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

2018 Charlevoix G7 Interim Compliance Report

10 June 2018 — 10 December 2018

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

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

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

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

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

G7 Charlevoix Leaders Communiqué

Assessment

Member	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average Score		+0.88	

Background

Echoing the Canadian G7 presidency's summit priority of inclusive growth, the 2018 Charlevoix summit communiqué states: "global economic outlook continues to improve, but too few citizens have benefitted from that economic growth."[396] The 2018 Charlevoix Summit acknowledges the sole use of traditional indicators of economic growth, such as gross domestic product, are insufficient to measure economic well-being and prosperity.[397] The communiqué endorses the Charlevoix Commitment on Equality and Economic Growth to "eradicate poverty, advance gender equality, foster income equality, ensure better access to financial resources, and decent work and quality of life for all."[398] In an effort to improve living standards and facilitate inclusive growth for all sectors of the population, the G7 members commit to monitoring market developments and using all policy tools — fiscal, monetary and structural reforms — to generate widespread prosperity.[399]

Over the past decade, economic growth has been one of the foremost concerns of the G7. The approaches to achieving economic growth have relied on the utilization of different policy tools — monetary, fiscal and structural — with varying degrees of emphasis from one summit to another. At the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit, G7 members committed to using fiscal policy and structural reforms to "foster growth by promoting education and innovation" and "increasing productivity by further implementing structural reforms."[400] At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 members affirmed the collective intention to use all policy tools at their disposal to "strengthen global demand and address supply constraints, while continuing our efforts to put debt on a sustainable path."[401] At the 2017 Taormina Summit, a key economic commitment affirmed by G7 members was to "use all

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[396] G7 Charlevoix Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 6 September 2018. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html
[397] G7 Charlevoix Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 6 September 2018. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html
[398] G7 Charlevoix Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 6 September 2018. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html
[399] G7 Charlevoix Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 6 September 2018. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html
[400] G7 Schloss Elmau Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 6 September 2018. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html
[401] G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date 6 September 2018. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html

policy tools — monetary, fiscal, and structural — individually and collectively to achieve strong, sustainable, balance and inclusive growth."[402]

Commitment Features

Part One: Monitoring Market Developments

The first part of this commitment, to "continue monitoring market developments," refers to the self-accountability of G7 members in supervising their domestic market developments.[403] This commitment does not necessitate the surveillance or collection of data, but G7 members can substantiate their pledge to "monitor" such developments through actions including but not limited to providing a report, following-up on promises, and employing other self-accountability mechanisms.[404] Such monitoring can be applied to examples such as the labor or financial markets.

A. Labour Market Development

With regards to the labour market, examples of compliance with monitoring market developments include collaboration with the private sector to ensure that education and workforce development keep pace with technological changes and meet the changing needs of the labour market, or adapting social protection systems to support those in non-standard forms of work.[405]

The G7 communique also emphasizes gender equality in ensuring that the labor market is developing towards inclusiveness.[406] Examples of compliance to the gender dimension of this commitment would include but is not limited to: increased efforts to reduce the gender pay gap, encouraging female leadership in corporations, ensuring inclusive hiring processes and allocating resources towards programming and benefits for maternity and parental leave.[407]

The G7 member also committed to inclusive marketed developments by ensuring equal access to opportunity for all citizens "as reflected by the incomes and opportunities for education within families across generations."[408] Examples of measures to address this issue include programs and policies that support individuals from families that historically have not been able to attend post-secondary school due to socio-economic or historical circumstances.[409] Other examples include measures to make education accessible to age groups that are not conventionally included.[410]

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[402] G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html
[403] Compliance Coding Guide for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 May 2016. Access Date: 6 September 2018. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/index.html
[404] Compliance Coding Guide for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 May 2016. Access Date: 6 September 2018. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/index.html
[405] G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html
[406] G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html
[407] G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html
[408] G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html
[409] G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html
[410] G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html

B. Financial Market Development

Examples of inclusive financial market development may include private-public partnerships to foster inclusivity in business ecosystems, or regulations and market policies to ensure that competition is viewed as a source of long-term growth.[411] Other forms of inclusive financial market development may include the digitalization of the economy, such as regulations of cryptocurrency, or acts to close digital loopholes for tax evasion through the use of non-traditional forms of currency.[412]

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

Part Two: Using Policy Tools

The second part of this commitment is concerned with the implementation of policy reforms to ensure that market developments are "strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive."[413] "All policy tools" is interpreted as fiscal policy, monetary policy, and structural reforms — the three pillars of macroeconomic policy tools.

To define the respective macroeconomic policy tools: monetary policy is the macroeconomic policy laid down by the central bank. It involves the management of the money supply and interest rate and is the demand side economic policy used by the government of a country to achieve macroeconomic objectives like inflation, consumption, growth, and liquidity. Fiscal policy is the means by which a government adjusts its spending levels and tax rates to monitor and influence a nation's economy. It is the sister strategy to monetary policy through which a central bank influences a nation's money supply. Structural reform refers to a set of economic policies often introduced as a condition for gaining a loan from the International Monetary Fund. Structural adjustment policies usually involve a combination of free-market policies such as privatization, fiscal austerity, free trade, and deregulation.[414]

Examples of each policy tool are listed below.

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

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

C. Structural Reforms: creating an inclusive and fair tax system that supports continuous tax capacity-building to advance sustainable development.[415] This addresses issues of tax evasion, corruption, money laundering, and terrorist financing. Such actions also incorporate elements of fair tax regulation by creating a job market whereby individuals cannot escape paying taxes, particularly for

[411] G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html

[412] G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html

[413] G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communique.html

[414] 2016 G20 Hangzhou Summit Final Compliance Report, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 6 July 2017. Access Date: 14 October 2018. http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/compliance/2016hangzhou-final/2016-g20-final-compliance.pdf

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

individuals employed in non-standard forms of work (ex. Informal employment of payment by cash).[416]

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

Scoring Guidelines

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

Compliance Director: Georgina Merhom
Lead Analyst: Kareem Shahin

Canada: +1

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

On 13 June 2018, the Bank of Canada announced its partnership with the Creative Destruction Lab. This partnership aims to gain a better understanding of the latest cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, crypto-asset technologies, and quantum computing."[417]

On 21 June 2018, the Department of Finance Canada welcomed the Royal Assent of the Budget Implementation Act, 2018, No. 1.[418] It introduced the Canada Workers Benefit, which "will allow low-income workers to take home more money while they work."[419] Further, it strengthened the Canada Child Benefit by pegging the benefits that families receive for raising their children with inflation.

[416] G7 Finance Ministers and Central Banks Governors Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Bari) 13 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2018. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/finance/170513-communique.html
[417] Bank of Canada Partners with Creative Destruction Lab to Deepen Knowledge of New Technologies, Bank of Canada (Ottawa) 13 June 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2018/06/bank-canada-partners-with-creative-destruction-lab/
[418] Government's Plan to Strengthen and Grow the Middle Class Receives Royal Assent, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 21 June 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-051-eng.asp
[419] Government's Plan to Strengthen and Grow the Middle Class Receives Royal Assent, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 21 June 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-051-eng.as

On 21 June 2018, the Government of Canada introduced legislation known as the Multilateral Instrument in Parliament to fight "tax avoidance strategies that lead to base erosion and profit shifting."[420]

On 16 July 2018, the Government of Canada introduced a programme titled "Future Skills."[421] This programme intends to "help Canadians prepare for, get and keep jobs as innovation and technology continue to place new demands on workers' skills and training."[422] Automation, robotics and artificial intelligence are a few examples of the programming being introduced."[423]

On 9 August 2018, the Department of Finance Canada announced that the Canadian Government is working with private credit card unions such as Visa and MasterCard to lower interchange fees for Canada's small and medium-sized businesses.[424]

On 13 September 2018, the Government of Canada announced a further reduction in the Employment Insurance (EI) premium rate for Canadian workers.[425] The EI program was designed to help Canadians in times of need and to make "maternity and parental benefits more flexible and inclusive."[426]

On 30 September 2018, the United States, Canada, and Mexico reached an agreement on a new trilateral trade agreement known as the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA).[427] The agreement will commit the parties to refrain from competitive currency devaluations. It will also introduce mechanisms to review currency policy, once it enters into force.[428] Furthermore, the agreement includes provisions to enforce anti-corruption laws and enhance government transparency.[429]

[420] Parliament Supports Next Step in Fight Against Aggressive International Tax Avoidance, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 21 June 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-052-eng.asp
[421] Future Skills, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 16 July 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/future-skills.html
[422] Future Skills, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 16 July 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/future-skills.html
[423] Future Skills, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 16 July 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/future-skills.html
[424] New Agreements to Deliver Lower Credit Card Costs for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 9 August 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-069-eng.asp
[425] Statement on the Employment Insurance Premium Rate Change for 2019 by the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Department of Finance Canada (Gatineau) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-078-eng.asp
[426] Statement on the Employment Insurance Premium Rate Change for 2019 by the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Department of Finance Canada (Gatineau) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-078-eng.asp
[427] Joint Statement from United States Representative Robert Lighthizer and Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 30 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2018/09/joint-statement-from-united-states-trade-representative-robert-lighthizer-and-canadian-foreign-affairs-minister-chrystia-freeland.html
[428] Joint Statement by the Secretary of the Treasury and Finance Minister of Mexico, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington D.C.) 17 October 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm527
[429] United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Text, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington D.C.) 1 October 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. https://ustr.gov/trade-agreements/free-trade-agreements/united-states-mexico-canada-agreement/united-states-mexico

On 10 October 2018, the Bank of Canada launched the Partnerships in Innovation and Technology program. This program works with the private sector to "fast-track innovation in its economic analysis and research, as well as in its day-to-day operations."[430]

On 19 October 2018, the Government of Canada announced the launch of the Women Entrepreneurship Fund to advance gender equality and help women-owned and women-led businesses in Canada.[431]

On 19 October 2018, the Government of Canada announced an investment commitment of up to CAD49.9 million to protect Canadian steelworkers in Ontario and Quebec.[432] This investment aims to support the steel producers' capabilities to enhance their productivity and sustain their competitiveness.

