



**ADJUSTED
GROWTH STRATEGY:
GERMANY**

GERMANY'S ADJUSTED GROWTH STRATEGY, 2015

The purpose of this document is to highlight changes and new additions to members' growth strategies since Brisbane :

Changes to section A (Economic Objective)

There are no changes to our economic objective since the Brisbane Summit. Germany is committed to the G20 Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth and the collective objectives of the G20. Apart from the stabilization and deepening of the economic and monetary union in Europe and the ongoing financial market reforms, the priorities for the Federal Government are: maintaining a sound fiscal position, improving framework conditions for investment and innovation especially for small and medium-sized firms, strengthening targeted investment and innovation policies, fostering competition, improving labor market policies, and bringing forward policies to transform the energy system. Moreover, the Federal Government is committed to reach balanced and ambitious free-trade agreements between the EU and leading third countries. The German economy has been and strives to remain an anchor of stability in the Euro Area by pursuing these policies.

Top Commitments:

1. Investing in public infrastructure. The Federal Government will increase public investments by 37.9 billion € until 2018 with focus on public infrastructure. Moreover, Germany will support the European Commission's Investment Plan for Europe with 8 billion € in loans by the German Promotional Bank KfW.
2. Investing in research and education and expanding the "High Tech Strategy". Additional 3 billion € for research and development are made available by the Federal Government in 2014-17. The federal states (Länder) and municipalities will be supported in financing child care, schools and universities by 6 billion € in 2014-17. The Government has adopted the new High-Tech Strategy as a comprehensive, interdepartmental innovation strategy for Germany.
3. Boosting female labor force participation by further promoting the return to work for women after a family-related break of employment.
4. Tackling long-term unemployment. The Federal Government has launched a European Social Fund (ESF) – co-financed program to create employment prospects for long-term unemployed on benefits (Unemployment Benefit II) for a total funding of 885 million €.
5. Transforming the energy sector, in particular to increase the share of renewable energies and to enhance energy efficiency. Germany is committed to various targets to implement its "Energiewende" (energy transition). These include increasing the share of renewable energies in gross electricity consumption to at least 35 % in 2020 and at least 80 % in 2050 and reducing primary energy consumption by 20 % by 2020 and by 50 % by 2050 (compared to 2008). At the same time, the energy transition contributes to attaining the ambitious targets for the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and to the development of new technologies and growth sectors.

Changes to section B (Economic Outlook and Challenges to Growth)

The German economy was able to attain positive results in 2014 despite a difficult economic environment. Real GDP grew by +1.6 percent in 2014 after only +0.4 percent in 2013. Forward looking indicators predict that economic recovery will continue in 2015. The German government projections in October forecast 1.5 percent GDP growth for 2015 and 1.7 percent in 2016.

Key Indicators***

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Real GDP (% yoy)****	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6
Nominal GDP (% yoy)	3.4	4.0	3.4	3.3	3.1	3.1
Output Gap (% of GDP)*	-0.3	-0.1	0	0	0	0
Inflation (% , yoy)	0.9	0.3	1.1			
Fiscal Balance (% of GDP)**	0.3	1	0	1/4	1/4	1/2
Unemployment (%)	4.7	4.4	4.7	5.1	5.2	5.4
Savings (% of GDP)	27.1	27.5	27.5	27.6		
Investment (% of GDP)	19.3	18.9	19.1	19.4	19.5	19.6
Current Account Balance (% of GDP)	7.8	8.6	8.4	8.2		

*A positive (negative) gap indicates an economy above (below) its potential.

