

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<sup>706</sup> Government of Canada introduces historic proactive pay equity legislation, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 29 October 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/10/government-of-canada-introduces-historic-proactive-pay-equity-legislation.html>

<sup>707</sup> Government of Canada introduces historic proactive pay equity legislation, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 29 October 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/10/government-of-canada-introduces-historic-proactive-pay-equity-legislation.html>

<sup>708</sup> Bank of Canada Launches Digital Hub for Promoting a Stable and Efficient Financial System, Bank of Canada (Ottawa) 14 November 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2018/11/bank-canada-launches-digital-hub/>

<sup>709</sup> Bank of Canada Launches Digital Hub for Promoting a Stable and Efficient Financial System, Bank of Canada (Ottawa) 14 November 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2018/11/bank-canada-launches-digital-hub/>

<sup>710</sup> 2018 Fall Economic Statement: Investing in Middle Class Jobs, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 21 November 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-107-eng.asp>

<sup>711</sup> 2018 Fall Economic Statement: Investing in Middle Class Jobs, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 21 November 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-107-eng.asp>

<sup>712</sup> Government of Canada launches new Apprenticeship Incentive Grant for Women to help them get certified in Red Seal Trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/12/government-of-canada-launches-new-apprenticeship-incentive-grant-for-women-to-help-them-get-certified-in-red-seal-trades--apply-today.html>

<sup>713</sup> Government of Canada launches new Apprenticeship Incentive Grant for Women to help them get certified in Red Seal Trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/12/government-of-canada-launches-new-apprenticeship-incentive-grant-for-women-to-help-them-get-certified-in-red-seal-trades--apply-today.html>

<sup>714</sup> Government’s Plan to Invest in the Middle Class Receives Royal Assent, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-121-eng.asp>

<sup>715</sup> Government’s Plan to Invest in the Middle Class Receives Royal Assent, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-121-eng.asp>

<sup>716</sup> Government’s Plan to Invest in the Middle Class Receives Royal Assent, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-121-eng.asp>

On 18 December 2018, the Government of Canada announced the allocation of additional funding of up to CAD5 million to service providers across Canada over the next three years, in order to promote employment opportunities for newcomer women.<sup>717</sup>

On 18 December 2018, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources announced the allocation of more than CAD1.6 billion for workers and their families in Canada's oil and gas sectors.<sup>718</sup> This action will foster the competitiveness of Canada's energy sector while providing employment programming to aid in training and skills development for workers to meet the changing needs of the labour market.<sup>719</sup>

On 11 January 2019, the government of Canada announced the Digital Literacy Exchange program with an investment amounting to CAD750,000.<sup>720</sup> This program will provide assistance to workers in need, especially newcomers to Canada, people with disabilities, and people from minority backgrounds. The program aims to support the development of up-to-date skills, ensuring that "no one is left behind as the world transitions to a digital economy."<sup>721</sup>

On 23 January 2019, the Prime Minister announced special funding for Dene High School in La Loche, a remote indigenous community in Saskatchewan.<sup>722</sup> The funding will serve to support various services and programs for students, including cultural and language-based programs and mental health services, in an effort to provide quality education in an indigenous community.<sup>723</sup>

On 25 January 2019, the government of Canada announced an investment of CAD40 million in Nokia Canada.<sup>724</sup> The investment will go towards the procurement and development of 5G

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<sup>717</sup> Supporting Visible Minority Newcomer Women in St. John's, Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (St. John's) 18 December 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2018/12/supporting-visible-minority-newcomer-women-in-st-johns.html>

<sup>718</sup> Government of Canada Announces Support for Workers in Canada's Oil and Gas Sector, Natural Resources Canada (Edmonton) 18 December 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2018/12/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-workers-in-canadas-oil-and-gas-sector.html>

<sup>719</sup> Government of Canada Announces Support for Workers in Canada's Oil and Gas Sector, Natural Resources Canada (Edmonton) 18 December 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2018/12/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-workers-in-canadas-oil-and-gas-sector.html>

<sup>720</sup> Government of Canada Investing in Teaching Digital Skills to Canadians Who Need Them Most, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Mississauga) 11 January 2019. Access Date: 3 March 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/01/government-of-canada-investing-in-teaching-digital-skills-to-canadians-who-need-them-most.html>

<sup>721</sup> Government of Canada Investing in Teaching Digital Skills to Canadians Who Need Them Most, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Mississauga) 11 January 2019. Access Date: 3 March 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/01/government-of-canada-investing-in-teaching-digital-skills-to-canadians-who-need-them-most.html>

<sup>722</sup> Prime Minister Announces Funding for La Loche High School, Office of the Prime Minister (La Loche) 23 January 2019. Access Date: 3 March 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/releases>

<sup>723</sup> Prime Minister Announces Funding for La Loche High School, Office of the Prime Minister (La Loche) 23 January 2019. Access Date: 3 March 2019. <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/releases>

<sup>724</sup> Government of Canada invests in research and development for technologies behind 5G networks, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Kanata) 25 January 2019. Access Date: 13 March 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/01/government-of-canada-invests-in-research-and-development-for-technologies-behind-5g-networks.html>

infrastructure across Canada, and curate 5G technology to meet the needs of consumers and businesses alike.<sup>725</sup>

On 14 February 2019, the government of Canada announced the establishment of the Future Skills Centre and Future Skills Council.<sup>726</sup> These institutions will help Canadian workers develop skills that meet the future challenges of the labour market by funding various research and development projects across Canada.<sup>727</sup>

On 19 March 2019, Canada's Finance Minister Bill Morneau introduced Budget 2019 – Investing in the Middle Class.<sup>728</sup> Budget 2019 will introduce measures to make post-secondary education more accessible, strengthen tax compliance by enhancing existing government financial entities, create an annual CAD250 non-taxable credit for training programs, and increase investment in infrastructure via bilateral partnerships with the provinces and territories.<sup>729</sup>

On 3 April 2019, the Department of Finance amended the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation Act in an effort to build a more sound and resilient financial system.<sup>730</sup> The amendments included improvements to the coverage of mortgage tax accounts and the removal of travellers' cheques.<sup>731</sup>

On 15 April 2019, Canada's Minister of Small Business and Export Promotion announced up to CAD2,500,000 in funding through the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy Ecosystem Fund for an organization promoting women entrepreneurship.<sup>732</sup> This investment will promote women's economic empowerment and increase female participation in the workforce.<sup>733</sup>

On 18 April 2019, the government of Canada announced CAD41 million in federal funding for several Waterloo-based firms developing advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and quantum computing.<sup>734</sup> These investments will create new skilled jobs, encourage inclusive growth

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<sup>725</sup> Government of Canada invests in research and development for technologies behind 5G networks, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Kanata) 25 January 2019. Access Date: 13 March 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/01/government-of-canada-invests-in-research-and-development-for-technologies-behind-5g-networks.html>

<sup>726</sup> Government of Canada Takes Action to Ensure Canadian Workers are Prepared for the Jobs of Tomorrow, Department of Finance Canada (Toronto) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 2 March 2019. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n19/19-014-eng.asp>

<sup>727</sup> Government of Canada Takes Action to Ensure Canadian Workers are Prepared for the Jobs of Tomorrow, Department of Finance Canada (Toronto) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 2 March 2019. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n19/19-014-eng.asp>

<sup>728</sup> Budget 2019: Investing in the Middle Class to Grow Canada's Economy, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n19/19-022-eng.asp>

<sup>729</sup> Budget 2019: Investing in the Middle Class to Grow Canada's Economy, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n19/19-022-eng.asp>

<sup>730</sup> Government of Canada Promotes a Well-Functioning Financial System, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 3 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n19/19-038-eng.asp>

<sup>731</sup> Government of Canada Promotes a Well-Functioning Financial System, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 3 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n19/19-038-eng.asp>

<sup>732</sup> Minister Ng Announces Investment in Women Entrepreneurs, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Toronto) 15 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/04/minister-ng-announces-investment-in-women-entrepreneurs.html>

<sup>733</sup> Minister Ng Announces Investment in Women Entrepreneurs, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Toronto) 15 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/04/minister-ng-announces-investment-in-women-entrepreneurs.html>

<sup>734</sup> Government of Canada Partners with Digital Industries to Invest in Ground-Breaking Technology and Businesses, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Waterloo) 18 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/04/government-of-canada-partners-with-digital-industries-to-invest-in-ground-breaking-technology-and-businesses.html>

through innovation, and continue to facilitate the economic growth of technology-based businesses in the Waterloo region.<sup>735</sup>

On 26 April 2019, the government of Canada announced final actions to protect Canadian steel workers whose jobs had been threatened by U.S. tariffs and other unfair trade practices.<sup>736</sup> These measures included conducting comprehensive reviews of dumping cases and ensuring government support for domestic steel and aluminum industries in response to evolving market and social needs.<sup>737</sup>

On 24 May 2019, the federal government announced that it will invest approximately CAD2.2 million in seven development projects based in Yukon.<sup>738</sup> This federal investment will further innovation and provide support for local entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises based in the region.<sup>739</sup>

Canada has demonstrated efforts to comply with its commitment to monitoring market developments by introducing pro-competition regulation and advancing inclusive skill-based training programs. Furthermore, Canada has effectively utilized all three policy tools to stimulate job creation and prevent tax base erosion.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Zemin Liu*

#### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to continue monitoring market developments and using all policy tools to support strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth that generates widespread prosperity.

On 19 June 2018, at the ministerial meeting held in Schloss Meseberg outside Berlin, the German and French governments issued the “Meseberg Declaration.”<sup>740</sup> Most notably, this declaration lays out joint proposals for advancing corporate tax harmonization within the European Union.<sup>741</sup> These

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<sup>735</sup> Government of Canada Partners with Digital Industries to Invest in Ground-Breaking Technology and Businesses, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Waterloo) 18 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/04/government-of-canada-partners-with-digital-industries-to-invest-in-ground-breaking-technology-and-businesses.html>

<sup>736</sup> Final Safeguards to be Imposed to Protect Canadian Steel Workers, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 26 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n19/19-046-eng.asp>

<sup>737</sup> Final Safeguards to be Imposed to Protect Canadian Steel Workers, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 26 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/n19/19-046-eng.asp>

<sup>738</sup> Government of Canada investment boosts innovation and SMEs in Yukon, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (Whitehorse) 24 May 2019. Access Date: 20 June 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/northern-economic-development/news/2019/05/government-of-canada-investment-boosts-innovation-and-smes-in-yukon.html>

<sup>739</sup> Government of Canada investment boosts innovation and SMEs in Yukon, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (Whitehorse) 24 May 2019. Access Date: 20 June 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/northern-economic-development/news/2019/05/government-of-canada-investment-boosts-innovation-and-smes-in-yukon.html>

<sup>740</sup> Meeting of German and French government ministers in Meseberg, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 20 June 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018.

<https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Europe/Articles/2018-06-20-Meseberg.html>

<sup>741</sup> Meeting of German and French government ministers in Meseberg, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 20 June 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018.

<https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Europe/Articles/2018-06-20-Meseberg.html>

proposals were then presented by France and Germany to European Union agencies, including the Eurogroup and the Economic and Financial Affairs Council.<sup>742</sup>

On 1 August 2018, the French Parliament voted on the law “From the Freedom to choose One’s Professional Future.”<sup>743</sup> The law will come into force on 5 September 2018, and it requires companies to be transparent about gender wage pay gaps and implement equal pay between genders. The law introduces financial consequences for companies that fail to meet these obligations. Companies must comply with these regulations by 1 January 2019.<sup>744</sup>

On 1 August 2018, Minister for the Economy and Finance Bruno LeMaire met with the Italian Minister of Economy and Finance, Giovanni Tria, to discuss economic and financial growth in France and Italy.<sup>745</sup> Tria and LeMaire reiterated their commitment towards the “adoption of the European Commission’s proposal for a digital service by the end of 2018,” in order to promote greater efficiency in the collection of taxes.<sup>746</sup> This meeting demonstrates France’s continued commitment to the digitalization of its economy and closing digital loopholes for tax evasion.

On 13 September 2018, President Emmanuel Macron unveiled plans for labour market reforms to combat poverty in France.<sup>747</sup> This plan includes expanding childcare to enable parents and caregivers to join the labour force.<sup>748</sup>

On 18 September 2018, Minister for the Economy and Finance Bruno LeMaire introduced an action plan to ease regulations on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).<sup>749</sup> This bill proposes various

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<sup>742</sup> Meeting of German and French government ministers in Meseberg, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 20 June 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018.

<https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Europe/Articles/2018-06-20-Meseberg.html>

<sup>743</sup> Adoption de la loi pour la Liberté de choisir son avenir professionnel, Ministère du Travail (Paris) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/adoption-de-la-loi-pour-la-liberte-de-choisir-son-avenir-professionnel>

<sup>744</sup> Adoption de la loi pour la Liberté de choisir son avenir professionnel, Ministère du Travail (Paris) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/adoption-de-la-loi-pour-la-liberte-de-choisir-son-avenir-professionnel>

<sup>745</sup> Press Release Number 120 of 08/01/2018, Ministero dell’ Economia e delle Finanze (Rome) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. [http://www.mef.gov.it/en/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2018/comunicato\\_0120.html](http://www.mef.gov.it/en/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2018/comunicato_0120.html)

<sup>746</sup> Press Release Number 120 of 08/01/2018, Ministero dell’ Economia e delle Finanze (Rome) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. [http://www.mef.gov.it/en/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2018/comunicato\\_0120.htm](http://www.mef.gov.it/en/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2018/comunicato_0120.htm)

<sup>747</sup> Transcription de la présentation par la Président de la République de la stratégie nationale de prévention de lutte contre la pauvreté, Présidence de la République (Paris) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <http://www.elysee.fr/declarations/article/transcription-de-la-presenteation-par-le-president-de-la-republique-de-la-strategie-nationale-de-prevention-de-lutte-contre-la-pauvrete/>

<sup>748</sup> Transcription de la présentation par la Président de la République de la stratégie nationale de prévention de lutte contre la pauvreté, Présidence de la République (Paris) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <http://www.elysee.fr/declarations/article/transcription-de-la-presenteation-par-le-president-de-la-republique-de-la-strategie-nationale-de-prevention-de-lutte-contre-la-pauvrete/>

<sup>749</sup> Le Plan d’Action pour la Croissance et la Transformation des Entreprises en 10 mesures, Ministère de l’Economie et des Finances (Paris) 18 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018.

[https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=B028C47F-6014-4B6F-A693-3F6AAA5B8436&filename=bro-18-24-pacte-web.pdf](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=B028C47F-6014-4B6F-A693-3F6AAA5B8436&filename=bro-18-24-pacte-web.pdf)

structural reforms. It will reduce taxes on SMEs, ease their ability to secure financing, and aid smaller companies in setting up online platforms to export their goods and services.<sup>750</sup>

On 24 September 2018, the 2019 Finance Bill was presented to the Council of Ministers.<sup>751</sup> A central aim of the bill was to tackle France's high unemployment rate by implementing fiscal policy and structural reforms.<sup>752</sup> The government committed to investing EUR2.5 billion in skills development and the reduction of unemployment.<sup>753</sup> The government also committed EUR8 billion to aid job-training programs for disadvantaged youth, in response to rising poverty.<sup>754</sup> Furthermore, the Finance Bill aims to make French companies more attractive and stimulate competition with various structural reforms.<sup>755</sup> The Finance Bill includes cuts in corporate taxes and simplification of the tax system.<sup>756</sup>

On 15 October 2018, the government of France launched the France Num initiative.<sup>757</sup> The objective of the France Num initiative is to promote the digitalization of SMEs. The state will provide tools, funding, and resources to assist them with digitalization.<sup>758</sup>

On 22 November 2018, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe unveiled a new support system to serve French territories with strong industrial bases.<sup>759</sup> The government will allocate approximately EUR1.36 billion in 124 industrial territories and provide administrative, technical and human resources.<sup>760</sup> The multi-faceted program is intended to stimulate job creation in local industries and attract investments in the sponsored territories.

On 17 December 2018, the French government announced its intention to tax Google, Apple, Facebook, and Amazon, among several other large technology companies, effective 1 January 2019.<sup>761</sup> The taxation of large technology businesses is intended to ensure that they cannot use

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<sup>750</sup> Le Plan d'Action pour la Croissance et la Transformation des Entreprises en 10 mesures, Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances (Paris) 18 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018.

[https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure\\_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=B028C47F-6014-4B6F-A693-3F6AAA5B8436&filename=bro-18-24-pacte-web.pdf](https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=B028C47F-6014-4B6F-A693-3F6AAA5B8436&filename=bro-18-24-pacte-web.pdf)

<sup>751</sup> Budget 2019: soutenir le travail, investor pour l'avenir, Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances (Paris) 24 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/projet-loi-finances-2019>

<sup>752</sup> Budget 2019: soutenir le travail, investor pour l'avenir, Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances (Paris) 24 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/projet-loi-finances-2019>

<sup>753</sup> The 2019 Finance Bill, Government of France (Paris) 1 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/the-2019-finance-bill>

<sup>754</sup> Budget 2019: soutenir le travail, investor pour l'avenir, Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances (Paris) 24 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/projet-loi-finances-2019>

<sup>755</sup> Budget 2019: soutenir le travail, investor pour l'avenir, Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances (Paris) 24 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/projet-loi-finances-2019>

<sup>756</sup> Budget 2019: soutenir le travail, investor pour l'avenir, Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances (Paris) 24 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/projet-loi-finances-2019>

<sup>757</sup> Lancement de France Num: un outil au service de la transformation numérique des entreprises, Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances (Paris) 15 October 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018.

<https://www.economie.gouv.fr/lancement-france-num-outil-au-service-transformation-numerique-des-entreprises>

<sup>758</sup> Lancement de France Num: un outil au service de la transformation numérique des entreprises, Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances (Paris) 15 October 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018.

