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G20 Research Group
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at the National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow
present the

2014 Brisbane G20 Summit Interim Compliance Report

17 November 2014 to 1 March 2015

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“The University of Toronto ... produced a detailed analysis to the extent of which each G20 country has met its commitments since the last summit ... I think this is important; we come to these summits, we make these commitments, we say we are going to do these things and it is important that there is an organisation that checks up on who has done what.”

— *David Cameron, Prime Minister, United Kingdom, at the 2012 Los Cabos Summit*

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6. Labour and Employment: Social Protection

“We remain focussed on addressing ... long-term unemployment, by ... having appropriate social protection systems.”

G20 Brisbane Leaders' Communiqué

Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia	-1		
Brazil	-1		
Canada			+1
China			+1
France		0	
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia		0	
Italy	-1		
Japan	-1		
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Turkey	-1		
United Kingdom		0	
United States			+1
European Union	-1		
Average		+0.15	

Background

Labour and employment policies have been prioritized on the G20 agenda since the London Summit in 2009. At the London Summit, G20 leaders pledged to “do whatever is necessary to: restore confidence, growth and jobs.”⁶⁰¹

The 2009 Pittsburgh Summit communiqué placed the creation of quality jobs at the heart of global economic recovery. The G20 leaders created the Framework for Strong, Sustainable, and Balanced Growth, which calls for “structural reforms to create more inclusive labour markets, active labour market policies, and quality education and training programs.”⁶⁰²

At the 2010 Toronto Summit, leaders reviewed and expanded upon the Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth. In the final communiqué, leaders agreed to follow through on fiscal stimulus and “growth-friendly” fiscal consolidation, strengthen social safety nets, enhance

⁶⁰¹ Global Plan for Recovery and Reform, 2 April 2009. Access Date: 2 February 2015.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communiqué0402.html>

⁶⁰² G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, 25 September 2009. Access Date: 2 February 2015.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communiqué0925.html>

infrastructure spending and corporate governance reform, and to pursue structural reforms to increase and sustain growth.⁶⁰³ At the Toronto Summit, the importance of social protection systems became a priority of G20 labour and employment commitments, with the communiqué promising to strengthen social safety nets.

The 2010 Seoul Summit launched the Seoul Action Plan. The action plan called upon G20 members to undertake “labor market and human resource development reforms, including better targeted benefits schemes to increase participation; education and training to increase employment in quality jobs, boost productivity and thereby enhance potential growth” along with reforms to strengthen social safety nets.⁶⁰⁴

The 2011 Cannes Summit continued to foster employment and increase social protection policies. The communiqué set up a G20 Task Force on Employment, reporting to the G20 labour and employment ministers. The task force aims to target those most affected by the economic crisis, especially global youth, while recognizing the importance of social protection floors.⁶⁰⁵

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, leaders agreed upon the Los Cabos Growth and Jobs Action Plan. The Plan represents a coordinate effort among G20 nations to create high quality job opportunities globally, as well as a commitment to take concrete actions to eliminate barriers to women’s full economic and social participation.⁶⁰⁶ The action plan also committed G20 countries to “continue to foster inter-agency and international policy coherence, coordination, cooperation and knowledge sharing to assist low-income countries in capacity building for implementing nationally determined social protection floors.”

The 2013 St. Petersburg communiqué committed the G20 to create better quality jobs by creating “strong and supportive macroeconomic, trade, investment, and labour market policies, sustainable public finance, a sound and well-regulated financial system, and resilient and effective social protection systems.”⁶⁰⁷ The document also extended the G20 Task Force on Employment’s mandate for one more year.

Throughout its history of action on labour and employment policies, the G20 has worked in a coordinated manner to combat unemployment and increase social protection programmes alongside the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

Commitment Features

The commitment requires G20 members to continue working towards an integrated approach to reduce long-term unemployment by creating strong and stable social protection systems.

⁶⁰³ The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, 27 June 2010. Access Date: 2 February 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communique.html>

⁶⁰⁴ The Seoul Summit Document, 12 November 2010. Access Date: 2 February 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul-doc.html>

⁶⁰⁵ Cannes Summit Final Declaration – Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, 4 November 2011. Access Date: 2 February 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

⁶⁰⁶ G20 Leaders Declaration: Los Cabos, 19 June 2012. Access Date: 2 February 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

⁶⁰⁷ G20 Leaders' Declaration: St. Petersburg, 6 September 2013. Access Date: 2 February 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

As defined by the OECD, long-term unemployment refers to people who have been unemployed for twelve months or more.⁶⁰⁸ An unemployed person is defined as one who reports having “worked in gainful employment for less than one hour in the previous week, who are available for work and who have sought employment in the past four weeks.”

A 2012 United Nations Report defined a social protection program as one that tackles “multiple dimensions of poverty and deprivation (decent work, education, health care, food security, income security) and can therefore be a powerful tool in the battle against poverty and inequality.”⁶⁰⁹

The Brisbane Action Plan denotes that “supporting our citizens, particularly youth and women, to gain and maintain quality employment can also deliver important social benefits by lifting citizens’ living standards, enhancing social cohesion and reducing inequality. Significant welfare gains can be made by addressing informality and improving the health and safety of workplaces, and we will renew our efforts, appropriate to our national circumstances, in these areas.”⁶¹⁰

The action plan calls on G20 members to implement social programs targeting women and youth, but to also take initiative in developing social protection systems in the following areas:

- Introducing and strengthening policies that promote entrepreneurship and skills development, strengthening the linkages between education, training and workforce needs;
- Addressing the problems faced by disadvantaged groups, including people with disabilities and the long-term unemployed;
- Addressing long-term and structural unemployment, underemployment and low-quality, insecure jobs in the informal economy;
- Taking measures to improve occupational health and safety policies;
- Moving to establish or increase minimum wages, improve social dialogue and improve social safety nets; and
- Taking steps to streamline labour market regulation and reduce non-wage costs of labour.⁶¹¹

A report prepared for the G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Meeting of September 2014, calls for an increase in social protection expenditure, in particular, expenditure on active labour market programs (ALMPs). ALMPs are designed to get unemployed people back to work using initiatives that include job placement services, benefit administration, and labour market programs such as training and job creation.⁶¹² The report states that it is “essential that adequate resources are devoted to cost-effective ALMPs that can both help and encourage the unemployed to find work

⁶⁰⁸ Unemployment: Long-term unemployment rate, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris) 2015. Access Date: 2 February 2015. <http://data.oecd.org/unemp/long-term-unemployment-rate.htm>

⁶⁰⁹ Social protection: A development priority in the post-2015 UN development agenda, United Nations (New York) May 2012. Access Date: 2 February 2015.

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Think%20Pieces/16_social_protection.pdf

⁶¹⁰ Brisbane Action Plan, 2015 Turkey G20 (Turkey) November 2014. Access Date: 2 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/brisbane_action_plan.pdf

⁶¹¹ Brisbane Action Plan, 2015 Turkey G20 (Turkey) November 2014. Access Date: 2 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/brisbane_action_plan.pdf

⁶¹² Employment Policies Data: Active labour market policies and activation strategies, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris) 15 July 2014. Access Date: 2 February 2015.

<http://www.oecd.org/employment/emp/activelabourmarketpoliciesandactivationstrategies.htm>

and to strengthen their skills through training, as required. In particular, for the unemployed with low skills more in-depth and individualised support should be provided.”⁶¹³

The report cites areas of social protection that require further action, including changes to public employment services, the availability of relevant and quality training, direct job creation, employer or employee subsidies, entrepreneurship support programs, apprenticeship schemes, partnerships between education and training providers, minimum wages, collective bargaining, social dialogue and workers’ rights, school-to-work transition programs, workplace safety, access to health care, the formalization of informal jobs, and the availability of child and elder care.⁶¹⁴

The report also states that it is imperative that attention be paid to the quality of jobs created. For example, in countries with aging populations “policies to encourage female participation and to encourage older workers to stay active are key to at least partially compensate for the shrinking working-age population and its potential negative impact on growth” while countries with relatively youthful populations must create “sufficient employment opportunities to take advantage of the continuing surge in the working-age population.”⁶¹⁵ It is also critical that these initiatives are cost-effective and must be able to rapidly scale up or down in response to demand.

Therefore, an appropriate social protection system is one that seeks to create long-term quality employment, but also remains cost-effective in order to achieve long-term strength and stability.

Although countries should take actions to implement social protection policies targeting long-term unemployment that abide by the above criteria they should also adhere to the commitments made towards social protection in their respective G20 employment plans released at the Brisbane Summit.

To achieve full compliance the G20 member must take actions to address long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems targeted at increasing quality jobs through active labour market programs (ALMPs) and relevant social protection measures.

Scoring Guideline

-1	Member does not take action to address long-term unemployment by implementing appropriate social protection systems.
0	Member takes action to address long-term unemployment by implementing appropriate social protection systems, but does not implement the policies during the compliance cycle.
+1	Member takes action to address long-term unemployment by implementing appropriate social protection systems during the compliance cycle.

Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

⁶¹³ G20 labour markets: outlook, key challenges and policy responses, International Labour Organization (Melbourne) 10 September 2014. Access Date: 2 February 2015. http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_305421.pdf

⁶¹⁴ G20 labour markets: outlook, key challenges and policy responses, International Labour Organization (Melbourne) 10 September 2014. Access Date: 2 February 2015. http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_305421.pdf

⁶¹⁵ G20 labour markets: outlook, key challenges and policy responses, International Labour Organization (Melbourne) 10 September 2014. Access Date: 2 February 2015. http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_305421.pdf

In 2014, Argentina committed to a plan to reduce poverty. The plan covers fiscal years 2015-2018. The World Bank Group developed a strategy based on three themes: sustained employment creation in farms and firms; improving the availability of assets for people and households; reducing environmental risks and safeguarding natural resources. The World Bank will aid Argentina in achieving outcomes including contributing to reduce average transit time to city centres from poor neighborhoods, increasing the gross value of agricultural production of small and medium-size farms in lower-income areas, and supporting an increase in effective national healthcare coverage.^{616,617}

On 15 January 2015, Argentina implemented the Youth Employment Support Project. The project aims to improve access for vulnerable youth to labour markets.⁶¹⁸ The project has three main objectives. First, to improve the quality and relevance of orientation and training services to ensure that applicants are fully qualified when applying for jobs. Second, to reach 200,000 youth every year of its implementation, reaching 390,000 after its completion (participants may return to the program). Third, to improve the ability of employment offices by incorporating new management practices into current and new offices.