On 25 October 2018, Finance Minister Bill Morneau tabled a Notice of Ways and Means Motion in Parliament.[433] This motion is intended to provide "more help to Canadians most in need, including low-income workers, families, and children."[434]

On 26 October 2018, the Government of Canada announced an investment of CAD5.3 million for John J. Sark Memorial School, a school located in an indigenous community on Prince Edward Island.[435] This investment will bring upgrades to school facilities and provide "spaces for Mi'kmaq language and culture education."[436]

On 29 October 2018, the Government of Canada introduced the Pay Equity Act.[437] The legislation will ensure that women working in federally regulated workplaces will be fairly compensated for work

[430] Bank of Canada Launches New Programs to Foster Collaboration with Innovators, Bank of Canada (Ottawa) 10 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2018/10/bank-canada-launches-new-program-foster-collaboration-with-innovators/
[431] Minister Ng Announces Funding for Women's Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Delta) 19 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2018/10/minister-ng-announces-funding-for-womens-entrepreneurship.html
[432] Government Announces Support for 6,400 Canadian Steel Workers in Ontario and Quebec, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Hamilton) 19 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2018/10/government-announces-support-for-6400-canadian-steel-workers-in-ontario-and-quebec.html
[433] Minister Morneau Takes Next Steps to Support Equality and Growth for A Strong Middle Class, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 25 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-099-eng.asp
[434] Minister Morneau Takes Next Steps to Support Equality and Growth for A Strong Middle Class, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 25 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-099-eng.asp
[435] Lennox Island and Government of Canada Announces Expansion and Upgrades to John J. Sark Memorial School, Indigenous Services Canada (Lennox Island) 26 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2018/10/lennox-island-and-government-of-canada-announce-expansion-and-upgrades-to-john-j-sark-memorial-school.html
[436] Lennox Island and Government of Canada Announces Expansion and Upgrades to John J. Sark Memorial School, Indigenous Services Canada (Lennox Island) 26 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2018/10/lennox-island-and-government-of-canada-announce-expansion-and-upgrades-to-john-j-sark-memorial-school.html
[437] Government of Canada introduces historic proactive pay equity legislation, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 29 October 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/10/government-of-canada-introduces-historic-proactive-pay-equity-legislation.html

of equal value.[438] A Pay Equity Commissioner will be appointed to educate employers and employees about their rights under the new law, and enforce the new regulations of the Pay Equity Act.[439]

On 14 November 2018, the Bank of Canada launched the Financial System Hub to promote "timely analysis and research on financial stability issues."[440] The Financial System Hub will aid in digitalizing the economy and promoting "a stable and efficient financial system."[441]

On 21 November 2018, the Department of Finance announced its plan to foster economic growth in its 2018 Fall Economic State: Investing in Middle Class Jobs.[442] This plan includes measures to modernize federal regulations in order to sustain competitiveness, create a Social Finance Fund, and advance gender-based pay equity.[443]

On 11 December 2018, the Government of Canada launched the Apprenticeship Incentive Grant for Women.[444] By providing grants of up to CAD6,000 per year, this initiative is intended to incentivize the participation of women in Red Seal trades, where they are currently under-represented.[445]

On 13 December 2018, the Department of Finance Canada welcomed the Royal Assent of Budget Implementation Act, 2018, No. 2.[446] This plan includes the new Employment Insurance Parental Sharing Benefit, which will "encourage the broader participation of women in the workforce."[447] It also aims to build a strong middle class and "make it easier for businesses to compete and Canadians to succeed."[448]

[438] Government of Canada introduces historic proactive pay equity legislation, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 29 October 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/10/government-of-canada-introduces-historic-proactive-pay-equity-legislation.html
[439] Government of Canada introduces historic proactive pay equity legislation, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 29 October 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/10/government-of-canada-introduces-historic-proactive-pay-equity-legislation.html
[440] Bank of Canada Launches Digital Hub for Promoting a Stable and Efficient Financial System, Bank of Canada (Ottawa) 14 November 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2018/11/bank-canada-launches-digital-hub/
[441] Bank of Canada Launches Digital Hub for Promoting a Stable and Efficient Financial System, Bank of Canada (Ottawa) 14 November 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2018/11/bank-canada-launches-digital-hub/
[442] 2018 Fall Economic Statement: Investing in Middle Class Jobs, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 21 November 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-107-eng.asp
[443] 2018 Fall Economic Statement: Investing in Middle Class Jobs, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 21 November 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-107-eng.asp
[444] Government of Canada launches new Apprenticeship Incentive Grant for Women to help them get certified in Red Seal Trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/12/government-of-canada-launches-new-apprenticeship-incentive-grant-for-women-to-help-them-get-certified-in-red-seal-trades--apply-today.html
[445] Government of Canada launches new Apprenticeship Incentive Grant for Women to help them get certified in Red Seal Trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/12/government-of-canada-launches-new-apprenticeship-incentive-grant-for-women-to-help-them-get-certified-in-red-seal-trades--apply-today.html
[446] Government's Plan to Invest in the Middle Class Receives Royal Assent, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-121-eng.asp
[447] Government's Plan to Invest in the Middle Class Receives Royal Assent, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-121-eng.asp
[448] Government's Plan to Invest in the Middle Class Receives Royal Assent, Department of Finance Canada (Ottawa) 13 December 2018. Access Date: 17 December 2018. https://www.fin.gc.ca/n18/18-121-eng.asp

On 18 December 2018, the Government of Canada announced the allocation of additional funding of up to CAD5 million to service providers across Canada over the next three years, in order to promote employment opportunities for newcomer women.[449]

On 18 December 2018, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources announced the allocation of more than CAD1.6 billion for workers and their families in Canada's oil and gas sectors.[450] This action will foster the competitiveness of Canada's energy sector while providing employment programming to aid in training and skills development for workers to meet the changing needs of the labour market.[451]

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

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Zemin Liu

France: +1

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

On 19 June 2018, at the ministerial meeting held in Schloss Meseberg outside Berlin, the German and French governments issued the "Meseberg Declaration."[452] Most notably, this declaration lays out joint proposals for advancing corporate tax harmonization within the European Union.[453] These proposals were then presented by France and Germany to European Union agencies, including the Eurogroup and the Economic and Financial Affairs Council.[454]

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

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

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

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

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

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

On 1 August 2018, the French Parliament voted on the law "From the Freedom to choose One's Professional Future."[455] The law will come into force on 5 September 2018, and it requires companies to be transparent about gender wage pay gaps and implement equal pay between genders. The law introduces financial consequences for companies that fail to meet these obligations. Companies must comply with these regulations by 1 January 2019.[456]

On 1 August 2018, Minister for the Economy and Finance Bruno LeMaire met with the Italian Minister of Economy and Finance, Giovanni Tria, to discuss economic and financial growth in France and Italy.[457] Tria and LeMaire reiterated their commitment towards the "adoption of the European Commission's proposal for a digital service by the end of 2018," in order to promote greater efficiency in the collection of taxes.[458] This meeting demonstrates France's continued commitment to the digitalization of its economy and closing digital loopholes for tax evasion.

