



**REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**

**Ministry for the Bulgarian Presidency  
of the Council of the European Union 2018**

**DEPUTY MINISTER**

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**18 June 2018**

**Mr Petr Ježek**

Chair of the Special Committee  
on Financial Crimes, Tax Evasion and Tax Avoidance  
European Parliament  
60 Rue Wiertz  
B-1047 Brussels

Subject: **Exchange on the margins of the EP Plenary in Strasbourg on 13 June 2018**

Dear Mr Ježek,

I would like to come back to the brief exchange we had in the margins of the European Parliament's Plenary in Strasbourg on 13 June 2018 where you invited me to the next TAX 3 meeting on 25 June 2018.

Despite all efforts made for accommodating your invitation, unfortunately I will not be available to appear in front of your Committee.

However, I would like to underline that the subject of fighting against tax evasion, tax avoidance as well as financial crimes has been and is a priority for our presidency. Our objectives in this field were presented, among others, in the Tax Policy Roadmap, published on 30 January 2018. Throughout our Presidency we have worked with the European Parliament in a spirit of sincere and loyal cooperation.

Minister Vladislav Goranov attended a meeting of the ECON Committee, on 24 January 2018, where he presented the priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency. In particular, he covered several files that are also of interest to the TAX 3 Committee, for which, however, the ECON Committee is the main interlocutor. Minister Goranov intends to appear in ECON Committee meeting again in July 2018, to present the achievements of the Bulgarian Presidency, where you can raise your questions.

I had myself the pleasure of debating in the Plenary, on 28 February 2018, when I took part in a debate on the removal of several third countries from the list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes, providing honorable Members with answers to their questions.

Both the Bulgarian and the incoming Austrian presidencies were of course also available to debate the ongoing legislative work in the Conference of the Committee Chairs (CCC), a format that is well established between the Council and the Parliament:

- On 17 April, Minister Pavlova took part in the CCC to answer the questions of the Chairs of all the parliamentary committees.
- Last Wednesday, on 12 June, Minister Karoline Edtstadler repeated this exercise for the incoming Presidency.

I recall that the incoming Austrian Presidency will also present its priorities in the ECON Committee in early July, after the presentation of results by the Bulgarian Presidency.

In the meantime, I can assure you that we will continue to make as much progress as possible on the various files related to tax evasion and tax avoidance.

I would like to thank you again for the invitation and wish you success in your work.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Monika Panayotova', with a horizontal line underneath.

Monika PANAYOTOVA  
Deputy Minister,  
Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU