

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

D 315457 27.09.2018

MR Thomas MAIR HARTING
Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia
European External Action Service
Building EEAS
Rond Point Schuman 9A
B - 1046 Brussels

Subject: *Invitation to a public hearing with the Special Committee on Financial Crimes, Tax Evasion and Tax Avoidance (TAX3) on Monday 01 October 2018, afternoon, in Strasbourg*

Dear Director, Dear Mr Mair Harting,

On 1 March 2018, the European Parliament decided to set up a Special Committee on Tax Crimes, Tax Evasion and Tax avoidance (TAX3)¹. The committee was constituted on 22 March. It complements and builds on the work carried out by the TAXE 1 and TAXE 2 Special Committees and by the PANA Inquiry Committee. Its remit notably includes following up on the progress made by the Member States in ending harmful tax practices; to analyse and assess the third-country dimension in tax avoidance practices; to assess the methodology, country screening and impact of the EU lists of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax.

Following contacts between the TAX3 Committee Secretariat of the European Parliament and Mr Maerten, EEAS' head of division, in charge of the negotiations on the bilateral EU-CH agreement on an inter-institutional framework, it appears that he would not be able to accept the invitation to engage with TAX3 Members on 1 October 2018 on the topic of "Relations with Switzerland in tax matters and the fight against money laundering".

The Members of the Special Committee on Financial Crimes, Tax Evasion and Tax Avoidance deeply regrets that no representative of EEAS would be available on that day. They have thus proposed, in light of the principle of mutual sincere cooperation that govern the relations between institutions, to reiterate my invitation to you or to someone from your team.

I fully understand that negotiations with Switzerland are not yet concluded, yet I would argue that this makes this public hearing even more timely. DG TAXUD has already confirmed its participation in the hearing and will cover the tax aspects. TAX3 Members would very much welcome EEAS presence in the panel of speakers in order to present the state of play of the negotiations on the bilateral agreement and to reply to any questions they might have.

¹ Texts adopted: P8_TA-PROV(2018)0048

The exchange of views would take place on Monday, **01 October 2018, from 20.30 to 21:45**
in Strasbourg.

Should you not be available on that date, I would suggest that you pass on this invitation to Ms Angela EICHHORST, deputy Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia.

The TAX3 committee secretariat (Gabriel ALVAREZ RECARTE Tel. +32 228 41667, gabriel.alvarez@ep.europa.eu) remains at your disposal in order to coordinate the presence of the EEAS at the public hearing.

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

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

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

Petr Ježek