Argentina has committed to reducing long-term unemployment through youth engagement and is set to begin implementing a World Bank aided plan through to 2018. Thus, Argentina is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Mercedes Fogarassy

Australia: -1

Australia has not complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

Australia's Employment Plan cites "soft employment growth, a falling participation rate and a rising unemployment rate" as a call to action to implement much-needed reforms.⁶¹⁹ The document underlines the understanding that long-term unemployment is a challenge to the overall prosperity of the country, with previous successes in curbing long-term unemployment to a 20-year low in 2008 almost entirely erased by September 2014.⁶²⁰

On 4 February 2015, the Australian government released a white paper, proposing reform of the federal system in Australia. The reform is to be driven by horizontal fiscal equalization, in order to bring up to par the quality of services nationwide, including health care, schools, skills and workforce

⁶¹⁶ New WBG Strategy to Support Poverty Reduction & Inclusive Growth in Argentina, The World Bank (Washington) 9 September 2014. Access Date: 4 April 2015. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2014/09/09/new-wbg-strategy-to-support-poverty-reduction-inclusive-growth-in-argentina>

⁶¹⁷ New Strategy to Support Poverty Reduction in Argentina, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (Buenos Aires) 10 September 2014. Access Date: 5 March 2015. <http://unsdn.org/new-strategy-to-support-poverty-reduction-in-argentina/>

⁶¹⁸ Argentina - Youth Unemployment Support Project, The World Bank (Washington) 10 December 2014. Access Date: 5 March 2015. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2014/12/23070909/argentina-youth-employment-support-project>

⁶¹⁹ Employment Plan 2014: Australia, G20 (Brisbane) November 2014. Access Date: 3 March 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_australia_0.pdf

⁶²⁰ Employment Plan 2014: Australia, G20 (Brisbane) November 2015. Access Date: 3 March 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_australia_0.pdf

development, disability and affordable housing.⁶²¹ This white paper will be released by the end of 2015.

On 25 February 2015, the Australian government released the Final Report of the Reference Group on Welfare Reform, which aims to make Australia's welfare system "fairer, more effective, coherent and sustainable, and encourage people to work."⁶²² After a six-week period of consultations by a selected Reference Group, *A New System for Better Employment and Social Outcomes* was presented to the Minister of Social Services. The report recommends an integrated approach with four main pillars to improve the social welfare system: (1) simpler and sustainable income support system; (2) strengthening individual and family capacity; (3) engaging with employees; and (4) building community capacity.⁶²³ The report recommends a redesign of the payment architecture including: tiered working-age payments, supported living pensions, child and youth payments, carer payments, and age pension. Mainstream services such as "building capability for work; financial capability development; family support; services to improve outcomes for children; support to manage mental health conditions; and assistance to stabilise housing" are recommended to achieve long-term outcomes for families, individuals and communities. The report recommends support for employers including during the recruitment phase and placement and post placement support, initiatives that provide pathways from study to work, and wage subsidy schemes.

Australia has released several recommendations on improving the social protection system in order to improve the long-term unemployment rate, but has yet to establish concrete policy in this area during the compliance cycle. Therefore, Australia receives a compliance score of -1.

Analysts: Max Stern and Caitlin Gillespie

Brazil: -1

Brazil has not complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

On 7 June 2011, Brazil launched a national social welfare scheme, Brazil Without Poverty, which sought to lift 16.2 million Brazilians out of extreme poverty. It defined individuals in extreme poverty as those living on less than BRL70 a month.⁶²⁴ This framework was aimed at improving public services such as education, broadening the scope of Bolsa Familia payments, and enhancing productive inclusiveness by giving poor Brazilians the means to escape poverty through quality job opportunities, vocational training, and micro-credit.⁶²⁵ The Brazil Without Poverty initiative took the 2003 Bolsa Familia Program, a conditional cash transfer program instituted by former president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, as its central pillar.⁶²⁶ This social protection program of monthly allowances

⁶²¹ Reform of the Federation White Paper, Commonwealth of Australia (Canberra) 4 February 2015. Access Date: 19 March 2015. https://federation.dpmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/issues-paper/issues-paper-5_COAG_FFR.pdf

⁶²² Review of Australiadpmc.gov.au/sites, Australian Government Department of Social Services (Canberra) 25 February 2015. Access Date: 4 March 2015. <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/review-of-australias-welfare-system>

⁶²³ A New System for Better Employment and Social Outcomes, Ministry for Social Services (Canberra) 25 February 2015. Access Date: 19 March 2015.

https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/02_2015/dss001_14_exec_summary_access_2_final_0.pdf

⁶²⁴ Brazil launches scheme to lift millions out of poverty, BBC News (London) 2 June 2011. Access Date: 26 February 2015. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-13626951>

⁶²⁵ Brazil declares war on "chronic poverty," The Guardian (London) 7 June 2011. Access Date: 26 February 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/jun/07/brazil-dilma-rousseff-poverty-eradication>

⁶²⁶ Brazil's bolsa familia scheme marks a decade of pioneering poverty relief, The Guardian (London) 17 December 2013. Access Date: 25 February 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/dec/17/brazil-bolsa-familia-decade-anniversary-poverty-relief>

offer up to BRL242 to families on the condition that their children attend school and receive vaccinations. The program's primary goals concern reducing poverty as well as breaking its transmission onto later generations. It has been proven to be cost-effective, yielding a return of BRL1.78 to the economy for every BRL1 spent.⁶²⁷ To date, it has benefited 46 million people.

On 22 December 2014, President Dilma Rousseff pledged to take drastic measures in 2015 to revive the country's economy while insisting that social programs will not be affected.⁶²⁸ On 27 January 2015, Rousseff made another statement reaffirming that changes in the economic area will not jeopardize the continuity of social policies, rising incomes, or employment.

On 4 February 2015, following an interministerial meeting alongside union representatives, the federal government and unions announced their intention to broaden the dialogue on Brazil's labour market, emphasizing in particular the need to address informality.⁶²⁹ The government also plans to implement a tripartite commission in order to improve labour relations and job quality while protecting workers' rights.

On 9 February 2015, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development published its Going for Growth 2015 key findings on Brazil in which it stated that Brazil has continuously expanded its vocational training programs for low-skilled workers as well as the scholarships given for tertiary education.⁶³⁰ Moreover, the report removed "encourage formal labour participation" as a reform priority for Brazil since the country has streamlined its social security procedures, lowered the required social contributions of small and medium enterprises, and reduced hiring costs, all of which have combined to increase Brazilians' participation in the formal sector.

On 11 February 2015, the Ministry of Labour and Employment pledged BRL2.6 million to combat tax evasion and another BRL2.5 to fight against informality in the labour market.⁶³¹ Preparation for this second phase in Brazil's fight against informality have included improving surveillance tools, training workplace inspectors, and a proposal to raise the fine for employers who fail to register their employees through contracts.⁶³² In turn, the government hopes to generate revenues towards its

⁶²⁷ Brazil's bolsa familia scheme marks a decade of pioneering poverty relief, The Guardian (London) 17 December 2013. Access Date: 25 February 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/dec/17/brazil-bolsa-familia-decade-anniversary-poverty-relief>

⁶²⁸ Rousseff pledges to take drastic measures and not affect social programs, Agencia Brasil (Brazil) 12 December 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/en/economia/noticia/2014-12/rousseff-pledges-take-dramatic-measures-and-not-affect-social-programs>

⁶²⁹ Government and central expand dialogue and incorporate debate on the labour market, social security and industry, Ministry of Labour and Employment (Brazil) 4 February 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2015. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/imprensa/governo-e-centrais-ampliam-dialogo-e-incorporam-debate-sobre-mercado-de-trabalho-previdencia-e-industria/palavrachave/reuniao-centrais-seguro-desemprego.htm>

⁶³⁰ Economic Policy Reforms 2015: Going for Growth, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris) 9 February 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oced/economics/economic-policy-reforms-2015/brazil_growth-2015-10-en#page1

⁶³¹ Brazil to do battle against tax evasion and underground economy, International Business Times (New York) 11 February 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/brazil-do-battle-against-tax-evasion-underground-economy-1487594>

⁶³² MTE spear fighting informal measures, Ministry of Labour and Employment (Brazil) 11 February 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/imprensa/mte-lanca-medidas-de-combate-a-informalidade-e-sonegacao-do-fgts.htm>

Severance Indemnity Fund for workers.⁶³³ These measures follow the launch of Brazil's National Plan for Combating Informality on 22 May 2014.

On 26 February 2015, the Minister of Labour and Employment, Maonel Dias, took part in the first meeting of the National Apprenticeship Forum. The forum is meant to act as a consultative body that encourages employers and representatives of various economic sectors to promote young people's right to vocational training.⁶³⁴ Dias stated the ministry's focus is to improve the quality of employment and strengthen measures that enhance professional qualifications.

Brazil has worked on proposals and has taken part in forums regarding social protection systems aimed at targeting long-term unemployment, and has also pledged funds to fight informality. However, Brazil did not take action towards implementing social protection systems during this compliance cycle. Therefore, Brazil receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Yinan Yang

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

Canada has continued to promote the social protection measures it announced in early 2014 through the Economic Action Plan 2014.⁶³⁵ Through statements and public announcements the government sought to promote its existing social protection measures and encourage the participation of women, people with disabilities and Aboriginal people in the labour market.

Minister of Labour Kellie Leitch has been actively promoting an increasing representation of women on corporate boards as a way to increase gender balance and create more economic opportunities. On 17 December 2014, she addressed the Vernon Chamber of Commerce. On 11 February 2015, she addressed the Tri-Cities Chamber in Coquitlam, British Columbia.⁶³⁶

On 29 January 2015 Minister Leitch met with provincial and territorial ministers to address the protection of young workers and encourage provincial governments to ratify bill C238, which promotes decent work and sets minimum age standards for young workers.⁶³⁷

Promoting existing social protection programs, the Minister of State for Social Development Candice Bergen announced on 1 December 2014 reforms to the Opportunities Fund for Persons with

⁶³³ Brazil to do battle against tax evasion and underground economy, International Business Times (New York) 11 February 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/brazil-do-battle-against-tax-evasion-underground-economy-1487594>

⁶³⁴ Dais opens 1st meeting of the National Apprenticeship Forum, Ministry of Labour and Employment (Brazil), 26 February 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/imprensa/dias-abre-1-reuniao-do-forum-nacional-de-aprendizagem/palavrachave/forum-de-aprendizagem.htm>

⁶³⁵ Economic Action Plan 2014: The Road to Balance, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 11 February 2014. Access Date: 15 March 2015. <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2014/docs/themes/road-voie-eng.html>

⁶³⁶ Minister Leitch speaks to Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce in Coquitlam, British Columbia, about strong labour relations, Employment and Social Development Canada (Coquitlam) 11 February 2015. Access Date: 14 March 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=930319>

⁶³⁷ Closing Remarks at the Videoconference with Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Labour on Protection of Young Workers, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 29 January 2015. Access Date: 14 March 2015. <http://www.labour.gc.ca/eng/resources/news/speeches/leitch/2015/20150129B.shtml>

Disabilities Program — a fund to help people with disabilities obtain and maintain employment. She also announced the launch of a new call for applications for the program in early 2015.⁶³⁸

On 15 December 2014 the government of Canada announced nearly CAD4 million in funding to Prince Edward Island for two projects aimed at helping young people and newcomers find work in their fields and renewed two previous agreements that help seniors and persons with disabilities connect to jobs.⁶³⁹ Funded through the Youth Employment Strategy, the first initiative, called Career Prep Program, will receive CAD3 million to aid 400 students in finding placement in small and medium-sized enterprises. The second initiative, called Building Bridges for Immigrants, will receive nearly CAD1 million to aid qualified foreign workers within the province to have their international credentials recognized. The governments of Canada and Prince Edward Island pledged CAD1.3 million each to the Labour Market Agreement for Persons with Disabilities, to help those with disabilities gain employment.

