DRAFT REPORT

on the proposal for a Council directive amending Directive (EU) 2016/1164 as regards hybrid mismatches with third countries

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

Rapporteur: Olle Ludvigsson
Symbols for procedures

* Consultation procedure
*** Consent procedure
****I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
****II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
****III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

Amendments to a draft act

Amendments by Parliament set out in two columns

Deletions are indicated in bold italics in the left-hand column. Replacements are indicated in bold italics in both columns. New text is indicated in bold italics in the right-hand column.

The first and second lines of the header of each amendment identify the relevant part of the draft act under consideration. If an amendment pertains to an existing act that the draft act is seeking to amend, the amendment heading includes a third line identifying the existing act and a fourth line identifying the provision in that act that Parliament wishes to amend.

Amendments by Parliament in the form of a consolidated text

New text is highlighted in bold italics. Deletions are indicated using either the \ symbol or strikeout. Replacements are indicated by highlighting the new text in bold italics and by deleting or striking out the text that has been replaced.

By way of exception, purely technical changes made by the drafting departments in preparing the final text are not highlighted.
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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a Council directive amending Directive (EU) 2016/1164 as regards hybrid mismatches with third countries

(Special legislative procedure – consultation)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(2016)0687),
- having regard to Article 115 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Council consulted Parliament (C8-0464/2016),
- having regard to the reasoned opinions submitted, within the framework of Protocol No 2 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, by the Netherlands Senate and the Netherlands House of Representatives, asserting that the draft legislative act does not comply with the principle of subsidiarity,
- having regard to Rule 59 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (A8-0000/2017),

1. Approves the Commission proposal as amended;
2. Calls on the Commission to alter its proposal accordingly, in accordance with Article 293(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union;
3. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament if it intends to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
4. Asks the Council to consult Parliament again if it intends to substantially amend the Commission proposal;
5. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

Amendment 1

Proposal for a directive
Recital 8

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<td>(8) Given that Directive (EU) 2016/1164 includes rules on hybrid mismatches between Member States, it is</td>
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appropriate to include rules on hybrid mismatches with third countries in that Directive. Consequently, those rules should apply to all taxpayers that are subject to corporate tax in a Member State including permanent establishments of entities resident in third countries. It is necessary to cover all hybrid *mismatch arrangements* where at least one of the parties involved is a corporate taxpayer in a Member State.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a directive
Recital 9

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(9) Rules on hybrid mismatches should address mismatch situations which are the result of conflicting tax rules of two (or more) jurisdictions. However, those rules should not affect the general features of the tax system of a jurisdiction.

*Amendment*

(9) Rules on hybrid mismatches should address mismatch situations which result from double deductions, conflicts in the legal characterisation of financial instruments, payments and entities, or conflicts in the allocation of payments. As hybrid mismatches could lead to a double deduction or to a deduction without inclusion, it is necessary to lay down rules whereby the Member State concerned either denies the deduction of a payment, expenses or losses or requires the taxpayer to include the payment in its taxable income. However, those rules should not affect the general features of the tax system of a jurisdiction.
Amendment 3
Proposal for a directive
Recital 9a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(9a) Permanent establishment mismatches occur where differences in the rules in the permanent establishment jurisdiction and those in the residence jurisdiction for allocating income and expenditure between different parts of the same entity give rise to a mismatch in tax outcomes. That includes cases where a mismatch outcome arises due to the fact that a permanent establishment is disregarded as a result of the application of the laws of the branch jurisdiction. Those mismatch outcomes could lead to a double deduction or a deduction without inclusion, and should therefore be eliminated. In the case of disregarded permanent establishments, the Member State in which the taxpayer is resident should include the income that would otherwise be attributed to the permanent establishment.

Amendment 4
Proposal for a directive
Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(10) In order to ensure proportionality it is necessary to address only the cases where there is a substantial risk of avoiding taxation through the use of hybrid mismatches. It is therefore appropriate to cover hybrid mismatch arrangements between the taxpayer and its associated enterprises and hybrid mismatches resulting from a structured...
Amendment 5
Proposal for a directive
Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) In order to provide for a sufficiently comprehensive definition of 'associated enterprise' for the purposes of the rules on hybrid mismatches, that definition should also comprise an entity that is part of the same consolidated group for accounting purposes, an enterprise in which the taxpayer has a significant influence in the management and reversely, an enterprise that has a significant influence in the management of the taxpayer.

Amendment 6
Proposal for a directive
Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) Mismatches that particularly pertain to the hybridity of entities should be addressed only where one of the associated enterprises has – at a minimum - effective control over the other associated enterprises. Consequently, in those cases, it should be required that an associated enterprise be held by, or hold, the taxpayer or another associated enterprise through a participation in terms of voting rights, capital ownership or entitlement to received profits of 50
percent or more.

Amendment 7
Proposal for a directive
Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

(17) Hybrid transfers may give rise to a difference in tax treatment if, as a result of a transfer of a financial instrument under a structured arrangement, the underlying return on that instrument is treated as derived simultaneously by more than one of the parties to the arrangement. The underlying return is the income related to and derived from the transferred instrument. This difference in tax treatment may lead to a deduction without inclusion or to a tax credit in two different jurisdictions for the same tax withheld at source. Such mismatches should therefore be eliminated. In case of a deduction without inclusion the same rules should apply as for neutralising a hybrid financial instrument or hybrid entity mismatch leading to a deduction without inclusion. In case of a double tax credit, the Member State concerned should limit the benefit of the tax credit in proportion to the net taxable income with respect to the underlying return.