**A positive (negative) balance indicates a fiscal surplus (deficit).

***Projection 2015-2019 as of October, 2015.

**** seasonally and working-day adjusted

German GDP growth will be driven by domestic demand over the forecast horizon until 2019 (1.7 % in 2015; 2.1 % in 2016). The good labor-market situation, with employment reaching new record highs (43 million in 2015) and low unemployment (ILO rate 4.4 % in 2015; 4.7 % in 2016), will result in increasing gross wages and salaries (4.0 % in 2015; 3.5 % in 2016), disposable income (2.6 % in 2015; 2.8 % in 2016) and real private households consumption (1.8 % in 2015; 1.8 % in 2016). With a gradually global recovery we expect a moderate increase of investments. The expansion of investment in machinery and equipment (4.9 % in 2015 and 3.5 % in 2016) and increasing exports (5.4 % in 2015; 4.2 % in 2016) will – due to the high import content – also stimulate the level of German imports (5.9 % in 2015; 5.3 % in 2016). The current account surplus will increase to 8.6 % in 2015 and slowly decrease afterwards. Public investment will expand by more than average over the forecast horizon, by about 4 % per year as a result of the Federal Government measures to enhance investment.

Risks to the outlook for the German economy include a more moderate growth in emerging markets, geopolitical uncertainties and a resurgence of excessive volatility in financial markets. Therefore building resilience and budget consolidation are among the main priorities of the Federal Government.

The massive inflow of refugees Germany currently experiences shows the importance of retaining sufficient room for maneuver in public budgets to deal with such challenge. All levels of government – federal, state and local – are undertaking significant steps to provide adequate help to the refugees. On 24 September, the Federal Government announced to allocate an additional amount of 2 billion euros in 2015 and at least 5 billion € from 2016 onwards to support the federal states. Further funding will be made available for immediate expenses on the federal level, e.g. for social benefits. Together with the additional spending by states and municipalities, these important amounts will boost domestic demand already in the short term. The medium to long-term effects of this increased immigration on potential growth depend in particular on the refugees' successful integration into the labor market.

Changes to section C (Policy Responses to Lift Growth)

New Macroeconomic Policy Responses

Sound public finances are an essential prerequisite for confidence of market participants, private investment and economic growth. The Federal Government has realized a balanced federal budget in nominal terms in 2014. The general government budget will post a slight surplus in 2015. Germany's debt ratio (77.4 % of GDP in 2013) will decrease to below 65 % by 2018 and to below 60 % within ten years. Thus, Germany will comply with all international fiscal commitments – both at the EU and G20 level ("Toronto commitments"). It will do so with a growth-friendly fiscal policy: preserve a balanced budget while stepping up investment, mainly in infrastructure.

For other than fiscal commitments, particularly regarding monetary and exchange rate policy frameworks and the reduction of EU imbalances, please refer to the EU Growth Strategy.

New Structural Policy Responses

All policy commitments as described in the latest German Growth Strategy are on track. The Federal Government considers the measures as effective and relevant; a full implementation by 2018 remains realistic. There are a number of additional measures as well as adjustments in existing measures which are described below.

In addition to fiscal measures on the expenditure side also the revenue side contributes to support growth. During the last months the Federal Government has implemented several measures lowering the tax burden on labor notably for low-wage earners and families. With regard to the income tax, the basic personal allowance and allowances for children and single parents have been increased. This is also reflected in a corresponding increase of child benefits in 2015 and 2016. Furthermore, the income tax scale will be adjusted by the cumulative inflation rate of the years 2014 and 2015. Thus the effects of "cold progression" are compensated for all tax payers. The measures lead to an overall tax relief of more than 5 billion euro per year and make an important contribution to further strengthen work incentives and purchasing power of the population on the one hand and to reduce income inequality on the other hand.

Investment and Infrastructure

The initial figure for additional public investment in infrastructure of 5 billion € has multiplied in recent months.

On March 3rd, the Federal Government has agreed on details of the additional 10 billion € investment program announced in November. From 2016 to 2018, a total of 4.35 billion € will be spent on transport infrastructure and broadband internet, 1.2 billion € on energy efficiency measures and 0.4 billion € on housing and construction measures; the remainder will be other public investments. Using revenues from auction broadcast frequencies from 2016-2018, further 1.3 billion € will be spent on broadband internet.

In addition to this investment program, the Federal Government will support municipalities with a total of 14 billion € from 2015 to 2018 to reduce the financial burden on regional and local governments, in order to give them more financial capacity to increase investment, in particular for public infrastructure.