On 17 December 2014 Minister of Employment and Social Development Kenney, working to ensure Canadians are aware of available programs and funding through ongoing programs (such as the Canada Job Grant, the Youth Employment Strategy, apprenticeship grants and the government's initiatives for Aboriginal skills training), discussed the "importance of enhancing the participation of under-represented groups in the workforce, such as youth and Aboriginal people." He also highlighted the challenge of jobs mismatch and reiterated the government's priorities of skills training harmonization, improved labour mobility, and faster foreign credential recognition for internationally trained professionals.⁶⁴⁰

On 18 December 2015, the governments of Canada and Manitoba announced a joint pledge of over CAD100,000 to aid the youth of Winnipeg to transition from education to the workforce through the federal Skills Link program.⁶⁴¹ The program will also offer workers to gain industry certifications.

On 8 January 2015, fulfilling a commitment from the 2014 Economic Action Plan, Prime Minister Harper announced the launch of the Canada Apprentice Loan, a program that allows apprentices registered in a Red Seal trade apprenticeship to get up to CAD4,000, per period of technical training, in interest-free loans.⁶⁴² This initiative complements existing measures such as apprenticeship grants, Employment Insurance benefits for apprentices taking technical training, and tax incentives for employers.⁶⁴³

⁶³⁸ Minister Bergen recognizes International Day of Persons With Disabilities, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 3 December 2014. Access Date: 14 March 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=911439>

⁶³⁹ Governments of Canada and Prince Edward Island take action to help Islanders get jobs faster, Employment and Social Development Canada (Summerside) 15 December 2014. Access Date: 14 March 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=914389>

⁶⁴⁰ Minister Kenney addresses the Canadian Club of Calgary on the Government of Canada's Jobs Agenda, Employment and Social Development Canada (Calgary) 17 December 2014. Access Date: 15 March 2015: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=915329>

⁶⁴¹ The Government of Canada helps youth in Winnipeg get jobs, Employment and Social Development Canada (Winnipeg) 18 December 2014. Date of Access: 14 March 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=915559>

⁶⁴² Harper urges employers to take on apprentices, announces loan at BCIT, The Globe and Mail (Toronto) 8 January 2015. Access Date: 15 March 2015. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/harper-urges-employers-to-take-on-apprentices-announces-loan-at-bcit/article22372545/>

⁶⁴³ PM announces that the Canada Apprentice Loan program is now accepting applications, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 January 2015. Access Date: 15 March 2015. <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2015/01/08/pm-announces-canada-apprentice-loan-program-now-accepting-applications>

Canada has taken actions to combat unemployment and offer opportunities to youth by extending or renewing funding to existing social protection programs. The government of Canada has also exhibited an initiative to work with provinces on an individual basis to develop appropriate social protection systems. Therefore, Canada has been awarded a compliance score of +1.

Analyst: Sabina Mihaescu

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

In June 2014, the State Council released the Decision to Push Ahead the Development of Modern Vocation Education, establishing a vocational program capable of producing 38.3 million graduates by 2020.⁶⁴⁴ By way of the policy reform, 600 Chinese universities will be transformed into vocational schools with greater emphasis on applied skills to better match students' higher learning with demands of China's major industrial sectors.^{645,646} The Ministry of Education predicts that enrolment in vocational colleges will reach 13.9 million by 2015.⁶⁴⁷

On 7 January 2015 the Ministry of Labour urged municipal governmental authorities to extend unemployment benefits to residents outside urban Hukou registrations.⁶⁴⁸ The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security stated that a lack of local registration should not be used to practice discrimination in giving workers' unemployment benefits. These decisions build upon developments in early October 2014 when the Chinese government simultaneously announced its intention to create more high quality jobs to migrant workers by providing training and skills upgrading to approximately 20 million rural labourers annually until 2020 as well as resettling 100 million individuals without urban identification records in cities.⁶⁴⁹ Moreover, local governments are also called upon by the central government to offer free career counselling and job seeking services to further workers' career and skills development.⁶⁵⁰

On 14 January 2015, the State Council, China's chief policy body, announced its intention to allocate CNY40 billion towards creating a new venture capital fund to support business start-ups as a means

⁶⁴⁴ Employment Plan 2014: China, G20 (Brisbane) 2014. Access Date: 14 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_china.pdf

⁶⁴⁵ Economic Policy Reforms: Going for Growth 2015, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris) 9 February 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015.

http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/economics/economic-policy-reforms-2015/china_growth-2015-13-en#page1

⁶⁴⁶ Employment Plan 2014: China, G20 (Brisbane) 2014. Access Date: 14 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_china.pdf

⁶⁴⁷ School-to-Work Transition, Center on International Education Benchmarking (Washington) 2014. Access Date: 25 February 2015. <http://www.ncee.org/programs-affiliates/center-on-international-education-benchmarking/top-performing-countries/shanghai-china/shanghai-china-school-to-work-transition/>

⁶⁴⁸ China Urges Cities Expand Unemployment Benefits to Migrant Workers, CRI News (Beijing) 8 January 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://english.cri.cn/11114/2012/09/21/1261s723419.htm>

⁶⁴⁹ Central Government Offers More High Quality Jobs to Migrant Workers, Shenzhen Standard (Shenzhen) 2 October 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://www.shenzhen-standard.com/2014/10/02/central-government-offers-more-high-quality-jobs-to-migrant-workers/>

⁶⁵⁰ China to expand unemployment benefits to lure migrants to cities, Reuters (Beijing) 7 January 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCAKBN0KG11Z20150107>

of promoting domestic entrepreneurship and innovation.⁶⁵¹ This move fulfills a promise made by the government in May 2014, proposing to double the government-led fund capital in support of emerging industries.

On 16 January 2015, the State Council announced a new national pension plan that will require previously exempt public sector employees to pay for benefits. Prior to this revision, the dual-track state pension program saw corporate employees contribute 8% of their salaries but none from civil servants.⁶⁵² The change seeks to address the gap in pension benefits favouring the public sector whereby government workers receive pension benefits equivalent to 80 or 90% of their pre-retirement salary while others often receive benefits below 50%.

On 27 January 2015, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang pledged to create 10 million new jobs in 2015 despite a slowdown in economic growth.⁶⁵³ Li stated “large amounts of unemployment ... could lead to social instability if the economy cools down too fast.”

On 5 February 2014, the State Council issued a document aimed at promoting the well-being of disabled people by enhancing employment opportunities and ensuring public services.⁶⁵⁴ The council pledges to improve social assistance, pensions, and basic medical insurance. If implemented, these measures could affect up to 85 million disabled people, 12.3 million of which currently live below the poverty in rural areas.

On 26 February 2015, in line with goals outlined in China’s G20 Employment Plan 2014, Guangdong Province’s Human Resources and Social Security Department announced that it would increase its minimum wage by an average of 19% on 1 May 2015.⁶⁵⁵ This follows minimum wage increases in the cities of Beijing, Shanghai, and Tianjin in March 2014.⁶⁵⁶ However, different cities within the province will see their wages increase at different rates. In Shenzhen, workers can expect the hourly wage rate to increase to CNY18.5 and monthly wages to reach CNY2030, while in Guangzhou, the province’s capital, wages will increase to CNY18.3 per hour and reach CNY1895 per month.⁶⁵⁷ In second and third tier cities, monthly wages will increase to CNY1510 and CNY1350 respectively.

China has initiated several actions targeting the reduction of long-term unemployment through the implementation of appropriate social protection systems. Such policies include those targeted at increasing minimum wages, training and vocational programs, pension and benefits reforms and

⁶⁵¹ Startup fund to allocate assets more widely, The State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 15 January 2015. Access Date: 1 March 2015. http://english.gov.cn/premier/news/2015/01/15/content_281475039641414.htm

⁶⁵² China pension reform targets civil servant privileges, Financial Times (Shanghai) 15 January 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2015. <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/3141eb64-9c97-11e4-a730-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3TGhh0m5o>

⁶⁵³ China’s Li Keqiang says to create 10 million jobs in 2015, International Business Times (United Kingdom) 27 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/chinas-li-keqiang-says-create-10-million-jobs-2015-1485293>

⁶⁵⁴ China pledges to promote well-being of disabled people, China Daily (Xinhua) 5 February 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2015. http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2015-02/05/content_19501703.htm

⁶⁵⁵ Guangdong finally announces plans to increase minimum wage of 19 percent, China Labour Bulletin (Hong Kong) 27 February 2015. Access Date: 1 March 2015. <http://www.clb.org.hk/en/content/guangdong-finally-announces-plans-increase-minimum-wage-19-percent>

⁶⁵⁶ China raises minimum wages in Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin: Report, Reuters (Shanghai) 31 March 2014. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/01/us-china-salary-idUSBREA3004H20140401>

⁶⁵⁷ Guangdong finally announces plans to increase minimum wage of 19 percent, China Labour Bulletin (Hong Kong) 27 February 2015. Access Date: 1 March 2015. <http://www.clb.org.hk/en/content/guangdong-finally-announces-plans-increase-minimum-wage-19-percent>

those aimed at stimulating small and medium-sized enterprises. Therefore, China receives a compliance score of +1.

Analyst: Yinan Yang

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

Following his success in creating 150,000 jobs between 2013 and 2014 through the program “Jobs of the Future,” Prime Minister François Hollande committed to continuing the program, designed to increase youth employment, for 2015.⁶⁵⁸

On 1 January 2015, the government of France opened up Training Staff Accounts (CPF), replacing the previous Individual Right to Training (DIF) for new public sector employees. These accounts will monitor training hours. Each employee will be required to complete and record training hours, thereby increasing their eligibility within the job market.⁶⁵⁹

On 9 February 2015, François Rebsamen, member of the French Senate, announced an action plan to fight against long-term unemployment. It aims to assist all applicants who have lost jobs in the economic downturn to return to work, whatever their field may be.⁶⁶⁰ This policy covers youth, seniors, and long-term job seekers. The action plan also aims to create 275,000 places in daycare for children 0-3 years old, enabling mothers to return to work.

France has taken few actions to comply with its commitment to reduce long-term unemployment through the creation of appropriate social protection systems. Therefore, France receives a compliance score of 0.

Analyst: Mercedes Fogarassy

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to address long-term unemployment and strengthen social protection systems by effectively activating employment policies and improving social security measures for disadvantaged people.

