

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

D 315008 20.09.2018

Ms Rachel Owens  
Head of EU Advocacy  
Global Witness  
1 Mark Square  
London, EC2A 4EG  
UK

**Subject:** *Invitation to a meeting of the Special Committee on Financial Crimes, Tax Evasion and Tax Avoidance (TAX3) on Monday, 15 October 2018, from 3 pm to 6.30 pm, in Brussels, JAN 6Q2*

Dear Ms Owens,

The European Parliament Special Committee on Financial Crimes, Tax Evasion and Tax Avoidance (TAX3) is organising a parliamentary hearing on “Golden visas and other national schemes providing tax privileges (free ports, special economic zones)” for **Monday, 15 October 2018, from 3 pm to 6.30 pm, in room JAN 6Q2.**

The hearing will be structured in two panels. The first panel, at which your participation will be much welcomed, will be devoted to discuss risks and vulnerabilities in the area of money laundering linked to residence by investment schemes. The committee would like to learn more about Global Witness’ position on this matter. The second panel will focus on free ports and special economic zones. Please find enclosed herewith a draft programme of the hearing.

The session will start with a short introduction by each of the invited speakers, which should not exceed 5 minutes. The introductory remarks will be followed by an exchange of views with Members of the TAX3 Committee, during which time speakers will be invited to respond to observations made and questions posed to them. Questions will be asked in slots of four minutes: each question will be put within one minute at maximum, with the remaining time devoted to the answer. If time allows, the Member will have the possibility to ask a follow-up question, without extending the overall four-minute slot.

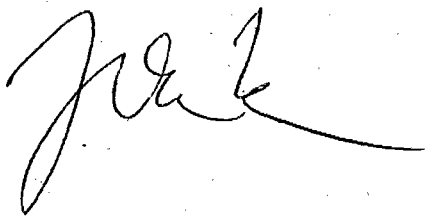
I would be grateful if you could let us know about your interest and availability to participate at your earliest convenience and **preferably no later than Tuesday, 25 September 2018.**

In order to better organise the discussion, we will be soon sending some questions to you in preparation of the meeting.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Francisco Ruiz-Risueño (tel.: +32 2 284 05 61, [francisco.ruizrisueno@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:francisco.ruizrisueno@europarl.europa.eu)) for content-related questions or the Secretariat of the TAX3 Committee ([tax3-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:tax3-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu)) for logistic questions.

I remain at your disposal for further discussions on this matter. I thank you in advance for your availability and look forward to welcoming you to our meeting on 15 October 2018.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be '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**

### **"GOLDEN VISAS AND OTHER NATIONAL SCHEMES PROVIDING TAX PRIVILEGES (FREE PORTS, SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES)"**

**PANEL I: RISKS IN THE AREA OF MONEY LAUNDERING LINKED TO THE PRACTICE OF GOLDEN VISAS**

**PANEL II: FREEPORTS, SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES: RISKS AND BENEFITS FOR THE EU**

**MONDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2018**

**15.00 - 18.30**

**Room: JÓZSEF ANTALL (JAN) 6Q2**

**BRUSSELS**

## **DRAFT PROGRAMME**

<b>15.00 - 15.05</b>	<b>Welcome by the TAX3 Chair</b>
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<b>15.05- 16.45</b>	<b><u>Panel I:</u> Risks in the area of money laundering linked to the practice of Golden Visas</b>
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- Mr **Achim Pross**, Head of International Co-operation and Tax Administration Division, OECD: *"Preventing abuse of residence by investment schemes to circumvent the Common Reporting Standards"* (tbc)
- Ms **Rachel Owens**, Head of EU advocacy for Global Witness: *"Money laundering, tax evasion, and additional risks of residence in exchange for investment national schemes"* (tbc)



## TAX3

Special Committee on Financial Crimes, Tax Evasion and Tax Avoidance

- Mr **Carlos Matos Moreira**, Director, Portuguese Immigration and Borders Service (SEF): "*The Portuguese residence-by-investment program: measures against money-laundering risks*". (tbc)

Discussant:

- Ms **Irena Moozova**, Director, European Commission, DG Justice (tbc)

### Discussion with TAX3 Members

#### 16.45- 18.25 **Panel II: Freeports, Special Economic Zones: Risks and benefits for the EU**

- Representative from **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**: "*Money Laundering vulnerabilities of Free Trade Zones*" (tbc)
- Mr **Charles Carr**, expert: "*Freeports and risks and benefits for the EU*" (tbc)
- Mr **Fabien Grasser**, Journalist: "*Have there been any progress at Le Freeport Luxembourg after the visit of the PANA Committee?*" (tbc)
- Mr **Philippe Dauvergne**, CEO, Le Freeport Luxembourg: "*Actions of the Freeport Luxembourg to prevent money laundering and tax evasion*" (tbc)

Discussant:

- Mr **Philip Kermode**, Director, European Commission, DIG TAXUD, Dir. A - Customs (tbc)

### Discussion with TAX3 Members

#### 18.25- 18.30 **Conclusions by the TAX3 Chair**