With regard to the railway infrastructure, the Federal Government and the Deutsche Bahn AG have agreed on a 28 billion € modernization program over five years (2015-2019) for the existing railway network. Investments account for 20 billion € out of the 28 billion € total. Compared to earlier budgetary plans, about 4 billion € are additional investments. Furthermore, the Federal Government will provide the States with an additional 2.53 billion € in 2016-2018 to invest in the modernization of the regional railway services.

The extension of the existing truck toll will increase toll revenues by 1.1 billion € in 2016-2018, which will be used for additional investments in public roads by the same amount.

The Federal Government will launch a new generation of public private partnership projects with a considerable investment volume to realize necessary road construction works in a more efficient way.

In support of the European Commission's Investment Plan for Europe, Germany will contribute about 8 billion € (in 2015-2017), i. a. to the financing of projects and to investment platforms via loans by the German Promotional Bank KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau). To this end the KfW will closely cooperate with the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI).

In support of the transformation of the energy sector (top commitment no. 5), a special Energy and Climate Fund has been set up to promote investments for improving energy efficiency, in particular of public and private buildings. The fund will be provided with additional means of 1.7 billion € in 2015 and 2.4 billion € in 2016 (0.3 billion € of the 2016 amount are part of the November 2014 investment package, see top commitment no. 1).

For a detailed description of additional investment measures on the EU level, please refer to the EU Growth Strategy.

Employment

There are new developments in most of the policy actions:

1. Boosting female labor force participation

Germany is progressing well in implementing policy measures to further boost female labor participation. The issue has recently been underlined by the new Progress Report on the Federal Government's Skilled Labor Concept. Women are seen as one of the key groups to strengthen and enhance the labor force in Germany. The female employment rate rose to 72.5 % in 2013, slightly missing the official target for 2020 of 73.0 %. Nevertheless the female employment rate continues to rise steadily.

The Parental Allowance and Parental Leave Act has been amended in December 2014: Working part time while getting parental allowance is made more attractive by the new Parental Allowance Plus. It will come into effect for all children born after 1 July 2015. Additionally, parental leave regulations were made more flexible, allowing parents to better adjust career breaks to their needs – also for all children born from 1 July 2015. More specifically, for children born from 1 July 2015, the Parental Allowance Plus will be introducing a new feature in the Federal Act on Parental Allowance and Parental Leave. The Parental Allowance Plus is intended to offset the disadvantages that existed hitherto when mothers or fathers worked part-time while receiving the parental allowance. Parents who work part-time while receiving parental allowance will now be entitled to receive the parental allowance for a longer period – past the child's 14th month of life. One parental allowance month will convert to two parental allowance plus months. Furthermore, a partnership bonus is to be introduced to support parents who are sharing their family and work responsibilities in a spirit of partnership. If both parents work at the same time for 25 to 30 hours per week, for a period of four months, each parent will receive an additional four months of parental allowance plus.

The new legislation concerning a compulsory 30 % quota of women on boards of large stock market listed enterprises came into force on 1 May 2015. It is expected to foster the career opportunities of women in general which will allow for making better use of the existing potential within the labor force.

Preparations for equal pay legislation have been launched.

Increased and continued financial support for public child care has been made available. In a third investment program, on 1 January 2015, the Federal Government has increased federal funds by another 550 million € to expand the childcare services supply for children aged 0-3 years. Beyond the provision of additional childcare places, the program also triggers investment in the quality of childcare, in particular with regards to facilities and equipment. With the third investment program, the Federal Government increases the available fund assets to 1 billion €. The federal states receive 100 million € additionally for the years 2017 and 2018 to improve childcare quality. These measures have been taken into account as part of the Federal Government's support for local and regional investment (see investment section).