On 15 December 2014 Federal Minister of Labour Andrea Nahles met with representatives of the German Association for Public and Private Welfare, social partners and charities to discuss long-term unemployment and opening up opportunities for social participation. At the meeting Minister Nahles stated that despite the German economy reaching an all-time-high employment of 43 million, the

⁶⁵⁸ Les Emplois D’avenir, Department of Emploi et Travail (Paris) 17 December 2014. Access Date: 18 March 2015. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/action/les-emplois-d-avenir>

⁶⁵⁹ Les Emplois D’avenir, Department of Emploi et Travail (Paris) 17 December 2014. Access Date: 18 March 2015. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/action/les-emplois-d-avenir>

⁶⁶⁰ Le gouvernement promet des formations gratuites aux chômeurs de longue durée, Le Parisien (Paris) 9 February 2015. Access Date: 18 March 2015. [http://www.leparisien.fr/flash-actualite-politique/rebsamen-tous-les-chomeurs-aurent-droit-a-une-formation-qualifiante-gratuite-09-02-2015-4519479.php#xtref=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.ca%2Furl%3Fsa%3Dt%24rct%3Dj%24q%3D%24esrc%3Ds%24source%3Dweb%24cd%3D2%24ved%3D0CCgQFjAB%24url%3Dhttp%253A%252F%252Fwww.leparisien.fr%252Fflash-actualite-politique%252Frebsamen-tous-les-chomeurs-aurent-droit-a-une-formation-qualifiante-gratuite-09-02-2015-4519479.php#xtref=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.ca%2Furl%3Fsa%3Dt%24rct%3Dj%24q%3D%24esrc%3Ds%24source%3Dweb%24cd%3D2%24ved%3D0CCgQFjAB%24url%3Dhttp%253A%252F%252Fwww.leparisien.fr%252Fflash-actualite-politique%252Frebsamen-tous-les-chomeurs-aurent-droit-a-une-formation-qualifiante-gratuite-09-02-2015-4519479.php%24ei%3DF8kJVduuEsmfNouogsAL%24usg%3DAFQjCNGDBWfNXqRRZE-oX3Nie2myub8EFA%24sig%3Dcxwao1aw1X7i37ElgYk9kg%24bvm%3Dbv.88198703%2Cd.eXY](http://www.leparisien.fr/flash-actualite-politique/rebsamen-tous-les-chomeurs-aurent-droit-a-une-formation-qualifiante-gratuite-09-02-2015-4519479.php#xtref=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.ca%2Furl%3Fsa%3Dt%24rct%3Dj%24q%3D%24esrc%3Ds%24source%3Dweb%24cd%3D2%24ved%3D0CCgQFjAB%24url%3Dhttp%253A%252F%252Fwww.leparisien.fr%252Fflash-actualite-politique%252Frebsamen-tous-les-chomeurs-aurent-droit-a-une-formation-qualifiante-gratuite-09-02-2015-4519479.php%24ei%3DF8kJVduuEsmfNouogsAL%24usg%3DAFQjCNGDBWfNXqRRZE-oX3Nie2myub8EFA%24sig%3Dcxwao1aw1X7i37ElgYk9kg%24bvm%3Dbv.88198703%2Cd.eXY)

long-term unemployed experienced few benefits from the economic prosperity yet they deserved to be given a chance, “time and again.”⁶⁶¹

On 1 January 2015 Germany’s first national minimum wage came into effect.⁶⁶² The minimum wage, adopted earlier in 2014 by the National parliament, came in effect at the hourly rate of EUR8.5 with plans for an independent commission of trade union and business representatives to become responsible for future adjustments to the rate.⁶⁶³ The minimum-wage commission met for the first time on 27 February 2015 and is expected to advise in 2016 on how much to adjust the national minimum hourly rate effective January 2017.⁶⁶⁴

On 26 January 2015 Minister Nahles launched a wide-ranging job creation scheme to tackle long-term unemployment with joint funding from the German government (EUR4.3 billion) and from the European Commission’s European Social Fund (EUR2.7 billion).⁶⁶⁵ Up to 38% of the total resources allocated will be devoted to the promotion of social inclusion and combating poverty. Moreover, the scheme is expected to help 73,000 long-term unemployed people, 150,000 migrants, and 100,000 youth from socially disadvantaged backgrounds to get the qualifications they need to secure employment.⁶⁶⁶

On 25 February 2015 the European Commission adopted the national operational programmes for the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD; “EHAP” in German) for 2014-2020, supporting efforts to help Europe’s most vulnerable people. The fund allows each member to define the target group of ‘most deprived persons’ in its national Operational Programme.⁶⁶⁷ Germany’s operational program for 2015 aims its focus on assistance for people suffering from (or threatened by) homelessness and the most deprived of European Union migrants (e.g. access to early education and social inclusion for migrant children), by improving their access to material support and social services.⁶⁶⁸ The FEAD in Germany will act as a bridge-mechanism, providing enhanced guidance and orientation services to help socially disadvantaged people to better reach existing social support measures. Germany has thus used the Fund to strengthen its national social protection framework.

⁶⁶¹ Langzeitarbeitslosigkeit bekämpfen, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 15 December 2014. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://www.bmas.de/DE/Themen/Arbeitsmarkt/Meldungen/zweites-gespraech-langzeitarbeitslosigkeit.html>

⁶⁶² Minimum wage in effect! Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 1 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://www.bmas.de/EN/Service/Press/recent-publications/minimum-wage-in-effect.html?nn=46180>

⁶⁶³ German Parliament Approves Minimum Wage From 2015, The Wall Street Journal (New York) 3 July 2014. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/german-parliament-approves-minimum-wage-from-2015-1404386860>

⁶⁶⁴ Mindestlohn-Kommission stärkt die Tarifautonomie" Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 27 February 2014. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/milokommission-erste-sitzung.html>

⁶⁶⁵ Germany's Nahles launches big job scheme, Deutsche Welle (Bonn/Berlin) 26 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://www.dw.de/germanys-nahles-launches-big-job-scheme/a-18215856>

⁶⁶⁶ In die Menschen in Europa investieren: Neue EU-Sozialfonds-Förderung in Deutschland gestartet, European Commission Representation in Germany (Berlin) 26 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/deutschland/press/pr_releases/13028_de.htm

⁶⁶⁷ Fighting poverty: Commission commits €3.8 billion to help the most vulnerable in Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 26 February 2015. Access Date: 1 March 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4513_en.htm

⁶⁶⁸ Der EHAP kann starten, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 27 February 2015. Access Date: 1 March 2015. <http://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/ehap-kann-starten.htm>

Germany has implemented initiatives targeting long-term unemployment through social participation, the implementation of minimum wage legislation and improving access to social services. Therefore, Germany has been awarded a compliance score of +1.

Analyst: Sabina Mihaescu

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment to address long-term unemployment through social protection systems.

On 22 January 2015 Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi implemented the Beti Bachao Bet Padhao scheme to improve the child sex ratio. This policy is being carried out by the Women and Child Development Ministry who are in charge of respecting, protecting, and fulfilling the rights of women and children. By closing the gender gap in India this policy will be able to improve gender equality in the labour force.⁶⁶⁹

In the Prime Minister's 23 February 2015 address, he announced the presence of One Stop Crisis Centres which are now located in every state and are used as medical centres, for police assistance, temporary shelter, and counselling services.⁶⁷⁰ A further initiative to ensure women's safety in New Delhi was launched as a mobile application — Himmat — and includes many features to ensure women's safety.⁶⁷¹

On 23 February 2015, Prime Minister Modi stated that creating food processing infrastructure in rural areas was of the utmost importance. India has pledged “to provide affordable credit to the units in 72 ... food parks,” with two of the major ones, Tumkur and Fazilka to provide employment to 30,000 people.⁶⁷²

Modi also announced the promotion of micro, small and medium enterprises. He announced his commitment to expanding the Indian job market, and ensuring the welfare of all workers. In his address, Modi also raised India's statutory wage ceiling and the minimum pension to ensure fair compensation for casual workers.

India has taken several measures to create appropriate social protection systems in order to comply with its commitment to long-term unemployment. These systems include those aimed at creating

⁶⁶⁹ PM Modi launches 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign, says female foeticide is a sign of 'mental illness', The Times of India (New Delhi), 23 January 2015. Access Date: 5 April 2015. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/PM-Modi-launches-Beti-Bachao-Beti-Padhao-campaign-says-female-foeticide-is-a-sign-of-mental-illness/articleshow/45985741.cms>

⁶⁷⁰ Full Text of President Pranab Mukherjee's Budget address, The Times of India (New Delhi) 23 February 2015. Access Date: 18 March 2015. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Full-text-of-President-Pranab-Mukherjees-Budget-address/articleshow/46340874.cms>

⁶⁷¹ Delhi police give 'Himmat' to women, launch safety app, The Times of India (New Delhi) 1 January 2015. Access Date: 18 March 2015. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/Delhi-police-give-Himmat-to-women-launch-safety-app/articleshow/45716222.cms>

⁶⁷² Full Text of President Pranab Mukherjee's Budget address, The Times of India (New Delhi) 23 February 2015. Access Date: 18 March 2015. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Full-text-of-President-Pranab-Mukherjees-Budget-address/articleshow/46340874.cms>

gender equality in the workplace, counselling services, the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises and raising the wage ceiling. Therefore, India receives a compliance score of +1.

Analyst: Mercedes Fogarassy

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment.

In its Individual Employment Plan, released at the Brisbane Summit, Indonesia set its core commitments to battle unemployment as enhancing the mobility of workers from the informal to the formal sector, enhancing the capacity of training institutions, improving skills development, adjusting labour relations and ensuring sufficient training to enhance the negotiation skills of both employers and employees.⁶⁷³

On 8 January 2015, President Joko Widodo signed the Presidential Decree No. 2 of 2015, entitled the National Medium Term Development Plan (RPJMN) for the period 2015-2019.⁶⁷⁴ The RPJMN reaffirms Indonesia's efforts through RPJN 2005-2025 to implement social protection systems reform by addressing areas including, but not limited to, expansion of benefits coverage, improving the quality of benefits, and the financial sustainability of social security schemes.⁶⁷⁵ Through this initiative, Indonesia plans to double the number of workers in its employment social security program in the formal sector (from 30 million to 60 million people) and to increase the coverage in the informal sector (from 1.3 million to 3.5 million people).

On 23 February 2015, the Bank Negara Indonesia (BNI), the country's central bank, opened its House of Education for Indonesia Migrant Workers, a pilot project to empower and educate Indonesia's migrant workers and their families.⁶⁷⁶ The initiative is a part of BNI's wider commitment to support programmes carried out by Financial Services Authority, Bank Indonesia and the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection.

Indonesia has implemented few social protection policies within the compliance period targeting long-term unemployment. Therefore, Indonesia receives a compliance score of 0.

Analysts: Max Stern and Caitlin Gillespie

Italy: -1

Italy has not complied with the commitment to address long-term unemployment through social protection systems.

⁶⁷³ Employment Plan 2014: Indonesia, G20 (Brisbane) November 2015. Access Date: 5 March 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_indonesia.pdf

⁶⁷⁴ Government has issued Medium Term Development Plan 2015-2019, Sekretariat Kabinet Republik Indonesia (Jakarta) 15 January 2015. Access Date: 19 March 2015. <http://setkab.go.id/en/government-has-issued-medium-term-development-plan-2015-2019/>

⁶⁷⁵ Indonesia: The third National Medium Term Development Plan 2015-2019 has been released with provisions for the expansion of the social protection system, International Labour Office (Geneva) 12 February 2015. Access Date: 19 March 2015.

<http://www.socialsecurityextension.org/gimi/gess/ShowNews.action;jsessionid=7ebd1e69880a75e291867be72ebaea9b87732aa01356be93e1c21e79cc67dcb3.e3aTbhuLbNmSe34MchaRahaKbNz0?id=20170>

⁶⁷⁶ BNI builds house of education for Indonesian migrant workers, Jakarta Globe (Jakarta) 24 February 2015. Access Date: 19 March 2015. <http://thejakartaglobe.beritasatu.com/press-release/bni-built-house-education-indonesian-migrant-workers/>

At the 2014 G20 Brisbane Summit, Italy released an Individual Employment Plan, outlining a number of new social policy measures directed at improving economic growth conducive to reducing the unemployment rate.⁶⁷⁷ The key objectives include: rationalizing and extending social welfare coverage to all workers in both temporary layoffs and involuntary unemployment, and increasing female employment, while pursuing effective gender equality in the workforce by reconciling work and family life.

