

The 23rd High Council meeting between the Government of Latvia and the Foreign Investors' Council in Latvia

May 31, 2019.

The Cabinet of Ministers of Republic of Latvia and the Foreign Investors' Council in Latvia (FICIL), with the common goal to improve Latvia's competitiveness in attracting foreign investment and improving the business environment, agree to jointly ensure implementation of the following issues until the next High Council meeting in 2020:

- to improve the international competitiveness of Latvia's higher education institutions and enable universities to become a driving force towards Latvia as a high added-value economy, **a modernisation of governance model in higher education institutions** is necessary, ensuring:
 - o strengthening the role of university advisory boards in strategic decision-making;
 - o involvement of employers, graduates and other external partners in strategic management of universities;
 - o a strategy for attracting foreign academic staff is necessary;
 - o a change of investment priorities with emphasis on curriculum content rather than university infrastructure;
 - o a strong connection between universities and needs of the job market.
- Solutions to **address the widespread problem of availability of labour**, which is already limiting the development of Latvian economy:
 - o improve the conditions for attraction of foreign workers;
 - o improve the conditions for enabling a wider involvement of people with disabilities in the labour market;
 - o promote mobility of workers in regions;
 - o improve conditions motivating employers to invest in professional education and improving qualifications of their staff to improve their productivity.
- To improve the efficiency and speed of digital communication between entrepreneurs and public administration, **a full review of government-to-business e-services is necessary, followed by re-engineering of these services using the UX (user experience) approach**. Digitalisation of cooperation between businesses and the state will contribute to curbing shadow economy as well.
- **Continued work towards improving the efficiency of public administration**, for example by:
 - o introducing additional specialized courts, for instance in areas of application of the Financial Instruments Market Law and process of legal protection;

- promoting institutional cooperation at national and international levels in investigating and prosecuting of corruption and economic crimes;
 - introducing principles of good corporate governance not only in state-owned companies, but also in municipal companies;
 - starting a comprehensive audit of public administration and municipal institutions with a view of improving efficiency and optimize use of resources.
- **Continued work to improve Latvia's international reputation**, including through timely implementation of Moneyal recommendations.

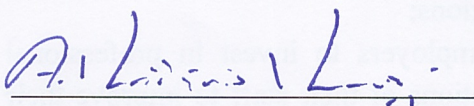
FICIL submits to Cabinet of Ministers for further evaluation eight position papers with proposals and recommendations:

- on macroeconomic policy;
- on availability and quality of labour force;
- on higher education;
- on transport and logistics sector;
- on improved combating of economic and financial crimes;
- on digitalization;
- on investment security and protection;
- on waste management and energy policy.

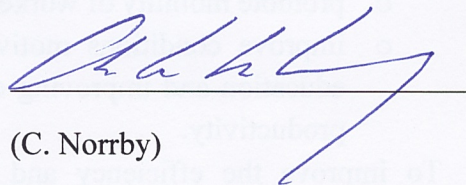
The next High Council meeting between the Cabinet of Ministers of Republic of Latvia and FICIL will take place in the spring of 2020.

Prime Minister of Latvia
Mr. Arturs Krišjānis Kariņš

FICIL Honorary Chairperson
Ms. Charlotte Norrby



(A. K. Kariņš)



(C. Norrby)