

The 26th High Council meeting between the Government of Latvia and the Foreign Investors' Council in Latvia

September 9, 2022

The Cabinet of Ministers of Republic of Latvia and the Foreign Investors' Council in Latvia (FICIL), with the common goal to advance Latvia's competitiveness in attracting foreign investment and improving the business environment, agree to work together in implementing the following actions until the next High Council meeting in year 2023:

- It is necessary to **facilitate energy independence through reducing bureaucratic barriers** to develop and realise renewable energy projects, while ensuring fair competition and forward-looking policy.
- It is paramount to **effectively combat shadow economy** that affects fair competition, starting by setting unified governance and clear accountability for reducing shadow economy level and outlining key performance indicators that practically allow to monitor the progress achieved.
- Looking at current challenges the country faces, an **in-depth evaluation of public sector set-up is necessary** to effectively create and implement horizontal policies, such as green economy development and digitalisation.
- **Strong human capital development is a prerequisite** for long-term economic growth. It is essential to implement requalification and upskilling policy that is based on future labour needs. This can be achieved by centralising governance over all human capital issues, including requalification and upskilling policy to ensure accountability.
- Digital transformation remains a priority. A unified approach is needed - with a **single responsible entity for the development of the digital agenda** across the whole public sector to also foster greater data sharing and analysing.
- Increasing investors trust by providing **predictable and stable investment climate** is vital. Rule of law, quality of legislation process and court efficiency needs to be strengthened, specifically by:
 - o continuing court specialisation, improving access to courts through strengthening the digital capabilities of courts.
 - o Increasing the quality of legislation process by comprehensively debating, evaluating their impact, and cooperating with all the affected stakeholders during the whole legislative process.

FICIL submits to the Cabinet of Ministers for further evaluation nine position papers with proposals and recommendations regarding:

- Energy independence and security;
- Circular economy;
- Data;
- Labour force challenges;
- Court efficiency, fair competition and investment protection;
- Shadow economy;

- Achieving EU's green deal and Latvia's green strategy;
- Public sector reform;
- Quality of legislation.

The next High Council meeting between the Cabinet of Ministers and FICIL will take place in the autumn of 2023.

Prime Minister of Latvia
Mr. Krišjānis Kariņš

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Chairperson of the FICIL Board
Zlata Elksniņa-Zaščirinska

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