2. *Tackling long-term unemployment*

The Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (BMAS) has developed a comprehensive concept to tackle long-term unemployment. The concept includes the following programs, the second one being additional to previous versions of the German Growth Strategy:

- ESF-funded program to support the integration of long-term unemployed to the labor market (total volume of funding 885 million €). The program has started on 1 May 2015.
- A new federal program for people highly detached from the labor market will be launched soon. The program will run over three years. The total budget allocated is 450 million € (Budget 2015: 75 million €).

3. *Promoting youth employment*

Young persons with difficulties manage the school to work transition more successfully when their potential is adequately assessed and they are supported by preventive measures and guidance. Young persons will receive tailored offers addressing their individual needs to avoid that they become “NEETs” (young people neither in employment, nor in education or training). Locally created models of cooperation have been intensified and will be rolled out nationwide within the next years.

To better integrate young people into training and counteract shortages of skilled staff, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Federal Employment Agency consolidated and expanded certain funding measures in 2014. The “Educational Chains” initiative, funded by the Federal Government, Employment Agency and ESF, aims to provide up to 500,000 potential analyses for students at schools and career start coaching for up to 115,000 students at around 2,550 schools between 2015 and 2018. These activities will be supplemented by careers orientation measures.

The implementation of the new federal pilot program “Encouraging Youth in the Neighborhood”, within the framework of the federal ESF operational program, has already started. The program is implemented by more than 180 local youth authorities, which extend and strengthen their offers for disadvantaged young people who need special support to enter training or the labor market and do not benefit sufficiently from the existing support systems.

A new alliance for vocational training and further training has been launched in December 2014 by the social partners, the federal states, the Federal Government and the Federal Employment Agency. The alliance for vocational training and further training consists of various self-commitments of the parties involved and applies to the time frame 2015-2018. The Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs has already implemented a legislative initiative for “Assisted Vocational Training”. The German parliament decided funding of four cohorts consisting of up to 10,000 persons a year, starting at school year 2015/16.

The EU Youth Guarantee has reached implementation stage in Germany. The indicators measuring the realization of the Youth Guarantee are currently being discussed in the EU bodies. Germany has the lowest unemployment rate for youth in the EU-28.

For a detailed description of additional employment measures on the EU level, please refer to the EU Growth Strategy.

Competition

The Federal Government takes further legislative steps to improve the administrative and court procedures for antitrust violations and will aim to strengthen the enforcement of cartel law by authorities and private parties. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy is currently drafting a proposal for the 9th amendment to the Act against Restraints of Competition (ARC). Key elements are the transposition of the EU Directive 2014/104/EU on antitrust damages actions into German law, replacing the current system of liability for administrative fines. It is planned to finalise a ministerial draft by the end of 2015. The policy directive is likely to be adopted in 2016.

Trade

With regard to the ongoing trade negotiations at multilateral level we give particular attention to the up-coming WTO Ministerial Conference scheduled for 15 to 18 December 2015 in Nairobi. This Conference will offer the opportunity to agree on a meaningful Nairobi package and pave the way for further work on the Doha-Round using a more flexible approach. An additional deliverable could also be a ministerial declaration on core elements of the plurilateral Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA).

For additional trade measures please refer to the EU Trade Growth Strategy.

With regard to specific national measures we continue to refer to our Trade Growth Strategy 2014.

Other Measures: Development Cooperation

Germany will increase its engagement in development cooperation with the aim to foster widespread, inclusive, resource-efficient and low-carbon growth also in developing countries. The Federal Government will provide an additional amount of 10.3 billion euro over the period 2014-2019 in order to increase the official development aid (ODA) quota towards the international target of 0.7 % GNP. Germany supports its cooperation countries to implement the principles of a social and ecological market economy and places a particular emphasis on promoting a transformation towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient and socially inclusive economy. This includes strengthening capacities and framework conditions for innovation and the development of appropriate technologies as well as increasing private investment into green technologies and infrastructure. Germany also supports the development of its cooperation countries' financial systems in order to leverage public and private investments. A further focus lies on improving framework conditions for the private sector and its ability to create jobs by supporting cooperation countries to develop labor market policies and vocational training opportunities that answer to the changing demands of an increasingly ecologically sustainable growth path. The support for transparent and efficient public finance systems and a comprehensive fight against corruption is equally crucial.