On 13 September 2018, President Emmanuel Macron unveiled plans for labour market reforms to combat poverty in France.[459] This plan includes expanding childcare to enable parents and caregivers to join the labour force.[460]

On 18 September 2018, Minister for the Economy and Finance Bruno LeMaire introduced an action plan to ease regulations on small-and-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).[461] This bill proposes various structural reforms. It will reduce taxes on SMEs, ease their ability to secure financing, and aid smaller companies in setting up online platforms to export their goods and services.[462]

On 24 September 2018, the 2019 Finance Bill was presented to the Council of Ministers.[463] A central aim of the bill was to tackle France's high unemployment rate by implementing fiscal policy and structural reforms.[464] The government committed to investing EUR2.5 billion in skills development

[455] Adoption de la loi pour la Liberté de choisir son avenir professionnel, Minisère du Travail (Paris) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiques-de-presse/article/adoption-de-la-loi-pour-la-liberte-de-choisir-son-avenir-professionnel

[456] Adoption de la loi pour la Liberté de choisir son avenir professionnel, Minisère du Travail (Paris) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiques-de-presse/article/adoption-de-la-loi-pour-la-liberte-de-choisir-son-avenir-professionnel

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

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

[459] Transcription de la présenttion par la Président de la République de la stratégie nationale de prevention de lute contre la pauvreté, Présidence de la République (Paris) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. http://www.elysee.fr/declarations/article/transcription-de-la-presentation-par-le-president-de-la-republique-de-la-strategie-nationale-de-prevention-de-lutte-contre-la-pauvrete/

[460] Transcription de la présenttion par la Président de la République de la stratégie nationale de prevention de lute contre la pauvreté, Présidence de la République (Paris) 13 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. http://www.elysee.fr/declarations/article/transcription-de-la-presentation-par-le-president-de-la-republique-de-la-strategie-nationale-de-prevention-de-lutte-contre-la-pauvrete/

[461] Le Plan d'Action pour la Croissance et la Transformation des Enteprises en 10 mesures, Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances (Paris) 18 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=B028C47F-6014-4B6F-A693-3F6AAA5B8436&filename=bro-18-24-pacte-web.pdf

[462] Le Plan d'Action pour la Croissance et la Transformation des Enteprises en 10 mesures, Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances (Paris) 18 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November2018. https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=B028C47F-6014-4B6F-A693-3F6AAA5B8436&filename=bro-18-24-pacte-web.pdf

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

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

and the reduction of unemployment.[465] The government also committed EUR8 billion to aid job-training programs for disadvantaged youth, in response to rising poverty.[466] Furthermore, the Finance Bill aims to make French companies more attractive and stimulate competition with various structural reforms.[467] The Finance Bill includes cuts in corporate taxes and simplification of the tax system.[468]

On 15 October 2018, the government of France launched the France Num initiative.[469] The objective of the France Num initiative is to promote the digitalization of SMEs. The state will provide tools, funding, and resources to assist them with digitalization.[470]

On 22 November 2018, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe unveiled a new support system to serve French territories with strong industrial bases.[471] The government will allocate approximately EUR1.36 billion in 124 industrial territories and provide administrative, technical and human resources.[472] The multi-faceted program is intended to stimulate job creation in local industries and attract investments in the sponsored territories.

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

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Matthew Kronberg

Germany: +1

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

On 19 June 2018, at the ministerial meeting held in Schloss Meseberg outside Berlin, the German and French governments issued the "Meseberg Declaration."[473] Most notably, this declaration lays

[465] The 2019 Finance Bill, Government of France (Paris) 1 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/the-2019-finance-bill
[466] Budget 2019: soutenir le travail, investor pour l'avenir, Ministèrie de l'Economie et des Finances (Paris) 24 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. https://www.economie.gouv.fr/projet-loi-finances-2019
[467] Budget 2019: soutenir le travail, investor pour l'avenir, Ministèrie de l'Economie et des Finances (Paris) 24 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. https://www.economie.gouv.fr/projet-loi-finances-2019
[468] Budget 2019: soutenir le travail, investor pour l'avenir, Ministèrie de l'Economie et des Finances (Paris) 24 September 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. https://www.economie.gouv.fr/projet-loi-finances-2019
[469] Lancement de France Num: un outil au service de la transformation numérique des entrepises, Ministèrie de l'Economie et des Finances (Paris) 15 October 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. https://www.economie.gouv.fr/lancement-france-num-outil-au-service-transformation-numerique-des-entreprises
[470] Lancement de France Num: un outil au service de la transformation numérique des entrepises, Ministèrie de l'Economie et des Finances (Paris) 15 October 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. https://www.economie.gouv.fr/lancement-france-num-outil-au-service-transformation-numerique-des-entreprises
[471] Accélérer le développement des territoires industriels, Ministèrie de l'Economie et des Finances (Paris) 22 November 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. https://www.economie.gouv.fr/conseil-national-industrie-2018
[472] Accélérer le développement des territoires industriels, Ministèrie de l'Economie et des Finances (Paris) 22 November 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. https://www.economie.gouv.fr/conseil-national-industrie-2018
[473] Meeting of German and French government ministers in Meseberg, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 20 June 2018. Access Date: 21 October 2018. https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Europe/Articles/2018-06-20-Meseberg.html

out joint proposals for advancing corporate tax harmonization within the European Union.[474] These proposals were then presented by France and Germany to EU agencies, including the Eurogroup and the Economic and Financial Affairs Council.[475]

On 6 July 2018, Germany's Federal Cabinet adopted the government draft of the 2019 federal budget and the financial plan to 2022.[476] A total of EUR151.6 billion in investment spending is planned for the four years between 2019 to 2022, and a special focus will be placed on digitalization of the economy and education.[477] Within the total spending, a special digital infrastructure fund of EUR2.4 billion will be allocated to support the expanding and upgrading of the broadband network and the implementation of the "digital compact for schools."[478] In addition, a total of EUR5.5 billion is planned to be spent on improving childcare facilities.[479] The Federal government is also planning to provide roughly EUR1 billion in funding for training, job placement and labour market integration measures targeting the long-term unemployed population.[480]

On 18 July 2018, the federal government adopted the "Key Points for a Federal Strategy on Artificial Intelligence," which set out the government's goals and fields of action for its artificial intelligence (AI) strategies.[481] The fields of action include: "funding for research into and development of AI, the transfer of research findings into commercial use, the fostering of new AI-based business models and products, and policy measures to ensure that the changes on the labour and training market are shaped in a socially acceptable manner"[482]. The Federal government is planning to run a nation-wide consultation process to finalize the AI Strategy, which will be presented at the 2018 Digital Summit in Nuremberg in December.[483]

On 18 July 2018, the Federal Cabinet decided to set up the "Equal Living Standards" (Gleichwertige Lebensverhältnisse) Commission, which comprises of Federal Ministers (such as Federal Minister for

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth), provincial government officials, and local associations. The mandate of this commission is to provide concrete strategies and proposals on how to ensure equal living standards across Germany. It particularly focuses on issues relating to infrastructure construction, social service provision, and labor participation.[484]

On 10 August 2018, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy released a statement to announce that "inter-company vocational training centers can receive higher grants for digital equipment," and the Ministry will fund "up to 90% of [companies] investment … [in] … further and advanced training [of workers]."[485] This initiative is designed to improve the quality of vocational training for employees in small and medium-sized enterprises.[486]

On 22 August 2018, the Federal Cabinet announced its appointments to the newly-established advisory body, "the Digital Council."[487] This Council mainly comprises of experts in the fields of digital technologies, including academics and entrepreneurs. The Council will meet at least twice a year with the Chancellor and other members of the government. It is designed to facilitate public-private consultations about issues of digitalization.[488]

On 29 August 2018, the Federal Cabinet decided to establish a new agency to promote breakthrough innovations.[489] This agency will allow innovation stakeholders (especially universities, non-university research establishments, and companies) to freely pursue research that has the potential for breakthrough innovations.[490] It will financially support innovation experts to translate their ground-breaking findings into marketable products. The overall purpose of this agency is to create new products, new business models and new high-quality jobs in Germany.[491]

[484] Gemeinsam für gleichwertige Lebensverhältnisse in ganz Deutschland, Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) 18 July 2018. Access Date: 4 December 2018. https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/gemeinsam-fuer-gleichwertige-lebensverhaeltnisse-in-ganz-deutschland/127204

[485] Higher Grants for Digitalization in Advanced Training Institutions, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 10 August 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2018/20180810-hoehere-zuschuesse-fuer-die-digitalisierung-von-weiterbildungseinrichtungen.html

[486] Higher Grants for Digitalization in Advanced Training Institutions, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 10 August 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2018/20180810-hoehere-zuschuesse-fuer-die-digitalisierung-von-weiterbildungseinrichtungen.html

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

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

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

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

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

On 5 September 2018, the Data Ethics Commission created by the Federal government began its operations.[492] This Commission comprises of 16 experts from various fields such as law, computer science, and ethics. For the coming years, the commission's tasks are to propose "ethical guidelines for making data policy and dealing with algorithms, artificial intelligence, and digital innovation and providing recommendations for action."[493]

On 7 November 2018, the Economic Affairs Ministry of the Federal Government hosted the 2018 Mittelstand-Digital Congress to facilitate public-private conversation around artificial intelligence and digitalization of the economy.[494] The focus of this conversation is on how small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can benefit from artificial intelligence, as well as the potential challenges generated by digitalization.[495]

On 26 September 2018, the "Equal Living Standards" Commission (Gleichwertige Lebensverhältnisse) began its operations.[496] As Federal Minister of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth Franziska Giffey emphasizes, this Commission will be tasked with providing strategies to ensure universal access to social welfare programs across the entire country, especially access to education and job training.[497]

On 13 November 2018, the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women, and Youth, in partnership with the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, kicked off the second round of funding for the "Encouraging Youth in the Neighborhood" program.[498] EUR97 million will be provided by the European Social Fund for Germany, and EUR4 million will be provided by the Federal Government.[499] This funding will last for three and a half years, and it is

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

meant to provide assistance to socially disadvantaged young people in their transition from school to work through measures such as vocational training.[500]