<https://www.economie.gouv.fr/lancement-france-num-outil-au-service-transformation-numerique-des-entreprises>

<sup>759</sup> Accélérer le développement des territoires industriels, Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances (Paris) 22 November 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/conseil-national-industrie-2018>

<sup>760</sup> Accélérer le développement des territoires industriels, Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances (Paris) 22 November 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/conseil-national-industrie-2018>

<sup>761</sup> Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon, and other digital giants will be taxed as from 2019, French Government (Paris) 18 December 2018. Access Date: 10 March 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/google-apple-facebook-amazon-and-other-digital-giants-will-be-taxed-as-from-2019>

loopholes such as European tax havens to escape being fairly taxed. Minister of Economy and Finance Bruno Le Maire estimates that the tax will generate approximately EUR500 million in tax revenue.<sup>762</sup>

On 28 December 2018, the French Finance Act for 2019 was enacted.<sup>763</sup> The act introduces several new anti-abuse rules intended to disqualify financial arrangements that are not genuine in nature or primarily used to obtain tax benefits contrary to the law.<sup>764</sup>

On 14 February 2019, in conjunction with the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Economy and Finance announced that it will be conducting a study on the competitiveness of the French supply chain.<sup>765</sup> The proposed study will identify the strengths and weaknesses in France's logistics chain to ensure that it remains competitive for the various sectors of the French economy.<sup>766</sup>

On 8 April 2019, the National Assembly voted to introduce a new tax on large technology companies.<sup>767</sup> The purpose of the proposed tax is to maintain a balanced and efficient tax system that enables the national government to continue investing in critical social services.<sup>768</sup>

On 11 April 2019, the Plan d'Action pour la Croissance et la Transformation des Entreprises (PACTE – Action Plan for Business Growth and Transformation) became law as its final text was adopted.<sup>769</sup> The new law seeks to facilitate the growth of businesses in France by providing additional resources to SMEs, specifically by creating various investment channels and links between public research and the private sector.<sup>770</sup>

On 18 June 2019, Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire and central bank governor François Villeroy de Galhau announced that they will be forming a G7 task force to investigate Facebook's newly

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<sup>762</sup> Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon, and other digital giants will be taxed as from 2019, French Government (Paris) 18 December 2018. Access Date: 10 March 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/google-apple-facebook-amazon-and-other-digital-giants-will-be-taxed-as-from-2019>

<sup>763</sup> Le Conseil Constitutionnel Confirme La Conformite Des Principales Dispositions Du Projet De Loi De Finances Pour 2019, Ministère de l'Économie et des Finances (Paris) 28 December 2018. Access Date: 10 March 2019. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/presse>

<sup>764</sup> Le Conseil Constitutionnel Confirme La Conformite Des Principales Dispositions Du Projet De Loi De Finances Pour 2019, Ministère de l'Économie et des Finances (Paris) 28 December 2018. Access Date: 10 March 2019. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/presse>

<sup>765</sup> Lancement d'une mission sur la compétitive de la chaîne logistique en France, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 10 March 2019. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/lancement-dune-mission-sur-competitivite-chaîne-logistique-en-france>

<sup>766</sup> Lancement d'une mission sur la compétitive de la chaîne logistique en France, Ministère de la Transition écologique et solidaire (Paris) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 10 March 2019. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/lancement-dune-mission-sur-competitivite-chaîne-logistique-en-france>

<sup>767</sup> GAFA tax: A major step towards a fairer and more efficient tax system, French Government (Paris) 11 April 2019. Access Date: 1 June 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/gafa-tax-a-major-step-towards-a-fairer-and-more-efficient-tax-system>

<sup>768</sup> GAFA tax: A major step towards a fairer and more efficient tax system, French Government (Paris) 11 April 2019. Access Date: 1 June 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/gafa-tax-a-major-step-towards-a-fairer-and-more-efficient-tax-system>

<sup>769</sup> PACTE, the Action Plan for Business Growth and Transformation, French Government (Paris) 11 April 2019. Access Date: 1 June 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/pacte-the-action-plan-for-business-growth-and-transformation>

<sup>770</sup> PACTE, the Action Plan for Business Growth and Transformation, French Government (Paris) 11 April 2019. Access Date: 1 June 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/pacte-the-action-plan-for-business-growth-and-transformation>

launched crypto-currency, “Libra.”<sup>771</sup> The working group will research a regulatory framework to ensure that the cryptocurrency is not utilized for illicit activities.<sup>772</sup>

France has demonstrated efforts towards monitoring developments in the labour and financial markets and implementing all policy tools to promote and sustain economic growth.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Matthew Kronberg and Sana Shaban*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to continue monitoring market developments and using all policy tools to support strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth that generates widespread prosperity.

On 19 June 2018, at the ministerial meeting held in Schloss Meseberg outside Berlin, the German and French governments issued the “Meseberg Declaration.”<sup>773</sup> Most notably, this declaration lays out joint proposals for advancing corporate tax harmonization within the European Union.<sup>774</sup> These proposals were then presented by France and Germany to EU agencies, including the Eurogroup and the Economic and Financial Affairs Council.<sup>775</sup>

On 6 July 2018, Germany’s Federal Cabinet adopted the government draft of the 2019 federal budget and the financial plan to 2022.<sup>776</sup> A total of EUR151.6 billion in investment spending is planned for the four years between 2019 to 2022, and a special focus will be placed on digitalization of the economy and education.<sup>777</sup> Within the total spending, a special digital infrastructure fund of EUR2.4 billion will be allocated to support the expanding and upgrading of the broadband network and the implementation of the “digital compact for schools.”<sup>778</sup> In addition, a total of EUR5.5 billion is

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<sup>771</sup> Facebook’s Libra Currency Draws Instant Response From Regulators, Financial Times (Paris/London) 18 June 2019. Access Date: 23 June 2019. <https://www.ft.com/content/5535fb3a-91ea-11e9-b7ea-60e35ef678d2>

<sup>772</sup> Facebook’s Libra Currency Draws Instant Response From Regulators, Financial Times (Paris/London) 18 June 2019. Access Date: 23 June 2019. <https://www.ft.com/content/5535fb3a-91ea-11e9-b7ea-60e35ef678d2>

<sup>773</sup> Meeting of German and French government ministers in Meseberg, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 20 June 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Europe/Articles/2018-06-20-Meseberg.html>

<sup>774</sup> Meeting of German and French government ministers in Meseberg, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 20 June 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Europe/Articles/2018-06-20-Meseberg.html>

<sup>775</sup> Meeting of German and French government ministers in Meseberg, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 20 June 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Europe/Articles/2018-06-20-Meseberg.html>

<sup>776</sup> Draft 2019 budget and financial plan to 2022: forward-looking, fair and responsible, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 6 July 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2018/2018-07-27-2019-budget.html>

<sup>777</sup> Draft 2019 budget and financial plan to 2022: forward-looking, fair and responsible, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 6 July 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2018/2018-07-27-2019-budget.html>

<sup>778</sup> Draft 2019 budget and financial plan to 2022: forward-looking, fair and responsible, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 6 July 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2018/2018-07-27-2019-budget.html>



planned to be spent on improving childcare facilities.<sup>779</sup> The Federal government is also planning to provide roughly EUR1 billion in funding for training, job placement and labour market integration measures targeting the long-term unemployed population.<sup>780</sup>

On 18 July 2018, the federal government adopted the “Key Points for a Federal Strategy on Artificial Intelligence,” which set out the government’s goals and fields of action for its artificial intelligence (AI) strategies.<sup>781</sup> The fields of action include: “funding for research into and development of AI, the transfer of research findings into commercial use, the fostering of new AI-based business models and products, and policy measures to ensure that the changes on the labour and training market are shaped in a socially acceptable manner.”<sup>782</sup> The Federal government is planning to run a nation-wide consultation process to finalize the AI Strategy, which will be presented at the 2018 Digital Summit in Nuremberg in December.<sup>783</sup>

On 18 July 2018, the Federal Cabinet decided to set up the “Equal Living Standards” (Gleichwertige Lebensverhältnisse) Commission, which comprises of Federal Ministers (such as Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth), provincial government officials, and local associations. The mandate of this commission is to provide concrete strategies and proposals on how to ensure equal living standards across Germany. It particularly focuses on issues relating to infrastructure construction, social service provision, and labor participation.<sup>784</sup>

On 10 August 2018, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy released a statement to announce that “inter-company vocational training centers can receive higher grants for digital equipment,” and the Ministry will fund “up to 90% of [companies] investment ... [in] ... further and advanced training [of workers].”<sup>785</sup> This initiative is designed to improve the quality of vocational training for employees in small and medium-sized enterprises.<sup>786</sup>

On 22 August 2018, the Federal Cabinet announced its appointments to the newly-established advisory body, “the Digital Council.”<sup>787</sup> This Council mainly comprises of experts in the fields of

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<sup>779</sup> Draft 2019 budget and financial plan to 2022: forward-looking, fair and responsible, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 6 July 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018.

<https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2018/2018-07-27-2019-budget.html>

<sup>780</sup> Draft 2019 budget and financial plan to 2022: forward-looking, fair and responsible, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 6 July 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018.

<https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2018/2018-07-27-2019-budget.html>

<sup>781</sup> Artificial Intelligence, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 18 July 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Artikel/Technology/artificial-intelligence.html>

<sup>782</sup> Artificial Intelligence, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 18 July 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Artikel/Technology/artificial-intelligence.html>

<sup>783</sup> Artificial Intelligence, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 18 July 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Artikel/Technology/artificial-intelligence.html>

<sup>784</sup> Gemeinsam für gleichwertige Lebensverhältnisse in ganz Deutschland, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 18 July 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/gemeinsam-fuer-gleichwertige-lebensverhaeltnisse-in-ganz-deutschland/127204>

<sup>785</sup> Higher Grants for Digitalization in Advanced Training Institutions, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 10 August 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2018/20180810-hoehere-zuschuesse-fuer-die-digitalisierung-von-weiterbildungseinrichtungen.html>

<sup>786</sup> Higher Grants for Digitalization in Advanced Training Institutions, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 10 August 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2018/20180810-hoehere-zuschuesse-fuer-die-digitalisierung-von-weiterbildungseinrichtungen.html>

<sup>787</sup> Digital Council — experts to drive us forward, The Federal Government (Berlin) 22 August 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/digital-council-experts-to-drive-us-forward-1504862>.

digital technologies, including academics and entrepreneurs. The Council will meet at least twice a year with the Chancellor and other members of the government. It is designed to facilitate public-private consultations about issues of digitalization.<sup>788</sup>

On 29 August 2018, the Federal Cabinet decided to establish a new agency to promote breakthrough innovations.<sup>789</sup> This agency will allow innovation stakeholders (especially universities, non-university research establishments, and companies) to freely pursue research that has the potential for breakthrough innovations.<sup>790</sup> It will financially support innovation experts to translate their groundbreaking findings into marketable products. The overall purpose of this agency is to create new products, new business models and new high-quality jobs in Germany.<sup>791</sup>

On 5 September 2018, the Data Ethics Commission created by the Federal government began its operations.<sup>792</sup> This Commission comprises of 16 experts from various fields such as law, computer science, and ethics. Its tasks are to propose “ethical guidelines for making data policy and dealing with algorithms, artificial intelligence, and digital innovation and providing recommendations for action.”<sup>793</sup>

On 7 November 2018, the Economic Affairs Ministry of the Federal Government hosted the 2018 Mittelstand-Digital Congress to facilitate public-private conversation around artificial intelligence and digitalization of the economy.<sup>794</sup> The focus of this conversation is on how small and medium-sized enterprises can benefit from artificial intelligence, as well as the potential challenges generated by digitalization.<sup>795</sup>

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<sup>788</sup> Digital Council — experts to drive us forward, The Federal Government (Berlin) 22 August 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/digital-council-experts-to-drive-us-forward-1504862>

<sup>789</sup> Federal Cabinet decides to set up agency to promote breakthrough innovations, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 29 August 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2018/20180829-gm-pm-bundeskabinett-beschliesst-agentur-zur-foerderung-von-sprunginnovationen.html>

<sup>790</sup> Federal Cabinet decides to set up agency to promote breakthrough innovations, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 29 August 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2018/20180829-gm-pm-bundeskabinett-beschliesst-agentur-zur-foerderung-von-sprunginnovationen.html>

<sup>791</sup> Federal Cabinet decides to set up agency to promote breakthrough innovations, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 29 August 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2018/20180829-gm-pm-bundeskabinett-beschliesst-agentur-zur-foerderung-von-sprunginnovationen.html>

<sup>792</sup> Data Ethics Commission goes to work, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 5 September 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2018/data-ethics-commission.html>

<sup>793</sup> Data Ethics Commission goes to work, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 5 September 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2018/data-ethics-commission.html>

<sup>794</sup> Minister Altmaier: “AI is becoming a reality — also in the German Mittelstand,” Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 7 November 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2018/20181107-altmaier-ai-is-becoming-a-reality-also-in-the-german-mittelstand.html>

<sup>795</sup> Minister Altmaier: “AI is becoming a reality — also in the German Mittelstand,” Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 7 November 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2018/20181107-altmaier-ai-is-becoming-a-reality-also-in-the-german-mittelstand.html>

On 26 September 2018, the “Equal Living Standards” Commission (Gleichwertige Lebensverhältnisse) began its operations.<sup>796</sup> As Federal Minister of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Franziska Giffey emphasizes, this Commission will be tasked with providing strategies to ensure universal access to social welfare programs across the entire country, especially access to education and job training.<sup>797</sup>

On 13 November 2018, the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women, and Youth, in partnership with the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, kicked off the second round of funding for the “Encouraging Youth in the Neighborhood” program.<sup>798</sup> EUR97 million will be provided by the European Social Fund for Germany, and EUR4 million will be provided by the Federal Government.<sup>799</sup> This funding will last for three and a half years, and it is meant to provide assistance to socially disadvantaged young people in their transition from school to work through measures such as vocational training.<sup>800</sup>

On 16 November 2018, the Federal Cabinet adopted the Federal Government’s Artificial Intelligence Strategy.<sup>801</sup> This strategy focuses on achieving the following objectives, including “accelerating the transfer of research findings to businesses, promoting the availability of skilled workers and experts, shaping the structural change in enterprises and on the labor market, adjusting the regulatory framework ... deepening European and international cooperation on AI issues and fostering the societal dialogue on the opportunities and the impact of artificial intelligence.”<sup>802</sup> The German Government is planning to allocate approximately EUR3 billion between 2018 to 2025 in order to implement the Strategy.<sup>803</sup>

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<sup>796</sup> Auftaktsitzung der Kommission „Gleichwertige Lebensverhältnisse,” Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/auftaktsitzung-der-kommission--gleichwertige-lebensverhaeltnisse-/128540>

<sup>797</sup> Auftaktsitzung der Kommission „Gleichwertige Lebensverhältnisse,” Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 26 September 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/auftaktsitzung-der-kommission--gleichwertige-lebensverhaeltnisse-/128540>

<sup>798</sup> Hilfen für junge Menschen beim Einstieg in das Arbeitsleben, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 15 November 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/hilfen-fuer-junge-menschen-beim-einstieg-in-das-arbeitsleben/130718>

<sup>799</sup> Hilfen für junge Menschen beim Einstieg in das Arbeitsleben, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 15 November 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/hilfen-fuer-junge-menschen-beim-einstieg-in-das-arbeitsleben/130718>

<sup>800</sup> Hilfen für junge Menschen beim Einstieg in das Arbeitsleben, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 15 November 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/hilfen-fuer-junge-menschen-beim-einstieg-in-das-arbeitsleben/130718>

<sup>801</sup> Federal Government adopts Artificial Intelligence Strategy, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 16 November 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2018/20181116-federal-government-adopts-artificial-intelligence-strategy.html>

<sup>802</sup> Federal Government adopts Artificial Intelligence Strategy, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 16 November 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2018/20181116-federal-government-adopts-artificial-intelligence-strategy.html>

<sup>803</sup> AI — a brand for Germany, The Federal Government (Berlin) 15 November 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/ai-a-brand-for-germany-1551432>

On 23 November 2018, the German Bundestag passed the 2019 budget plan, which was already adopted by the Federal Cabinet.<sup>804</sup> Under this plan, a significant amount of funds will be used on “improv[ing] schools and childcare ... train[ing] the long-term unemployed ... developing digital infrastructure ... [and] on promoting research and on digital education for the people.”<sup>805</sup>

On 9 January 2019, the federal government passed the draft of the Strong Families Law.<sup>806</sup> This law will support families with lower incomes, provide better opportunities for children to participate in education, redesign child’s allowance and supplement, and improve benefits for education and participation for children.<sup>807</sup> According to the new law, by July 2019, the child supplement will increase to EUR185 per child per month and also be made available for single parents.<sup>808</sup> Moreover, the benefits for education, such as school starter packages, will increase from EUR100 to EUR150 per year.<sup>809</sup>

On 20 February 2019, the federal Cabinet passed a bill to reduce illegal employment, combat social security fraud, and strengthen existing labour laws.<sup>810</sup> By reducing illegal employment, undeclared work and non-traditional forms of employment that do not feed into the tax system, the federal government will address tax base erosion by ensuring that individuals cannot escape paying taxes.<sup>811</sup>

On 20 March 2019, the federal Cabinet adopted the draft federal budget for 2020 and the 2020 – 2023 financial plan.<sup>812</sup> The Cabinet adopted record investments, extensive tax cuts, and comprehensive steps towards social cohesion to ensure that “economic success reaches everyone in

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<sup>804</sup> Security for the generations to come, The Federal Government (Berlin) 23 November 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/security-for-the-generations-to-come-1554564>

<sup>805</sup> Security for the generations to come, The Federal Government (Berlin) 23 November 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/security-for-the-generations-to-come-1554564>

<sup>806</sup> Mehr Unterstützung für Familien mit kleinen Einkommen - Für starke Familien und gegen Kinderarmut, The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 9 January 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/mehr-unterstuetzung-fuer-familien-mit-kleinen-einkommen--fuer-starke-familien-und-gegen-kinderarmut/132244>

<sup>807</sup> Mehr Unterstützung für Familien mit kleinen Einkommen - Für starke Familien und gegen Kinderarmut, The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 9 January 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/mehr-unterstuetzung-fuer-familien-mit-kleinen-einkommen--fuer-starke-familien-und-gegen-kinderarmut/132244>

<sup>808</sup> Mehr Unterstützung für Familien mit kleinen Einkommen - Für starke Familien und gegen Kinderarmut, The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 9 January 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/mehr-unterstuetzung-fuer-familien-mit-kleinen-einkommen--fuer-starke-familien-und-gegen-kinderarmut/132244>

<sup>809</sup> Mehr Unterstützung für Familien mit kleinen Einkommen - Für starke Familien und gegen Kinderarmut, The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 9 January 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/mehr-unterstuetzung-fuer-familien-mit-kleinen-einkommen--fuer-starke-familien-und-gegen-kinderarmut/132244>

<sup>810</sup> Neues Gesetz für mehr Ordnung Fairness auf dem Arbeitsmarkt, Bundesministerium de Finanzen (Berlin) 20 February 2019. Access Date: 13 March 2019. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/DE/Standardartikel/Themen/Zoll/2019-02-20-FKS.html>

<sup>811</sup> Neues Gesetz für mehr Ordnung Fairness auf dem Arbeitsmarkt, Bundesministerium de Finanzen (Berlin) 20 February 2019. Access Date: 13 March 2019. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/DE/Standardartikel/Themen/Zoll/2019-02-20-FKS.html>

<sup>812</sup> 2020 Federal Budget and Financial Plan 2020-2023: For cooperation and innovation, The Federal Government (Berlin) 20 March 2019. Access Date: 9 June 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/for-cooperation-and-innovation-1592412>

the country.”<sup>813</sup> Special attention will be given to digitalization, as over EUR5.5 billion will be used to develop the digital infrastructure of schools nationwide, “of which EUR5 billion will be provided by the Federal Government.”<sup>814</sup>

On 20 March 2019, the Bundestag approved Strong Families Act.<sup>815</sup> This law will introduce improvements to the education and participation package, which aims to provide fair education and training opportunities to children regardless of their financial situation. Under the new law, funding for purchasing school materials will rise from EUR100 to EUR150 per student per school year, and families will no longer be required to “pay part of the cost of school meals and school transport.”<sup>816</sup>

On 15 May 2019, the Cabinet approved an amendment to the Vocational Training Act, in order to attract more participants to dual vocational education and training.<sup>817</sup> Under this amendment, the federal government will offer minimum remuneration for trainees. The Cabinet states that: “initially, the minimum remuneration in the first year of training is to be 515 euros a month. In 2021, this will rise to 550 euros, in 2022 to 585 euros and in 2023 to 620 euros.”<sup>818</sup> Furthermore, this amendment will extend access to part-time vocational training to a larger population, including “migrants, refugees, people with learning difficulties and people with disabilities.”<sup>819</sup>

On 23 May 2019, the federal government announced that it will invest EUR500 million in the implementation of its national Artificial Intelligence Strategy.<sup>820</sup> The investment will focus on different aspects of AI promotion, including “research, transfer...public dialogue, impact assessment, skills and data availability.”<sup>821</sup> Around EUR230 million in funding will be invested in measures that “transfer AI expertise into practice,” and roughly EUR55 million in funding will support government

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<sup>813</sup> Kabinett setzt Prioritäten für sozialen Zusammenhalt und ein modernes Land, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 20 March 2019. Access Date: 9 June 2019.

<https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/DE/Pressemitteilungen/Finanzpolitik/2019/03/2019-03-20-pm-eckwertebeschluss.html>

<sup>814</sup> Kabinett setzt Prioritäten für sozialen Zusammenhalt und ein modernes Land, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 20 March 2019. Access Date: 9 June 2019.