ANNEX 1: NEW AND ADJUSTED POLICY COMMITMENTS FOR 2015

New and Adjusted Commitments since Brisbane

• The new or adjusted policy action:	Additional public investment, mainly in infrastructure
Implementation path and expected date of implementation	<p>A total of 37.9 billion € of additional public investments with focus on public infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 billion € in public transport infrastructure in 2014-17, primarily for maintenance and modernization purposes; - 4 billion € within the scope of a 28 billion € modernization program over five years (2015-2019) for the existing railway network; - 1.1 billion € additional investment in public roads with additional truck toll revenues through the extension of the existing truck toll; - 2.534 billion € additional investment for modernizing regional railway services; - 24 billion € public investment, mainly in public infrastructure, in 2016-2018 (of which 4.35 billion € on transport infrastructure and broadband internet, 1.2 billion € on energy efficiency, 0.4 billion € on housing and construction, 14 billion € support for municipalities). - 1.3 billion € to be spent on broadband internet, using revenues from auction broadcast frequencies from 2016-2018. <p>In addition, 8 billion € German support for the European Commission's Investment Plan for Europe with loans by the German Promotional Bank KfW.</p>
What indicator(s) will be used to measure progress?	Specific amounts of public investment can be drawn from public budgets of all federal levels.
Explanation of additionality or adjustment (where relevant)	In addition to the 5 billion € additional money for public investment incorporated into budget planning until October 2014 plus 10 billion € announced before the Brisbane Summit, the Government has made concrete provisions to enhance public investment by a further 20 billion € until 2018. The additional measures will be incorporated in the federal budget and budget planning.

ANNEX 2: PAST COMMITMENTS – ST. PETERSBURG FISCAL TEMPLATE - UPDATE

There are no changes to the German Fiscal Strategy.

Medium-term projections, and change since last submission* (*required for all members*):

Estimate Projections (October 2015)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Gross Debt	77.4	74.9	71 1/4	68 3/4	66	63 3/4	61 1/2
<i>ppt change</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Net Debt							
<i>ppt change</i>							
Fiscal Balance**	-0.1	0.3	1	0	1/4	1/2	1/2
<i>ppt change</i>	-0.2	-0.3	3/4	0	0	1/4	
Primary Balance	1.9	2.1	2 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 3/4	2
<i>ppt change</i>	-0.3	0.1	1/2	-1/2	-1/2	-1/4	
CAPB	0.2	2.3	2 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 3/4	2
<i>ppt change</i>	-2.4	0	1/2	-1/2	-1/2	-1/4	

* Last submission based on projection as of April, 2015.

** Negative value signifies a budgetary deficit; positive value signifies budgetary surplus.

The debt-to-GDP ratio and deficit projections are contingent on the following assumptions for inflation and growth:

Estimate Projections (October 2015)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Real GDP growth**	0.4	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6
<i>ppt change</i>	0.2	0.0	-0.1	0.0			
Nominal GDP growth	2.4	3.4	4.0	3.4	3.3	3.1	3.1
<i>ppt change</i>	0.2	0	0.2	0.1	0.1	-0.1	-0.1
ST interest rate	n.a.						
<i>ppt change</i>							
LT interest rate	n.a.						
<i>ppt change</i>							

* Last submission based on Government projection as of April, 2015.

** working-day adjusted

ANNEX 3: PAST COMMITMENTS – BRISBANE COMMITMENTS

The purpose of these tables is to monitor the implementation of commitments from members' Brisbane growth strategies.