On 3 December 2014, Prime Minister Matteo Renzi gained the confidence vote of the Italian Senate and passed the Jobs Act.⁶⁷⁸ The Jobs Act focuses on four areas that include: weakening employment protection to reduce unemployment and increasing the employment rate; reducing dualism in the labour market; strengthening social security through an unemployment benefits program; and improving training and job-finding services.⁶⁷⁹

On 31 December 2014, employment statistics compiled by Italy's Comprehensive Growth Plan indicate an anticipated drop in the unemployment rate from 12.6% in January 2014 to 12.5% in 2015.⁶⁸⁰

On 7 January 2015, statistics revealed that the Italian unemployment rate had risen to a record high of 13.4%.⁶⁸¹

Italy has taken few actions to combat long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems that aim to create long-term quality jobs. Italy has taken action to implement policies focusing on job security, particularly towards youth, yet has failed to implement policies focusing on improving women or other underprivileged groups' participation in the workforce within the compliance cycle. Thus, Italy receives a compliance score of -1.

Analyst: Frances Kessler

Japan: -1

Japan has not complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, Japan released an Individual Employment Plan for social protection reform. It focuses on the safety net system and includes a proposal for substantial expansion in job assistance and independence support for needy households.⁶⁸² The proposed programs aim to help welfare recipients leave assistance programs by taking on stable jobs, as well as providing comprehensive consultation and training to prepare for employment.

⁶⁷⁷ Employment Plan 2014: Italy, G20 (Brisbane) November 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015.

https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_italy.pdf

⁶⁷⁸ Italy's Renzi wins confidence vote on Jobs Act, Financial Times (London) 3 December 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.ft.com/intl/fastft/245611/renzi-labour-reform-passes-italian-senate>

⁶⁷⁹ Italy's Job Act: where is the evidence?, Open Democracy (Italy) 13 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/can-europe-make-it/andrea-capussela-vito-intini/italy%27s-jobs-act-where-is-evidence>

⁶⁸⁰ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: Italy, G20 (Brisbane) 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_italy.pdf

⁶⁸¹ Italy Unemployment Rises to New High, Showing Europe Divergence, Bloomberg Business (Rome) 7 January 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-01-07/italy-jobless-rate-reaches-record-amid-growth-outlook-concerns>

⁶⁸² Employment Plan 2014: Japan, G20 (Brisbane) 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_japan.pdf

On 12 February 2015, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe delivered a policy speech to the 189th session of the Diet that outlined a number of measures related to social protections plans. These measures include: assistance for medical expenses for people suffering from incurable diseases and low-income earners; new childcare services for low-income households raising families; the promotion of men's participation in childcare services; and the encouragement of women's participation in the work force.⁶⁸³

Prime Minister Abe has addressed the importance of women's participation in a number of speeches since the 2014 Brisbane Summit, in addition to the 189th session of the Diet. On 7 December 2014, Prime Minister Abe announced he will be pursuing "womenomics" as a core part of social and economic policies that focuses on raising the participation of women in the workforce.⁶⁸⁴

Japan has announced actions to combat long-term unemployment through social protection programs but did not start implementing them during the compliance period. Thus, Japan has been awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Frances Kessler

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to address long-term unemployment and to create an appropriate social protection system.

In its 2015 *Going for Growth* report evaluating structural reforms of member countries, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) advised Korea to increase women's participation in the labour market so as to mitigate the negative impact of the rapid population aging.⁶⁸⁵ The OECD also noted Korea's low productivity while having some of the longest working hours in the organization as a problem and criticized the large gap in wages, job protection and social insurance between regular and non-regular contracts.⁶⁸⁶

On 22 December 2014, the Ministry of Strategy and Finance released the 2015 *Economic Policy Directions*, which focuses on fostering customized job training and improving education to ease discrepancies in supply and demand for workers.⁶⁸⁷

On 23 December 2014 the Economic and Social Development Commission (ESDC), a social dialogue body with participation from labour, management, government and public interest groups, agreed to resolve by March 2015 priority issues such as "increasing flexibility in the labour market, improving the social safety net and solving income polarization between regular and non-regular workers." Finance Minister Choi Kyung-hwan highlighted the importance of reforms but was also quoted as saying the "overprotection of permanent workers, especially those at well-unionized

⁶⁸³ Policy Speech by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the 189th Session of the Diet, Prime Minister and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 12 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97_abe/statement/201502/policy.html

⁶⁸⁴ Japan leans in: Shinzo Abe's push for womenomics, World Finance (London) 21 January 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.worldfinance.com/strategy/japan-leans-in-shinzo-abes-push-for-womenomics>

⁶⁸⁵ Economic Policy Reforms 2015 - Going for Growth, Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation (Paris) 9 February 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/ocd/economics/economic-policy-reforms-2015_growth-2015-en#page235

⁶⁸⁶ OECD recommends encouraging female employment, The Korea Times (Seoul) 9 February 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. http://koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/biz/2015/02/602_173319.html

⁶⁸⁷ 2015 Economic Policy Directions, Ministry of Strategy and Finance (Sejong-si) 22 December 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://english.mosf.go.kr/pre/view.do?bcd=N0001&seq=3750&bPage=1>

companies” was one of the root causes of income polarization.⁶⁸⁸ His remarks drew widespread criticism for suggesting that in order to enhance the rights of temporary workers regular workers would have to make some sacrifices.⁶⁸⁹

On 30 December 2014, at the Special Labour Market Restructuring Committee of the Korean Tripartite Committee, a presidential advisory body on labour, the Ministry of Employment and Labour presented proposed changes to improve non-regular work conditions.⁶⁹⁰ The measures included increasing the length of non-regular contracts from two to a maximum of four years and tackling other differences in working conditions between regular and non-regular contract employees which are widely seen as a source of inequality.⁶⁹¹ Industry observers highlighted the fact that issues of employee termination had not yet been discussed and strong opposition from the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions was anticipated.⁶⁹²

On 30 December 2014 the government indicated it would increase fines for employers who do not comply with minimum wage laws.⁶⁹³ On 9 January 2015, the Ministry of Employment and Labour signed an agreement with several large employers who employ sub-contract workers, regularizing social protection measures for them, such as employment security, improved health and safety in their working conditions and welfare provisions.⁶⁹⁴

On 31 December 2014, the Korean government announced the launch of Swiss-inspired dual vocational schools and expanded apprenticeship schemes to promote youth employment. The government also committed to increase funding for employers who adopt the wage peak system, an income-averaging scheme to extend the de facto retirement age of older workers, thus allowing the option for workers to remain in the labour force longer.⁶⁹⁵

On 11 January 2015 the government announced that it would launch a crackdown on the so-called “passion pay” practice whereby employers exploit young people as cheap labour, expecting them to work for their “passion” at below the minimum wage levels.⁶⁹⁶

⁶⁸⁸ Labor market reform agreed, The Korea Times (Seoul) 23 December 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015.

http://koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2014/12/113_170410.html

⁶⁸⁹ Finance Ministry seeks easy way out of labor divide, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 1 December 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20141201001016>

⁶⁹⁰ Non-regular worker policy, The Korea Times (Seoul) 30 December 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015. http://koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/opinion/2014/12/137_170821.html

⁶⁹¹ Irregular staff offered better terms, The Korea Times (Seoul) 29 December 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015. http://koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2014/12/113_170727.html

⁶⁹² The Asia Employment Law Landscape in 2015 - South Korea: proposed refinement of the labor market, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP (London) 4 February 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015.

http://www.freshfields.com/en/knowledge/The_Asia_Employment_Law_Landscape_in_2015/?LangId=2057#southkorea:proposedrefinementofthelabormarket

⁶⁹³ Ministry to slap fine on firms violating minimum wage law, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 30 December 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015.

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20141230001079> The Korea Herald

⁶⁹⁴ MOEL hears opinions of field experts to seek ways to promote employment security and reduce gap for non-regular workers, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Sejong-si) 9 January 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015.

<http://m.moel.go.kr/EngNewsView?seq=1087>

⁶⁹⁵ Old, young to get more job opportunities, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 31 December 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20141230001021>

⁶⁹⁶ Gov't to crack down on possible abuse of young workers, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 11 January 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20150111000258>

On 18 February 2015, the Ministry of Employment and Labour announced higher penalties for employers who delay paying their employees for more than four months (from 50% of the owed payment to double the owed wages).⁶⁹⁷

On 20 January 2015 the state-run Industrial Bank of Korea announced it will double its number of new recruits this year, effort to support the government's plan to reduce a record-high unemployment rate.⁶⁹⁸

On 24 February 2015, President Park Geun-hye stated that economic revival will be the top priority over the upcoming months, with core agenda items to include labour market reform.⁶⁹⁹

Korea has taken steps to improve the social protection system as well as make labour market reform one of its top priority for 2015. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Sabina Mihaescu

Mexico: +1

Mexico has complied with its commitment to address long-term unemployment by implementing appropriate social protection systems.

On 21 November 2014, President Enrique Peña Nieto, announced the opening of the City for Women's Health services centre. It will provide healthcare services, protection and aid to sexual violence victims in addition to prevention services.⁷⁰⁰

On 26 November 2014, the labour ministers and representatives of governments at the Latin American meeting of ministers of labour declared their support for the Mexican government's actions to develop the economy through social development. They stressed the importance of dialogue about social protection programs. The ministers agreed to a Bank of Good Practices on Labour Inspection in Latin America, which would allow the transfer of information between nations to develop better strategies. They also signed the Latin American and the Caribbean Free Child Labour Regional Initiative to combat child labour.⁷⁰¹

On 19 December 19 2014, the Council of Representative of the National Minimum Wage Commission (CONASAMI) agreed to an increase in minimum wage in two different geographical regions starting on 1 January 2015. In one region, the new minimum wage will be 70.10 pesos a day, and in the other, 66.45 pesos per day.⁷⁰²

⁶⁹⁷ Late-paying employers face bigger fines Lee Ji-hye, The Korea Times (Seoul) 18 February 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. http://koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2015/02/113_173846.html

⁶⁹⁸ IBK to double recruitment this year: CEO Kwon, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 20 January 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20150120000959>

⁶⁹⁹ President prioritizes economic revival, Korean Culture and Information Service (Sejong-si) 24 February 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=125801&pageIndex=1>

⁷⁰⁰ Inauguration of the City for Women's Health, The President of Mexico Information Bulletin (Mexico City) 11 November 2014. Access Date: 17 February 2015. <http://en.presidencia.gob.mx/inauguration-of-the-city-for-womens-health/>

⁷⁰¹ Ministros Iberoamericanos Respaldan Reformas Estructurales Impulsadas Por El Gobierno Federal, Mexican Secretariat of Labour and Social Welfare Information Bulletin (Cancún) 26 November 2014. Access Date: 17 February 2015. http://www.stps.gob.mx/bp/secciones/sala_prensa/boletines/2014/noviembre/bol_332.html