<https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/DE/Pressemitteilungen/Finanzpolitik/2019/03/2019-03-20-pm-eckwertebeschluss.html>

<sup>815</sup> Strong Families Act : More support for low-income families, The Federal Government (Berlin) 21 March 2019. Access Date: 9 June 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/chancellor/more-support-for-low-income-families-1593086>

<sup>816</sup> Strong Families Act : More support for low-income families, The Federal Government (Berlin) 21 March 2019. Access Date: 9 June 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/chancellor/more-support-for-low-income-families-1593086>

<sup>817</sup> Vocational Training Act: Further strengthening dual vocational education, The Federal Government (Berlin) 15 May 2019. Access Date: 9 June 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/further-strengthening-dual-vocational-education-1611962>

<sup>818</sup> Vocational Training Act: Further strengthening dual vocational education, The Federal Government (Berlin) 15 May 2019. Access Date: 9 June 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/further-strengthening-dual-vocational-education-1611962>

<sup>819</sup> Vocational Training Act: Further strengthening dual vocational education, The Federal Government (Berlin) 15 May 2019. Access Date: 9 June 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/further-strengthening-dual-vocational-education-1611962>

<sup>820</sup> Federal Government gives €500 million boost to funding for artificial intelligence, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 23 May 2019. Access Date: 9 June 2019. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2019/20190523-federal-government-gives-500-million-boost-to-funding-for-artificial-intelligence.html>

<sup>821</sup> Federal Government gives €500 million boost to funding for artificial intelligence, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 23 May 2019. Access Date: 9 June 2019. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2019/20190523-federal-government-gives-500-million-boost-to-funding-for-artificial-intelligence.html>

involvement in “public dialogue and participation, [AI] impact assessment...regulatory framework [establishment], and the promotion of [digital literacy] vocational training.”<sup>822</sup>

Germany has made significant progress in monitoring market developments and supporting strong, inclusive and sustainable economic growth. In addition, it has also promoted digitalization of the economy, particularly through the adoption of new AI strategies, and setting up new agencies for facilitating innovation and increasing government investment in digital infrastructure(s). Finally, it has made tangible efforts to utilize all policy tools to achieve sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Yu Wen*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to continue monitoring market developments and using all policy tools to support strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth that generates widespread prosperity.

On 1 August 2018, the Italian Minister of Economy and Finance Giovanni Tria met with Bruno LeMaire, the French Minister for the Economy and Finance, to discuss economic and financial growth in France and Italy.<sup>823</sup> Tria and LeMaire reiterated their commitment towards the “adoption of the European Commission’s proposal for a digital service by the end of 2018,” in order to promote greater efficiency in the collection of taxes.<sup>824</sup>

On 8 August 2018, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers implemented EU Directive 2016/1164 to combat tax avoidance.<sup>825</sup> The adoption of this legislation will align Italy’s policies with European Union policies, thus more effectively discouraging tax avoidance within its own market. The Council also approved legislation regulating market abuse, which intends to discourage insider trading, market manipulation and illicit communication of insider information.<sup>826</sup> This legislation better conforms with the EU’s existing legal framework and regulates the trade of financial instruments on multilateral trading facilities and organized trading systems, commodity markets and emissions markets.<sup>827</sup>

On 15 August 2018, Minister of Economy and Finance Giovanni Tria made a statement in response to the tragic bridge collapse in Genoa.<sup>828</sup> Tria stressed the importance of increasing public investment in public infrastructure and promoting intergovernmental cooperation.<sup>829</sup> Tria’s statement affirms

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<sup>822</sup> Federal Government gives €500 million boost to funding for artificial intelligence, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 23 May 2019. Access Date: 9 June 2019.

<https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2019/20190523-federal-government-gives-500-million-boost-to-funding-for-artificial-intelligence.html>

<sup>823</sup> Press Release Number 120 of 08/01/2018, Ministero dell’ Economia e delle Finanze (Rome) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. [http://www.mef.gov.it/en/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2018/comunicato\\_0120.html](http://www.mef.gov.it/en/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2018/comunicato_0120.html)

<sup>824</sup> Press Release Number 120 of 08/01/2018, Ministero dell’ Economia e delle Finanze (Rome) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. [http://www.mef.gov.it/en/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2018/comunicato\\_0120.htm](http://www.mef.gov.it/en/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2018/comunicato_0120.htm)

<sup>825</sup> Press Release of the Council of Ministers n.14, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 8 August 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <http://www.governo.it/articolo/comunicato-stampa-del-consiglio-dei-ministri-n-14/9813>

<sup>826</sup> Press Release of the Council of Ministers n.14, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 8 August 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <http://www.governo.it/articolo/comunicato-stampa-del-consiglio-dei-ministri-n-14/9813>

<sup>827</sup> Press Release of the Council of Ministers n.14, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 8 August 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <http://www.governo.it/articolo/comunicato-stampa-del-consiglio-dei-ministri-n-14/9813>

<sup>828</sup> Dichiarazione del Ministro Tria sulla Tragedia di Genova, Ministero dell’ Economia e delle Finanze (Rome) 15 August 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. [http://www.mef.gov.it/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2018/comunicato\\_0130.html](http://www.mef.gov.it/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2018/comunicato_0130.html)

<sup>829</sup> Dichiarazione del Ministro Tria sulla Tragedia di Genova, Ministero dell’ Economia e delle Finanze (Rome) 15 August 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. [http://www.mef.gov.it/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2018/comunicato\\_0130.html](http://www.mef.gov.it/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2018/comunicato_0130.html)

Italy's continued commitment to utilizing fiscal policy to promote investment in high-quality infrastructure.

On 3 September 2018, the European Investment Fund and Cassa Depositi e Prestiti launched a guarantee program under the Cultural and Creative Sectors Guarantee Facility. The program amounts to EUR300 million in loans available to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) operating in the creative and cultural sectors.<sup>830</sup>

On 27 September 2018, the government proposed its 2018 Budget Plan. It proposes the allocation of EUR15 billion over the next three years to invest in infrastructure, artificial intelligence, energy efficiency, and new technologies.<sup>831</sup> The European Commission has requested that the government present a revised budgetary draft plan, on the grounds that its previous draft was non-compliant with the fiscal recommendations of the Council of the European Union.<sup>832</sup> The budgetary draft plan proposed additional funding for technical and professional institutions, in order to increase training for professionals in industries for which there is high demand. In addition, the plan proposes the reduction of costs for start-ups and innovative SMEs.<sup>833</sup>

On 4 October 2018, Minister of Infrastructures and Transports Danilo Toninelli and President of the National Anti-Corruption Authority Raffaele Cantone signed a framework to enhance transparency between the two bodies.<sup>834</sup> The framework is intended to reinforce transparency in public administrative practices, implementation of government contracts and lobbying by private entities.<sup>835</sup> The framework highlights Italy's commitment to implementing structural reforms in order to combat corruption in public administration.

On 15 October 2018, the Council of Ministers approved legislation to provide additional funding to start-ups researching blockchain technology with a venture capital fund provided by Cassa Depositi e Prestiti.<sup>836</sup> Furthermore, the legislation will reduce the cost of start-ups and SMEs.<sup>837</sup> This legislation promotes Italy's commitment to building an inclusive financial market.

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<sup>830</sup> EUR300 million for Italian SMEs in creative and cultural sectors, European Commission (Rome) 3 September 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eur-300-million-italian-smes-creative-and-cultural-sectors-2018-sep-03\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eur-300-million-italian-smes-creative-and-cultural-sectors-2018-sep-03_en)

<sup>831</sup> Press release of the council of ministers, n.23, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 15 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <http://www.governo.it/articolo/comunicato-stampa-del-consiglio-dei-ministri-n-23/10148>

<sup>832</sup> Commission Work Programme for 2019 and draft budgetary plan of Italy, European Commission (Strasbourg) 23 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/commission-work-programme-2019-and-draft-budgetary-plan-italy-2018-oct-23\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/commission-work-programme-2019-and-draft-budgetary-plan-italy-2018-oct-23_en)

<sup>833</sup> Press Release of the Council of Ministers n.23, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 15 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <http://www.governo.it/articolo/comunicato-stampa-del-consiglio-dei-ministri-n-23/10148>

<sup>834</sup> Firmato accordo quadro MIT-ANAC: sinergia per legalità e trasparenza, Ministero delle Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti (Rome) 4 October 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <http://www.mit.gov.it/comunicazione/news/anac-accordo-quadro/firmato-accordo-quadro-mit-anac-sinergia-per-legalita-e>

<sup>835</sup> Firmato accordo quadro MIT-ANAC: sinergia per legalità e trasparenza, Ministero delle Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti (Rome) 4 October 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <http://www.mit.gov.it/comunicazione/news/anac-accordo-quadro/firmato-accordo-quadro-mit-anac-sinergia-per-legalita-e>

<sup>836</sup> Press Release of the Council of Ministers n.23, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 15 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <http://www.governo.it/articolo/comunicato-stampa-del-consiglio-dei-ministri-n-23/10148>

<sup>837</sup> Press Release of the Council of Ministers n.23, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 15 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <http://www.governo.it/articolo/comunicato-stampa-del-consiglio-dei-ministri-n-23/10148>

On 19 October 2018, the European Investment Fund (EIF) and Cassa di Risparmio di Bolzano–Südtiroler Sparkasse (CRB) announced an agreement with the objective of providing loans “on favourable terms to innovative SMEs and small mid-caps.”<sup>838</sup> The EIF and CRB agreed on a EUR60 million portfolio that will support innovative businesses in Italy.<sup>839</sup>

On 27 November 2018, the Council of Ministers implemented European Union Council Directive 2016/1164 concerning anti-tax avoidance.<sup>840</sup> The new legislation amends existing tax legislation to prevent and counter profit-shifting and tax base erosion by multinational corporations.<sup>841</sup>

On 18 December 2018, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies published a report entitled “Il Mercato Del Lavoro,” or “the labour market”. This report focuses on implementing a common informational and statistical system to provide harmonized data regarding Italy’s labour market.<sup>842</sup>

On 25 February 2019, the Ministry of Economy and Finance announced a bilateral agreement with the region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia.<sup>843</sup> The government will allocate EUR400 million to public works between 2019-2025 and provide an additional EUR80 million for healthcare investments.<sup>844</sup>

On 4 March 2019, Luigi Di Maio unveiled the National Innovation Fund.<sup>845</sup> The initiative has a budget of EUR1 billion. It is intended to support innovative companies and bring together public and private resources to meet this objective.<sup>846</sup>

On 2 April 2019, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport announced that it will allocate EUR240 million to the freight transport sector over a three-year period (2019-2021).<sup>847</sup> The funding will provide reimbursements for motorway tolls, training, travel expenses, and freight fleet renewal.<sup>848</sup>

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<sup>838</sup> Investment Plan for Europe: EUR60 million of EU supported finance for innovative businesses in Italy, European Commission (Luxembourg) 19 October 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eur-60-million-eu-supported-finance-innovative-businesses-italy-2018-oct-19\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eur-60-million-eu-supported-finance-innovative-businesses-italy-2018-oct-19_en)

<sup>839</sup> Investment Plan for Europe: EUR60 million of EU supported finance for innovative businesses in Italy, European Commission (Luxembourg) 19 October 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eur-60-million-eu-supported-finance-innovative-businesses-italy-2018-oct-19\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eur-60-million-eu-supported-finance-innovative-businesses-italy-2018-oct-19_en)

<sup>840</sup> Press Release of the Council of Ministers n.29, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 27 November 2018. Access Date: 7 December 2018. <http://www.governo.it/articolo/convocazione-del-consiglio-dei-ministri-n-29/10442>

<sup>841</sup> Italy Implements EU Anti-Tax-Avoidance Directives, IPSOA (Milan) 10 December 2018. Access Date: 14 December 2018. <http://www.ipsoa.it/documents/fisco/fiscalita-internazionale/quotidiano/2018/12/10/italy-implements-eu-anti-tax-avoidance-directives-what-are-the-new-rules>

<sup>842</sup> Il Mercato Del Lavoro 2018 - Verso una lettura integrata, Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali (Rome) 18 December 2018. Access Date: 21 August 2019. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/documenti-e-norme/studi-e-statistiche/Documents/Il%20Mercato%20del%20lavoro%202018,%20verso%20una%20lettura%20integrata/Il-Mercato-del-lavoro-2018.pdf>

<sup>843</sup> Redefiniti I rapport finanziari tra Stato e Friuli Venezia Giulia, Ministero dell’Economia e delle Finanze (Rome) 25 February 2019. Access Date: 13 March 2019. [http://www.mef.gov.it/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2019/comunicato\\_0040.html](http://www.mef.gov.it/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2019/comunicato_0040.html)

<sup>844</sup> Redefiniti I rapport finanziari tra Stato e Friuli Venezia Giulia, Ministero dell’Economia e delle Finanze (Rome) 25 February 2019. Access Date: 13 March 2019. [http://www.mef.gov.it/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2019/comunicato\\_0040.html](http://www.mef.gov.it/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2019/comunicato_0040.html)

<sup>845</sup> The National Innovation Fund Unveiled, Ministry of Economic Development (Turin) 5 March 2019. Access Date: 1 June 2019. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/en/news/2039363-the-national-innovation-fund-unveiled>

<sup>846</sup> The National Innovation Fund Unveiled, Ministry of Economic Development (Turin) 5 March 2019. Access Date: 1 June 2019. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/en/news/2039363-the-national-innovation-fund-unveiled>

<sup>847</sup> Autotrasporto merci: stanziati 240 milioni per il triennio 2019-2021, Ministero delle Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti (Rome) 2 April 2019. Access Date: 23 June 2019. <http://www.mit.gov.it/comunicazione/news/autotrasporto-merci/autotrasporto-merci-stanziati-240-milioni-per-il-triennio>



On 4 April 2019, the Council of Ministers approved a decree-law to introduce measures for economic growth.<sup>849</sup> The decree includes tax cuts for individuals and businesses, investment schemes for SMEs, and economic incentives to retain highly educated citizens.<sup>850</sup>

On 18 April 2019, the Ministry of Economy and Finance published the second edition of the Benessere Equo e Sostenibile (Equitable and Sustainable Wellbeing) report, evaluating 12 indicators relating to socio-economic well-being in the country. This report evaluated metrics relating to inequality, poverty, non-participation rate in the labour market, and the gender employment gap.<sup>851</sup>

On 7 May 2019, the Ministry of Economic Development announced that an agreement was signed between Amazon and the ICE Agency (ICE Agenzia) to support Italian SMEs in developing sales and marketing strategies and promoting Italian products abroad.<sup>852</sup>

On 5 June 2019, the government indicated it will take steps to ensure that its budget and fiscal spending remain in compliance with the European Commission's debt regulations.<sup>853</sup> The press release was issued in response to the European Commission's concerns that Italy's current deficit spending would not meet its target of reducing its ratio of national debt to gross domestic product.<sup>854</sup>

Italy has demonstrated efforts to monitor developments in its financial markets and implement all policy tools in order to promote and sustain growth. Italy has also implemented reporting mechanisms to monitor and foster the continued development of human well-being and its labour market.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Matthew Kronberg and Sana Shaban*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to continue monitoring market developments and using all policy tools to support strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth that generates widespread prosperity.

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<sup>848</sup> Autotrasporto merci: stanziati 240 milioni per il triennio 2019-2021, Ministero delle Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti (Rome) 2 April 2019. Access Date: 23 June 2019. <http://www.mit.gov.it/comunicazione/news/autotrasporto-merci/autotrasporto-merci-stanziati-240-milioni-per-il-triennio>

<sup>849</sup> Press Release of the Council of Ministers n.53, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 4 April 2019. Access Date: 23 June 2019. <http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/comunicato-stampa-del-consiglio-dei-ministri-n-53/11303>

<sup>850</sup> Press Release of the Council of Ministers n.53, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 4 April 2019. Access Date: 23 June 2019. <http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/comunicato-stampa-del-consiglio-dei-ministri-n-53/11303>

<sup>851</sup> Equitable and Sustainable Well-Being (Benessere Equo e Sostenibile) Indicators in the Italian public finance process, United Nations Statistics Division (New York) Access Date: 21 August 2019. [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/events/2019/FOCG/FOCG%202a\\_Italy\\_SDG\\_budget\\_process.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/events/2019/FOCG/FOCG%202a_Italy_SDG_budget_process.pdf).

<sup>852</sup> Made in Italy: Amazon e ICE insieme a sostegno delle PMI, Ministero dello sviluppo Economico (Rome) 7 May 2019. Access Date: 23 June 2019. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/per-i-media/notizie/2039687-made-in-italy-amazon-e-ice-insieme-a-sostegno-delle-pmi>

<sup>853</sup> Report of the European Commission, note of the Presidency of the Council, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 5 June 2019. Access Date: 23 June 2019. <http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/rapporto-della-commissione-europea-nota-della-presidenza-del-consiglio/12038>

<sup>854</sup> Report of the European Commission, note of the Presidency of the Council, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 5 June 2019. Access Date: 23 June 2019. <http://www.governo.it/it/articolo/rapporto-della-commissione-europea-nota-della-presidenza-del-consiglio/12038>

On 12 June 2018, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held the 7th meeting of the Headquarters for Creating a Society in which All Women Shine at the Prime Minister's Office.<sup>855</sup> The Intensive Policy to Accelerate the Empowerment of Women 2018 introduced a new system that encourages male civil servants to take childcare leave. It also established corporate governance reforms to encourage the appointment of female executives.<sup>856</sup> The government sought to strengthen measures against sexual harassment, and review the implementation of the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace.<sup>857</sup>

On 29 June 2018, the National Diet passed the Act on Arrangement of Relevant Act on Promoting the Work Style Reform, which sought to equalize pay between regular and non-regular workers, cap overtime to 100 hours a month, and exempt white-collar workers from the overtime limit.<sup>858</sup> In a press conference held at the Prime Minister's Office, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stated that the Act "makes diverse ways of working possible" and "enables people to work even when raising children or providing nursing care."<sup>859</sup>

On 12 July 2018, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan approximately USD91 million to the Government of Turkmenistan to "provide financing for the Turkmen State Power Corporation to purchase a full set of facilities from the Sumimoto Corporation and construct a gas-fired power plant in Lebap Region."<sup>860</sup> This constitutes an investment in infrastructure that stimulates job creation.

On 27 July 2018, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan approximately USD467 million to a long-term floating production, storage and offloading vessel chartering services for the Brazil state-owned oil company Petróleo Brasileiro S.A., in order to assist its development of the Mero oil field near the coast of Brazil.<sup>861</sup> This constitutes an investment in infrastructure that stimulates job creation.

On 31 July 2018, the Ministry of Finance stated that its foreign exchange intervention operations for the period of 28 June 2018 to 27 July 2018 was JPY0.<sup>862</sup> This constitutes restraint from using targeted exchange rates or currency devaluation for competitive purposes.

On 5 September 2018, the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Ecuador agreed in principle on the bilateral tax convention.<sup>863</sup> This Convention seeks to "eliminate double

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<sup>855</sup> Headquarters for Creating a Society in which All Women Shine, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 12 June 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201806/\\_00032.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201806/_00032.html)

<sup>856</sup> Headquarters for Creating a Society in which All Women Shine, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 12 June 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201806/\\_00032.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201806/_00032.html)

<sup>857</sup> Headquarters for Creating a Society in which All Women Shine, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 12 June 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201806/\\_00032.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201806/_00032.html)

<sup>858</sup> 働き方改革を推進するための関係法律の整備に関する法律（平成30年法律第71号）の概要, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 6 July 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/000332869.pdf>

<sup>859</sup> Press Conference on the Enactment of the Work Style Reform Bills, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 29 June 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201806/\\_00069.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201806/_00069.html)

<sup>860</sup> Buyer's Credit for Government of Turkmenistan, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 13 July 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. <https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/0713-011158.html>

<sup>861</sup> Project Financing for FPSO Operation Project of the Mero Oil Field in the Libra Block of Brazil, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 30 July 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. <https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/0730-011246.html>

<sup>862</sup> Foreign Exchange Intervention Operations (June 28, 2018 — July 27, 2018), Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 31 July 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018.