Key Commitments for Monitoring Purposes

• The policy action:	Additional public investment, especially in public infrastructure through measures with a total of €15 billion of additional money		
Detailed implementation path and status	Interim Steps for Implementation	Deadline	Status
	1 – 5 billion € for public transport infrastructure (maintenance and modernization) Budget planning: 500 million € in 2014, 1 billion € in 2015, 1.4 billion € in 2016 and 2.1 billion € in 2017. 2 – 10 billion € public investment program 2016-18: 4.35 billion € on transport infrastructure and broadband internet, 1.2 billion € on energy efficiency measures and 0.4 billion € on measures as housing and construction.		Implemented. 1 – 2014 realized, 2015 part of the current budget, 2016 part of government plans in current negotiations, 2017 provision in budget planning. 2 – Government plans subject to budget negotiations (end of 2015)
Impact of Measure	Investment in infrastructure will both strengthen the dynamism of the domestic economy and create an additional growth impulse in Germany and Europe alongside Germany's strength in exports. Also, efficient infrastructure improves the framework for private investment. However direct and indirect effects are difficult to quantify.		

• The policy action:	Invest in research and education and implement the “High-Tech Strategy”		
Detailed implementation path and status	Interim Steps for Implementation	Deadline	Status
	<p>1 – The federal states and municipalities are supported in financing child care, schools and universities by 6 billion € in 2014-17. The Federal Government continues to finance research facilities.</p> <p>2 – Additional 3 billion € for research and development are made available by the Federal Government: 0.2 billion € in 2015, 0.9 billion € in 2016 and 1.9 billion € in 2017.</p> <p>3 –The Federal Government implements the new High-Tech Strategy as a comprehensive, interdepartmental innovation strategy for Germany. The Implementation is supported by a central advisory body consisting of experts from the areas of science, industry and society. The advisory body started its work on 17 March 2015.</p>		<p>Implemented.</p> <p>1 –From 2015 onwards the whole costs of the Student's Assistance Act will be financed by the Bund. Therefore the federal states have an additionally 1.17 billion € per year to spend in child care, schools and universities.</p> <p>The Higher Education Pact covers additional measures of 1.37 billion € in 2016 and 2017, which are part of government plans in current negotiations on 2016, and included in budget planning for 2017.</p> <p>2 – 2015 part of the current budget..</p> <p>2 –The High-Tech Strategy was adopted by the Government in September 2014.</p>
Impact of Measure	<p>The following indicators are among others used to measure progress: gross domestic expenditure on R&D (“GERD”) and higher education spending on R&D (“HERD”) as percentages of GDP, public R&D spending, private R&D spending, R&D intensive employment.</p> <p>Germany's economic growth is based on an internationally competitive industry with highly innovative products. Investment into research and education are fundamental parts of Germany's growth strategy.</p> <p>Germany implements its new High-Tech Strategy as a comprehensive, interdepartmental innovation strategy. The new Strategy covers both technological and societal innovations to direct research results better and faster into practice. The overall aim is to foster innovation and generate economic growth.</p>		

• The policy action:		Boost female labor force participation		
Detailed implementation path and status	Interim Steps for Implementation	Deadline	Status	
		<p>1 – ESF-co-financed programme “Prospects of re-entering the labour market”.</p> <p>2 – Equal pay legislation.</p> <p>3 – Gender quota legislation.</p> <p>4. – Development of the Parental Allowance Act and the Parental Leave Act.</p> <p>5 – Introducing the entitlement to temporary part-time work with the right to return to former amount of working hours.</p>		<p>1 – Started in July 2015 nationwide in 23 regional projects.</p> <p>2 – Legislative procedure in progress. Legislation to be launched end of 2015.</p> <p>3 – Came into force on May 1st 2015</p> <p>4. – Came into effect for all children born after 1 July 2015 by introducing the Parental Allowance Plus, a partnership bonus and more flexible parental leave regulations.</p> <p>5 – Legislation on the better reconciliation of work, family life and caring for relatives (amendment of Home Care Leave Act) has introduced from January, 2015 the option of part-time work when caring for family members and entitlement return to former amount of working hours. Further legislation in this regard in progress.</p>
Impact of Measure	<p>Equal pay legislations aims at achieving more transparency as job-evaluation-systems and gender-biased pay-structures in large companies as well as on an individual basis. This will lead to a greater awareness for equal pay for equal work or work of equal value.</p>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policy action: 	Increase competition through the evaluation of the Eighth Amendment to the Act Against Restraints of Competition, improving the administrative and court procedures for antitrust violations		
Detailed implementation path and status	Interim Steps for Implementation	Deadline	Status
	<p>The Federal Government takes further legislative steps to improve the administrative and court procedures for antitrust violations and aims to strengthen the enforcement of cartel law by authorities and private parties., i.e. within the period stipulated. Work on further regulation</p>		<p>The German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy is currently drafting a proposal for the 9th amendment to the Act against Restraints of Competition (ARC). Key elements are the transposition of the EU-directive on antitrust damages actions and amendments replacing the current system of liability for administrative fines. It is planned to finalise a ministerial draft by the end of 2015. Thus, the policy directive is likely to be adopted in 2016.</p>
Impact of Measure	<p>The evaluation will aim to strengthen the enforcement of cartel law by authorities and private parties.</p>		