On 16 November 2018, the Federal Cabinet adopted the Federal Government's Artificial Intelligence Strategy.[501] This strategy focuses on achieving the following objectives, including "accelerating the transfer of research findings to businesses, promoting the availability of skilled workers and experts, shaping the structural change in enterprises and on the labor market … deepening European and international cooperation on AI issues and fostering the societal dialogue on the opportunities and the impact of artificial intelligence."[502] The German Government is planning to allocate approximately EUR3 billion between 2018 to 2025 in order to implement the Strategy.[503]

On 23 November 2018, the German Bundestag passed the 2019 budget plan, which was already adopted by the Federal Cabinet.[504] Under this plan, a significant amount of funds will be used on "improv[ing] schools and childcare … train[ing] the long-term unemployed … developing digital infrastructure … [and] on promoting research and on digital education for the people."[505]

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

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Yu Wen

Italy: 0

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

On 1 August 2018, the Italian Minister of Economy and Finance Giovanni Tria met with Bruno LeMaire, the French Minister for the Economy and Finance, to discuss economic and financial

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

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

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

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

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

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

growth in France and Italy.[506] Tria and LeMaire reiterated their commitment towards the "adoption of the European Commission's proposal for a digital service by the end of 2018," in order to promote greater efficiency in the collection of taxes.[507]

On 8 August 2018, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers implemented EU Directive 2016/1164 to combat tax avoidance.[508] The adoption of this legislation will align Italy's policies with European Union policies, thus more effectively discouraging tax avoidance within its own market. The Council also approved legislation regulating market abuse, which intends to discourage insider trading, market manipulation and illicit communication of insider information.[509] This legislation better conforms with the EU's existing legal framework and regulates the trade of financial instruments on multilateral trading facilities and organized trading systems, commodity markets and emissions markets.[510]

On 15 August 2018, Minister of Economy and Finance Giovanni Tria made a statement in response to the tragic bridge collapse in Genoa.[511] Tria stressed the importance of increasing public investment in public infrastructure and promoting intergovernmental cooperation.[512] Tria's statement affirms Italy's continued commitment to utilizing fiscal policy to promote investment in high-quality infrastructure.

On 3 September 2018, the European Investment Fund and Cassa Depositi e Prestiti launched a guarantee program under the Cultural and Creative Sectors Guarantee Facility. The program amounts to EUR300 million in loans available to SMEs operating in the creative and cultural sectors.[513]

On 27 September 2018, the government proposed its 2018 Budget Plan. It proposes the allocation of EUR15 billion over the next three years to invest in infrastructure, artificial intelligence, energy efficiency, and new technologies.[514] The European Commission has requested that the government present a revised budgetary draft plan, on the grounds that its previous draft was non-compliant with the fiscal recommendations of the Council of the European Union.[515] The budgetary draft plan proposed additional funding for technical and professional institutions, in order to increase training

[506] Press Release Number 120 of 08/01/2018, Ministero dell' Economia e delle Finanze (Rome) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. http://www.mef.gov.it/en/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2018/comunicato_0120.html
[507] Press Release Number 120 of 08/01/2018, Ministero dell' Economia e delle Finanze (Rome) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. http://www.mef.gov.it/en/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2018/comunicato_0120.htm
[508] Press Release of the Council of Ministers n.14, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 8 August 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. http://www.governo.it/articolo/comunicato-stampa-del-consiglio-dei-ministri-n-14/9813
[509] Press Release of the Council of Ministers n.14, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 8 August 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. http://www.governo.it/articolo/comunicato-stampa-del-consiglio-dei-ministri-n-14/9813
[510] Press Release of the Council of Ministers n.14, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 8 August 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. http://www.governo.it/articolo/comunicato-stampa-del-consiglio-dei-ministri-n-14/9813
[511] Dichiarazione del Ministro Tria sulla Tragedia di Genovia, Ministero dell' Economia e delle Finanze (Rome) 15 August 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. http://www.mef.gov.it/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2018/comunicato_0130.html
[512] Dichiarazione del Ministro Tria sulla Tragedia di Genovia, Ministero dell' Economia e delle Finanze (Rome) 15 August 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. http://www.mef.gov.it/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2018/comunicato_0130.html
[513] EUR 300 million for Italian SMEs in creative and cultural sectors, European Commission (Rome) 3 September 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eur-300-million-italian-smes-creative-and-cultural-sectors-2018-sep-03_en
[514] Press release of the council of ministers, n.23, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 15 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. http://www.governo.it/articolo/comunicato-stampa-del-consiglio-dei-ministri-n-23/10148
[515] Commission Work Programme for 2019 and draft budgetary plan of Italy, European Commission (Strasbourg) 23 October 2018. Access Date: 28 October 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/commission-work-programme-2019-and-draft-budgetary-plan-italy-2018-oct-23_en

for professionals in industries for which there is high demand. In addition, the plan proposes the reduction of costs for start-ups and innovative small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).[516]

On 4 October 2018, Minister of Infrastructures and Transports Danilo Toninelli and President of the National Anti-Corruption Authority Raffaele Cantone signed a framework to enhance transparency between the two bodies.[517] The framework is intended to reinforce transparency in public administrative practices, implementation of government contracts and lobbying by private entities.[518] The framework highlights Italy's commitment to implementing structural reforms in order to combat corruption in public administration.

On 15 October 2018, the Council of Ministers approved legislation to provide additional funding to start-ups researching blockchain technology with a venture capital fund provided by Cassa Depositi e Prestiti.[519] Furthermore, the legislation will reduce the cost of start-ups and SMEs.[520] This legislation promotes Italy's commitment to building an inclusive financial market.

On 19 October 2018, the European Investment Fund (EIF) and Cassa di Risparmio di Bolzano–Südtiroler Sparkasse (CRB) announced an agreement with the objective of providing loans "on favourable terms to innovative SMEs and small mid-caps."[521] The EIF and CRB agreed on a EUR60 million portfolio that will support innovative businesses in Italy.[522]

On 27 November 2018, the Council of Ministers implemented European Union Council Directive 2016/1164 concerning anti-tax avoidance.[523] The new legislation amends existing tax legislation to prevent and counter profit-shifting and tax base erosion by multinational corporations.[524]

Italy has demonstrated efforts to monitor developments in its financial markets and implement all policy tools in order to promote and sustain growth. However, it has not implemented any actions in building or fostering the continued development of its labour market.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Matthew Kronberg

Japan: +1

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

On 12 June 2018, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held the 7th meeting of the Headquarters for Creating a Society in which All Women Shine at the Prime Minister's Office.[525] The Intensive Policy to Accelerate the Empowerment of Women 2018 introduced a new system that encourages male civil servants to take childcare leave. It also established corporate governance reforms to encourage the appointment of female executives.[526] The government sought to strengthen measures against sexual harassment, and review the implementation of the Act on Promotion of Women's Participation and Advancement in the Workplace.[527]

On 29 June 2018, the National Diet passed the Act on Arrangement of Relevant Act on Promoting the Work Style Reform, which sought to equalize pay between regular and non-regular workers, cap overtime to 100 hours a month, and exempt white-collar workers from the overtime limit.[528] In a press conference held at the Prime Minister's Office, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stated that the Act "makes diverse ways of working possible" and "enables people to work even when raising children or providing nursing care."[529]

On 12 July 2018, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan approximately USD91 million to the Government of Turkmenistan to "provide financing for the Turkmen State Power Corporation to purchase a full set of facilities from the Sumimoto Corporation and construct a gas-fired power plant in Lebap Region."[530] This constitutes an investment in infrastructure that stimulates job creation.

On 27 July 2018, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan approximately USD467 million to a long-term floating production, storage and offloading vessel chartering services for the Brazil state-owned oil company Petróleo Brasileiro S.A., in order to assist its development of the Mero oil field near the coast of Brazil.[531] This constitutes an investment in infrastructure that stimulates job creation.

[525] Headquarters for Creating a Society in which All Women Shine, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 12 June 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201806/_00032.html
[526] Headquarters for Creating a Society in which All Women Shine, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 12 June 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201806/_00032.html
[527] Headquarters for Creating a Society in which All Women Shine, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 12 June 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201806/_00032.html
[528] 働き方改革を推進するための関係法律の整備に関する法律（平成 30 年法律第 71 号）の概要, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 6 July 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/000332869.pdf
[529] Press Conference on the Enactment of the Work Style Reform Bills, Cabinet Public Relations Office (Tokyo) 29 June 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201806/_00069.html
[530] Buyer's Credit for Government of Turkmenistan, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 13 July 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/0713-011158.html
[531] Project Financing for FPSO Operation Project of the Mero Oil Field in the Libra Block of Brazil, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 30 July 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/0730-011246.html

On 31 July 2018, the Ministry of Finance stated that its foreign exchange intervention operations for the period of 28 June 2018 to 27 July 2018 was JPY0.[532] This constitutes restraint from using targeted exchange rates or currency devaluation for competitive purposes.