⁷⁰² Boletín Informativo. Comisión Nacional De Los Salarios Mínimos (CONASAMI) Salarios Mínimos 2015, The Mexican Secretariat of Labour and Social Welfare Information Bulletin (México) 19 December 2014. Access Date: 17 February 2015. http://www.stps.gob.mx/bp/secciones/sala_prensa/boletines/2014/diciembre/bol_conasami.html

On 7 January 2015, the President, Enrique Peña Nieto, and US President Barack Obama signed a letter of intent for the Mexico-United States Internship Program. This program encourages student internships in both countries and encourages the link between education and job prosperity.⁷⁰³

On 19 January 2015, Alfonso Navarrete Prida, the Secretary of Labour and Social Welfare, signed a General Collaboration Agreement for Persons with Disabilities with the Director General of the Institute of National Housing Fund for Workers (INFORAVIT). It promotes the “Home Made Measure” program that would provide housing for workers with disabilities. It would also offer tax incentives to companies that hire people with disabilities.⁷⁰⁴

On 9 February 2015, the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS) and the Institute for Social Security and Services for State workers (ISSSTE) introduced a voucher program for pharmaceutical drugs. The program would provide the public with access to safe medicines.⁷⁰⁵

On 16 February 2015, Paula Hernandez Olmos, the National Coordinator of the PROSPERA Social Inclusion Programme, announced a change in tactics in the Opportunity Program. She stressed the change from simply providing assistance to promoting the accumulation of income.⁷⁰⁶

On 25 February 2015, Ruby Ignacio Salazar, the Secretariat of Labour and Social Welfare, called for workplaces to follow the Family Friendly Company 2015, that aims to provide better living conditions for workers and encourages a work-family balance. The goal for 2015 is to get 350 companies to commit.⁷⁰⁷

Mexico has implemented a number of social protection programs, including those targeted at living conditions, access to healthcare services, minimum wage increases and international internship partnership agreements. Mexico has fully complied with its commitment and is thus awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Emily Shaw

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment on addressing long-term unemployment.

On 22 January 2015, the Russian government adopted the procedure of providing subsidies to the Russian regions aimed at reducing tensions in the labour market through active policies. The state budget provides for more than RUB52 billion to carry out these policies.⁷⁰⁸ On 28 March 2015,

⁷⁰³ Mexico and United States, Committed to Joint Prosperity, The President of Mexico Information Bulletin (Mexico City) 7 January 2015. Access Date: 17 February 2015. <http://en.presidencia.gob.mx/mexico-and-the-united-states-committed-to-joint-prosperity/>

⁷⁰⁴ Firman STPS E Infonavit Convenio De Colaboración en favor de personas con discapacidad, Mexican Secretariat of Labour and Social Welfare Information Bulletin (Mexico City) 19 January 2015. Access Date: 17 February 2015. http://www.stps.gob.mx/bp/secciones/sala_prensa/boletines/2015/enero/bol_362.html

⁷⁰⁵ Voucher Program Medicines for IMSS and ISSSTE, Mexican Social Security Institution (Mexico City) February 2015. Access Date: 17 February 2015. <http://www.imss.gob.mx/prensa/archivo/201502/012>

⁷⁰⁶ PROSPERA encourage productive capacities, the best way to end poverty, PROSPERA Social Inclusion Programme (Veracruz) 16 February 2015. Access Date: 17 February 2015. https://www.prospera.gob.mx/Portal/wb/Web/prospera_fomenta_las_capacidades_productivas

⁷⁰⁷ Emite STPS Convocatoria Para Obtener El “Distintivo Emperesa Familiarmente Responsable 2015”, Mexican Secretariat of Labour and Social Welfare Information Bulletin (Mexico City) 25 February 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. http://www.stps.gob.mx/bp/secciones/sala_prensa/boletines/2015/febrero/bol_383.html

⁷⁰⁸ On additional measures to reduce tensions in the labor market, Government of Russia 26 January 2015. Access date: 14 May 2015. <http://government.ru/docs/16603/>

RUB1,870 of funds were allocated to help four Russian regions keep 35,000 people in employment.⁷⁰⁹ On 29 May 2015, additional RUB635 million were allocated to the other four regions benefiting more than 20,000 employed people.⁷¹⁰

On 2 April 2015, Russian President Vladimir Putin held a meeting to discuss the situation in the labour market. The participants discussed the employment programmes implemented in the regions, measures to reduce unemployment and support for small and medium-sized enterprises implemented as part of the government's action plan for sustainable development of the national economy and stability in the social sector in 2015. Russian Labour and Social Security minister Maksim Topilin mentioned that RUB15 billion had been reserved in the state budget to implement extraordinary measures, including the provision of additional unemployment benefits if the situation in the labour market worsens.⁷¹¹

Russia has implemented policies to address long-term unemployment through both active labour market programs and relevant social protection measures. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepon

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, Saudi Arabia released an Individual Employment Plan stating that it would launch Telework, a program to establish a technological platform for long-distance work in sectors such as accounting, telemarketing, and customer support. This program would provide employment for women and people with disabilities in particular.⁷¹² The Saudi Arabian government followed through on the promised project launch/trial at the end of 2014, with a full-scale roll out anticipated in 2015.⁷¹³ Saudi Arabia's Individual Employment Plan stated that it would provide or subsidize daycare centres in order to allow mothers to work and to develop early childhood education. The plan commits to a pilot stage launched in 2015 and a full-scale roll out in 2016.

Saudi Arabia's Individual Employment Plan also promised to ease the costs of employee transportation on employers. Since women are not permitted to drive in Saudi Arabia, this assistance would allow more of them to enter the workforce. Draft policy options were promised for the first quarter of 2015 with implementation throughout the year.⁷¹⁴

In their Individual Employment Plan, Saudi Arabia also committed to facilitating a smooth transition from education to work through two career education programs: the Strategy Track and the Fast

⁷⁰⁹ On allocation of subsidies to the Russian regions in 2015 to implement additional measures in the labor market, Government of Russia 31 March 2015. Access date: 14 May 2015. <http://government.ru/docs/17466/>.

⁷¹⁰ On allocation of subsidies to the Russian regions in 2015 to implement additional measures in the labor market, Government of Russia 3 June 2015. Access date: 16 June 2015. <http://government.ru/docs/18336/>.

⁷¹¹ Meeting on labour market, President of Russia 2 April 2015. Access date: 16 June 2015. <http://kremlin.ru/events/president/news/49059>.

⁷¹² Employment Plan 2014: Saudi Arabia, G20 (Brisbane) November 2015. Access Date: 18 March 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_saudi_arabia.pdf

⁷¹³ 'Work from Home' Project to Begin Next Month, Arab News (Riyadh) 6 December 2014. Access Date: 20 February 2015. <http://www.arabnews.com/saudi-araba/news/670456>

⁷¹⁴ Employment Plan 2014: Saudi Arabia, G20 (Brisbane) November 2015. Access Date: 18 March 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_saudi_arabia.pdf

Track.⁷¹⁵ The Strategy Track is meant to develop a comprehensive career education and development system. According to their Individual Employment Plan, this program is still in development and is expected to trial in 2015. The Fast Track is meant to provide career education and development providers with the means to grow capacity and achieve “fast impact.”

On 19 November 2014, The Ministry of Housing pledged SR2.5 billion to build 6,204 units of affordable housing.⁷¹⁶ However, affordable housing and such programs are only intended for families. Single citizens are not eligible to apply for housing support programs.⁷¹⁷

In December 2014, the Ministry of Labour announced new measures to decrease the number of barriers that prevent women from joining the work force. One prominent new measure allows breastfeeding in the workplace.⁷¹⁸

On 4 January 2015, Minister of Labour Adel Fakeih announced that the government planned to create 300,000 private sector jobs and “launch 36 initiatives as part of the scheme.”⁷¹⁹ These include initiatives to employ women and summer training programs for university students.⁷²⁰ No roll out timeline has been announced.

The Saudi Arabian government added a measure to the existing Nitaqat program — a program geared towards incentivizing Saudi Arabia’s private sector to create more job opportunities for nationals — that provides incentives for employers to hire people with disabilities.⁷²¹

On 27 January 2015, Labour Minister Adel Fakeih stressed the need of reducing the country’s dependence on expatriate workers and awarding more jobs to nationals at the Global Competitiveness Forum 2015 in Riyadh. He stated that Saudi Arabia’s focus was “to train the local manpower with the needed skills to phase out the foreign workers.”⁷²²

On 7 January 2015, the Council of Saudi Chambers asked the labour minister to delay the third phase of the Nitaqat program, extending the deadline by two to three years from the initial start date of 20 April 2015. This request came after the previous phase of the program showed a low turnout of

⁷¹⁵ Employment Plan 2014: Saudi Arabia, G20 (Brisbane) November 2015. Access Date: 18 March 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_saudi_arabia.pdf

⁷¹⁶ SR2.5bn to be Disbursed to Build 6204 Housing Units, Arab News (Riyadh) 20 November 2014. Access Date: 21 February 2015. <http://www.arabnews.com/news/662671>

⁷¹⁷ For Housing Ministry, Families Are Top Priority, Arab News (Jeddah) 9 February 2015. Access Date: 24 February 2015. <http://www.arabnews.com/saudi-arabia/news/701791>

⁷¹⁸ Breast-Feeding Break at Work, Arab News (Riyadh) 16 December 2014. Access Date: 20 February 2015. <http://www.arabnews.com/news/675171>

⁷¹⁹ Govt To Create 300,000 Jobs for Saudis, Arab News (Jeddah) 4 January 2015. Access Date: 24 February 2015. http://www.arabnews.com/featured/news/684171?quicktabs_stat2=0

⁷²⁰ Saudi Arabia To Create 300,000 Private Sector Jobs For Locals, Gulf Business (Dubai) 4 January 2015. Access Date: 24 February 2015. <http://gulfbusiness.com/2015/01/saudi-arabia-create-300000-private-sector-jobs-locals/#.VO0MGYdN3zL>

⁷²¹ Nitawat: Terms for the Disabled to be Counted As More Than One, Saudi Gazette (Riyadh) 30 November 2014. Access Date: 22 February 2015.

<http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/index.cfm?method=home.regcon&contentid=20141201226130>

⁷²² Skills Drive Needed to Boost Saudi Work Force, Arab News (Riyadh) 28 January 2015. Access Date: 21 February 2015. <http://www.arabnews.com/news/695841>

Saudi nationals pursuing private sector jobs. The council feared that this lack of participation would also be an issue for the next phase of the program.⁷²³

Saudi Arabia has announced some initiatives for social protection programs, such as those targeting female labour force participation, training programs and increased transportation networks. Therefore, Saudi Arabia receives a compliance score of +1.