Other Brisbane Commitments

This table is for the monitoring of other Brisbane commitments (non key commitments). Please complete a table for each commitment.

• The policy action:	Tackling long-term unemployment
Implementation path and expected date of implementation	<p>The ESF programs to reduce long-term unemployment and the program „social participation“ are part of a BMAS plan to reduce long-term unemployment which was presented by Federal Minister Andrea Nahles on 4 November 2014. The plan was discussed on a political level by the Minister and the key stakeholders (federal states, municipal associations, Federal Employment Agency, welfare associations, social partners) in December 2014. The introduction of the plan was concluded with an expert conference at the Federal Ministry in March 2015.</p>
Status of Implementation and Impact	<p>The ESF program to reduce long-term unemployment has started. Job centres have received funding approval and have started with the implementation (hiring of company recruiters and coaches, assessment of potential participants for the program.</p> <p>335 job centres participate in the federal ESF programme. The job centres intend to integrate about 24,000 long-term unemployed persons (out of them roughly 3,000 persons require intensive support) in the mainstream labour market during the first phase. By the end of September 2015, about 670 long-term unemployed persons had taken up employment in the framework of the programme (source: statistics of the Federal Employment Agency 9/2015).</p> <p>105 job centres offering 10,421 places were selected for participation in the federal social participation programme which makes it possible to fill the first jobs in 2015 already.</p>