On 5 September 2018, the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Ecuador agreed in principle on the bilateral tax convention.[533] This Convention seeks to "eliminate double taxation and prevent international tax evasion and tax avoidance" and "promote mutual investments and economic exchanges between the two countries."[534]

On 19 September 2018, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan USD50 million to "environment-related projects focusing on renewable energy in Brazil."[535]

On 26 September 2018, Japan accepted the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.[536] This Convention seeks to eliminate double taxation and prevent international tax evasion and tax avoidance.[537]

On 5 October 2018, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held the 19th meeting of the Council on Investments for the Future at the Prime Minister's Office.[538] He indicated his intent to "increase labor productivity by proactively introducing technological innovations to workplaces" and collaborate with financial institutions to advance the adoption of cashless payment systems.[539]

On 16 October 2018, in Madrid, the Government of Japan and the Government of the Kingdom of Spain signed the Convention for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance.[540] This Convention seeks to "eliminate double taxation and prevent international tax evasion and tax avoidance" and "promote mutual investments and economic exchanges between the two countries."[541]

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[532] Foreign Exchange Intervention Operations (June 28, 2018 — July 27, 2018), Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 31 July 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/reference/feio/monthly/20180731.htm

[533] Tax Convention with Ecuador Agreed in Principle, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 5 September 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20180905ec.htm

[534] Tax Convention with Ecuador Agreed in Principle, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 5 September 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20180905ec.htm

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

[536] Convention to Implement Measures to Prevent BEPS will Enter into Force, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 27 September 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20180927mli.htm

[537] Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 27 September 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. https://www.mof.go.jp/tax_policy/summary/international/press_release/20180927mli_b.pdf

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

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

[540] New Tax Convention with Spain was Signed, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 17 October 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20181017es.htm

[541] New Tax Convention with Spain was Signed, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 17 October 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20181017es.htm

On 18 October 2018, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan approximately USD604 million to the Jawa 1 Gas-to-Power Project in Indonesia.[542] This loan seeks to provide financial support to "Japanese companies that invest in overseas infrastructure projects and operate and manage these facilities on a long-term basis."[543]

On 19 October 2018, the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Croatia signed the Agreement between Japan and the Republic of Croatia for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance in Zagreb.[544] This Agreement seeks to "eliminate double taxation and prevent international tax evasion and tax avoidance" and "promote mutual investments and economic exchanges between the two countries."[545]

On 22 October 2018, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held the 20th meeting of the Council on Investments for the Future at the Prime Minister's Office.[546] He indicated his intent to raise the age limit for continued employment beyond 65 years old, and to "secure employment opportunities for the elderly until they reach 70 years of age."[547] He further pledged to "personally take the lead in establishing a council inviting major corporations that are dedicated to expanding mid-career hires" to expand the employment of experienced workers.[548]

On 23 October 2018, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attended a Ministerial Council meeting on the Employment of Persons with Disabilities in the Public Service.[549] He requested his ministers to "ensure that everyone in [their] respective ministries and agencies is fully mindful about promoting the employment of persons with disabilities," and take steps to prevent continued neglect of the statutory employment quota of persons with disabilities.[550] He further emphasized the importance of "expand[ing] opportunities for those with disabilities to demonstrate their motivation and abilities and play an active role, such as developing a new recruitment scheme for persons with disabilities, a system for moving up to full-time employee, and a system of supports for persons with disabilities at the workplace."[551]

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

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

[544] Tax Agreement with Croatia was Signed, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 19 October 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20181019hr.htm

[545] Tax Agreement with Croatia was Signed, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 19 October 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20181019hr.htm

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

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

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

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

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

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

On 26 October 2018, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan approximately USD60 million to the Comisión Federal de Electricidad of Mexico.[552] This loan seeks to help "finance the purchase of Japanese equipment and services necessary for power development in Mexico."[553] This demonstrates an investment in high-quality infrastructure that stimulates job creation.

On 31 October 2018, the Ministry of Finance stated that its foreign exchange intervention operations for the period from 27 September 2018 to 29 October 2018 was JPY0.[554] This constitutes continued restraint from using targeted exchange rates or currency devaluation for competitive purposes.

On 2 November 2018, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan approximately USD227 million to the Gulf SRC Gas-Fired Combined Cycle Power Plant Project in Thailand.[555] This loan seeks to provide financial support to "Japanese companies that invest in overseas infrastructure projects and operate and manage these facilities on a long-term basis."[556]

On 28 November 2018, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan approximately GBP743 million to the Moray East offshore wind power generation project in the United Kingdom.[557] This loan seeks to provide financial support for the construction and operation of an offshore wind farm located 22 km off the coast of Moray, Scotland.[558]

On 29 November 2018, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan approximately USD36 million to the Banco de la Nación Argentina.[559] This loan seeks to "provide financial support to local companies in Argentina that require funding to purchase infrastructure-related equipment from Japanese companies and their overseas affiliates."[560]

On 3 December 2018, the Government of Japan and the Government of the Argentine Republic agreed in principle on the tax convention between Japan and the Argentine Republic.[561] This Convention seeks to "eliminate international double taxation and prevent tax evasion and tax

[552] Export Credit Line (12th Power Loan) for Comisión Federal de Electricidad in Mexico, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 29 October 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/1029-011528.html
[553] Export Credit Line (12th Power Loan) for Comisión Federal de Electricidad in Mexico, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 29 October 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/1029-011528.html
[554] Foreign Exchange Intervention Operations (September 27, 2018 — October 29, 2018), Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 31 October 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/reference/feio/monthly/20181031.htm
[555] Project Financing for Gulf SRC Gas-Fired Combined Cycle Power Plant Project in Thailand, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 9 November 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/1109-011580.html
[556] Project Financing for Gulf SRC Gas-Fired Combined Cycle Power Plant Project in Thailand, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 9 November 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/1109-011580.html
[557] Project Financing for Moray East Offshore Wind Power Generation Project in the U.K., Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 29 November 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/1129-011637.html
[558] Project Financing for Moray East Offshore Wind Power Generation Project in the U.K., Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 29 November 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/1129-011637.html
[559] Export Credit Line for Banco de la Nación Argentina, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 3 December 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/1203-011643.html
[560] Export Credit Line for Banco de la Nación Argentina, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 3 December 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2018/1203-011643.html
[561] Tax Convention with Argentina Agreed in Principle, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 3 December 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20181203ar.htm

avoidance" and "promote mutual investments and economic exchanges between the two countries."[562]

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

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Austin Zheng

United Kingdom: +1

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

On 31 July 2018, Esther McVey, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, announced an increase in funding to businesses that "provide extra employment support" for disabled people who have the greatest barriers to work.[563] McVey announced: "we are committed to ensuring that disabled people have the necessary support to thrive in the workplace and … to reach their full potential."[564] This increased payment is expected to provide employment and support to an additional 2,000 disabled people across England, Scotland, and Wales.[565]

On 1 August 2018, the Government Equalities Office (GEO) published the "What Works" guidance.[566] The GEO provided recommendations to businesses with regards to improving the recruitment and progression of women and closing the gender pay gap through transparent salary negotiations. The implementation of the "What Works" guide will ensure that candidates have equal access to opportunities at work regardless of their gender.[567] This demonstrates the UK's commitment to building an inclusive labour market through the elimination of gender discrimination and the gender pay gap.

On 27 August 2018, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport announced the creation of a GBP1 million fund, the Digital Skills Innovation Fund. This fund is intended to boost the

[562] Tax Convention with Argentina Agreed in Principle, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 3 December 2018. Access Date: 5 December 2018. https://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_conventions/press_release/20181203ar.htm
[563] Increased funding announced for disabled people with the greatest barriers to work, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 31 July 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/increased-funding-announced-for-disabled-people-with-the-greatest-barriers-to-work
[564] Increased funding announced for disabled people with the greatest barriers to work, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 31 July 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/increased-funding-announced-for-disabled-people-with-the-greatest-barriers-to-work
[565] Increased funding announced for disabled people with the greatest barriers to work, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 31 July 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/increased-funding-announced-for-disabled-people-with-the-greatest-barriers-to-work
[566] 100% of UK employers publish gender pay gap data, Government Equalities Office (London) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/100-of-uk-employers-publish-gender-pay-gap-data
[567] 100% of UK employers publish gender pay gap data, Government Equalities Office (London) 1 August 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/100-of-uk-employers-publish-gender-pay-gap-data

provision of digital skills across the country.[568] The fund will be used to help women, disabled individuals, marginalized individuals and those living in low socioeconomic areas to "succeed in digital roles."[569] In addition, another GBP400,000 from the Digital Inclusion Fund will also be utilized to "help older and disabled people acquire digital skills" since "it is crucial everyone is able to take advantage of digital technology," according to the Minister for Digital, Culture, Media and Sports Margot James.[570]

On 19 September 2018, the House of Commons Treasury Committee published the final report of its investigation on the role of cryptocurrencies in the United Kingdom.[571] The Committee recommended two ways of introducing regulation of crypto-assets, either by "incorporating crypto-asset activity into the existing regulation" or "designing a new framework of the regulation specifically for crypto-assets."[572] The Committee urged the inclusion a "minimum issuance of ICOs [initial coin offerings] and the provision of crypto exchange services" in the regulatory framework for whichever method is selected.[573] Moreover, the Committee recommended that the Government extend the Fifth Anti-Money Laundering direction and counter-terrorist financing rules to digital currencies as quickly as possible. This report and its conclusion indicated that the UK is moving towards introducing regulations on crypto-assets in the financial market.[574]

