

Special Committee on Financial Crimes, Tax Evasion and Tax Avoidance
The Chair

D 314887 19.09.2018

Mr Jean-Luc Demarty
Director General
General-Directorate for TRADE (DG TRADE)
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B1049 Brussels

Subject: *Invitation to a Public Hearing with the Special Committee on Financial Crimes, Tax Evasion and Tax Avoidance (TAX3) on Wednesday 26 September, from 15.00 to 18:30, Brussels, room ASP 5G2.*

Dear Mr Demarty,

On 22 March 2018, the European Parliament set up a Special Committee on Tax Crimes, Tax Evasion and Tax avoidance (TAX3). The committee builds on and complements the work carried out by the TAXE 1 and TAXE 2 special committees, in particular focusing on the effective implementation by the Member States, the Commission and the Council, and the impact of the recommendations made in its resolutions of 25 November 2015 and 6 July 2016¹.

In the context of the work of this special committee, the coordinators of the political groups decided to hold a hearing on "The third country dimension in the fight against tax crimes, tax evasion and tax avoidance" on 26 of September 2018, from 15.00 to 18.30, the preliminary programme of which I enclose herewith.

In its report, the PANA Inquiry Committee stated that it "considers that the establishment of free trade agreements needs to be accompanied by enhanced tax cooperation provisions preventing tax avoidance, and should include principles of good tax governance". This was confirmed in several other recommendations in the report:

"150. Stresses that the EU should renegotiate its trade, economic and other relevant bilateral agreements with Switzerland to bring them into line with EU anti-tax fraud policy, anti money laundering legislation and legislation on the financing of terrorism, so as to eliminate serious flaws in the Swiss supervisory system which enable a policy of internal banking secrecy to continue, the creation of offshore structures worldwide, tax fraud, tax evasion not constituting

¹ see <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2016-0310+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>
and <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2015-0408+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

a criminal offence, weak supervision, the inadequate self-regulation of obliged entities, and aggressive prosecution and intimidation of whistle-blowers;

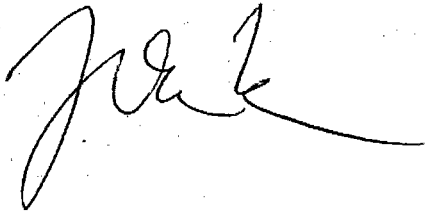
153. Considers, in particular, that when future trade or partnership agreements are negotiated, or existing agreements are revised, they should contain a binding clause of tax conditionality, including compliance with the international standards of the OECD BEPS Action Plan, and the FATF recommendations; Given the absence of Commissioner Malmström, the coordinators proposed you to be invited as a guest to an exchange of views within this framework.”

The TAX3 Committee secretariat (Gabriel Alvarez Recarte, Tel. +32 228 41667, gabriel.alvarez@ep.europa.eu) will in due course liaise with you for the practical arrangement of our invitation.

I remain at your disposal for further discussions on this matter.

I thank you in advance for your availability and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Ježek', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Petr JEŽEK



TAX3

Special Committee on Financial Crimes, Tax Evasion and Tax Avoidance

PUBLIC HEARING

THE THIRD COUNTRY DIMENSION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TAX CRIMES, TAX EVASION AND TAX AVOIDANCE

26 SEPTEMBER 2018

15.00 – 18.30

Room: **Altiero Spinelli (ASP) A5G2**

PRELIMINARY DRAFT PROGRAMME

15.00-15.05	Welcome by the TAX3 Chair
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15.05-16.40	Panel 1: Risks in the field of tax policy associated with Brexit <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How Brexit will affect issues that already exist with tax and financial policy of certain Crown Dependencies?• Possible solutions to the EU-UK tax relations as a result of Brexit
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- Presentation by Ms **Margaret Hodge**, Member of UK Parliament. Confirmed
- Presentation by Mr **John Christensen**, Tax Justice Network UK. (tbc)
- (...)

Discussion with TAX3 Members

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16.40 - 18.25 Panel 2: Lessons to be taken from EU-third countries agreements

- How can bilateral tax treaties and trade agreements facilitate the fight against illicit financial flows and tax evasion?
- Impact of EU-third countries agreements on developing countries

- Presentation by a high-rank official of DG TRADE, *How can trade agreements facilitate the fight against illicit financial flows and tax evasion? (tbc)*
- Presentation by Ms **Hannah Berjnhold Tranberg**, Tax Policy and Programme Manager at Action Aid Denmark, *Impact of bilateral tax treaties on developing countries. Confirmed*
- Presentation by Mr **Eric Yarboy Mensah**, UN Committee on Experts of International Cooperation in Tax Matters, *Lessons to be taken from EU-third countries agreements: effects on money laundering, tax evasion and avoidance. Confirmed by videoconference.*

Discussion with TAX3 Members**18.25- 18.30 Conclusions by the TAX3 Chair**