• The policy action:	Promoting youth employment
<p>Implementation path and expected date of implementation</p>	<p>Even more emphasis will be placed on job guidance, vocational orientation and counselling for young persons. Young persons with difficulties manage more successfully the school to work transition when they are supported by preventive measures and guidance at the beginning of the career. Young persons will receive matching offers addressing their individual needs to avoid that they become “NEETs” (young people neither in employment, nor in education or training).</p> <p>Locally created models of cooperation between different organizations will be disseminated nationwide. Fields of actions are: transparency, exchange of information, harmonized procedures and the principle of a One-Stop-Shop where possible.</p> <p>The mentoring for the school to work transition has been expanded as far as possible. Career entry mentors assist lower-attaining pupils at schools offering general education. The mentors provide individual, ongoing support from the penultimate school year through to the first half of the vocational training year to help pupils’ transition from school to vocational training. Therefore the Federal Government strengthens its activities and funding schemes, including through an ESF-co-financed programme started in March 2015.</p> <p>To support young people neither in employment nor in education or training (“who are „NEETs”) a new federal program „Strengthening Youth in Districts” is implemented in the framework of the federal ESF operational programme. Young persons who are socially disadvantaged or with individual difficulties are offered suitable training or employment measures including social and educational support. This programme opens funding opportunities to support young people with a migrant background.</p> <p>At the end of 2014 the Federal Government concluded the “Alliance for Initial and Further Training 2015 – 2018” with the Länder, business and industry, the unions and the German Employment Agency (BA). It seeks to further increasing the attractiveness of vocational training, improve transitions between sectors, enhance dual vocational training’s ability to integrate a diverse range of young people and attract new target groups to train as future skilled staff. The Alliance partners have also agreed to put every person interested in training on a path that can result in them gaining a vocational qualification as quickly as possible. Company-based training has priority here.</p> <p>The successful completion of the school-to-work-transition is a main task for the Federal Government. To this end, the federal cabinet concluded the national implementation plan to implement the EU Youth Guarantee in Germany in April, 2014. The EU Youth Guarantee should ensure that all young persons under the age of 25 receive a good quality offer of employment, further education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within four months after leaving school or becoming unemployed. It has reached implementation stage in Germany.</p>
<p>Status of Implementation and Impact</p>	<p>on track</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy action: 	Increasing flexibility for a longer working life and improved flexibility in the transition from working life to retirement
Implementation path and expected date of implementation	<p>The German Parliament has launched a high level working group for exploring ways to a more flexible retirement-regime. This includes incentives for a longer working life and improved flexibility in the transition from working life to retirement. The group was constituted in June 2014. The discussions of the Working Group are still ongoing. In what way the results of the Working Group will bring changes to the law, is not yet clear.</p>
Status of Implementation and Impact	<p>in progress</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy action: 	<p>“Energiewende”: transforming the energy sector in particular to increase the share of renewable energies and to enhance energy efficiency</p>
<p>Implementation path and expected date of implementation</p>	<p>The energy transition is Germany’s long-run strategy to base its energy supply system predominantly on renewable energy sources. At the same time, the energy transition contributes to attaining the targets for the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and to the development of new technologies and growth sectors.</p> <p>The energy transition is based on two strategic pillars, renewable energy and energy efficiency, on which Germany has set ambitious goals and targets up until 2050. These include increasing the share of renewable energies in gross electricity consumption to at least 35 % in 2020 and at least 80 % in 2050 and reducing primary energy consumption by 20 % by 2020 and by 50 % by 2050 (compared to 2008).</p>
<p>Status of Implementation and Impact</p>	<p>Germany has made significant headway in bringing forward the energy transition. In 2014, the share of renewables in gross electricity consumption has risen to 27.4% while primary energy consumption has dropped by 8.7% compared to the level of 2008.</p> <p>The 10-Point Energy Agenda of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy contains the key projects of the energy transition during the current legislative term (2013-17) and integrates the various parts of the energy reforms in terms of timing and substance. In 2015, one focus has been the future electricity market design which dovetails conventional and renewable electricity generation while ensuring security of supply at the lowest possible costs (White Paper published in July 2015, legislation will follow). Other central measures concern the promotion of renewable energy sources (pilot auctions to determine funding for electricity generation through competitive bidding successfully implemented) and the development and expansion of transmission and distribution grids. At the same time, measures to increase energy efficiency, as stipulated by the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan adopted in 2014, are subsequently implemented and augmented (aiming at mobilizing additional investments of up to 80 billion Euro until 2020). In addition to funding through ministerial budgets, a special Energy and Climate Fund provides additional means of 1.7 billion € in 2015 and 2.4 billion € in 2016 (0.3 billion € of the 2016 amount are part of the November 2014 investment package, see Brisbane commitment no. 1).</p> <p>In order to closely monitor implementation and effects of the energy reforms and to be able to intervene where necessary, the Federal Government has launched the “Energy of the future” monitoring process.</p> <p>In December 2014, the German government summarized the situation in a progress report which also identifies key challenges for achieving the stated objectives. The Fourth Monitoring Report, which is to be presented in November 2015, will continue the facts-based reporting.</p>

• The policy action:	Increase engagement in development cooperation
Implementation path and expected date of implementation	Germany increases its engagement in development cooperation with the aim to foster widespread, inclusive, resource-efficient and low-carbon growth also in developing countries. The Federal Government will provide an additional amount of 10.3 billion euro over the period 2014-2019 in order to increase the official development aid (ODA) quota towards the international target of 0.7 % of GNP.
Status of Implementation and Impact	on track