On 27 September 2018, Prime Minister Theresa May announced a GBP840 million initiative to fund the upgrade of transport links in ten city regions across the UK.[575] Theresa May stated, "these improvements to vital infrastructure will … empower local businesses to create more, better-paying jobs."[576]

On 1 October 2018, Chancellor of the Exchequer Phil Hammond announced a package of reforms intended to help businesses provide job training and promote cooperation within the private sector.[577] The package will also invest in skills training to boost productivity in the changing economy, and it will enable small and medium-sized enterprises to leverage management expertise from larger

[568] New funds to boost diversity of people working in digital and tech jobs, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (London) 27 August 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funds-to-boost-diversity-of-people-working-in-digital-and-tech-jobs
[569] New funds to boost diversity of people working in digital and tech jobs, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (London) 27 August 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funds-to-boost-diversity-of-people-working-in-digital-and-tech-jobs
[570] New funds to boost diversity of people working in digital and tech jobs, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (London) 27 August 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funds-to-boost-diversity-of-people-working-in-digital-and-tech-jobs
[571] Crypto Assets, House of Commons Treasury Committee (London) 19 September 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmtreasy/910/91002.htm
[572] Crypto Assets, House of Commons Treasury Committee (London) 19 September 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmtreasy/910/91002.htm
[573] Crypto Assets, House of Commons Treasury Committee (London) 19 September 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmtreasy/910/91002.htm
[574] Crypto Assets, House of Commons Treasury Committee (London) 19 September 2018. Access Date: 20 October 2018. https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmtreasy/910/91002.htm
[575] PM announces ten cities shortlisted for major transport funding across England, Prime Minister's Office (London) 27 September 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-ten-cities-shortlisted-for-major-transport-funding-across-england
[576] PM announces ten cities shortlisted for major transport funding across England, Prime Minister's Office (London) 27 September 2018. Access Date: 19 October 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-ten-cities-shortlisted-for-major-transport-funding-across-england
[577] Government support to boost skills and prosperity, Her Majesty's Treasury (London) 1 October 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-support-to-boost-skills-and-prosperity

businesses.[578] These reforms highlight the UK's commitment towards fostering an inclusive financial market and ensuring that the labour force keeps pace with technological changes.

On 15 October 2018, the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) partnered with the Science and Technology Facilities Council to construct a new building for Oxfordshire Advanced Skills (OAS) at the UKAEA's Culham site. The new OAS centre allowed the agency to expand its current capacity and provide local firms with up to 350 well-trained technicians annually, in order to fill the gap of "badly-needed technical skills for the local economy."[579] This investment is intended to stimulate job creation and provide job-training to local residents in order to keep pace with technological changes.

On 17 October 2018, the Department for International Trade promoted a portfolio of seven new investment opportunities, totaling GBP2 billion.[580] The investment will "create homes and jobs across the country," according to Liam Fox, the International Trade Secretary.[581]

On 22 October 2018, at the International Anti-Corruption Conference in Copenhagen, Secretary of the UK Department of International Development Penny Mordaunt announced the adoption of "wide-ranging measures to tackle corruption at home and abroad." The UK Government will take the lead in launching an international campaign to promote transparency of company ownership as a "global norm."[582]

On 29 October 2018, Her Majesty's Treasury published Budget 2018, which outlines changes to taxation and finances ahead of the new fiscal year.[583] The Budget introduces several changes to the current tax system by extending taxation to off-payroll employees in the private sector, implementing a digital services tax on large businesses, and increasing investment in high-quality infrastructure(s).[584]

On 31 October 2018, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport announced that GBP3 million in funding will be provided to digital skills training in Greater Manchester as a part of Budget 2018.[585] This funding will ensure that people in Greater Manchester have the opportunity to acquire the digital skills they need to access jobs in the digital and technology sector.[586]

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[578] Government support to boost skills and prosperity, Her Majesty's Treasury (London) 1 October 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-support-to-boost-skills-and-prosperity

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

[580] £2 billion of new investment opportunities launched across the UK, Department for International Trade (London) 17 October 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-billion-of-new-investment-opportunities-launched-across-the-uk

[581] £2 billion of new investment opportunities launched across the UK, Department for International Trade (London) 17 October 2018. Access Date: 23 October 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/2-billion-of-new-investment-opportunities-launched-across-the-uk

[582] UK Government unveils extensive measures to clamp down on global corruption, giving criminals "nowhere to hide," Department for International Development (London) 22 October 2018. Access Date: 26 October 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-unveils-extensive-measures-to-clamp-down-on-global-corruption-giving-criminals-nowhere-to-hide

[583] Budget 2018: Documents, Her Majesty's Treasury (London) 29 October 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/budget-2018-documents

[584] Budget 2018: Documents, Her Majesty's Treasury (London) 29 October 2018. Access Date: 1 November 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/budget-2018-documents

[585] £3 million to boost digital skills in Manchester, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (London) 31 October 2018. Access Date: 19 November 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/3-million-to-boost-digital-skills-in-manchester

[586] £3 million to boost digital skills in Manchester, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (London) 31 October 2018. Access Date: 19 November 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/3-million-to-boost-digital-skills-in-manchester

On 4 November 2018, the Competition and Markets Authority and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy initiated new research on retailers' price discrimination against online shoppers to ensure that "markets work fairly and in the interest of consumers."[587] This initiative demonstrates the UK's continued effort to promote competition within the marketplace as a source of long-term growth.

On 15 November 2018, the President of the Board of Trade Liam Fox announced an investment of GBP240 million in Welsh energy and infrastructure projects, which will be promoted to international investors and generate "jobs … .here in Wales and across the UK."[588]

On 16 November 2018, the Department for Education announced that it will distribute GBP22 million among 26 innovative partnerships through the Construction Skills Fund.[589] The new hubs will train more than 17,000 people, as the national government works towards meeting its objective of training 158,000 new construction workers by 2023.[590]

On 21 November 2018, the Education and Skills Funding Agency launched the "Opportunities Through Apprenticeships" project, which enables workers from disadvantaged communities to benefit from high-quality apprenticeship opportunities.[591] Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills Anne Milton stated that the project will "provide people for all ages a great opportunity" to take up apprenticeships, "especially in growing engineering and ICT [information and communications technology] sectors."[592] The project demonstrates the UK's commitment to labor market development, particularly to improving social mobility by providing high-quality education and training opportunities to all citizens.

On 22 November 2018, Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work Sarah Newton confirmed that the Work and Health Challenge Fund will provide a total of GBP3.9 million to 19 projects.[593] These projects will assist disabled individuals in accessing advice and support in the labour market.

[587] Government and CMA to research targeting of consumers through personalized pricing, Competition and Markets Authority (London) 4 November 2018. Access Date: 19 November 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-and-cma-to-research-targeting-of-consumers-through-personalised-pricing

[588] £240 million investment drive creates thousands of Welsh jobs, Department for International Trade (London) 15 November 2018. Access Date: 19 November 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/liam-fox-announces-240-million-investment-drive-creating-thousands-of-welsh-jobs-as-board-of-trade-meets-in-wales-for-first-time

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

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

[591] Opportunities Through Apprenticeships' project is launched, Education and Skills Funding Agency (London) 21 November 2018. Access Date: 29 November 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/opportunities-through-apprenticeships-project-is-launched

[592] 'Opportunities Through Apprenticeships' project is launched, Education and Skills Funding Agency (London) 21 November 2018. Access Date: 29 November 2018. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/opportunities-through-apprenticeships-project-is-launched

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

This financial support is provided in an effort to close the disability employment gap and build a more inclusive workforce.[594]

On 28 November 2018, the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy announced a GBP3 million investment in the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund.[595] Three new research projects will examine the potential of artificial intelligence technologies to "create new opportunities and improve services across the whole economy."[596]

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

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

Analyst: Mary Qiu

United States: +1

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

On 2 July 2018, the Department of Education announced that the Puerto Rico Department of Education will pilot a model to "equitably allocate local, state and federal resources based on student needs."[597] This system would help Puerto Rico allocate more resources to "low-income families, language learners and students in rural schools."[598]

On 19 July 2018, President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order authorizing the establishment of the President's National Council for the American Worker (PNCAW).[599] PNCAW will develop recommendations regarding how the American government can provide skills training to the workforce, in order to ensure that its workforce remains competitive. PNCAW will also foster collaboration with the private sector to effectively deliver training programs.[600]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On 31 July 2018, the Department of the Treasury released a report recommending improvements for U.S. firms to "more rapidly adopt competitive technologies, safeguard consumer data, and operate with greater regulatory efficiency."[601]

On 8 August 2018, the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration announced the availability of up to USD100 million for Trade and Economic Transition National Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs).[602] The grants are intended to assist with job training and career services for dislocated workers who experienced "job loss or employer/industrial reorganization due to trade or automation."[603] DWGs subsidize the costs of job training provided by businesses in the private sector, in order to ensure that the workforce can remain competitive and keep pace with technological changes.

On 14 August 2018, the Department of Education announced a new federal assistance program totaling USD359.8 million. This program assists with the costs of education for students displaced by natural disasters in 20 states and the U.S. Virgin Island.[604]

On 21 September 2018, the Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Industry Liaison Group.[605] The MOU will support contractor education to further equal employment opportunities and align federal regulations.[606]

On 24 September 2018, the Department of the Treasury announced new tax credit for paid family and medical leave.[607] This tax credit will provide tax relief for qualified employees with compensation of less than USD72,000 in the prior year.

On 30 September 2018, the US, Canada, and Mexico reached an agreement on a new trilateral trade agreement known as the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement.[608] The agreement will commit the parties to refrain from competitive currency devaluations. It will also introduce mechanisms to

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

review currency policy, once it enters into force.[609] Furthermore, the agreement includes provisions to enforce anti-corruption laws and enhance government transparency.[610]

On 17 October 2018, Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin met with the Mexican Finance Minister, Jose Antonio Gonzalez Anaya, to discuss financial and economic issues between the US and Mexico.[611] Mnuchin and Anaya signed a Memorandum of Understanding to update the Exchange Stabilization Agreement, a framework which promotes exchange rate stability and economic growth.[612]

On 19 October 2018, the Department of the Treasury issued proposed regulations pertaining to the tax benefits created by the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.[613] The proposed incentives were designed to stimulate investment in designated Opportunity Zones and create further employment opportunities.

On 12 December 2018, President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order to establish the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council.[614] This Council aims to "stimulate economic opportunity and mobility, encourage entrepreneurship, expand quality educational opportunities, develop and rehabilitate quality housing stock, and promote workforce development," among other things.[615] The Council will explore new ways to use public funds in order to stimulate economic growth in local economies, traditionally plagued by socioeconomic disadvantages.[616]

On 20 December 2018, the Department of the Treasury issued the National Strategy for Combating Terrorist and Other Illicit Financing (National Illicit Finance Strategy).[617] The National Illicit Finance Strategy assesses existing government efforts to combat illicit financial threats and explores improvements to aid financial institutions and government institutions in enforcing the strategy.[618]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The strategy highlights the continued commitment of the United States to implementing structural reforms in order to address money laundering and terrorist financing.

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

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

Analyst: Zemin Liu

European Union: +1

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

On 15 June 2018, the European Investment Fund (EIF) and Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK) announced that they will double their support for loans available to small Polish businesses and entrepreneurs.[619] The new guarantee agreement brings the number of available loans to PLN4 billion, and aims to support "innovation, research, and development, entrepreneurship, growth and employment."[620]

On 19 June 2018, the EIF and seven banks of the Erste Group signed a guarantee agreement that will provide EUR50 million in loans for organizations "active in the education, health and social services sectors, or employing disadvantages, marginalized or vulnerable groups."[621] The loans will be available to socially-oriented organizations in Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Serbia.[622]

On 19 June 2018, the European Union announced the launch of the External Investment Plan in Morocco.[623] Under the plan, the EU will provide technical assistance and EUR4.1 billion in grants to

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

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

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

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

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

support sustainable development in sub-Saharan Africa with the goal of improving "business opportunities, enhancing job creation, private sector development, and inclusive growth."[624]

On 21 June 2018, the Council of the European Union reached an agreement on the general approach to improving "access to work-life balance arrangements" for parents and caregivers.[625] The approach sets new minimum standards for paternity leave, introduces caregiver's leave, and extends the duration and eligibility of flexible working arrangements.

On 22 June 2018, the Council of the European Union agreed to strengthen administrative cooperation between the member states to reduce value added tax (VAT) fraud.[626] The agreement also allows for "improved investigating coordination between tax administrations and law enforcement."[627]

On 28 June 2018, the European Council adopted its conclusion on jobs, growth, and competitiveness.[628] The Council stated that it will "take work forward on the Commission proposal on digital taxation."[629]

On 4 July 2018, the EIF signed a new guarantee agreement with the Cooperative Bank of Thessaly, allowing the bank to provide entrepreneurs and young farmers with up to EUR7.5 million in loans.[630]

On 9 July 2018, the President of the European Central Bank (ECB) announced that the ECB will be phasing out net asset purchases at the end of the year.[631] While ending quantitative easing, the bank will continue to implement expansionary monetary policy.

On 11 July 2018, the European Commission decided to activate the enhanced surveillance framework that allows for "close monitoring of the economic, fiscal and financial situation" in Greece.[632] Since Greece has completed the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) programme, the

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

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

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

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

[628] European Council conclusions, European Council (Brussels) 29 June 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/06/29/20180628-euco-conclusions-final/

[629] European Council conclusions, European Council (Brussels) 29 June 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/06/29/20180628-euco-conclusions-final/

[630] 7.5 million of EU financing for micro-entrepreneurs in Greece under Juncker Plan, European Commission (Thessaly) 4 July 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eu75-million-eu-financing-micro-entrepreneurs-greece-under-juncker-plan-2018-jul-04_en

[631] Hearing of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs of the European Parliament, European Central Bank (Brussels) 9 July 2018. Access Date: 24 October 2018. https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/key/date/2018/html/ecb.sp180709.en.html

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

framework does not include any new reforms. However, the framework is a monitoring and early risk identification tool designed to "build confidence with markets, investors and companies."[633]

On 12 July 2018, the EIF signed a guarantee agreement with Bank Polska Kasa Opieki. The agreement will make an additional PLN1.2 billion in loans available to Polish start-ups and small businesses.[634]

On 21 July 2018, the European Investment Bank (EIB) made an agreement with Banco Santander to make EUR500 million in loans available to Spanish small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).[635] The EIB will contribute EUR250 million towards the program with the goal of "stimulating economic growth and job creation."[636]

On 26 July 2018, the ECB president confirmed that the ECB was not using monetary policy tools to impact the exchange rate, thus complying with its commitment of "abstaining from competitive devaluations."[637]

On 7 August 2018, the European Investment Fund signed a guarantee agreement with ALTUM, a state-owned development institution of Latvia. The agreement will provide 600 micro-entrepreneurs with access to loans "at a reduced interest rate with lower collateral requirements."[638]

On 3 September 2018, the European Investment Fund and Cassa Depositi e Prestiti launched a guarantee program under the Cultural and Creative Sectors Guarantee Facility, comprised of EUR300 million in loans available to SMEs operating in creative and cultural sectors.[639]

On 12 September 2018, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker delivered the State of the Union Address.[640] In the address, the European Commission underlined the need for "stronger anti-money laundering supervision," and proposed amendments to the European Banking Authority (EBA).[641] These amendments will concentrate on the financial sector's "anti-money laundering

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

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

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

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

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

[638] EUR 15 million of EU financing for micro-entrepreneurs in Latvia under the Junker Plan, European Commission (Luxemburg) 7 August 2018. Access Date: 25 October 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eur-15-million-eu-financing-micro-entrepreneurs-latvia-under-juncker-plan-2018-aug-07_en

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

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

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

powers" within the EBA, and improve coordination between Member State anti-money laundering authorities by establishing a new permanent committee.[642]

On 27 September 2018, the EIF announced a new counter-agreement with BGK under the Cultural and Creative Sectors Guarantee Facility. This agreement will allow the BGK to provide PLN525 million in loans to companies in Poland's cultural and creative sectors that are currently underserved.[643]

On 11 October 2018, the EIF and Bank Polska Kasa Opieki Leasing S.A announced an agreement that will generate up to PLN1.5 million in loans for Polish SMEs under the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.[644] The EIF also signed a guarantee agreement with Banque et Caisse d'Épargne de l'État to make EUR40 million in loans available for SMEs in Luxemburg.[645]

On 19 October 2018, the EIF and Cassa di Risparmio di Bolzano — Südtiroler Sparkasse (CRB) announced an agreement intended to provide loans "on favourable terms to innovative SMEs and small mid-caps."[646] The EIF and CRB agreed on a EUR60 million portfolio that will support innovative businesses in Italy.[647]

On 23 October 2018, the European Commission presented the Work Programme for 2019, outlining its top priorities for the coming year.[648] The European Commission is committed to keeping the EU "on a stable and sustainable growth path" with concrete proposals to be outlined in the next Multiannual Financial Framework, which will focus on "youth unemployment, migration, security, the technological and digital transformation as well as the transition to a more sustainable, low-carbon economy."[649] The European Commission is also committed to delivering reforms to create

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"fair and efficient taxation" suitable for the digital economy.[650] One of the European Commission's top priorities is reaching an agreement on the pan-European Personal Pension Product and European Market infrastructure reforms that will improve "EU's financial supervisory architecture."[651] The programme reaffirms the European Commission's commitment to establishing a European Labour Authority and finalizes the European Accessibility Act, which serves to guarantee "high social standards and workers' protection" and provide people with disabilities "equal right to participate fully in society and labour market."[652]

On 24 October 2018, the European Commission published the Erasmus+ Program Guide and a call for proposals for the Erasmus+ programme.[653] The Commission announced that it "launch[ed] a pilot program supporting six European University alliances" with an aim to "promote a strengthened European identity while boosting excellence and helping to make European higher education institutions more competitive."[654]

On 25 October 2018, the European Commission approved EUR243 million under the LIFE programme. The programme finances environmentally friendly projects and aims to facilitate the EU's "transition to a more sustainable and low carbon future."[655]

On 26 October 2018, the EIF and the Helenos Funds signed a capacity-building agreement under the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation.[656] Under the agreement, EUR25 million will be invested in 25 microfinance institutions and social finance providers that "promote social fairness equal opportunities and access to the labour market."[657]

On 6 November 2018, the EIF announced that with the support of InnovFin Equity and COSME EFG, a total of EUR190 million will be invested in Vallis Capital Partners and Mustard Seed Maze equity funds.[658] These Portuguese funds will provide financing for social enterprises as well as SMEs.