[https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international\\_policy/reference/feio/monthly/20180731.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/reference/feio/monthly/20180731.htm)

taxation and prevent international tax evasion and tax avoidance” and “promote mutual investments and economic exchanges between the two countries.”<sup>864</sup>

On 19 September 2018, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan USD50 million to “environment-related projects focusing on renewable energy in Brazil.”<sup>865</sup>

On 26 September 2018, Japan accepted the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.<sup>866</sup> This Convention seeks to eliminate double taxation and prevent international tax evasion and tax avoidance.<sup>867</sup>

On 5 October 2018, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held the 19th meeting of the Council on Investments for the Future at the Prime Minister’s Office.<sup>868</sup> He indicated his intent to “increase labor productivity by proactively introducing technological innovations to workplaces” and collaborate with financial institutions to advance the adoption of cashless payment systems.<sup>869</sup>

On 16 October 2018, in Madrid, the Government of Japan and the Government of the Kingdom of Spain signed the Convention for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance.<sup>870</sup> This Convention seeks to “eliminate double taxation and prevent international tax evasion and tax avoidance” and “promote mutual investments and economic exchanges between the two countries.”<sup>871</sup>

On 18 October 2018, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan approximately USD604 million to the Jawa 1 Gas-to-Power Project in Indonesia.<sup>872</sup> This loan seeks to provide financial support to “Japanese companies that invest in overseas infrastructure projects and operate and manage these facilities on a long-term basis.”<sup>873</sup>

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<sup>863</sup> Tax Convention with Ecuador Agreed in Principle, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 5 September 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax\\_policy/tax\\_conventions/press\\_release/20180905ec.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20180905ec.htm)

<sup>864</sup> Tax Convention with Ecuador Agreed in Principle, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 5 September 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax\\_policy/tax\\_conventions/press\\_release/20180905ec.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20180905ec.htm)

<sup>865</sup> Fifth Credit Line for BNDES under GREEN Operations Supporting Renewable Energy Projects in Brazil, Japan Bank of International Cooperation (Tokyo) 22 October 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. <https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/1022-011483.html>

<sup>866</sup> Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will Enter into Force, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 27 September 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018.

[https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax\\_policy/tax\\_conventions/press\\_release/20180927mli.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20180927mli.htm)

<sup>867</sup> Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 27 September 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018.

[https://www.mof.go.jp/tax\\_policy/summary/international/press\\_release/20180927mli\\_b.pdf](https://www.mof.go.jp/tax_policy/summary/international/press_release/20180927mli_b.pdf)

<sup>868</sup> Council on Investments for the Future, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 5 October 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201810/04mirai.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201810/04mirai.html)

<sup>869</sup> Council on Investments for the Future, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 5 October 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201810/04mirai.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201810/04mirai.html)

<sup>870</sup> New Tax Convention with Spain was Signed, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 17 October 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax\\_policy/tax\\_conventions/press\\_release/20181017es.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20181017es.htm)

<sup>871</sup> New Tax Convention with Spain was Signed, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 17 October 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax\\_policy/tax\\_conventions/press\\_release/20181017es.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20181017es.htm)

<sup>872</sup> Project Financing for Jawa 1 Gas-to-Power Project in Indonesia, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 22 October 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. <https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/1022-011485.html>

<sup>873</sup> Project Financing for Jawa 1 Gas-to-Power Project in Indonesia, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 22 October 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. <https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/1022-011485.html>

On 19 October 2018, the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Croatia signed the Agreement between Japan and the Republic of Croatia for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance in Zagreb.<sup>874</sup> This Agreement seeks to “eliminate double taxation and prevent international tax evasion and tax avoidance” and “promote mutual investments and economic exchanges between the two countries.”<sup>875</sup>

On 22 October 2018, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held the 20th meeting of the Council on Investments for the Future at the Prime Minister’s Office.<sup>876</sup> He indicated his intent to raise the age limit for continued employment beyond 65 years old, and to “secure employment opportunities for the elderly until they reach 70 years of age.”<sup>877</sup> He further pledged to “personally take the lead in establishing a council inviting major corporations that are dedicated to expanding mid-career hires” to expand the employment of experienced workers.<sup>878</sup>

On 23 October 2018, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attended a Ministerial Council meeting on the Employment of Persons with Disabilities in the Public Service.<sup>879</sup> He requested his ministers to “ensure that everyone in [their] respective ministries and agencies is fully mindful about promoting the employment of persons with disabilities,” and take steps to prevent continued neglect of the statutory employment quota of persons with disabilities.<sup>880</sup> He further emphasized the importance of “expand[ing] opportunities for those with disabilities to demonstrate their motivation and abilities and play an active role, such as developing a new recruitment scheme for persons with disabilities, a system for moving up to full-time employee, and a system of supports for persons with disabilities at the workplace.”<sup>881</sup>

On 26 October 2018, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan approximately USD60 million to the Comisión Federal de Electricidad of Mexico.<sup>882</sup> This loan seeks to help “finance the purchase of Japanese equipment and services necessary for power development in

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<sup>874</sup> Tax Agreement with Croatia was Signed, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 19 October 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax\\_policy/tax\\_conventions/press\\_release/20181019hr.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20181019hr.htm)

<sup>875</sup> Tax Agreement with Croatia was Signed, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 19 October 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax\\_policy/tax\\_conventions/press\\_release/20181019hr.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20181019hr.htm)

<sup>876</sup> Council on Investments for the Future, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 22 October 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201810/\\_00049.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201810/_00049.html)

<sup>877</sup> Council on Investments for the Future, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 22 October 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201810/\\_00049.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201810/_00049.html)

<sup>878</sup> Council on Investments for the Future, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 22 October 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201810/\\_00049.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201810/_00049.html)

<sup>879</sup> Ministerial Council on the Employment of Persons with Disabilities in the Public Service, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 23 October 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201810/\\_00052.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201810/_00052.html)

<sup>880</sup> Ministerial Council on the Employment of Persons with Disabilities in the Public Service, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 23 October 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201810/\\_00052.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201810/_00052.html)

<sup>881</sup> Ministerial Council on the Employment of Persons with Disabilities in the Public Service, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 23 October 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201810/\\_00052.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201810/_00052.html)

<sup>882</sup> Export Credit Line (12<sup>th</sup> Power Loan) for Comisión Federal de Electricidad in Mexico, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 29 October 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. <https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/1029-011528.html>

Mexico.”<sup>883</sup> This demonstrates an investment in high-quality infrastructure that stimulates job creation.

On 31 October 2018, the Ministry of Finance stated that its foreign exchange intervention operations for the period from 27 September 2018 to 29 October 2018 was JPY0.<sup>884</sup> This constitutes continued restraint from using targeted exchange rates or currency devaluation for competitive purposes.

On 2 November 2018, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan approximately USD227 million to the Gulf SRC Gas-Fired Combined Cycle Power Plant Project in Thailand.<sup>885</sup> This loan seeks to provide financial support to “Japanese companies that invest in overseas infrastructure projects and operate and manage these facilities on a long-term basis.”<sup>886</sup>

On 28 November 2018, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan approximately GBP743 million to the Moray East offshore wind power generation project in the United Kingdom.<sup>887</sup> This loan seeks to provide financial support for the construction and operation of an offshore wind farm located 22 km off the coast of Moray, Scotland.<sup>888</sup>

On 29 November 2018, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan approximately USD36 million to the Banco de la Nación Argentina.<sup>889</sup> This loan seeks to “provide financial support to local companies in Argentina that require funding to purchase infrastructure-related equipment from Japanese companies and their overseas affiliates.”<sup>890</sup>

On 3 December 2018, the Government of Japan and the Government of the Argentine Republic agreed in principle on the tax convention between Japan and the Argentine Republic.<sup>891</sup> This Convention seeks to “eliminate international double taxation and prevent tax evasion and tax avoidance” and “promote mutual investments and economic exchanges between the two countries.”<sup>892</sup>

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<sup>883</sup> Export Credit Line (12<sup>th</sup> Power Loan) for Comisión Federal de Electricidad in Mexico, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 29 October 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018.

<https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/1029-011528.html>

<sup>884</sup> Foreign Exchange Intervention Operations (September 27, 2018 — October 29, 2018), Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 31 October 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018.

[https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international\\_policy/reference/feio/monthly/20181031.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/reference/feio/monthly/20181031.htm)

<sup>885</sup> Project Financing for Gulf SRC Gas-Fired Combined Cycle Power Plant Project in Thailand, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 9 November 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018.

<https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/1109-011580.html>

<sup>886</sup> Project Financing for Gulf SRC Gas-Fired Combined Cycle Power Plant Project in Thailand, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 9 November 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018.

<https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/1109-011580.html>

<sup>887</sup> Project Financing for Moray East Offshore Wind Power Generation Project in the U.K., Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 29 November 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018.

<https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/1129-011637.html>

<sup>888</sup> Project Financing for Moray East Offshore Wind Power Generation Project in the U.K., Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 29 November 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018.

<https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/1129-011637.html>

<sup>889</sup> Export Credit Line for Banco de la Nación Argentina, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 3 December 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. <https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/1203-011643.html>

<sup>890</sup> Export Credit Line for Banco de la Nación Argentina, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 3 December 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. <https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/1203-011643.html>

<sup>891</sup> Tax Convention with Argentina Agreed in Principle, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 3 December 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax\\_policy/tax\\_conventions/press\\_release/20181203ar.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20181203ar.htm)

<sup>892</sup> Tax Convention with Argentina Agreed in Principle, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 3 December 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax\\_policy/tax\\_conventions/press\\_release/20181203ar.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20181203ar.htm)

On 19 December 2018, the government of Japan and the government of the Republic of Colombia signed the Convention between Japan and the Republic of Colombia for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance in Tokyo.<sup>893</sup> This Convention seeks to “eliminate double taxation and prevent international tax evasion and tax avoidance” and “promote mutual investments and economic exchanges between the two countries.”<sup>894</sup>

On 21 December 2018, the government of Japan and the government of Jamaica agreed in principle on a tax convention between the two countries.<sup>895</sup> This convention seeks to “eliminate double taxation and prevent international tax evasion and tax avoidance,” and “promote mutual investments and economic exchanges between the two countries.”<sup>896</sup>

On 16 January 2019, the government of Japan and the government of the Republic of Ecuador signed the convention between Japan and the Republic of Ecuador for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance in Quito.<sup>897</sup>

On 31 January 2019, the Ministry of Finance stated that its foreign exchange intervention operations for the period of 27 December 2018 to 29 January 2019 was JPY0.<sup>898</sup> This constitutes continued restraint from using targeted exchange rates or currency devaluation for competitive purposes.

On 13 February 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held the 23rd meeting of the Council on Investments for the Future at the Prime Minister’s Office.<sup>899</sup> He indicated his intent to “develop a new system to address issues such as the government’s coordination over its competition policies for the digital market...to meet the demand of highly-specialized knowledge and expertise and enable swift responses in the accelerating changes in the digital market.”<sup>900</sup>

On 14 February 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held the 38th meeting of the Council on National Strategic Special Zones at the Prime Minister's Office.<sup>901</sup> He indicated his intent to “proactively introduce AI and big data to all aspects of daily life, such as education, healthcare, caregiving, government, energy, and waste management, and integrate these technologies into society” as part of the Super City Initiative.<sup>902</sup>

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<sup>893</sup> Tax Convention with Colombia was signed, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 20 December 2018. Access Date: 3 March 2019. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax\\_policy/tax\\_conventions/press\\_release/20181220co.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20181220co.htm)

<sup>894</sup> Tax Convention with Colombia was signed, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 20 December 2018. Access Date: 3 March 2019. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax\\_policy/tax\\_conventions/press\\_release/20181220co.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20181220co.htm)

<sup>895</sup> Tax Convention with Jamaica Agreed in Principle, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 21 December 2018. Access Date: 3 March 2019. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax\\_policy/tax\\_conventions/press\\_release/20181221jm.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20181221jm.htm)

<sup>896</sup> Tax Convention with Jamaica Agreed in Principle, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 21 December 2018. Access Date: 3 March 2019. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax\\_policy/tax\\_conventions/press\\_release/20181221jm.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20181221jm.htm)

<sup>897</sup> Tax Convention with Ecuador was signed, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 16 January 2019. Access Date: 3 March 2019. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax\\_policy/tax\\_conventions/press\\_release/20190116ec.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20190116ec.htm)

<sup>898</sup> Foreign Exchange Intervention Operations (December 27 2018 — January 29 2019), Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 31 January 2019. Access Date: 3 March 2019.

[https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international\\_policy/reference/feio/monthly/20190131.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/reference/feio/monthly/20190131.htm)

<sup>899</sup> Council on Investments for the Future, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 13 February 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201902/\\_00014.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201902/_00014.html)

<sup>900</sup> Council on Investments for the Future, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 13 February 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201902/\\_00014.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201902/_00014.html)

<sup>901</sup> Council on National Strategic Special Zones, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201902/\\_00017.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201902/_00017.html)

<sup>902</sup> Council on National Strategic Special Zones, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201902/\\_00017.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201902/_00017.html)

On 28 February 2019, the Ministry of Finance stated that its foreign exchange intervention operations for the period of 30 January 2019 to 26 February 2019 was JPY0.<sup>903</sup> This constitutes continued restraint from using targeted exchange rates or currency devaluation for competitive purposes.

On 12 March 2019, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan approximately JPY4,727 million to the National Bank for Foreign Economic Activity of the Republic of Uzbekistan.<sup>904</sup> This loan seeks to provide the necessary funds for “the purchase of a complete backbone telecommunication network system manufactured by NEC Corporation etc. from Toyota Tsusho Corporation.”<sup>905</sup> This constitutes an investment in infrastructure that stimulates job creation.

On 28 March 2019, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan approximately 120 million Swedish krona to HZI Jönköping Biogas AB.<sup>906</sup> This loan seeks to “provide the necessary funds for HZI Jönköping Biogas to construct a waste treatment plant using methane fermentation technology.”<sup>907</sup> This constitutes an investment in infrastructure that stimulates job creation.

On 29 March 2019, the Ministry of Finance stated that its foreign exchange intervention operations for the period of 27 February 2019 to 27 March 2019 was JPY0.<sup>908</sup> This constitutes continued restraint from using targeted exchange rates or currency devaluation for competitive purposes.

On 31 March 2019, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan approximately USD555 million to Sharjah Hamriyah Independent Power Company PJSC.<sup>909</sup> This loan seeks to provide the necessary funds for the company to build and operate a “1,800MW gas-fired combined cycle power plant located in Hamriyah, Sharjah.”<sup>910</sup> This constitutes an investment in infrastructure that stimulates job creation.

On 1 April 2019, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan approximately USD900 million to Pengerang Refining Company Sdn. Bhd.<sup>911</sup> This loan seeks to provide the

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<sup>903</sup> Foreign Exchange Intervention Operations (January 30, 2019 - February 26, 2019), Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 28 February 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019.

[https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international\\_policy/reference/feio/monthly/20190228.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/reference/feio/monthly/20190228.htm)

<sup>904</sup> Export Credit Line for the National Bank for Foreign Economic Activity of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 13 March 2019. Access Date: 2 May 2019.

<https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/0313-011953.html>

<sup>905</sup> Export Credit Line for the National Bank for Foreign Economic Activity of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 13 March 2019. Access Date: 2 May 2019.

<https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/0313-011953.html>

<sup>906</sup> Loan for Waste Treatment Project by a Swedish subsidiary of Hitachi Zosen Corporation Group, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 1 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019.

<https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2019/0401-012061.html>

<sup>907</sup> Loan for Waste Treatment Project by a Swedish subsidiary of Hitachi Zosen Corporation Group, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 1 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019.

<https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2019/0401-012061.html>

<sup>908</sup> Foreign Exchange Intervention Operations (February 27, 2019 - March 27, 2019), Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 29 March 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019.

[https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international\\_policy/reference/feio/monthly/20190329.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/reference/feio/monthly/20190329.htm)

<sup>909</sup> Project Financing for Hamriyah Natural Gas-fired Combined Cycle Power Plant in the Emirate of Sharjah, UAE, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 1 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019.

<https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2019/0401-012047.html>

<sup>910</sup> Project Financing for Hamriyah Natural Gas-fired Combined Cycle Power Plant in the Emirate of Sharjah, UAE, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 1 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019.

<https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2019/0401-012047.html>

<sup>911</sup> Buyer's Credit for RAPID Project in Malaysia, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 2 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2019/0402-012044.html>

necessary funds to “construct and operate an integrated complex consisting of several petrochemical plants” in Johor, Malaysia.<sup>912</sup> This constitutes an investment in infrastructure that stimulates job creation.

On 19 April 2019, the government of Japan and the government of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay agreed in principle on a tax convention between the two countries.<sup>913</sup> This convention seeks to eliminate “international double taxation,” prevent “tax evasion and tax avoidance,” and promote “mutual investments and economic exchanges between the two countries.”<sup>914</sup>

On 19 April 2019, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan approximately USD1,199 million to Van Phong Power Company Limited.<sup>915</sup> This loan seeks to provide the necessary funds for the company to build and operate “a super critical coal-fired power plant with an installed capacity of 1,320 MW” in Khánh Hòa, Vietnam.<sup>916</sup> This constitutes an investment in infrastructure that stimulates job creation.

On 15 May 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held the 27th meeting of the Council on Investments for the Future at the Prime Minister’s Office.<sup>917</sup> He indicated his intent to “secure employment opportunities [for individuals] up till the age of 70” by making available “a wide range of options through employment at other companies, support for self-employment and launching a new business, as well as various social contribution activities, in addition to the extension of the retirement age and the introduction of a continued employment system.”<sup>918</sup>

On 17 May 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held the 45th meeting of the Council for the Implementation of Education Rebuilding at the Prime Minister’s Office.<sup>919</sup> He indicated his intent to “steadily implement the rebuilding of education” based on measures such as “the use of new technologies in education, including the utilization of distance learning for all elementary, junior high, and high schools, the installation of ICT [information and communications technologies] infrastructure in schools, and the enhancement of teachers’ abilities to teach using ICT.”<sup>920</sup>

On 30 May 2019, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan approximately USD900 million to Compañía Minera Teck Quebrada Blanca S.A.<sup>921</sup> This loan seeks to “provide

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<sup>912</sup> Buyer's Credit for RAPID Project in Malaysia, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 2 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2019/0402-012044.html>

<sup>913</sup> Tax Convention with Uruguay Agreed in Principle, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 19 April 2018. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax\\_policy/tax\\_conventions/press\\_release/20190419uy.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20190419uy.htm)

<sup>914</sup> Tax Convention with Uruguay Agreed in Principle, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 19 April 2018. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax\\_policy/tax\\_conventions/press\\_release/20190419uy.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20190419uy.htm)

<sup>915</sup> Project Finance for Van Phong 1 Coal-Fired Power Generation Project in the Republic of Vietnam, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 19 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2019/0419-012106.html>

<sup>916</sup> Project Finance for Van Phong 1 Coal-Fired Power Generation Project in the Republic of Vietnam, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 19 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2019/0419-012106.html>

<sup>917</sup> Council on Investments for the Future, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 15 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201905/\\_00018.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201905/_00018.html)

<sup>918</sup> Council on Investments for the Future, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 15 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201905/\\_00018.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201905/_00018.html)

<sup>919</sup> The Council for the Implementation of Education Rebuilding, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 17 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201905/\\_00025.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201905/_00025.html)

<sup>920</sup> The Council for the Implementation of Education Rebuilding, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 17 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201905/\\_00025.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201905/_00025.html)

<sup>921</sup> Project Finance for Quebrada Blanca Phase 2 Project in Chile, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 31 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2019/0531-012214.html>



necessary long-term finance for the development of the Quebrada Blanca [copper mine] Phase 2 project” in Chile.<sup>922</sup> This constitutes an investment in infrastructure that stimulates job creation.

On 30 May 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe jointly held the Follow-Up Meeting on the Plan to Realize the Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens and the Follow-up Meeting for the Work Style Reform at the Prime Minister’s Office.<sup>923</sup> He stated that his government passed a set of bills that would “make early childhood education free of charge” from October 2019 onwards, and provide children in need with “access to higher education” from April 2020 onwards.<sup>924</sup>

On 31 May 2019, the Ministry of Finance stated that its foreign exchange intervention operations for the period of 25 April 2019 to 29 May 2019 was JPY0.<sup>925</sup> This constitutes continued restraint from using targeted exchange rates or currency devaluation for competitive purposes.

Japan has complied with its commitment to foster inclusive labour market development by promoting gender equality, encouraging female leadership and advancing equitable childcare leave policies. Japan has complied with its commitment to inclusive financial market development by seeking to promote digitalization of the economy via public-private initiatives on technological investments and cashless payment systems. It has also demonstrated efforts to utilize all policy tools to achieve sustainable growth.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Austin Zheng*

#### **United Kingdom: +1**

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to continue monitoring market developments and using all policy tools to support strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth that generates widespread prosperity.

On 31 July 2018, Esther McVey, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, announced an increase in funding to businesses that “provide extra employment support” for disabled people who have the greatest barriers to work.<sup>926</sup> McVey announced: “we are committed to ensuring that disabled people have the necessary support to thrive in the workplace and ... to reach their full potential.”<sup>927</sup> This

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<sup>922</sup> Project Finance for Quebrada Blanca Phase 2 Project in Chile, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 31 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2019/0531-012214.html>

<sup>923</sup> Joint Meeting of the Follow-Up Meeting on the Plan to Realize the Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens and the Follow-up Meeting for the Work Style Reform, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 30 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201905/\\_00051.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201905/_00051.html)

<sup>924</sup> Joint Meeting of the Follow-Up Meeting on the Plan to Realize the Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens and the Follow-up Meeting for the Work Style Reform, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 30 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201905/\\_00051.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201905/_00051.html)

<sup>925</sup> Foreign Exchange Intervention Operations (April 25, 2019 - May 29, 2019), Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 31 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019.

[https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international\\_policy/reference/feio/monthly/20190531.htm](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/reference/feio/monthly/20190531.htm)

<sup>926</sup> Increased funding announced for disabled people with the greatest barriers to work, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 31 July 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/increased-funding-announced-for-disabled-people-with-the-greatest-barriers-to-work>

<sup>927</sup> Increased funding announced for disabled people with the greatest barriers to work, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 31 July 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/increased-funding-announced-for-disabled-people-with-the-greatest-barriers-to-work>

increased payment is expected to provide employment and support to an additional 2,000 disabled people across England, Scotland, and Wales.<sup>928</sup>

On 1 August 2018, the Government Equalities Office published the “What Works” guidance.<sup>929</sup> It provided recommendations to businesses with regards to improving the recruitment and progression of women and closing the gender pay gap through transparent salary negotiations. The implementation of the “What Works” guide will ensure that candidates have equal access to opportunities at work regardless of their gender.<sup>930</sup> This demonstrates the UK’s commitment to building an inclusive labour market through the elimination of gender discrimination and the gender pay gap.

On 27 August 2018, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport announced the creation of a GBP1 million fund, the Digital Skills Innovation Fund. This fund is intended to boost the provision of digital skills across the country.<sup>931</sup> The fund will be used to help women, disabled individuals, marginalized individuals and those living in low socioeconomic areas to “succeed in digital roles.”<sup>932</sup> In addition, another GBP400,000 from the Digital Inclusion Fund will also be utilized to “help older and disabled people acquire digital skills” since “it is crucial everyone is able to take advantage of digital technology,” according to the Minister for Digital, Culture, Media and Sports Margot James.<sup>933</sup>

On 19 September 2018, the House of Commons Treasury Committee published the final report of its investigation on the role of cryptocurrencies in the United Kingdom.<sup>934</sup> The Committee recommended two ways of introducing regulation of crypto-assets, either by “incorporating crypto-asset activity into the existing regulation” or “designing a new framework of the regulation specifically for crypto-assets.”<sup>935</sup> The Committee urged the inclusion a “minimum issuance of ICOs [initial coin offerings] and the provision of crypto exchange services” in the regulatory framework for whichever method is selected.<sup>936</sup> Moreover, the Committee recommended that the Government extend the Fifth Anti-Money Laundering direction and counter-terrorist financing rules to digital

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<sup>928</sup> Increased funding announced for disabled people with the greatest barriers to work, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 31 July 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/increased-funding-announced-for-disabled-people-with-the-greatest-barriers-to-work>

<sup>929</sup> 100% of UK employers publish gender pay gap data, Government Equalities Office (London) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/100-of-uk-employers-publish-gender-pay-gap-data>

<sup>930</sup> 100% of UK employers publish gender pay gap data, Government Equalities Office (London) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/100-of-uk-employers-publish-gender-pay-gap-data>

<sup>931</sup> New funds to boost diversity of people working in digital and tech jobs, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (London) 27 August 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funds-to-boost-diversity-of-people-working-in-digital-and-tech-jobs>

<sup>932</sup> New funds to boost diversity of people working in digital and tech jobs, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (London) 27 August 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funds-to-boost-diversity-of-people-working-in-digital-and-tech-jobs>

<sup>933</sup> New funds to boost diversity of people working in digital and tech jobs, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (London) 27 August 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funds-to-boost-diversity-of-people-working-in-digital-and-tech-jobs>

<sup>934</sup> Crypto Assets, House of Commons Treasury Committee (London) 19 September 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmtreasy/910/91002.htm>

<sup>935</sup> Crypto Assets, House of Commons Treasury Committee (London) 19 September 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmtreasy/910/91002.htm>

<sup>936</sup> Crypto Assets, House of Commons Treasury Committee (London) 19 September 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmtreasy/910/91002.htm>

currencies as quickly as possible. This report and its conclusion indicated that the UK is moving towards introducing regulations on crypto-assets in the financial market.<sup>937</sup>

On 27 September 2018, Prime Minister Theresa May announced a GBP840 million initiative to fund the upgrade of transport links in ten city regions across the UK.<sup>938</sup> Theresa May stated, “these improvements to vital infrastructure will ... empower local businesses to create more, better-paying jobs.”<sup>939</sup>

On 1 October 2018, Chancellor of the Exchequer Phil Hammond announced a package of reforms intended to help businesses provide job training and promote cooperation within the private sector.<sup>940</sup> The package will also invest in skills training to boost productivity in the changing economy, and it will enable small and medium-sized enterprises to leverage management expertise from larger businesses.<sup>941</sup> These reforms highlight the UK’s commitment towards fostering an inclusive financial market and ensuring that the labour force keeps pace with technological changes.

On 15 October 2018, the UK Atomic Energy Authority partnered with the Science and Technology Facilities Council to construct a new building for Oxfordshire Advanced Skills at the authority’s Culham site. The new centre allowed the agency to expand its current capacity and provide local firms with up to 350 well-trained technicians annually, in order to fill the gap of “badly-needed technical skills for the local economy.”<sup>942</sup> This investment is intended to stimulate job creation and provide job-training to local residents in order to keep pace with technological changes.

On 17 October 2018, the Department for International Trade promoted a portfolio of seven new investment opportunities, totaling GBP2 billion.<sup>943</sup> The investment will “create homes and jobs across the country,” according to Liam Fox, the International Trade Secretary.<sup>944</sup>

On 22 October 2018, at the International Anti-Corruption Conference in Copenhagen, Secretary of the UK Department of International Development Penny Mordaunt announced the adoption of “wide-ranging measures to tackle corruption at home and abroad.” The UK Government will take

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<sup>937</sup> Crypto Assets, House of Commons Treasury Committee (London) 19 September 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmtreasy/910/91002.htm>

<sup>938</sup> PM announces ten cities shortlisted for major transport funding across England, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 27 September 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-ten-cities-shortlisted-for-major-transport-funding-across-england>

<sup>939</sup> PM announces ten cities shortlisted for major transport funding across England, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 27 September 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-ten-cities-shortlisted-for-major-transport-funding-across-england>

<sup>940</sup> Government support to boost skills and prosperity, Her Majesty’s Treasury (London) 1 October 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-support-to-boost-skills-and-prosperity>

<sup>941</sup> Government support to boost skills and prosperity, Her Majesty’s Treasury (London) 1 October 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-support-to-boost-skills-and-prosperity>

<sup>942</sup> New training centre to keep Oxfordshire a hi-tech hotspot, UK Atomic Energy Authority (Culham) 15 October 2018. Access Date: 26 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-training-centre-to-keep-oxfordshire-a-hi-tech-hotspot>

<sup>943</sup> £2 billion of new investment opportunities launched across the UK, Department for International Trade (London) 17 October 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-billion-of-new-investment-opportunities-launched-across-the-uk>

<sup>944</sup> £2 billion of new investment opportunities launched across the UK, Department for International Trade (London) 17 October 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-billion-of-new-investment-opportunities-launched-across-the-uk>

the lead in launching an international campaign to promote transparency of company ownership as a “global norm.”<sup>945</sup>

On 29 October 2018, Her Majesty’s Treasury published Budget 2018, which outlines changes to taxation and finances ahead of the new fiscal year.<sup>946</sup> The Budget introduces several changes to the current tax system by extending taxation to off-payroll employees in the private sector, implementing a digital services tax on large businesses, and increasing investment in high-quality infrastructure(s).<sup>947</sup>

On 31 October 2018, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport announced that GBP3 million in funding will be provided to digital skills training in Greater Manchester as a part of Budget 2018.<sup>948</sup> This funding will ensure that people in Greater Manchester have the opportunity to acquire the digital skills they need to access jobs in the digital and technology sector.<sup>949</sup>

On 4 November 2018, the Competition and Markets Authority and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy initiated new research on retailers’ price discrimination against online shoppers to ensure that “markets work fairly and in the interest of consumers.”<sup>950</sup> This initiative demonstrates the UK’s continued effort to promote competition within the marketplace as a source of long-term growth.

On 15 November 2018, the President of the Board of Trade Liam Fox announced an investment of GBP240 million in Welsh energy and infrastructure projects, which will be promoted to international investors and generate “jobs ... here in Wales and across the UK.”<sup>951</sup>

On 16 November 2018, the Department for Education announced that it will distribute GBP22 million among 26 innovative partnerships through the Construction Skills Fund.<sup>952</sup> The new hubs

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<sup>945</sup> UK Government unveils extensive measures to clamp down on global corruption, giving criminals “nowhere to hide,” Department for International Development (London) 22 October 2018. Access Date: 26 October 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-unveils-extensive-measures-to-clamp-down-on-global-corruption-giving-criminals-nowhere-to-hide>

<sup>946</sup> Budget 2018: Documents, Her Majesty’s Treasury (London) 29 October 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/budget-2018-documents>

<sup>947</sup> Budget 2018: Documents, Her Majesty’s Treasury (London) 29 October 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/3-million-to-boost-digital-skills-in-manchester>

<sup>948</sup> £3 million to boost digital skills in Manchester, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (London) 31 October 2018. Access Date: 19 November 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/3-million-to-boost-digital-skills-in-manchester>

<sup>949</sup> £3 million to boost digital skills in Manchester, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (London) 31 October 2018. Access Date: 19 November 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/3-million-to-boost-digital-skills-in-manchester>

<sup>950</sup> Government and CMA to research targeting of consumers through personalized pricing, Competition and Markets Authority (London) 4 November 2018. Access Date: 19 November 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-and-cma-to-research-targeting-of-consumers-through-personalised-pricing>

<sup>951</sup> £240 million investment drive creates thousands of Welsh jobs, Department for International Trade (London) 15 November 2018. Access Date: 19 November 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/liam-fox-announces-240-million-investment-drive-creating-thousands-of-welsh-jobs-as-board-of-trade-meets-in-wales-for-first-time>

<sup>952</sup> Construction industry to benefit from major skills boost, Department for Education (London) 16 November 2018.

Access Date: 19 November 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/construction-industry-to-benefit-from-major-skills-boost>

will train more than 17,000 people, as the national government works towards meeting its objective of training 158,000 new construction workers by 2023.<sup>953</sup>

On 21 November 2018, the Education and Skills Funding Agency launched the “Opportunities Through Apprenticeships” project, which enables workers from disadvantaged communities to benefit from high-quality apprenticeship opportunities.<sup>954</sup> Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills Anne Milton stated that the project will “provide people for all ages a great opportunity” to take up apprenticeships, “especially in growing engineering and ICT [information and communications technology] sectors.”<sup>955</sup> The project demonstrates the UK’s commitment to labor market development, particularly to improving social mobility by providing high-quality education and training opportunities to all citizens.

On 22 November 2018, Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work Sarah Newton confirmed that the Work and Health Challenge Fund will provide a total of GBP3.9 million to 19 projects.<sup>956</sup> These projects will assist disabled individuals in accessing advice and support in the labour market. This financial support is provided in an effort to close the disability employment gap and build a more inclusive workforce.<sup>957</sup>

On 28 November 2018, the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy announced a GBP3 million investment in the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund.<sup>958</sup> Three new research projects will examine the potential of artificial intelligence technologies to “create new opportunities and improve services across the whole economy.”<sup>959</sup>

On 10 December 2018, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced a new package of transparency and anti-corruption measures to address potential large-scale money laundering scandals among the Limited Partnerships in the UK. The measures, namely reporting

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<sup>953</sup> Construction industry to benefit from major skills boost, Department for Education (London) 16 November 2018. Access Date: 19 November 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/construction-industry-to-benefit-from-major-skills-boost>

<sup>954</sup> Opportunities Through Apprenticeships’ project is launched, Education and Skills Funding Agency (London) 21 November 2018. Access Date: 29 November 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/opportunities-through-apprenticeships-project-is-launched>

<sup>955</sup> ‘Opportunities Through Apprenticeships’ project is launched, Education and Skills Funding Agency (London) 21 November 2018. Access Date: 29 November 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/opportunities-through-apprenticeships-project-is-launched>

<sup>956</sup> Ministers calls on businesses to reveal how many disabled staff they employ, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 22 November 2018. Access Date: 30 November 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/minister-calls-on-businesses-to-reveal-how-many-disabled-staff-they-employ>

<sup>957</sup> Ministers calls on businesses to reveal how many disabled staff they employ, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 22 November 2018. Access Date: 30 November 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/minister-calls-on-businesses-to-reveal-how-many-disabled-staff-they-employ>

<sup>958</sup> New era of tech-driven legal and financial services to boost productivity and improve customer experience, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (London) 28 November 2018. Access Date: 30 November 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-era-of-tech-driven-legal-and-financial-services-to-boost-productivity-and-improve-customer-experience>

<sup>959</sup> New era of tech-driven legal and financial services to boost productivity and improve customer experience, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (London) 28 November 2018. Access Date: 30 November 2018. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-era-of-tech-driven-legal-and-financial-services-to-boost-productivity-and-improve-customer-experience>

requirements, show that the UK is “taking strong action in the international light against money laundering” in order to enhance the UK’s business environment for global investors.<sup>960</sup>

On 7 January 2019, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government announced an additional GBP14 million investment in the South Tees Development Corporation, specifically to establish construction access, utilities, a new spine road and roundabout.<sup>961</sup> Northern Powerhouse Minister Jake Berry stated that this investment is expected to “create 500 new jobs on the site and attract an extra half a million pounds of private investment.”<sup>962</sup>

On 28 January 2019, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport announced additional funding of at least GBP500,000 to the Cyber Skills Immediate Impact Fund. This funding is dedicated to boosting the number and diversity of workers in the UK’s cyber security industry, including to “retrain veterans in cyber security, in particular focusing on women, neurodiverse candidates and black, Asian and minority ethnic individuals.”<sup>963</sup>

On 31 January 2019, Scottish Secretary David Mundell announced a GBP100 million investment from the government to the Ayrshire Growth Deal.<sup>964</sup> David Mundell claimed that this federal investment will be “transformative for the region, booting jobs and prosperity across Ayrshire,” and it is a “huge commitment to growing Scotland’s economy.”<sup>965</sup>

On 14 February 2019, the Cabinet Office announced a GBP15 million investment for the development of public sector lands as a part of the One Public Estate programme.<sup>966</sup> Over 100 sites across the UK are committed to the programme, ranging from the redevelopment of hospitals to the development of new houses and stations. This programme aims to bring forward 10,000 new homes and 14,000 new jobs in the next five years.<sup>967</sup>

On 15 February 2019, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced a GBP13 million investment to support 40 new projects dedicated to the development of Artificial

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<sup>960</sup> New Measures to tackle international money laundering, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (London) 10 November 2018. Access Date: 21 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-tackle-international-money-laundering>

<sup>961</sup> Northern Powerhouse Minister green lights £14 million investment to transform heart of Redcar steel site, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (London) 7 January 2019. Access Date: 21 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/northern-powerhouse-minister-green-lights-14-million-investment-to-transform-heart-of-redcar-steel-site>

<sup>962</sup> Northern Powerhouse Minister green lights £14 million investment to transform heart of Redcar steel site, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (London) 7 January 2019. Access Date: 21 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/northern-powerhouse-minister-green-lights-14-million-investment-to-transform-heart-of-redcar-steel-site>

<sup>963</sup> New funding will help drive diversity in cyber security, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (London) 28 January 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funding-will-help-drive-diversity-in-cyber-security>

<sup>964</sup> UK Government announces £100 million for Ayrshire Growth Deal, Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland (Edinburgh) 31 January 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-announces-100-million-for-ayrshire-growth-deal>

<sup>965</sup> UK Government announces £100 million for Ayrshire Growth Deal, Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland (Edinburgh) 31 January 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-announces-100-million-for-ayrshire-growth-deal>

<sup>966</sup> Government backs plans to create new homes and jobs in next five years, Cabinet Office (London) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-backs-plans-to-create-new-homes-and-jobs-in-next-five-years>

<sup>967</sup> Government backs plans to create new homes and jobs in next five years, Cabinet Office (London) 14 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-backs-plans-to-create-new-homes-and-jobs-in-next-five-years>

Intelligence and data analytics projects.<sup>968</sup> The projects will regulate market policies and assist businesses and consumers in tackling insurance frauds.<sup>969</sup>

On 4 March 2019, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government announced that it will launch a GBP1.6 billion fund called the Stronger Towns Fund.<sup>970</sup> The purpose of the fund is to stimulate job creation and facilitate economic growth in regions of the country that have not benefitted from recent economic prosperity.<sup>971</sup> The initiative reaffirms the British government's continued commitment to ensuring inclusive and balanced economic growth.

On 14 March 2019, the Department of International Trade launched GBP2.2 billion worth of new investment opportunities to create new homes and stimulate job creation for citizens across the UK.<sup>972</sup>

On 13 May 2019, the government announced that the Derry-Londonderry region will receive a GBP105 investment package that aims to boost innovation and the city's digital potential.<sup>973</sup> The Communities Secretary, James Brokenshire, stated that this major investment will "bring enormous benefits and create high-value jobs" for the community of Derry-Londonderry and Strabane.<sup>974</sup>

On 10 June 2019, the British government announced it will make GBP18.5 million available to diversify the technology sector.<sup>975</sup> The investment will help businesses in the technology sector employ more individuals and provide adults with retraining opportunities in order for them to find better employment opportunities in today's competitive job market.<sup>976</sup>

The United Kingdom has demonstrated efforts towards monitoring developments in the labour and financial markets and utilizing all policy tools to promote and sustain growth in an inclusive manner.

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<sup>968</sup> Artificial intelligence to tackle insurance fraud and assess flood damage, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (London) 15 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/artificial-intelligence-to-tackle-insurance-fraud-and-assess-flood-damage>

<sup>969</sup> Artificial intelligence to tackle insurance fraud and assess flood damage, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (London) 15 February 2019. Access Date: 28 February 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/artificial-intelligence-to-tackle-insurance-fraud-and-assess-flood-damage>

<sup>970</sup> £1.6 billion Stronger Towns Fund launched, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (London) 4 March 2019. Access Date: 21 June 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/16-billion-stronger-towns-fund-launched>

<sup>971</sup> £1.6 billion Stronger Towns Fund launched, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (London) 4 March 2019. Access Date: 21 June 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/16-billion-stronger-towns-fund-launched>

<sup>972</sup> £2.2 billion of new UK investment opportunities launched, Department for International Trade (London) 14 March 2019. Access Date: 8 June 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/22-billion-of-new-uk-investment-opportunities-launched>

<sup>973</sup> £105 million economic package for the North West, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (London) 13 May 2019. Access Date: 8 June 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/105-million-economic-package-for-the-north-west>

<sup>974</sup> £105 million economic package for the North West, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (London) 13 May 2019. Access Date: 8 June 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/105-million-economic-package-for-the-north-west>

<sup>975</sup> £18.5 million to boost diversity in AI tech roles and innovation in online training for adults, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (London) 10 June 2019. Access Date: 20 June 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/185-million-to-boost-diversity-in-ai-tech-roles-and-innovation-in-online-training-for-adults>

<sup>976</sup> £18.5 million to boost diversity in AI tech roles and innovation in online training for adults, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (London) 10 June 2019. Access Date: 20 June 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/185-million-to-boost-diversity-in-ai-tech-roles-and-innovation-in-online-training-for-adults>

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Mary Qiu*

**United States: +1**

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to continue monitoring market developments and using all policy tools to support strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth that generates widespread prosperity.