Analyst: Katerina Stamadianos

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

On 25 November 2015, the labour minister and the Department of Labour developed a new wage structure for domestic workers allowing for the upward adjustment of the minimum wage. The minimum wage will now be between R9.80 and R10.59 if the workers work more than 27 hours per week and between R10.86 and R12.40 if they work less than 27 hours per week, depending on geographical location.⁷²⁴

On 2 December 2015, Labour Deputy Minister iNkosi Phathekile Holomisa launched a new employment service for citizens of Richards Bay and nearby areas. It includes job training services and job search services. It also includes self-help kiosks facilities that will be free for employers and job seekers.⁷²⁵

On 7 January 2015, the Department of Labour implemented a new minimum wage for contract cleaners. They will now earn between R15.47 per hour and R16.98.⁷²⁶

On 28 January 2015, Labour Minister Mildred Oliphant announced adjustments to farmworkers' minimum wage. They would now earn a wage of R2606.78 per month, with an hourly rate of R13.37. The policy is in effect as of 1 March 2015.⁷²⁷

On 3 February 2015, the Department of Labour held discussions with the private security sector to review minimum wage and to improve working conditions.⁷²⁸

⁷²³ CSC Asks Labor Ministry to Delay 3rd Phase of Nitaqat By 3 Years, Arab News (Jeddah) 7 January 2015. Access Date: 20 February 2015. <http://www.arabnews.com/featured/news/685796>

⁷²⁴ Labour Minister Oliphant upwardly adjusts domestic workers; annual wages, The Republic of South Africa Department for Labour (Pretoria) 25 November 2014. Access Date: 17 February 2015. <http://www.labour.gov.za/DOL/media-desk/media-statements/2014/labour-minister-oliphant-upwardly-adjusts-domestic-workers2019-annual-wages>

⁷²⁵ Labour Deputy Minister iNkosi Holomisa to officially launch a self-help service in Richards Bay, The Republic of South Africa Department for Labour (Pretoria) 3 December 2014. Access Date: 17 February 2015. <http://www.labour.gov.za/DOL/media-desk/media-alerts/labour-deputy-minister-inkosi-holomisa-to-officially-launch-a-self-help-service-for-work-seekers-in-richards-bay>

⁷²⁶ New minimum wage for contract cleaning in 2015. The Republic of South Africa Department for Labour (Pretoria) 7 January 2015. Access Date: 17 February 2015. <http://www.labour.gov.za/DOL/media-desk/media-statements/2015/new-minimum-wage-for-contract-cleaning-in-2015>

⁷²⁷ Labour Minister Oliphant increases farmworkers wage by 7.7% percent in 2015/16, The Republic of South Africa Department of Labour (Pretoria) 28 January 2015. Access Date: 17 February 2015. <http://www.labour.gov.za/DOL/media-desk/media-statements/2015/labour-minister-oliphant-increases-farmworkers-minimum-wage-by-7-7-percent-in-2015-16>

On 3 February 2015, the Department of Labour increased the minimum wage for worker in the Wholesale and Retail sectors. The increase in wages is between 6.1% and 8.1% and it is under the terms of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act.⁷²⁹

On 17 February 2015, the Department of Labour stated that, under the Employment Service Act of 2014, private employment services are no longer able to charge for their services to those looking for work.⁷³⁰

On 26 February 2015, the National Senior Commissioner, Winnie Evert, of the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation, and Arbitration announced that the discrimination of workers through unequal pay was officially prohibited under the Employment Equity Act.⁷³¹

South Africa has implemented initiatives targeting minimum wage standards in various sectors of its economy, but has not taken action on other social protection systems aimed at combating long-term unemployment. Therefore, South Africa receives a compliance score of 0.

Analyst: Emily Shaw

Turkey: –1

Turkey has not complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

In its G20 Employment Plan 2014, Turkey outlined the country's goal to raise female participation in the labour force from 30.8% to 41% by 2023, while reducing the informal employment of women from 54.2% to 30% by the same year.⁷³²

On 26-27 November 2014, the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) hosted an International Job and Vocational Counselling Congress in Antalya, Turkey. In his opening speech, the Director General of İŞKUR Dr. Nusret Yazıcı, pointed out that in the first 10 months of 2014, İŞKUR provided employment guidance and counselling services to approximately 1,540,000 people.⁷³³ In the

⁷²⁸ Department of Labour invites private security stakeholders to public hearings to review minimum wage, The Republic of South Africa Department of Labour (Pretoria) 3 February 2015. Access Date: 17 February 2015. <http://www.labour.gov.za/DOL/media-desk/media-statements/2015/departement-of-labour-invites-private-security-stakeholders-to-public-hearings-to-review-minimum-wage>

⁷²⁹ Wholesale and Retail Sector minimum wage adjusted upward from beginning of February, The Republic of South Africa Department of Labour (Pretoria) 3 February 2015. Access Date: 17 February 2015. <http://www.labour.gov.za/DOL/media-desk/media-statements/2015/wholesale-and-retail-sector-minimum-wage-adjusted-upward-from-beginning-of-february>

⁷³⁰ Private employment agencies (PEAs) are prohibited from charging work seekers any fees for service rendered, The Republic of South Africa Department of Labour (Pretoria) 17 February 2015. Access Date: 17 February 2015. <http://www.labour.gov.za/DOL/media-desk/media-statements/2015/private-employment-agencies-peas-are-prohibited-from-charging-work-seekers-any-fees-for-service-rendered>

⁷³¹ Unfair remuneration and discriminatory treatment in the workplace illegal- delegates told the Department of Labour/CCMA roadshow, The Republic of South Africa Department of Labour (Pretoria) 26 February 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://www.labour.gov.za/DOL/media-desk/media-statements/2015/unfair-remuneration-and-discriminatory-treatment-in-the-workplace-illegal-delegates-told-at-department-of-labour-ccma-roadshow>

⁷³² Employment Plan 2014: Turkey, G20 (Brisbane) 2014. Date of Access: 14 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_turkey.pdf

⁷³³ International Job and Vocation Counselling Congress held in Antalya on November 26-27, 2014, Turkish Employment Agency (Ankara) 8 December 2014. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.iskur.gov.tr/News/TabId/190/ArtMID/1300/ArticleID/459/II-International-Job-and-Vocational-Counselling-Congress-held-in-Antalya-on-November-26th-27th-2014.aspx>

same time period, the İŞKUR visited 340,000 workplaces and gave employers information on vocational training and on-the-job training.

On 8 December 2014, the opening conference of “Financing and Counselling Support for Women Enterprises Programme,” a project aimed at promoting female entrepreneurship in Turkey, was jointly carried out by İŞKUR and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Dr. Yazıcı stated that financial and counselling support for women enterprises marked a “significant milestone in economic and social development of the country,” and reaffirmed İŞKUR’s role in this project of enhancing female entrepreneurship and employment.⁷³⁴

On 30 December 2014, the Minister of Labour and Social Security Faruk Çelik announced that Turkey’s minimum wage for workers over the age of 16 will be raised in two phases in 2015. Monthly wages will increase from YTL846 to YTL949 in the first half of 2015 before reaching YTL1000 by the year’s end.⁷³⁵ As a result, 5 million people’s salaries will increase by approximately 12.3% in 2015.⁷³⁶

On 27 February 2015, the Deputy Undersecretary of Turkey’s Ministry for European Union Affairs, Ahmet Yucel, signed a 7-year employment plan with the EU Commission alongside Marianne Thyssen, the EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility. The EUR930 million “Employment and Social Innovation Program” aims to provide Turkey with long-term sustainable and quality employment, while combating poverty, improving work conditions, and ensuring decent social protection.⁷³⁷ The program is part of Turkey’s plan to accede to the EU and will be coordinated by the Turkish Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

Turkey has implemented minimum wage increases and is participating in sustainable employment initiatives. Therefore, Turkey receives a compliance score of -1.

Analyst: Yinan Yang

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, the United Kingdom released an Individual Employment plan, stating that it would 1) develop passive strategies and redesign benefits to avoid distorting labour market behaviour; 2) create active strategies that would draw people closer to work as a condition of benefits; 3) Increase transparency, flexibility and mobility of job searches through The Public Employment

⁷³⁴ Opening Conference of “Financing and Counselling Support for Women Enterprises Programme,” Turkish Employment Agency (Ankara) 8 December 2014. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.iskur.gov.tr/News/TabId/190/ArtMID/1300/ArticleID/460/Opening-Conference-of-%E2%80%9CFinancing-and-Counselling-Support-for-Women-Enterprises-Programme%E2%80%9D.aspx>

⁷³⁵ Turkish minimum wage to be set at TL 949 for early 2015, BGN News (Istanbul) 30 December 2014. Date of Access: 25 February, 2015. <http://business.bgnnews.com/turkish-minimum-wage-to-be-set-at-tl-949-for-early-2015-haberi/2531>

⁷³⁶ Five million Turkish workers to get higher minimum wage, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 30 December 2014. Date of Access: 25 February 2015. <http://www.aa.com.tr/en/s/443200--five-million-turkish-workers-to-get-higher-minimum-wage>

⁷³⁷ Turkey, EU Commission agree on a 7-year employment program, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 27 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/471777--turkey-eu-commission-agree-on-7-year-employment-program>

Service (JobCentre Plus); and 4) improve the employability of selected groups by linking supply and demand and overcoming barriers, such as work place adjustment for disabled people.⁷³⁸

On 25 November 2014, the Universal Credit welfare reforms were expanded to dual and single parent families. The credit allows families on the program to claim up to 70% of their childcare expenses, with a monthly limit for one child of GBP532, and GBP912 for two or more children. The program is accessible through job centres and merges benefits to simplify the system and encourage those on benefits to enter the workforce.⁷³⁹

On 1 December 2014, Shared Parental Leave (SPL) became available to parents. The new rules allow parents to choose if they want to share 50 weeks of leave and up to 37 weeks of pay, following the mother's two weeks maternity leave.⁷⁴⁰

On 18 December 2014, employment figures released by the Department of Work and Pensions accredited record employment to the Work Programme. The policy, launched in 2011, transfers claimants from JobCentre Plus to public or private companies to aid them find employment.⁷⁴¹ The program pays companies for finding claimants long-term employment and has contributed to a significant decrease in the number of unemployed people.⁷⁴²

On 5 February 2015, The Department of Work and Pensions announced that hundreds of people previously on benefits have entered the work force as a result of the benefit cap. The policy was introduced in April 2013 and limits the amount of benefits, such as Housing Benefits, a household can receive to increase the incentives of claimants to work. Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Iain Duncan Smith, said that this part of the government's long-term economic development plan had restored fairness to the system and saved the taxpayer money.⁷⁴³

On 16 February 2015, The Department of Work and Pensions released an assessment of the impact of the Universal Credit program on increasing employment. The report notes that the credit has been effective in incentivizing claimants to look for work and move towards greater financial

⁷³⁸ Employment Plan 2014: United Kingdom, G20 (Brisbane) November 2014. Access Date: 18 March 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_united_kingdom.pdf

⁷³⁹ Welfare revolution rolls out to families: Universal Credit to be in a third of Jobcentres by spring, Department of Work and Pensions and The Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP (London) 25 November 2014. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/welfare-revolution-rolls-out-to-families-universal-credit-to-be-in-a-third-of-jobcentres-by-spring>

⁷⁴⁰ Parents can now apply for Shared Parental Leave, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, Jo Swinson MP and Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (London) 1 December 2014. Access Date: 1 March 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-shared-parental-leave-regulations-come-into-effect>

⁷⁴¹ Work Programme statistics, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 18 December 2014. Access Date: 2 March 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/work-programme-statistics--2>

⁷⁴² The Work Programme has contributed to bringing the number of long-term unemployed people down to the lowest it has been for 5 years, Department of Work and Pensions and The Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP (London) 18 December 2014. Access Date: 1 March 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/work-programme-contributes-to-record-employment>

⁷⁴³ Benefit cap: 200 people into work or off Housing Benefit every week, Department of Work and Pensions and The Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP (London) 5 February 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/benefit-cap-200-people-into-work-or-off-housing-benefit-every-week>

independence. In 2015 the department will be expanding the program to single unemployed claimants and to benefits such as housing.⁷⁴⁴

On 20 February 2015, Department of Work and Pensions announced an increase in the number of disabled people working as a result of the government's Disability Confidence campaign. Minister of State for Disabled People, Mark Harper noted that it was encouraging to see an increasing number of disabled women in employment. The campaign works to remove barriers of employment by tackling the misconceptions of employers.⁷⁴⁵

The United Kingdom has implemented a small amount of social protection systems aimed at decreasing long-term unemployment, while noting the success of previously implemented social protection systems. Therefore, the United Kingdom receives a compliance score of 0.

