



15 February 2016

1. Commission to propose making country by country tax information public in April?

The Guardian has reported that the European Commission is planning to propose, on 12 April 2016, public country by country reporting (CBCR) of tax information by multinationals. This would not come as a surprise given statements by Jean-Claude Juncker and Tax Commissioner Pierre Moscovici that they would be in favour of public CBCR and European Parliament's repeatedly declared determination to include public CBCR in EU law. The Commission is currently finalising an impact assessment on this matter. Reportedly, the to-be-proposed measure would aim at all large multinationals, not only EU-based companies.

As the Commission has repeatedly voiced concerns over EU companies' competitiveness it may well propose higher thresholds than favoured by Parliament (more than 500 employees and balance sheet total of € 86m or net turnover of € 100m) or applied in the EU Accounting Directive to define large undertakings (250 employees, € 20m balance sheet total and/or € 40m net turnover).

- The Guardian article, 7.2.2016: [EN](#)

2. Commission agrees to give Parliament access to confidential documents

On 1 February 2016, the European Commission agreed to grant the European Parliament access to about 5500 confidential documents of the EU Council's "Code of Conduct Group" on business taxation. which was set up in 1997 to identify and eliminate examples of unfair tax competition among EU member states. The Group whose work is taking place behind closed doors has been criticised for having become ineffective.

As the letter of Jean-Claude Juncker explains, documents or parts thereof which relate to issues which are still under discussion in the Group will only be made available in camera.

Prior to the Commission's move, German far-left MEP Fabio de Masi had filed a legal action against the Commission before the European Court.

- Politico article, 8.2.2016: [EN](#)
- Der Spiegel article, 9.2.2016: [DE](#)
- Letter by Jean-Claude Juncker to Martin Schulz: [EN](#)

3. Council envisages agreement on Tax Avoidance Directive before June

On 12 February 2016, the European Commission presented its proposals of 28 January 2016 for an Anti Tax Avoidance Directive and for CBCR to tax authorities to the EU Ecofin Council. The Dutch Council presidency declared its intention to reach political agreement on the CBCR proposal already in March 2016 and on the Anti Tax Avoidance proposal before June 2016.

- Council press release, 12.2.2016 (see page 5) : [EN](#)

4. Andorra signs tax information exchange deal with EU

On 12 February 2016, The EU and Andorra signed a tax transparency agreement according to which Andorra and EU member states will, as of 2018, automatically exchange information on the financial accounts of one another's residents. EU countries will receive the names, addresses, tax identification numbers and dates of birth of their residents with accounts in Andorra, as well as other financial and account balance information. The exchange is in line with the OECD/G20 Common Reporting Standard implemented in EU law in January 2015. The EU has already signed similar agreements in 2015 with Switzerland, Liechtenstein and San Marino; negotiations are currently being finalised with Monaco.

- Press release: [EN](#) (DE/ES/FR available)
- Council press release, 12.2.2016 (see page 14): [EN](#)

5. IKEA accused of having avoided more than € 1 billion in taxes

On 12 February 2016, the Green Party in the European Parliament published a report explaining how IKEA has avoided more than € 1 billion in taxes in six years due to an arrangement involving subsidiaries in Belgium and Luxembourg and a Liechtenstein foundation.

- The Greens/EFA website including short film and infographics: [EN](#) (infographics also in FR, DE, ES, CAT, SV, FI, NL)
- Full report: [EN](#)

The selection of the remitted material has been prepared by Piergiorgio Valente / Filipa Correia / Rudolf Reibel

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