On 2 July 2018, the Department of Education announced that the Puerto Rico Department of Education will pilot a model to “equitably allocate local, state and federal resources based on student needs.”<sup>977</sup> This system would help Puerto Rico allocate more resources to “low-income families, language learners and students in rural schools.”<sup>978</sup>

On 19 July 2018, President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order authorizing the establishment of the President’s National Council for the American Worker.<sup>979</sup> The council will develop recommendations regarding how the American government can provide skills training to the workforce, in order to ensure that its workforce remains competitive. The council will also foster collaboration with the private sector to effectively deliver training programs.<sup>980</sup>

On 31 July 2018, the Department of the Treasury released a report recommending improvements for U.S. firms to “more rapidly adopt competitive technologies, safeguard consumer data, and operate with greater regulatory efficiency.”<sup>981</sup>

On 8 August 2018, the Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration announced the availability of up to USD100 million for Trade and Economic Transition National Dislocated Worker Grants.<sup>982</sup> The grants are intended to assist with job training and career services for dislocated workers who experienced “job loss or employer/industrial reorganization due to trade or automation.”<sup>983</sup> The grants subsidize the costs of job training provided by businesses in the private sector, in order to ensure that the workforce can remain competitive and keep pace with technological changes.

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<sup>977</sup> Puerto Rico to Pilot New Student-Centered Funding System, U.S. Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 2 July 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/puerto-rico-pilot-new-student-centered-funding-system>

<sup>978</sup> Puerto Rico to Pilot New Student-Centered Funding System, U.S. Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 2 July 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/puerto-rico-pilot-new-student-centered-funding-system>

<sup>979</sup> Executive Order Establishing the President’s National Council for the American Worker, White House (Washington D.C.) 19 July 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-establishing-presidents-national-council-american-worker/>

<sup>980</sup> Executive Order Establishing the President’s National Council for the American Worker, White House (Washington D.C.) 19 July 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-establishing-presidents-national-council-american-worker/>

<sup>981</sup> Treasury Releases Report on Nonbank Financials, Fintech, and Innovation, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 31 July 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm447>

<sup>982</sup> U.S. Department of Labor Announces Funding Availability for Trade and Economic Transition National Dislocated Worker Grants, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 8 August 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20180808>

<sup>983</sup> U.S. Department of Labor Announces Funding Availability for Trade and Economic Transition National Dislocated Worker Grants, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 8 August 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20180808>



On 14 August 2018, the Department of Education announced a new federal assistance program totaling USD359.8 million. This program assists with the costs of education for students displaced by natural disasters in 20 states and the U.S. Virgin Island.<sup>984</sup>

On 21 September 2018, the Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Industry Liaison Group.<sup>985</sup> The MOU will support contractor education to further equal employment opportunities and align federal regulations.<sup>986</sup>

On 24 September 2018, the Department of the Treasury announced new tax credit for paid family and medical leave.<sup>987</sup> This tax credit will provide tax relief for qualified employees with compensation of less than USD72,000 in the prior year.

On 30 September 2018, the US, Canada, and Mexico reached an agreement on a new trilateral trade agreement known as the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement.<sup>988</sup> The agreement will commit the parties to refrain from competitive currency devaluations. It will also introduce mechanisms to review currency policy, once it enters into force.<sup>989</sup> Furthermore, the agreement includes provisions to enforce anti-corruption laws and enhance government transparency.<sup>990</sup>

On 17 October 2018, Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin met with the Mexican Finance Minister, Jose Antonio Gonzalez Anaya, to discuss financial and economic issues between the US and Mexico.<sup>991</sup> Mnuchin and Anaya signed a Memorandum of Understanding to update the Exchange Stabilization Agreement, a framework which promotes exchange rate stability and economic growth.<sup>992</sup>

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<sup>984</sup> Secretary DeVos Announces New Federal Assistance for the Education of Displaced Students, U.S. Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 14 August 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/secretary-devos-announces-new-federal-assistance-education-displaced-students>

<sup>985</sup> U.S. Department of Labor Signs Memorandum of Understanding to Promote Contractor Engagement, Compliance Assistance, and Proactive Compliance, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 21 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ofccp/ofccp20180921>

<sup>986</sup> U.S. Department of Labor Signs Memorandum of Understanding to Promote Contractor Engagement, Compliance Assistance, and Proactive Compliance, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 21 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ofccp/ofccp20180921>

<sup>987</sup> Treasury Announces New Employer Tax Credit for Paid Family and Medical Leave, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 24 September 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm493>

<sup>988</sup> Joint Statement from United States Representative Robert Lighthizer and Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 30 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2018/september/joint-statement-united-states>

<sup>989</sup> Joint Statement by the Secretary of the Treasury and Finance Minister of Mexico, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 17 October 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm527>

<sup>990</sup> United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Text, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington D.C.) 1 October 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://ustr.gov/trade-agreements/free-trade-agreements/united-states-mexico-canada-agreement/united-states-mexico>

<sup>991</sup> Joint Statement by the Secretary of the Treasury and Finance Minister of Mexico, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 17 October 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm527>

<sup>992</sup> Joint Statement by the Secretary of the Treasury and Finance Minister of Mexico, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 17 October 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm527>

On 19 October 2018, the Department of the Treasury issued proposed regulations pertaining to the tax benefits created by the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.<sup>993</sup> The proposed incentives were designed to stimulate investment in designated Opportunity Zones and create further employment opportunities.

On 12 December 2018, President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order to establish the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council.<sup>994</sup> This Council aims to “stimulate economic opportunity and mobility, encourage entrepreneurship, expand quality educational opportunities, develop and rehabilitate quality housing stock, and promote workforce development,” among other things.<sup>995</sup> The Council will explore new ways to use public funds in order to stimulate economic growth in local economies, traditionally plagued by socioeconomic disadvantages.<sup>996</sup>

On 20 December 2018, the Department of the Treasury issued the National Strategy for Combating Terrorist and Other Illicit Financing (National Illicit Finance Strategy).<sup>997</sup> The National Illicit Finance Strategy assesses existing government efforts to combat illicit financial threats and explores improvements to aid financial institutions and government institutions in enforcing the strategy.<sup>998</sup> The strategy highlights the continued commitment of the United States to implementing structural reforms in order to address money laundering and terrorist financing.

On 28 February 2019, the Trump administration announced the Education Freedom Scholarships, which are designed to empower students across the country and help them meet personalized needs.<sup>999</sup> These scholarships will aid students in need by helping them attain educational freedom and realize their development potential.<sup>1000</sup>

On 11 March 2019, the Trump administration presented its proposed Fiscal Year 2020 (FY2020) Budget.<sup>1001</sup> The proposed budget would eliminate several student loan programs that currently make

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<sup>993</sup> Treasury Releases Proposed Regulations on Opportunity Zones Designed to Incentivize Investment in American Communities, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 19 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm530>

<sup>994</sup> Executive Order on Establishing the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council, White House (Washington D.C.) 12 December 2018. Access Date: 18 December 2018. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-establishing-white-house-opportunity-revitalization-council/>

<sup>995</sup> Executive Order on Establishing the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council, White House (Washington D.C.) 12 December 2018. Access Date: 18 December 2018. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-establishing-white-house-opportunity-revitalization-council/>

<sup>996</sup> Executive Order on Establishing the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council, White House (Washington D.C.) 12 December 2018. Access Date: 18 December 2018. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-establishing-white-house-opportunity-revitalization-council/>

<sup>997</sup> Treasury Publishes National Illicit Finance Strategy and Supporting Risk Assessments, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 20 December 2018. Access Date: 20 December 2018. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm581>

<sup>998</sup> Treasury Publishes National Illicit Finance Strategy and Supporting Risk Assessments, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 20 December 2018. Access Date: 20 December 2018. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm581>

<sup>999</sup> Trump Administration Unveils Plan for Historic Investment in America’s Students through Education Freedom Scholarships, U.S. Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 28 February 2019. Access Date: 3 March 2019. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/trump-administration-unveils-plan-historic-investment-americas-students-through-education-freedom-scholarships>

<sup>1000</sup> Trump Administration Unveils Plan for Historic Investment in America’s Students through Education Freedom Scholarships, U.S. Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 28 February 2019. Access Date: 3 March 2019. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/trump-administration-unveils-plan-historic-investment-americas-students-through-education-freedom-scholarships>

<sup>1001</sup> Administration Presents President Trump’s Fiscal Year 2020 Budget, White House (Washington D.C.) 11 March 2019. Access Date: 13 March 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/administration-presents-president-trumps-fiscal-year-2020-budget-request/>

higher education more accessible, namely the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program and Subsidized Stafford Loans.<sup>1002</sup> The budget also proposes to facilitate paid parental leave at the state-level, which would allow new parents to recover from childbirth without negatively impacting their economic situation.<sup>1003</sup> Finally, the budget will invest approximately USD15 billion in modernizing the Internal Revenue Service in order to expand and strengthen its tax enforcement.<sup>1004</sup> The budget must first be approved by Congress before it can be implemented.

On 24 April 2019, the Department of Treasury identified individuals and entities designated as financiers of Hizballah, a terrorist group based in Lebanon.<sup>1005</sup> These measures will help stem terrorist financing and dismantle the global network of Hezbollah.<sup>1006</sup>

On 13 May 2019, President Trump signed an Executive Order on the Economic Empowerment of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.<sup>1007</sup> This order will help improve the access of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to economic resources and opportunities, in an effort to enable their full integration into the broad national economy.<sup>1008</sup>

On 15 May 2019, the Department of Transportation announced that it will make USD900 million in funding available through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development grants program.<sup>1009</sup> Funding will be awarded to surface transportation infrastructure projects that improve infrastructure, promote regional connectivity, or stimulate local economic growth.<sup>1010</sup>

On 29 May 2019, the Department of Treasury announced the establishment of a Financial Innovation Partnership between the United States and the United Kingdom.<sup>1011</sup> The partnership will boost bilateral collaboration between the two states and “deepen bilateral engagement on emerging

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<sup>1002</sup> Administration Presents President Trump’s Fiscal Year 2020 Budget, White House (Washington D.C.) 11 March 2019. Access Date: 13 March 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/administration-presents-president-trumps-fiscal-year-2020-budget-request/>

<sup>1003</sup> Administration Presents President Trump’s Fiscal Year 2020 Budget, White House (Washington D.C.) 11 March 2019. Access Date: 13 March 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/administration-presents-president-trumps-fiscal-year-2020-budget-request/>

<sup>1004</sup> Administration Presents President Trump’s Fiscal Year 2020 Budget, White House (Washington D.C.) 11 March 2019. Access Date: 13 March 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/administration-presents-president-trumps-fiscal-year-2020-budget-request/>

<sup>1005</sup> Treasury Targets Sanctions Evasion Conduits for Major Hizballah Financiers, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 24 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm668>

<sup>1006</sup> Treasury Targets Sanctions Evasion Conduits for Major Hizballah Financiers, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 24 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm668>

<sup>1007</sup> Executive Order on Economic Empowerment of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, White House (Washington D.C.) 13 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-economic-empowerment-asian-americans-pacific-islanders/>

<sup>1008</sup> Executive Order on Economic Empowerment of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, White House (Washington D.C.) 13 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-economic-empowerment-asian-americans-pacific-islanders/>

<sup>1009</sup> U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao Announces Availability of \$900 Million in Infrastructure Grant Funds, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington) 15 May 2019. Access Date: 20 June 2019. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-secretary-transportation-elaine-l-chao-announces-availability-900-million>

<sup>1010</sup> U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao Announces Availability of \$900 Million in Infrastructure Grant Funds, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington) 15 May 2019. Access Date: 20 June 2019. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-secretary-transportation-elaine-l-chao-announces-availability-900-million>

<sup>1011</sup> United States and United Kingdom Establish the Financial Innovation Partnership, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 29 May 2019. Access Date: 20 June 2018. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm698>

trends in the financial services innovation.”<sup>1012</sup> It will focus on regulatory and commercial engagement between government authorities and the private sector.<sup>1013</sup>

The United States has demonstrated efforts to monitor developments in the labor and financial markets and implement all policy tools in order to promote and sustain growth.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Zemin Liu*

### **European Union: +1**

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to continue monitoring market developments and using all policy tools to support strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth that generates widespread prosperity.

On 15 June 2018, the European Investment Fund (EIF) and Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK) announced that they will double their support for loans available to small Polish businesses and entrepreneurs.<sup>1014</sup> The new guarantee agreement brings the number of available loans to PLN4 billion, and aims to support “innovation, research, and development, entrepreneurship, growth and employment.”<sup>1015</sup>

On 19 June 2018, the EIF and seven banks of the Erste Group signed a guarantee agreement that will provide EUR50 million in loans for organizations “active in the education, health and social services sectors, or employing disadvantages, marginalized or vulnerable groups.”<sup>1016</sup> The loans will be available to socially oriented organizations in Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Serbia.<sup>1017</sup>

On 19 June 2018, the European Union announced the launch of the External Investment Plan in Morocco.<sup>1018</sup> Under the plan, the EU will provide technical assistance and EUR4.1 billion in grants to

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<sup>1012</sup> United States and United Kingdom Establish the Financial Innovation Partnership, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 29 May 2019. Access Date: 20 June 2018. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm698>

<sup>1013</sup> United States and United Kingdom Establish the Financial Innovation Partnership, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 29 May 2019. Access Date: 20 June 2018. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm698>

<sup>1014</sup> Junker Plan: 18,000 Polish SMEs to benefit from increased support by EIF and BGK bank, European Commission (Warsaw) 15 June 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/junker-plan-18000-polish-smes-benefit-increased-support-eif-and-bgk-bank-2018-jun-15\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/junker-plan-18000-polish-smes-benefit-increased-support-eif-and-bgk-bank-2018-jun-15_en)

<sup>1015</sup> Junker Plan: 18,000 Polish SMEs to benefit from increased support by EIF and BGK bank, European Commission (Warsaw) 15 June 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/junker-plan-18000-polish-smes-benefit-increased-support-eif-and-bgk-bank-2018-jun-15\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/junker-plan-18000-polish-smes-benefit-increased-support-eif-and-bgk-bank-2018-jun-15_en)

<sup>1016</sup> The European Investment Fund and Erste Group sign a EUR50 million deal to finance social enterprises in Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Serbia, European Commission (Brussels) 19 June 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/european-investment-fund-and-erste-group-sign-eur-50-million-deal-finance-social-enterprises-austria-croatia-czech-republic-hungary-romania-slovakia-and-serbia-2018-jun-19\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/european-investment-fund-and-erste-group-sign-eur-50-million-deal-finance-social-enterprises-austria-croatia-czech-republic-hungary-romania-slovakia-and-serbia-2018-jun-19_en)

<sup>1017</sup> The European Investment Fund and Erste Group sign a EUR50 million deal to finance social enterprises in Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Serbia, European Commission (Brussels) 19 June 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/european-investment-fund-and-erste-group-sign-eur-50-million-deal-finance-social-enterprises-austria-croatia-czech-republic-hungary-romania-slovakia-and-serbia-2018-jun-19\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/european-investment-fund-and-erste-group-sign-eur-50-million-deal-finance-social-enterprises-austria-croatia-czech-republic-hungary-romania-slovakia-and-serbia-2018-jun-19_en)

<sup>1018</sup> EU-Morocco partnership: first investments in Morocco under the European External Investment Plan to increase business opportunities, enhancing job creation, private sector development and inclusive growth, European Commission (Brussels) 19 June 2018. Access Date: 26 October 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-4190\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-4190_en.htm)

support sustainable development in sub-Saharan Africa with the goal of improving “business opportunities, enhancing job creation, private sector development, and inclusive growth.”<sup>1019</sup>

On 21 June 2018, the Council of the European Union reached an agreement on the general approach to improving “access to work-life balance arrangements” for parents and caregivers.<sup>1020</sup> The approach sets new minimum standards for paternity leave, introduces caregiver’s leave, and extends the duration and eligibility of flexible working arrangements.

On 22 June 2018, the Council of the European Union agreed to strengthen administrative cooperation between the member states to reduce value added tax fraud.<sup>1021</sup> The agreement also allows for “improved investigating coordination between tax administrations and law enforcement.”<sup>1022</sup>

On 28 June 2018, the European Council adopted its conclusion on jobs, growth, and competitiveness.<sup>1023</sup> The Council stated that it will “take work forward on the Commission proposal on digital taxation.”<sup>1024</sup>

On 4 July 2018, the EIF signed a new guarantee agreement with the Cooperative Bank of Thessaly, allowing the bank to provide entrepreneurs and young farmers with up to EUR7.5 million in loans.<sup>1025</sup>

On 9 July 2018, the President of the European Central Bank (ECB) announced that the ECB will be phasing out net asset purchases at the end of the year.<sup>1026</sup> While ending quantitative easing, the bank will continue to implement expansionary monetary policy.

On 11 July 2018, the European Commission decided to activate the enhanced surveillance framework that allows for “close monitoring of the economic, fiscal and financial situation” in Greece.<sup>1027</sup> Since Greece has completed the European Stability Mechanism programme, the

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<sup>1019</sup> EU-Morocco partnership: first investments in Morocco under the European External Investment Plan to increase business opportunities, enhancing job creation, private sector development and inclusive growth, European Commission (Brussels) 19 June 2018. Access Date: 26 October 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-4190\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-4190_en.htm)

<sup>1020</sup> Leave and flexible work for parents and carers: Council agrees general approach on the draft directive on work-life balance, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 21 June 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/06/21/leave-and-flexible-work-for-parents-and-carers-council-agrees-general-approach-on-the-draft-directive-on-work-life-balance/>

<sup>1021</sup> VAT fraud: Agreement on measures to boost administrative cooperation, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 22 June 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/06/22/vat-fraud-agreement-on-measures-to-boost-administrative-cooperation/>

<sup>1022</sup> VAT: European Commission welcomes adoption of new tools to combat fraud in the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 22 June 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-3868\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-3868_en.htm)

<sup>1023</sup> European Council conclusions, European Council (Brussels) 29 June 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/06/29/20180628-euco-conclusions-final/>

<sup>1024</sup> European Council conclusions, European Council (Brussels) 29 June 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/06/29/20180628-euco-conclusions-final/>

<sup>1025</sup> 7.5 million of EU financing for micro-entrepreneurs in Greece under Juncker Plan, European Commission (Thessaly) 4 July 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eu75-million-eu-financing-micro-entrepreneurs-greece-under-juncker-plan-2018-jul-04\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eu75-million-eu-financing-micro-entrepreneurs-greece-under-juncker-plan-2018-jul-04_en)

<sup>1026</sup> Hearing of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs of the European Parliament, European Central Bank (Brussels) 9 July 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018.

