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**Fiscal Committee****24 November 2014**1. **Switzerland signs agreement on automatic exchange of information**

On 19 November 2014, Switzerland has signed, as the 52nd country, the “multilateral competent authority agreement”, dealing with the practical implementation of the OECD global standard on automatic exchange of financial information in tax matters. The decision is still subject to parliamentary approval and possibly a plebiscite.* News release ([EN](switzerland-takes-important-step-to-boost-international-cooperation-against-tax-evasion)/[FR](http://www.oecd.org/fr/presse/la-suisse-fait-un-pas-important-pour-appuyer-la-cooperation-internationale-contre-la-fraude-fiscale.htm))
* Information on the multilateral competent authority agreement on OECD website: [EN](http://www.oecd.org/tax/exchange-of-tax-information/multilateral-competent-authority-agreement.htm)
1. **BEPS: OECD consults on preventing tax treaty abuse**

On 21 November 2014, the OECD has published a discussion draft on the prevention of tax treaty abuse (BEPS Action 6), as a follow-up to the OECD report of 16 September 2014 on this topic. The new discussion draft deals in particular with the limitation of benefits (LOB) rule, as well as with issues related to the treaty entitlement of collective investment vehicles (CIVs) and non-CIV funds.Comments are invited until 9 January 2014.* News release: [EN](http://www.oecd.org/tax/treaties/discussion-draft-action-6-follow-up-prevent-treaty-abuse.htm) (FR available)
* [BEPS 6 follow-up Discussion Draft](http://www.oecd.org/ctp/treaties/discussion-draft-action-6-follow-up-prevent-treaty-abuse.pdf), 21 November 2014
* [Report of 16 September 2014 on BEPS Action 6](http://www.oecd.org/tax/preventing-the-granting-of-treaty-benefits-in-inappropriate-circumstances-9789264219120-en.htm)
1. **Commission publishes review of taxes on wealth and transfer of wealth**

               On 20 November 2014, the European Commission published a comprehensive cross-country study on taxes on wealth and transfer of wealth in the EU member states, including inheritance and gift taxes, real estate and land taxes and net-wealth taxes. While inheritances are taxed in 20 member states, gifts in 21 and real estate in every member state, taxes on net-wealth are rare. Though several countries have “environmental” taxes on the possession of certain assets, only three member states use net-wealth as a tax base.The Commission also made available the presentations given at the ECFIN workshop of 17 November 2014 in Brussels.* [Review on wealth taxation](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/resources/documents/common/publications/studies/2014_eu_wealth_tax_project_finale_report.pdf)
* [Presentations from ECFIN workshop, 17 November 2014](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/events/2014/20141113-taxation/index_en.htm)
1. **Commission publishes study on effective tax rates in EU countries**

On the same day, the European Commission published a study by the German think tank ZEW (Zentrum für Europäische Wirtschaftsforschung / Centre for European Economic Research) on the effective tax rates in EU countries, including also Canada, Japan, Macedonia, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States. The report considers primarily taxes on corporations, but also includes analyses of personal taxes on investment and saving. It also considers both cross-border investment and investment by small and medium sized enterprises.* [ZEW report on effective tax rates](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/resources/documents/common/publications/studies/final_report_2014_taxud_2013_cc_120.pdf)

\*\*\*\*\**The selection of the remitted material has been prepared by Piergiorgio Valente / Filipa Correia / Rudolf Reibel*[*www.cfe-eutax.org*](http://www.cfe-eutax.org)*Follow us on* [Linked in](http://www.linkedin.com/company/confederation-fiscal-europeene?trk=company_name) cid:image004.png@01CFAA5C.15EA1810 |
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