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

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

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

[653] An expected budget of €3 billion to be invested in young Europeans and to help create European Universities in 2019, European Commission (Brussels) 24 October 2018. Access Date: 26 October 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/erasmus-2018-oct-24_en

[654] An expected budget of €3 billion to be invested in young Europeans and to help create European Universities in 2019, European Commission (Brussels) 24 October 2018. Access Date: 26 October 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/erasmus-2018-oct-24_en

[655] LIFE Program, European Commission (Brussels) 25 October 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/life-programme-2018-oct-25_en.

[656] Junker Plan: new EUR 24 million fund benefits from first capacity building agreement in Europe to support microfinance providers, European Commission (Luxembourg) 26 October 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/juncker-plan-new-eur-25-million-fund-benefits-first-capacity-building-agreement-europe-support-microfinance-providers-2018-oct-26_en

[657] Junker Plan: new EUR 24 million fund benefits from first capacity building agreement in Europe to support microfinance providers, European Commission (Luxembourg) 26 October 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/juncker-plan-new-eur-25-million-fund-benefits-first-capacity-building-agreement-europe-support-microfinance-providers-2018-oct-26_en

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

On 8 November 2018, the European Commission decided to refer Luxembourg to the Court of Justice of the EU for "not completely implementing EU anti-money laundering rules."[659] The decision was made because Luxemburg did not transpose the 4th Anti-Money Laundering Directive into national law. The European Commission also adopted an opinion requiring a Maltese anti-money laundering supervisor to take additional measures to fully comply with the 4th Anti-Money Laundering Directive.[660]

On 15 November 2018, the EIF signed two guarantee agreements with the Finnish bank Oma Säästöpankki Oyj.[661] The agreements will make EUR40 million in loans available to Finish micro-entrepreneurs, including EUR10 million in loans for social enterprises.[662]

On 19 November 2018, the EIB signed an agreement with Bankia to each contribute EUR25 million in available loans to Spanish SMEs, in order "to encourage them to give jobs to unemployed young people."[663]

On 21 November 2018, the EIF and Austria Wirtschaftsservice signed a counter-guarantee agreement that makes an additional EUR48 million in loans available to innovative SMEs in Austria.[664]

On 23 November 2018, the European Commission announced two cooperation programmes that will promote sustainable development and inclusive education policies in Central Asia.[665] With a budget of EUR88 million, one program will support the private sector, investments, environmental protection, and promote the rule of law in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.[666] An additional programme will provide EUR36 million to support "effective and inclusive education policies in Kyrgyzstan."[667]

On 26 November 2018. the EIF and the European Fund for Strategic Investment announced a EUR10 million investment in Creas Impacto and EUR3 million in Equity4Good.[668] These two

[659] Commission refers Luxembourg to the Court of Justice for not completely implementing EU anti-money laundering rules, European Commission (Brussels) 8 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6251_en.htm
[660] Commission requests Maltese anti-money laundering watchdog to step up supervision of banks, European Commission (Brussels) 8 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6303_en.htm
[661] EU financing agreements for social and micro-entrepreneurs in Finland under Juncker Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 15 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eu-financing-agreements-social-and-micro-entrepreneurs-finland-under-juncker-plan-2018-nov-15_en
[662] EU financing agreements for social and micro-entrepreneurs in Finland under Juncker Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 15 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eu-financing-agreements-social-and-micro-entrepreneurs-finland-under-juncker-plan-2018-nov-15_en
[663] EIB and Bankia join forces to promote the creation of jobs for young people in Spain, European Commission (Madrid) 19 November 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eib-and-bankia-join-forces-promote-creation-jobs-young-people-spain-2018-nov-19_en
[664] EUR 96 million of EIF and aws finance for innovative business in Austria, European Commission (Luxembourg) 21 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/eur-96-million-eif-and-aws-finance-innovative-businesses-austria-2018-nov-21_en
[665] EU to promote sustainable development in Central Asia with €124 million, European Commission (Brussels) 23 November 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6525_en.htm
[666] EU to promote sustainable development in Central Asia with €124 million, European Commission (Brussels) 23 November 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6525_en.htm
[667] EU to promote sustainable development in Central Asia with €124 million, European Commission (Brussels) 23 November 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6525_en.htm
[668] The European Investment Fund invests in Creas Impacto and Ship2B, European Commission (Luxembourg) 26 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/european-investment-fund-invests-creas-impacto-and-ship2b-2018-nov-26_en

Spanish funds will provide funding for social enterprises that focus on sustainability, education, health, and inclusion.[669]

On 27 November 2018, the EIF signed an agreement with Italian Banca Popolare Sant'Angelo that will make EUR10 million in loans available to micro-entrepreneurs.[670] The agreement is a part of the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation, which focuses on start-ups, women, and young people.[671]

On 27 November 2018, the European Commission announced a EUR474 million co-operation package for Afghanistan.[672] As a part of the package, EUR311 million will be devoted to supporting reforms in Afghanistan, focusing on "public sector reform and the fight against corruption; basic service delivery and gender equality; public financial management and macro-economic stability."[673]

On 30 November 2018, the European Commission approved the disbursement of the first EUR500 million to Ukraine as a part of the new Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA), which brings the total amount of assistance to EUR3.3 billion.[674] The MFA programme supports structural reforms in Ukraine, but it is conditional upon the "implementation of specific policy measures" in the areas of anti-corruption, finance, banking, and social policy.[675]

On 5 December 2018, the European Parliament and the European Council reached a provisional agreement on the EU's budget for the upcoming year.[676] The budget allocates EUR80.5 billion to "boosting the European economy, employment and competitiveness," EUR 2.8 billion to Erasmus+ educational programmes, and EUR350 million to the Youth Employment Initiative.[677]

On 6 December 2018, the EU announced that it will allocate EUR125 million in funding to Sahel countries.[678] The new funding available for Sahel countries will be used for development projects to improve "resilience and social cohesion."[679]

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[669] The European Investment Fund invests in Creas Impacto and Ship2B, European Commission (Luxembourg) 26 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/european-investment-fund-invests-creas-impacto-and-ship2b-2018-nov-26_en
[670] Junker Plan: 10 million euros for micro-entrepreneurs in Italy, European Commission (Luxembourg) 27 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/juncker-plan-10-million-euros-micro-entrepreneurs-italy-2018-nov-27_en
[671] Junker Plan: 10 million euros for micro-entrepreneurs in Italy, European Commission (Luxembourg) 27 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/juncker-plan-10-million-euros-micro-entrepreneurs-italy-2018-nov-27_en
[672] New €474 million co-operation package for Afghanistan, European Commission (Geneva) 27 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6565_en.htm
[673] New €474 million co-operation package for Afghanistan, European Commission (Geneva) 27 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6565_en.htm
[674] EU approves disbursement of €500 million in Macro-Financial Assistance to Ukraine, European Commission (Brussels) 30 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6600_en.htm
[675] EU approves disbursement of €500 million in Macro-Financial Assistance to Ukraine, European Commission (Brussels) 30 November 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6600_en.htm
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[677] The EU Budget for 2019: growth, solidarity and security in Europe and beyond — provisional agreement reached, European Commission (Brussels) 5 December 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6381_en.htm
[678] EU steps up support for the development of the Sahel, European Commission (Brussels) 6 December 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6667_en.htm

On 7 December 2018, the EIF reached an agreement with Croatian Privredna Banka Zagreb.[680] The agreement will make EUR25 million of loans available to Croatian small and mid-cap enterprises with the goal to facilitating expansion, innovation, and job creation.[681]

On 11 December 2018, the European Commission outlined detailed steps for a transition to new VAT rules. The new measures aim to improve VAT collection for e-commerce and reduce VAT fraud as well as to prepare the Member States and e-businesses for the new rules that come into force in 2021.[682]

The European Union has demonstrated efforts to monitor developments markets and utilize all policy tools, both in the EU and abroad, to promote and sustain growth.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Bogdan Stovba

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[679] EU steps up support for the development of the Sahel, European Commission (Brussels) 6 December 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6667_en.htm
[680] Investment Plan for Europe: EUR 25 million for innovative Croatian SMEs and small mid-caps, European Commission (Luxembourg/Zagreb) 7 December 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eur-25-million-innovative-croatian-smes-and-small-mid-caps-2018-dec-07_en
[681] Investment Plan for Europe: EUR 25 million for innovative Croatian SMEs and small mid-caps, European Commission (Luxembourg/Zagreb) 7 December 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/investment-plan-europe-eur-25-million-innovative-croatian-smes-and-small-mid-caps-2018-dec-07_en
[682] VAT: New details on rules for e-commerce presented, including a new role for online marketplaces in the fight against tax fraud, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 12 December 2018. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6732_en.htm