<https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/key/date/2018/html/ecb.sp180709.en.html>

<sup>1027</sup> Commission supports normalization in Greece through activation of post-program framework, European Commission (Brussels) 11 July 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-4381\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-4381_en.htm)

framework does not include any new reforms. However, the framework is a monitoring and early risk identification tool designed to “build confidence with markets, investors and companies.”<sup>1028</sup>

On 12 July 2018, the EIF signed a guarantee agreement with Bank Polska Kasa Opieki. The agreement will make an additional PLN1.2 billion in loans available to Polish start-ups and small businesses.<sup>1029</sup>

On 21 July 2018, the European Investment Bank (EIB) made an agreement with Banco Santander to make EUR500 million in loans available to Spanish small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).<sup>1030</sup> The EIB will contribute EUR250 million towards the program with the goal of “stimulating economic growth and job creation.”<sup>1031</sup>

On 26 July 2018, the ECB president confirmed that the ECB was not using monetary policy tools to impact the exchange rate, thus complying with its commitment of “abstaining from competitive devaluations.”<sup>1032</sup>

On 7 August 2018, the European Investment Fund signed a guarantee agreement with ALTUM, a state-owned development institution of Latvia. The agreement will provide 600 micro-entrepreneurs with access to loans “at a reduced interest rate with lower collateral requirements.”<sup>1033</sup>

On 3 September 2018, the European Investment Fund and Cassa Depositi e Prestiti launched a guarantee program under the Cultural and Creative Sectors Guarantee Facility, comprised of EUR300 million in loans available to SMEs operating in creative and cultural sectors.<sup>1034</sup>

On 12 September 2018, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker delivered the State of the Union Address.<sup>1035</sup> In the address, the European Commission underlined the need for “stronger anti-money laundering supervision,” and proposed amendments to the European Banking Authority (EBA).<sup>1036</sup> These amendments will concentrate on the financial sector’s “anti-money laundering

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<sup>1028</sup> Commission supports normalization in Greece through activation of post-program framework, European Commission (Brussels) 11 July 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-4381\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-4381_en.htm)

<sup>1029</sup> Junker Plan: further 265 million for small businesses in Poland, European Commission (Warsaw) 12 July 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/junker-plan-further-eu285-million-small-businesses-poland-2018-jul-12\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/junker-plan-further-eu285-million-small-businesses-poland-2018-jul-12_en)

<sup>1030</sup> Investment Plan for Europe: EIB and Santander provide EUR500 million to finance SMEs, European Commission (Madrid) 31 July 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eib-and-santander-provide-eur-500-million-finance-smes-2018-jul-31\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eib-and-santander-provide-eur-500-million-finance-smes-2018-jul-31_en)

<sup>1031</sup> Investment Plan for Europe: EIB and Santander provide EUR500 million to finance SMEs, European Commission (Madrid) 31 July 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eib-and-santander-provide-eur-500-million-finance-smes-2018-jul-31\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eib-and-santander-provide-eur-500-million-finance-smes-2018-jul-31_en)

<sup>1032</sup> Press Conference, European Central Bank (Frankfurt am Main) 26 July 2018. Access Date: 26 October 2018. <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pressconf/2018/html/ecb.is180726.en.html>

<sup>1033</sup> EUR15 million of EU financing for micro-entrepreneurs in Latvia under the Junker Plan, European Commission (Luxembourg) 7 August 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eur-15-million-eu-financing-micro-entrepreneurs-latvia-under-junker-plan-2018-aug-07\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eur-15-million-eu-financing-micro-entrepreneurs-latvia-under-junker-plan-2018-aug-07_en)

<sup>1034</sup> EUR300 million for Italian SMEs in creative and cultural sectors, European Commission (Rome) 3 September 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eur-300-million-italian-smes-creative-and-cultural-sectors-2018-sep-03\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eur-300-million-italian-smes-creative-and-cultural-sectors-2018-sep-03_en)

<sup>1035</sup> State of the Union 2018 — Stronger anti-money laundering supervision for a stable banking and financial sector, European Commission (Strasbourg) 12 September 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-5724\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-5724_en.htm)

<sup>1036</sup> State of the Union 2018 — Stronger anti-money laundering supervision for a stable banking and financial sector, European Commission (Strasbourg) 12 September 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-5724\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-5724_en.htm)

powers” within the EBA, and improve coordination between Member State anti-money laundering authorities by establishing a new permanent committee.<sup>1037</sup>

On 27 September 2018, the EIF announced a new counter-agreement with BGK under the Cultural and Creative Sectors Guarantee Facility. This agreement will allow the BGK to provide PLN525 million in loans to companies in Poland’s cultural and creative sectors that are currently underserved.<sup>1038</sup>

On 11 October 2018, the EIF and Bank Polska Kasa Opieki Leasing S.A announced an agreement that will generate up to PLN1.5 million in loans for Polish SMEs under the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.<sup>1039</sup> The EIF also signed a guarantee agreement with Banque et Caisse d’Épargne de l’État to make EUR40 million in loans available for SMEs in Luxembourg.<sup>1040</sup>

On 19 October 2018, the EIF and Cassa di Risparmio di Bolzano — Südtiroler Sparkasse announced an agreement intended to provide loans “on favourable terms to innovative SMEs and small mid-caps.”<sup>1041</sup> The EIF and the bank agreed on a EUR60 million portfolio that will support innovative businesses in Italy.<sup>1042</sup>

On 23 October 2018, the European Commission presented the Work Programme for 2019, outlining its top priorities for the coming year.<sup>1043</sup> The European Commission is committed to keeping the EU “on a stable and sustainable growth path” with concrete proposals to be outlined in the next Multiannual Financial Framework, which will focus on “youth unemployment, migration, security, the technological and digital transformation as well as the transition to a more sustainable, low-carbon economy.”<sup>1044</sup> The European Commission is also committed to delivering reforms to create

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<sup>1037</sup> State of the Union 2018 — Stronger anti-money laundering supervision for a stable banking and financial sector, European Commission (Strasbourg) 12 September 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-5724\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-5724_en.htm)

<sup>1038</sup> EU backs more than half a billion zloty of loans for creative and cultural SMEs in Poland, European Commission (Luxembourg) 27 September 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eu-backs-more-half-billion-zloty-loans-creative-and-cultural-smes-poland-2018-sep-27\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eu-backs-more-half-billion-zloty-loans-creative-and-cultural-smes-poland-2018-sep-27_en)

<sup>1039</sup> Investment Plan for Europe supports EUR350 million of leases for SMEs in Poland, European Commission (Luxembourg) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-supports-eur-350-million-leases-smes-poland-2018-oct-11\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-supports-eur-350-million-leases-smes-poland-2018-oct-11_en)

<sup>1040</sup> Investment Plan for Europe: EIF and BCEE confirm EUR40 million for businesses in Luxembourg, European Commission (Luxembourg) 11 October 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eif-and-bcee-confirm-eur-40-million-businesses-luxembourg-2018-oct-11\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eif-and-bcee-confirm-eur-40-million-businesses-luxembourg-2018-oct-11_en)

<sup>1041</sup> Investment Plan for Europe: EUR60 million of EU supported finance for innovative businesses in Italy, European Commission (Luxembourg) 19 October 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eur-60-million-eu-supported-finance-innovative-businesses-italy-2018-oct-19\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eur-60-million-eu-supported-finance-innovative-businesses-italy-2018-oct-19_en)

<sup>1042</sup> Investment Plan for Europe: EUR60 million of EU supported finance for innovative businesses in Italy, European Commission (Luxembourg) 19 October 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eur-60-million-eu-supported-finance-innovative-businesses-italy-2018-oct-19\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eur-60-million-eu-supported-finance-innovative-businesses-italy-2018-oct-19_en)

<sup>1043</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, European Commission (Strasbourg) 23 October 2018. Access Date: 26 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/cwp\\_2019\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/cwp_2019_en.pdf)

<sup>1044</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, European Commission (Strasbourg) 23 October 2018. Access Date: 26 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/cwp\\_2019\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/cwp_2019_en.pdf)

“fair and efficient taxation” suitable for the digital economy.<sup>1045</sup> One of the European Commission’s top priorities is reaching an agreement on the pan-European Personal Pension Product and European Market infrastructure reforms that will improve “EU’s financial supervisory architecture.”<sup>1046</sup> The programme reaffirms the European Commission’s commitment to establishing a European Labour Authority and finalizes the European Accessibility Act, which serves to guarantee “high social standards and workers’ protection” and provide people with disabilities “equal right to participate fully in society and labour market.”<sup>1047</sup>

On 24 October 2018, the European Commission published the Erasmus+ Program Guide and a call for proposals for the Erasmus+ programme.<sup>1048</sup> The Commission announced that it “launch[ed] a pilot program supporting six European University alliances” with an aim to “promote a strengthened European identity while boosting excellence and helping to make European higher education institutions more competitive.”<sup>1049</sup>

On 25 October 2018, the European Commission approved EUR243 million under the LIFE programme. The programme finances environmentally friendly projects and aims to facilitate the EU’s “transition to a more sustainable and low carbon future.”<sup>1050</sup>

On 26 October 2018, the EIF and the Helenos Funds signed a capacity-building agreement under the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation.<sup>1051</sup> Under the agreement, EUR25 million will be invested in 25 microfinance institutions and social finance providers that “promote social fairness equal opportunities and access to the labour market.”<sup>1052</sup>

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<sup>1045</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, European Commission (Strasbourg) 23 October 2018. Access Date: 26 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/cwp\\_2019\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/cwp_2019_en.pdf)

<sup>1046</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, European Commission (Strasbourg) 23 October 2018. Access Date: 26 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/cwp\\_2019\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/cwp_2019_en.pdf)

<sup>1047</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, European Commission (Strasbourg) 23 October 2018. Access Date: 26 October 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/cwp\\_2019\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/cwp_2019_en.pdf)

<sup>1048</sup> An expected budget of €3 billion to be invested in young Europeans and to help create European Universities in 2019, European Commission (Brussels) 24 October 2018. Access Date: 26 October 2018.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/erasmus-2018-oct-24\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/erasmus-2018-oct-24_en)

<sup>1049</sup> An expected budget of €3 billion to be invested in young Europeans and to help create European Universities in 2019, European Commission (Brussels) 24 October 2018. Access Date: 26 October 2018.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/erasmus-2018-oct-24\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/erasmus-2018-oct-24_en)

<sup>1050</sup> LIFE Program, European Commission (Brussels) 25 October 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/life-programme-2018-oct-25\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/life-programme-2018-oct-25_en).

<sup>1051</sup> Juncker Plan: new EUR24 million fund benefits from first capacity building agreement in Europe to support microfinance providers, European Commission (Luxembourg) 26 October 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/juncker-plan-new-eur-25-million-fund-benefits-first-capacity-building-agreement-europe-support-microfinance-providers-2018-oct-26\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/juncker-plan-new-eur-25-million-fund-benefits-first-capacity-building-agreement-europe-support-microfinance-providers-2018-oct-26_en)

<sup>1052</sup> Juncker Plan: new EUR24 million fund benefits from first capacity building agreement in Europe to support microfinance providers, European Commission (Luxembourg) 26 October 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/juncker-plan-new-eur-25-million-fund-benefits-first-capacity-building-agreement-europe-support-microfinance-providers-2018-oct-26\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/juncker-plan-new-eur-25-million-fund-benefits-first-capacity-building-agreement-europe-support-microfinance-providers-2018-oct-26_en)



On 6 November 2018, the EIF announced that with the support of InnovFin Equity and COSME EFG, a total of EUR190 million will be invested in Vallis Capital Partners and Mustard Seed Maze equity funds.<sup>1053</sup> These Portuguese funds will provide financing for social enterprises as well as SMEs.

On 8 November 2018, the European Commission decided to refer Luxembourg to the Court of Justice of the EU for “not completely implementing EU anti-money laundering rules.”<sup>1054</sup> The decision was made because Luxemburg did not transpose the 4th Anti-Money Laundering Directive into national law. The European Commission also adopted an opinion requiring a Maltese anti-money laundering supervisor to take additional measures to fully comply with the 4th Anti-Money Laundering Directive.<sup>1055</sup>

On 15 November 2018, the EIF signed two guarantee agreements with the Finnish bank Oma Säästöpankki Oyj.<sup>1056</sup> The agreements will make EUR40 million in loans available to Finish micro-entrepreneurs, including EUR10 million in loans for social enterprises.<sup>1057</sup>

On 19 November 2018, the EIB signed an agreement with Bankia to each contribute EUR25 million in available loans to Spanish SMEs, in order “to encourage them to give jobs to unemployed young people.”<sup>1058</sup>

On 21 November 2018, the EIF and Austria Wirtschaftsservice signed a counter-guarantee agreement that makes an additional EUR48 million in loans available to innovative SMEs in Austria.<sup>1059</sup>

On 23 November 2018, the European Commission announced two cooperation programmes that will promote sustainable development and inclusive education policies in Central Asia.<sup>1060</sup> With a budget of EUR88 million, one program will support the private sector, investments, environmental protection, and promote the rule of law in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and

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<sup>1053</sup> EUR190 million for innovative Portuguese SMEs announced at Web Summit in Lisbon, European Commission (Luxembourg) 6 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eur-190-million-innovative-portuguese-smes-announced-web-summit-lisbon-2018-nov-06\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eur-190-million-innovative-portuguese-smes-announced-web-summit-lisbon-2018-nov-06_en)

<sup>1054</sup> Commission refers Luxembourg to the Court of Justice for not completely implementing EU anti-money laundering rules, European Commission (Brussels) 8 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6251\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6251_en.htm)

<sup>1055</sup> Commission requests Maltese anti-money laundering watchdog to step up supervision of banks, European Commission (Brussels) 8 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6303\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6303_en.htm)

<sup>1056</sup> EU financing agreements for social and micro-entrepreneurs in Finland under Juncker Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 15 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eu-financing-agreements-social-and-micro-entrepreneurs-finland-under-juncker-plan-2018-nov-15\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eu-financing-agreements-social-and-micro-entrepreneurs-finland-under-juncker-plan-2018-nov-15_en)

<sup>1057</sup> EU financing agreements for social and micro-entrepreneurs in Finland under Juncker Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 15 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eu-financing-agreements-social-and-micro-entrepreneurs-finland-under-juncker-plan-2018-nov-15\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eu-financing-agreements-social-and-micro-entrepreneurs-finland-under-juncker-plan-2018-nov-15_en)

<sup>1058</sup> EIB and Bankia join forces to promote the creation of jobs for young people in Spain, European Commission (Madrid) 19 November 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eib-and-bankia-join-forces-promote-creation-jobs-young-people-spain-2018-nov-19\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eib-and-bankia-join-forces-promote-creation-jobs-young-people-spain-2018-nov-19_en)

<sup>1059</sup> EUR96 million of EIF and aws finance for innovative business in Austria, European Commission (Luxembourg) 21 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eur-96-million-eif-and-aws-finance-innovative-businesses-austria-2018-nov-21\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eur-96-million-eif-and-aws-finance-innovative-businesses-austria-2018-nov-21_en)

<sup>1060</sup> EU to promote sustainable development in Central Asia with €124 million, European Commission (Brussels) 23 November 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6525\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6525_en.htm)

Uzbekistan.<sup>1061</sup> An additional programme will provide EUR36 million to support “effective and inclusive education policies in Kyrgyzstan.”<sup>1062</sup>

On 26 November 2018, the EIF and the European Fund for Strategic Investment announced a EUR10 million investment in Creas Impacto and EUR3 million in Equity4Good.<sup>1063</sup> These two Spanish funds will provide funding for social enterprises that focus on sustainability, education, health, and inclusion.<sup>1064</sup>

On 27 November 2018, the EIF signed an agreement with Italian Banca Popolare Sant’Angelo that will make EUR10 million in loans available to micro-entrepreneurs.<sup>1065</sup> The agreement is a part of the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation, which focuses on start-ups, women, and young people.<sup>1066</sup>

On 27 November 2018, the European Commission announced a EUR474 million co-operation package for Afghanistan.<sup>1067</sup> As a part of the package, EUR311 million will be devoted to supporting reforms in Afghanistan, focusing on “public sector reform and the fight against corruption; basic service delivery and gender equality; public financial management and macro-economic stability.”<sup>1068</sup>

On 30 November 2018, the European Commission approved the disbursement of the first EUR500 million to Ukraine as a part of the new Macro-Financial Assistance, which brings the total amount of assistance to EUR3.3 billion.<sup>1069</sup> The programme supports structural reforms in Ukraine, but it is conditional upon the “implementation of specific policy measures” in the areas of anti-corruption, finance, banking, and social policy.<sup>1070</sup>

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<sup>1061</sup> EU to promote sustainable development in Central Asia with €124 million, European Commission (Brussels) 23 November 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6525\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6525_en.htm)

<sup>1062</sup> EU to promote sustainable development in Central Asia with €124 million, European Commission (Brussels) 23 November 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6525\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6525_en.htm)

<sup>1063</sup> The European Investment Fund invests in Creas Impacto and Ship2B, European Commission (Luxembourg) 26 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/european-investment-fund-invests-creas-impacto-and-ship2b-2018-nov-26\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/european-investment-fund-invests-creas-impacto-and-ship2b-2018-nov-26_en)

<sup>1064</sup> The European Investment Fund invests in Creas Impacto and Ship2B, European Commission (Luxembourg) 26 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/european-investment-fund-invests-creas-impacto-and-ship2b-2018-nov-26\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/european-investment-fund-invests-creas-impacto-and-ship2b-2018-nov-26_en)

<sup>1065</sup> Junker Plan: 10 million euros for micro-entrepreneurs in Italy, European Commission (Luxembourg) 27 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/junker-plan-10-million-euros-micro-entrepreneurs-italy-2018-nov-27\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/junker-plan-10-million-euros-micro-entrepreneurs-italy-2018-nov-27_en)

<sup>1066</sup> Junker Plan: 10 million euros for micro-entrepreneurs in Italy, European Commission (Luxembourg) 27 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/junker-plan-10-million-euros-micro-entrepreneurs-italy-2018-nov-27\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/junker-plan-10-million-euros-micro-entrepreneurs-italy-2018-nov-27_en)

<sup>1067</sup> New €474 million co-operation package for Afghanistan, European Commission (Geneva) 27 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6565\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6565_en.htm)

<sup>1068</sup> New €474 million co-operation package for Afghanistan, European Commission (Geneva) 27 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6565\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6565_en.htm)

<sup>1069</sup> EU approves disbursement of €500 million in Macro-Financial Assistance to Ukraine, European Commission (Brussels) 30 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6600\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6600_en.htm)

<sup>1070</sup> EU approves disbursement of €500 million in Macro-Financial Assistance to Ukraine, European Commission (Brussels) 30 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6600\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6600_en.htm)

On 5 December 2018, the European Parliament and the European Council reached a provisional agreement on the EU's budget for the upcoming year.<sup>1071</sup> The budget allocates EUR80.5 billion to “boosting the European economy, employment and competitiveness,” EUR2.8 billion to Erasmus+ educational programmes, and EUR350 million to the Youth Employment Initiative.<sup>1072</sup>

On 6 December 2018, the EU announced that it will allocate EUR125 million in funding to Sahel countries.<sup>1073</sup> The new funding available for Sahel countries will be used for development projects to improve “resilience and social cohesion.”<sup>1074</sup>

On 7 December 2018, the EIF reached an agreement with Croatian Privredna Banka Zagreb.<sup>1075</sup> The agreement will make EUR25 million of loans available to Croatian small and mid-cap enterprises with the goal to facilitating expansion, innovation, and job creation.<sup>1076</sup>

On 11 December 2018, the European Commission outlined detailed steps for a transition to new VAT rules. The new measures aim to improve VAT collection for e-commerce and reduce VAT fraud as well as to prepare the Member States and e-businesses for the new rules that come into force in 2021.<sup>1077</sup>

On 12 December 2018, the European Commission adopted EUR134 million in new programs for the Horn of Africa. The programmes financed by the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa includes six programs to help “refugee populations become self-sufficient and support host communities.” The programmes also include four national programs and a regional programme of EUR5 million to support “financial investigation and anti-money laundering tools to disrupt human trafficking and smuggling networks.”<sup>1078</sup>

On 17 December 2018, the EU Trust Fund announced a EUR122 million aid package to support programmes in Jordan, Turkey, and Iraq.<sup>1079</sup> The programmes include “supporting livelihood through cultural heritage development” communities in Iraq, in addition to support for Syrian

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<sup>1071</sup> The EU Budget for 2019: growth, solidarity and security in Europe and beyond — provisional agreement reached, European Commission (Brussels) 5 December 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6381\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6381_en.htm)