Analyst: Alison Blagden

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, the United States released an Individual Employment Plan stating that they would take measures to combat long-term unemployment by “working with the private sector to develop a set of best practices for hiring and recruiting the long-term unemployed” and reforming federal hiring practices.⁷⁴⁶ The United States released their “Best Practices For Recruiting and Hiring the Long-Term Unemployed” before the compliance cycle, in January 2014.⁷⁴⁷ Other important social protection measures implemented before the compliance period include the Affordable Care Act and paid leave initiatives.

In accordance with their Individual Employment Plan, the United States granted USD170 million to the Ready to Work Partnership, a project set up to help the long-term unemployed find jobs. This grant occurred outside of the compliance period, on 15 October 2014.⁷⁴⁸

On 15 September 2015 the United States Senate blocked the Paycheck Fairness Act that supported equal pay laws for women.⁷⁴⁹

On 11 December 2014, US President Barack Obama pledged USD100 million to apprenticeships for American workers as a “path to the middle class.”⁷⁵⁰

⁷⁴⁴ Universal Credit at Work Spring 2015, Department of Work and Pensions (London) February 2015. Date of Access : 1 March 2015.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/405921/uc-at-work-spring-2015.pdf

⁷⁴⁵ 400 more disabled people in work every day, Department of Work and Pensions and Mark Harper MP (London) 20 February 2015. Date of Access : 1 March 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/400-more-disabled-people-in-work-every-day>

⁷⁴⁶ Employment Plan 2014: United States, G20 (Brisbane) November 2015. Date of Access: 18 March 2015.

https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_united_states.pdf

⁷⁴⁷ Best Practices For Recruiting and Hiring the Long-Term Unemployed, White House (Washington) January 2014. Date of Access: 25 February 2015.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/best_practices_recruiting_longterm_unemployed.pdf

⁷⁴⁸ Nearly \$170M in Ready to Work Partnership Grants Awarded To Help Long-Term Unemployed Americans Find Work, Department of Labor (Washington) 15 October 2014. Date of Access: 24 February 2015.

<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/ETA20141956.htm>

⁷⁴⁹ Paycheck Fairness Act Blocked Again By Senate GOP, Huffington Post (United States) 15 September 2014. Date of Access: 24 February 2015. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/15/paycheck-fairness-act_n_5825644.html

On 21 January 2015, President Obama unveiled a plan to provide affordable childcare, which included expanding the access to childcare to all families with a child less than four years of age, and increasing the possible credit received from the government per child up to USD3,000. The President also promised USD100 million to childcare subsidy research.⁷⁵¹

On 23 January 2015, in accordance with the USD158 million investment for re-employment for insurance beneficiaries mentioned in the Individual Action Plan, the Department of Labor granted USD4.6 million to Kentucky workers displaced by widespread layoffs of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant and GE Aviation. These funds will go towards providing these individuals with “comprehensive re-employment services.”⁷⁵²

On 28 January 2015, the United States Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs proposed an update to the rules designed to prohibit workplace discrimination based on sex. This update would tackle pay discrimination, sexual harassment, hostile work environments, the provision of workplace accommodations for pregnant women, discrimination based on gender identity, and family caregiving discrimination.⁷⁵³

On 29 January 2015, the United States Department of Labor announced that it would award USD38 million in grants to enhancing their Short-Time Compensation program. This is intended to help states avoid layoffs by implementing measures such as work sharing, where workers are given less hours as an alternative to being laid off, but are also given a percentage of the unemployment compensation they would receive had they been laid off, due to their decrease in income.⁷⁵⁴ On 3 February 2015, the United States released “Recruiting, Hiring, and Promoting People with Disabilities,” a resource guide for employers and a product of the ‘Curb Cuts to the Middle Class Initiative,’ which works to provide employment opportunities and financial independence for those with disabilities.⁷⁵⁵ This was an update to the creation of the “Curb Cuts to the Middle Class Initiative,” launched on 22 July 2014. Despite Congress failing to raise the minimum wage from USD7.25 to USD10.10 as proposed in their Individual Employment Plan, 21 states raised the minimum wage in January 2015.⁷⁵⁶

⁷⁵⁰President Obama Launches Competitions for New Manufacturing Innovation Hubs and American Apprenticeship Grants, White House (Washington) 11 December 2014. Date of Access: 23 February 2015. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/12/11/fact-sheet-president-obama-launches-competitions-new-manufacturing-innov>

⁷⁵¹Helping All Working Families With Young Children Afford Child Care, White House (Washington) 21 January 2015. Date of Access: 23 February 2015. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/01/21/fact-sheet-helping-all-working-families-young-children-afford-child-care>

⁷⁵² Kentucky Workers Displaced by Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant and GE Aviation Layoffs Helped By \$4.6M Labor Department Re-Employment Grant, Department of Labor (Washington) 23 January 2015. Date of Access: 23 February 2015. <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/ETA20150131.htm>

⁷⁵³OFCCP Proposes Updated Sex Discrimination Rule, Department of Labor (Washington) 28 January 2015. Date of Access: 23 February 2015. <http://www.dol.gov/ofccp/SDNPRM/index.html>

⁷⁵⁴ Short-time Compensation Programs Expand in 13 States With Nearly \$38 in Grants to Prevent Layoffs, Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (Washington) 29 January 2015. Date of Access: 25 February 2015. http://www.doleta.gov/ETA_News_Releases/20150155.cfm

⁷⁵⁵Recruiting, Hiring, Retraining, and Promoting People with Disabilities, Curb Cuts to the Middle Class Initiative, White House (Washington) 3 February 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2015. http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/employing_people_with_disabilities_toolkit_february_3_2015_v4.pdf

⁷⁵⁶Forget Congress, These US States Raised the Minimum Wage on their Own, The Guardian (United States) 1 January 2015. Access Date: 23 February 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/money/2015/jan/01/forget-congress-states-raise-minimum-wage-2015>

The United States has implemented several social protection systems, including those targeted at access to childcare, minimum wage increases, and employment and apprenticeship programs. Therefore, the United States receives a compliance score of +1.

Analyst: Katerina Stamadianos

European Union: –1

The European Union has failed to comply with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, the European Union released an Individual Employment Plan stating its commitment to help member states in their recovery through social protections to address poverty and long-term unemployment. The 2014 European Semester package of Country Specific Recommendations: Building Growth, published on 2 June 2014 outlined the need to address inequalities and improve the performance of social protection systems. The EU is committed to helping its member states achieve the Europe 2020 strategy to bring 20 million people out of poverty by the end of the decade. In February 2013, the European Commission produced the Social Investment Package to provide guidance to member states. The 2014 priorities are the adequacy and design of employment benefits and social assistance in several member states.⁷⁵⁷

On November 28 2014, the European Commission published the 2015 Annual Growth Survey on the Union's path to sustainable job creation and Economic growth. As part of the European Commission's approach to support job creation, the survey proposes an investment plan to mobilise EUR315 billion of public and private investment over the next three years. The commission recommends member state level reforms to make labour markets more dynamic and tackle unemployment, and ensure the efficiency and adequacy of social protection systems.⁷⁵⁸

On 13 January 2015, the European Commission provided guidance to member states as to the application of the stability and growth pact to strengthen links between structural reforms, investment and fiscal responsibility. The guidance has three aims 1) to encourage effective implementation of structural reforms; 2) to promote investment in the context of the new European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI); and 3) the fiscal responsibility of member states as a necessary condition of jobs and growth. The commission remains committed to steps towards pooled sovereignty in economic governance as outlined under the Work Programme for 2015.⁷⁵⁹

On 19 January 2015, the European Commission report on Employment and Social Developments in Europe 2014 emphasized the need for new jobs, skills, and social protections for the restoration of economic outcomes and employment creation following the recession. The report notes the need for investment and reforms in social protection systems to create human capital and labour market

⁷⁵⁷ Employment Plan 2014: European Union, G20 (Brisbane) November 2014.. Access Date: 1 March 2015.

https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_european_union.pdf

⁷⁵⁸ EU Annual Growth Survey 2015: A new Momentum for Jobs, Growth and Investment, European Commission (Brussels) 28 November 2014. Access Date: 2 March 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-2235_en.htm

⁷⁵⁹ Stability and Growth Pact: Commission issues guidance to encourage structural reforms and investment, European Commission (Strasbourg) 13 January 2015. Access Date: 2 March 2015 http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-3220_en.htm

inclusion. The European Social Fund can provide support for member state reforms to stabilize social protection systems.⁷⁶⁰

On 30 January 2015, The European Commission delivered a legislative proposal for the European Fund for Strategic Investments in partnership with the European Investment Bank. The fund will mobilize EUR315 billion in public and private investment to serve member states and industry sectors in most need of job creation and growth.⁷⁶¹

On 13 February 2015, The European Commission committed EUR66 billion to the Cohesion Policy to support 40 new programmes to boost economic competitiveness, enhance research and innovation, promote entrepreneurship, tackle unemployment, fight social exclusion and support the shift towards a low-carbon economy in Europe. Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne Thyssen announced that these investments would contribute to job creation, skills and education, and improving public administration.⁷⁶²

On 19 February 2015, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker pledged support for the EU Investment Plan to boost job creation and growth, and commitment to cooperation with the European Economic and Social Committee in the context of the 2015 Work Programme. Published on 6 November 2014, the report found the need for greater convergence of social policies to implement Article 3 of the Treaty to avoid social and regional imbalances. The investment plan prioritizes education and skills acquisition, innovation, entrepreneurship, energy transition and the green economy, and includes the involvement of social partners and civil society in employment reforms.⁷⁶³

Thus, the European Union is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Alison Blagden

⁷⁶⁰ Commission report highlights new jobs, new skills and social protection as drivers for restoring employment and incomes, European Social Fund (Brussels) 19 January 2015. Access Date: 2 March 2015.

<http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=67&langId=en&newsId=8539>

⁷⁶¹ Delivery of €315 billion Investment Plan on track: Commission presents law for the European Fund for Strategic Investments, European Commission (Strasbourg) 13 January 2015. Access Date: 2 March 2015.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-3222_en.htm

⁷⁶² Cohesion Policy: Commission commits more than 66 billion euro to promote economic development across Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 13 February 2015. Access Date: 2 March 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4425_en.htm?locale=en

⁷⁶³ European Commission and EESC – Working hand in hand to deliver solutions for Europe, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 19 February 2015. Access Date: 2 March 2015. <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.press-releases.34839>