<sup>1072</sup> The EU Budget for 2019: growth, solidarity and security in Europe and beyond — provisional agreement reached, European Commission (Brussels) 5 December 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6381\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6381_en.htm)

<sup>1073</sup> EU steps up support for the development of the Sahel, European Commission (Brussels) 6 December 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6667\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6667_en.htm)

<sup>1074</sup> EU steps up support for the development of the Sahel, European Commission (Brussels) 6 December 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6667\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6667_en.htm)

<sup>1075</sup> Investment Plan for Europe: EUR25 million for innovative Croatian SMEs and small mid-caps, European Commission (Luxembourg/Zagreb) 7 December 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eur-25-million-innovative-croatian-smes-and-small-mid-caps-2018-dec-07\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eur-25-million-innovative-croatian-smes-and-small-mid-caps-2018-dec-07_en)

<sup>1076</sup> Investment Plan for Europe: EUR25 million for innovative Croatian SMEs and small mid-caps, European Commission (Luxembourg/Zagreb) 7 December 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eur-25-million-innovative-croatian-smes-and-small-mid-caps-2018-dec-07\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eur-25-million-innovative-croatian-smes-and-small-mid-caps-2018-dec-07_en)

<sup>1077</sup> VAT: New details on rules for e-commerce presented, including a new role for online marketplaces in the fight against tax fraud, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6732\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6732_en.htm)

<sup>1078</sup> Emergency Trust Fund for Africa: new support for the Horn of Africa worth EUR134 million, European Commission (Brussels) 12 December 2018. Access Date: 4 March 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6729\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6729_en.htm)

<sup>1079</sup> EU regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis: with new projects adopted for refugees and local communities in Jordan, Iraq, and Turkey, the EU Trust Fund mobilised so far €1.6 billion, European Commission (Brussels) 17 December 2018. Access Date: 4 March 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6809\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6809_en.htm)

refugees in Jordan and Turkey. The programmes also provide funds for micro-loans and higher education to “Syrian refugees and vulnerable communities in Turkey.”<sup>1080</sup>

On 27 December 2018, the European Investment Bank, the European Investment Fund and Spanish state-owned Instituto de Credito Oficial reached an agreement to provide over EUR1 billion in loans to SMEs “working in rural areas and agri-food companies.”<sup>1081</sup>

On 9 January 2019, the European Investment Bank announced that EUR22.3 million will be lent to the Garanti Bank Romania. The funds will be available to small and medium-sized enterprises through loans.<sup>1082</sup> From the EUR22.3 million loan, EUR10 million will be devoted to female entrepreneurs, in an effort to empower women and provide them with the financial tools to achieve success.<sup>1083</sup>

On 18 January 2019, the European Commission announced that an additional EUR35 million will be provided to Côte d'Ivoire under the Development Programmes. These funds will be used to support vocational training and reforms in “the sectors of public finance management” and “economic development policies.”<sup>1084</sup>

On 24 January 2019, the European Commission and Ethiopia reached an agreement that the EU will contribute an additional EUR130 million to support job creation in Ethiopia.<sup>1085</sup> Under this agreement, EUR50 million will be invested in job creation programmes, EUR25 million will be invested in sustainable energy projects, and EUR45 million will be allocated to the establishment of agro-industrial parks.<sup>1086</sup>

On 24 January 2019, the European Parliament and the Council reached “a provisional agreement” on the work-life balance for parents and carers directive.<sup>1087</sup> The new directive sets standards for paternity leave compensation, provides for five-day carer’s leaves, and “strengthens the right for all

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<sup>1080</sup> EU regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis: with new projects adopted for refugees and local communities in Jordan, Iraq, and Turkey, the EU Trust Fund mobilised so far €1.6 billion, European Commission (Brussels) 17 December 2018. Access Date: 4 March 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6809\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6809_en.htm)

<sup>1081</sup> Support for the rural economy: EIB, EIF and ICO sign an agreement with Grupo Cajamar to provide over EUR1bn to SMEs and the self-employed, European Commission (Brussels) 27 December 2018. Access Date: 4 March 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/support-rural-economy-eib-eif-and-ico-sign-agreement-grupo-cajamar-provide-over-eur-1bn-smes-and-self-employed-2018-dec-27\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/support-rural-economy-eib-eif-and-ico-sign-agreement-grupo-cajamar-provide-over-eur-1bn-smes-and-self-employed-2018-dec-27_en)

<sup>1082</sup> Investment Plan for Europe: EIB and Garanti Bank join forces to support businesses run by women in Romania, European Commission (Luxembourg/Bucharest) 9 January 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eib-and-garanti-bank-join-forces-support-businesses-run-women-romania-2019-jan-09\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eib-and-garanti-bank-join-forces-support-businesses-run-women-romania-2019-jan-09_en)

<sup>1083</sup> Investment Plan for Europe: EIB and Garanti Bank join forces to support businesses run by women in Romania, European Commission (Luxembourg/Bucharest) 9 January 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eib-and-garanti-bank-join-forces-support-businesses-run-women-romania-2019-jan-09\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eib-and-garanti-bank-join-forces-support-businesses-run-women-romania-2019-jan-09_en)

<sup>1084</sup> European Union steps up cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire, European Commission (Brussels) 18 January 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-501\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-501_en.htm)

<sup>1085</sup> The European Union and Ethiopia step up their partnership and cooperation, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2019. Access Date: 5 March 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-589\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-589_en.htm)

<sup>1086</sup> The European Union and Ethiopia step up their partnership and cooperation, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2019. Access Date: 5 March 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-589\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-589_en.htm)

<sup>1087</sup> Work-Life Balance: Commission welcomes the provisional agreement reached today, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2019. Access Date: 5 March 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_STATEMENT-19-424\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-19-424_en.htm)

parents and carers to request flexible working arrangements.”<sup>1088</sup> As the next step, the provincial agreement needs to be formally adopted by the Council and the European Parliament.<sup>1089</sup>

On 9 February 2019, the European Commission announced EUR225 million worth of support programs for 25 countries in Africa.<sup>1090</sup> Through regional organizations, the funds will be invested in economic integration, job creation, “urban coastal development... and maritime security in the Red Sea area.”<sup>1091</sup>

On 26 February 2019, the European Commission announced that over EUR10 billion will be invested in low-carbon technologies.<sup>1092</sup> Through these investments, the Commission aims to “keep building a modern, competitive and socially fair Paris-aligned economy for all Europeans.”<sup>1093</sup>

On 1 March 2019, the European Investment Fund and Belgium Credal and Hefboom signed a EUR25 million agreement to provide loans to 530 start-up and developing social enterprises that “struggle to access finance from traditional lenders.”<sup>1094</sup>

On 7 March 2019, the European Investment Fund and MicroBank reached a guarantee agreement that will make EUR50 million in financing available for “500 start-up and developing social enterprises across Spain.” Such financing will focus on “social and employment integration, autonomy and care for disability and dependence, the fight against poverty and social exclusion, intercultural activities and environmental protection.”<sup>1095</sup>

On 7 March 2019, the European Commission’s Director-General for International Cooperation and Development signed four financial agreements with Mozambique, totalling EUR217 million.<sup>1096</sup> The

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<sup>1088</sup> Work-Life Balance: Commission welcomes the provisional agreement reached today, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2019. Access Date: 5 March 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_STATEMENT-19-424\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-19-424_en.htm)

<sup>1089</sup> Work-Life Balance: Commission welcomes the provisional agreement reached today, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2019. Access Date: 5 March 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_STATEMENT-19-424\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-19-424_en.htm)

<sup>1090</sup> EU boosts regional cooperation with 25 African countries, European Commission (Brussels) 9 February 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-866\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-866_en.htm)

<sup>1091</sup> EU boosts regional cooperation with 25 African countries, European Commission (Brussels) 9 February 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-866\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-866_en.htm)

<sup>1092</sup> Towards a climate-neutral Europe: EU invests over EUR10 billion in innovative clean technologies, European Commission (Brussels) 26 February 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-1381\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1381_en.htm)

<sup>1093</sup> Towards a climate-neutral Europe: EU invests over EUR10 billion in innovative clean technologies, European Commission (Brussels) 26 February 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-1381\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1381_en.htm)

<sup>1094</sup> First in Belgium: EUR25 million of EU financing for Belgian social-entrepreneurs under Juncker Plan, European Commission (Luxembourg) 1 March 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/first-belgium-eu25-million-eu-financing-belgian-social-entrepreneurs-under-juncker-plan-2019-mar-01\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/first-belgium-eu25-million-eu-financing-belgian-social-entrepreneurs-under-juncker-plan-2019-mar-01_en)

<sup>1095</sup> Investment Plan: Social-enterprises to benefit from new €50 million EU agreement with MicroBank and EIF, European Commission (Luxembourg) 7 March 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-social-enterprises-benefit-new-eu50-million-eu-agreement-microbank-and-eif-2019-mar-07\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-social-enterprises-benefit-new-eu50-million-eu-agreement-microbank-and-eif-2019-mar-07_en)

<sup>1096</sup> Africa-EU Alliance: DG Manservisi in Mozambique as EU boosts cooperation with Portuguese-speaking Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 7 March 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/africa-eu-alliance-dg-manservisi-mozambique-eu-boosts-cooperation-portuguese\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/africa-eu-alliance-dg-manservisi-mozambique-eu-boosts-cooperation-portuguese_en)

funds will support transport projects in rural areas, “promote sustainable agriculture and agribusiness,” and promote the “sustainable management of natural resources.”<sup>1097</sup>

On 12 March 2019, EU Member States reached an agreement on the detailed measures needed to simplify VAT rules for the sales of goods online.<sup>1098</sup> The new rules will ensure that “online marketplaces play their part in the fight against tax fraud.”<sup>1099</sup>

On 12 March 2019, EU finance ministers updated the EU’s list of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions, placing 15 countries on the blacklist and 34 countries on the ‘grey list’ for further monitoring.<sup>1100</sup> EU Member States will impose countermeasures against such countries, including “increased monitoring and audits, withholding taxes, special documentation requirements and anti-abuse provisions.”<sup>1101</sup>

On 18 March 2019, the European Commission announced over EUR2 billion of funding in 2019-2020 for the European Innovation Council, selecting 68 additional startups and SMEs for funding under the pilot.<sup>1102</sup> In addition, between 15 and 20 innovation leaders will be appointed to the EIC Advisory Board, and a first set of programme managers will be recruited.<sup>1103</sup>

On 19 March 2019, the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission reached a provisional agreement on revisions to the “European rules on social security coordination.”<sup>1104</sup> The agreement aims to update and protect the rights of citizens migrating to another EU country, providing job seekers with “more time to find work abroad” and addressing “the long-term care needs of older people living abroad.”<sup>1105</sup>

On 2 April 2019, the European Commission approved a EUR4 billion investment package for infrastructure projects.<sup>1106</sup> The package includes investments in “health, transport, research, environment and energy” across 10 member states.<sup>1107</sup>

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<sup>1097</sup> Africa-EU Alliance: DG Manservisi in Mozambique as EU boosts cooperation with Portuguese-speaking Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 7 March 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/africa-eu-alliance-dg-manservisi-mozambique-eu-boosts-cooperation-portuguese\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/news-and-events/africa-eu-alliance-dg-manservisi-mozambique-eu-boosts-cooperation-portuguese_en)

<sup>1098</sup> Commission welcomes agreement on new rules paving the way for better VAT collection on online sales, European Commission (Brussels) 12 March 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-1595\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1595_en.htm)

<sup>1099</sup> Commission welcomes agreement on new rules paving the way for better VAT collection on online sales, European Commission (Brussels) 12 March 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-1595\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1595_en.htm)

<sup>1100</sup> Fair Taxation: EU updates list of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions, European Commission (Brussels) 12 March 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-1606\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1606_en.htm)

<sup>1101</sup> Fair Taxation: EU updates list of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions, European Union (Brussels) 12 March 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-1606\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1606_en.htm)

<sup>1102</sup> EUR2 billion to fast forward the creation of the European Innovation Council, European Commission (Brussels) 18 March 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-1694\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1694_en.htm)

<sup>1103</sup> EUR2 billion to fast forward the creation of the European Innovation Council, European Commission (Brussels) 18 March 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-1694\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1694_en.htm)

<sup>1104</sup> Fair labour mobility: Commission welcomes the provisional agreement reached on the modernised rules on social security coordination, European Commission (Brussels) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_STATEMENT-19-1613\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-19-1613_en.htm)

<sup>1105</sup> Fair labour mobility: Commission welcomes the provisional agreement reached on the modernised rules on social security coordination, European Commission (Brussels) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_STATEMENT-19-1613\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-19-1613_en.htm)

<sup>1106</sup> Commission adopts EUR4 billion investment package for infrastructure projects across 10 Member States, European Commission (Brussels) 2 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-1872\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1872_en.htm)

On 4 April 2019, the European Commission approved EUR115.5 million for the Sahel region under five new programmes and three top-ups of existing programs.<sup>1108</sup> These programs aim to “enhance security, migrant protection and job creation” in the region.<sup>1109</sup>

On 5 April 2019, the European Investment Fund and Caixa Geral de Depósitos signed a guarantee agreement that will provide EUR25 million in financing for “small and medium companies in the cultural and creative sector in Portugal.”<sup>1110</sup>

On 9 April 2019, the EU Member States signed three “digital cooperation initiatives” aiming to accelerate “digital development in key areas.”<sup>1111</sup> These declarations address cooperation in “empowering women’s participation in digital” economies, digitising “European agriculture and rural areas,” and “digitising cultural heritage.”<sup>1112</sup>

On 12 April 2019, the European Commission approved a EUR4.2 million programme to assist African and European neighbourhood small business.<sup>1113</sup> The programme will focus on providing access to financing for businesses and start-ups managed by women, young entrepreneurs, or small businesses in low-income countries.<sup>1114</sup>

On 18 April 2019, the European Parliament voted in favour of the InvestEU programme, which aims “to boost investment in Europe in the next long-term EU budget.”<sup>1115</sup> InvestEU will build on the success of the Juncker Plan and maintain its approach to investment by “using limited amounts of public resources with an EU budget guarantee to leverage substantial private and public funds.”<sup>1116</sup>

On 29 April 2019, the European Commission and the European Investment Bank announced a EUR1 billion loan package targeting young farmers.<sup>1117</sup> This loan package’s amount will be matched

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<sup>1107</sup> Commission adopts EUR4 billion investment package for infrastructure projects across 10 Member States, European Commission (Brussels) 2 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-1872\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1872_en.htm)

<sup>1108</sup> EU Trust Fund for Africa: EUR115.5 million to enhance security, migrant protection and job creation in the Sahel region, European Commission (Brussels) 4 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-1890\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1890_en.htm)

<sup>1109</sup> EU Trust Fund for Africa: EUR115.5 million to enhance security, migrant protection and job creation in the Sahel region, European Commission (Brussels) 4 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-1890\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-1890_en.htm)

<sup>1110</sup> Investment Plan for Europe: €25 million for cultural and creative businesses in Portugal, European Commission (Luxembourg) 5 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eu25-million-cultural-and-creative-businesses-portugal-2019-apr-05\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eu25-million-cultural-and-creative-businesses-portugal-2019-apr-05_en)

<sup>1111</sup> Digital Day 2019: EU countries will commit to three digital cooperation initiatives, European Commission (Brussels) 8 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-2015\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-2015_en.htm)

<sup>1112</sup> Digital Day 2019: EU countries will commit to three digital cooperation initiatives, European Commission (Brussels) 8 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-2015\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-2015_en.htm)

<sup>1113</sup> EU to facilitate financing for small businesses in Africa and the European Neighbourhood, European Commission (Washington) 12 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-2112\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-2112_en.htm)

<sup>1114</sup> EU to facilitate financing for small businesses in Africa and the European Neighbourhood, European Commission (Washington) 12 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-2112\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-2112_en.htm)

<sup>1115</sup> EU Budget 2021-2027: Commission welcomes Parliament's green light on InvestEU, European Commission (Brussels) 18 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-2149\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-2149_en.htm)

<sup>1116</sup> EU Budget 2021-2027: Commission welcomes Parliament's green light on InvestEU, European Commission (Brussels) 18 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-2149\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-2149_en.htm)

<sup>1117</sup> Young farmers: €1 billion to facilitate access to finance, European Commission (Brussels) 29 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-2294\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-2294_en.htm)

by participating Member States' banks and leasing companies operating across the EU, bringing the total amount of funds to EUR2 billion.<sup>1118</sup>

On 10 May 2019, the EIB and Spanish Banca March signed a guarantee agreement of EUR70 million, providing an additional EUR100 million to the bank's "SMEs' financial capacities."<sup>1119</sup> Banca March will match the EIB contribution and make a total of EUR340 million in financing available to small and medium-sized enterprises.<sup>1120</sup>

On 15 May 2019, the European Commission launched the Transaction Network Analysis tool, which "will enable Member States to rapidly exchange and jointly process VAT data."<sup>1121</sup> Through the analysis, anti-fraud officials across member states will be able to detect and intercept VAT carousel fraud "as fast and effectively as possible."<sup>1122</sup>

On 29 May 2019, the European Investment Fund signed a EUR80 million guarantee agreement with Swedish DBT and a EUR200 million agreement with Portuguese Caixa Geral de Depósitos.<sup>1123,1124</sup> These agreements will improve small and medium-sized enterprises access to financing in Sweden and Portugal, respectively.

On 5 June 2019, the European Commission proposed a EUR168.3 billion EU budget, focusing on jobs, economic growth, young people, security, and solidarity.<sup>1125</sup> Under the budget proposal, EUR83 billion will be allocated to "boost economic growth, European regions and ... support young people."<sup>1126</sup>

The European Union has demonstrated efforts to monitor market developments and utilize all policy tools, both in the EU and abroad, to promote and sustain growth.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

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<sup>1118</sup> Young farmers: €1 billion to facilitate access to finance, European Commission (Brussels) 29 April 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-2294\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-2294_en.htm)

<sup>1119</sup> EIB and Banca March provide €340m to finance Spanish SMEs and mid-caps, European Commission (Madrid) 10 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eib-and-banca-march-provide-eu340m-finance-spanish-smes-and-mid-caps-2019-may-10\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eib-and-banca-march-provide-eu340m-finance-spanish-smes-and-mid-caps-2019-may-10_en)

<sup>1120</sup> EIB and Banca March provide €340m to finance Spanish SMEs and mid-caps, European Commission (Madrid) 10 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eib-and-banca-march-provide-eu340m-finance-spanish-smes-and-mid-caps-2019-may-10\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eib-and-banca-march-provide-eu340m-finance-spanish-smes-and-mid-caps-2019-may-10_en)

<sup>1121</sup> VAT Fraud: New tool to help EU countries crack down on criminals and recoup billions, European Commission (Brussels) 15 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-2468\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-2468_en.htm)

<sup>1122</sup> VAT Fraud: New tool to help EU countries crack down on criminals and recoup billions, European Commission (Brussels) 15 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-2468\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-2468_en.htm)

<sup>1123</sup> €200 million for businesses in Portugal following EIF and CGD agreement, European Commission (Luxembourg) 29 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eu200-million-businesses-portugal-following-eif-and-cgd-agreement-2019-may-29\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eu200-million-businesses-portugal-following-eif-and-cgd-agreement-2019-may-29_en)

<sup>1124</sup> DBT and European Investment Fund sign €80 million guarantee agreement to increase lending to SMEs in Sweden, European Commission (Stockholm/Luxembourg) 29 May 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/dbt-and-european-investment-fund-sign-eu80-million-guarantee-agreement-increase-lending-smes-sweden-2019-may-29\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/dbt-and-european-investment-fund-sign-eu80-million-guarantee-agreement-increase-lending-smes-sweden-2019-may-29_en)

<sup>1125</sup> EU budget 2020: Commission focuses its proposal on jobs, growth and security, European Commission (Brussels) 5 June 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-2809\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-2809_en.htm)

<sup>1126</sup> EU budget 2020: Commission focuses its proposal on jobs, growth and security, European Commission (Brussels) 5 June 2019. Access Date: 10 June 2019. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-2809\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-2809_en.htm)