Amendment

(17) Hybrid transfers may give rise to a difference in tax treatment if, as a result of a transfer of a financial instrument, the underlying return on that instrument is treated as derived simultaneously by more than one of the parties to the arrangement. The underlying return is the income related to and derived from the transferred instrument. This difference in tax treatment may lead to a deduction without inclusion or to a tax credit in two different jurisdictions for the same tax withheld at source. Such mismatches should therefore be eliminated. In case of a deduction without inclusion the same rules should apply as for neutralising a hybrid financial instrument or hybrid entity mismatch leading to a deduction without inclusion. In case of a double tax credit, the Member State concerned should limit the benefit of the tax credit in proportion to the net taxable income with respect to the underlying return.
Amendment 8
Proposal for a directive
Recital 19

**Text proposed by the Commission**

(19) Imported mismatches shift the effect of a hybrid mismatch between parties in third countries into the jurisdiction of a Member State through the use of a non-hybrid instrument thereby undermining the effectiveness of the rules that neutralise hybrid mismatches. A deductible payment in a Member State can be used to fund expenditure under a structured arrangement involving a hybrid mismatch between third countries. To counter such imported mismatches, it is necessary to include rules that disallow the deduction of a payment if the corresponding income from that payment is set-off, directly or indirectly, against a deduction that arises under a hybrid mismatch arrangement giving rise to a double deduction or a deduction without inclusion between third countries.

**Amendment**

(19) Imported mismatches shift the effect of a hybrid mismatch between parties in third countries into the jurisdiction of a Member State through the use of a non-hybrid instrument thereby undermining the effectiveness of the rules that neutralise hybrid mismatches. A deductible payment in a Member State can be used to fund expenditure under a structured arrangement involving a hybrid mismatch between third countries. To counter such imported mismatches, it is necessary to include rules that disallow the deduction of a payment if the corresponding income from that payment is set-off, directly or indirectly, against a deduction that arises under a hybrid mismatch giving rise to a double deduction or a deduction without inclusion between third countries.

Amendment 9
Proposal for a directive
Recital 21

**Text proposed by the Commission**

(21) The objective of this Directive is to improve the resilience of the internal market as a whole against hybrid mismatch arrangements. This cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States acting individually, given that national corporate tax systems are disparate and that independent action by Member States would only replicate the existing fragmentation of the internal market in

**Amendment**

(21) The objective of this Directive is to improve the resilience of the internal market as a whole against hybrid mismatches. This cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States acting individually, given that national corporate tax systems are disparate and that independent action by Member States would only replicate the existing fragmentation of the internal market in
direct taxation. It would thus allow inefficiencies and distortions to persist in the interaction of distinct national measures. This would thus result in a lack of coordination. That objective can rather, due to the cross-border nature of hybrid mismatch arrangements and the need to adopt solutions that function for the internal market as a whole, be better achieved at Union level. The Union may therefore adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Directive does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve that objective. By setting the required level of protection for the internal market, this Directive only aims to achieve the essential degree of coordination within the Union that is necessary to achieve its objectives.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a directive

Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point -1 (new)

Directive (EU) 2016/1164

Article 1 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(-1) In Article 1, the following paragraph is added:

‘Article 9a (reverse hybrids) shall also apply to all entities that are treated as transparent for tax purposes by a Member State.’

Or. en
Amendment 11

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point a
Directive (EU) 2016/1164
Article 2 – point 4 – subparagraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) in point (4), the third subparagraph, is replaced by the following:

"For the purposes of Article 9 an associated enterprise also means an entity that is part of the same consolidated group for financial accounting purposes as the taxpayer, an enterprise in which the taxpayer has a significant influence in the management or an enterprise that has a significant influence in the management of the taxpayer. Where the mismatch involves a hybrid entity, the definition of associated enterprise is modified so that the 25 percent requirement is replaced by a 50 percent requirement";

Or. en

Amendment 12

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point a (new)
Directive (EU) 2016/1164
Article 2 – point 4 – subparagraph 3

Present text

(aa) in point 4, the third subparagraph is deleted;

For the purposes of Article 9 and where the mismatch involves a hybrid entity, this definition is modified so that the 25 percent requirement is replaced by a 50 percent requirement.

Or. en
Amendment 13

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point b
Directive (EU) 2016/1164

Article 2 – point 9 – subparagraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

'(9) hybrid mismatch' means a situation between a taxpayer and an associated enterprise or a structured arrangement between parties in different tax jurisdictions where any of the following outcomes is attributable to differences in the legal characterisation of a financial instrument or entity, or in the treatment of a commercial presence as a permanent establishment:

Amendment

'(9) hybrid mismatch' means a situation between two taxpayers where any of the following outcomes is attributable to differences in the legal characterisation of a financial instrument or a payment made under it or is the result of differences in the recognition of payments made to, or payments, expenses or losses incurred by, a hybrid entity, or permanent establishment or the result of differences in the recognition of a deemed payment made between two parts of the same taxpayer or in the recognition of a commercial presence as a permanent establishment:

Or. en

Amendment 14

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point b
Directive (EU) 2016/1164

Article 2 – point 9 – subparagraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) a deduction of a payment from the taxable base in the jurisdiction in which the payment has its source without a corresponding inclusion for tax purposes of the same payment in the other jurisdiction ('deduction without inclusion');

Amendment

(b) a deduction of a payment from the taxable base in any jurisdiction in which the payment is treated as being made ('payer jurisdiction') without a corresponding inclusion for tax purposes of the same payment in any other jurisdiction where the payment is treated as being received ('payee jurisdiction') ('deduction without inclusion');
Amendment 15

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point b
Directive (EU) 2016/1164
Article 2 – point 9 – subparagraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) in case of differences in the treatment of a commercial presence as a permanent establishment, non-taxation of income which has its source in a jurisdiction without a corresponding inclusion for tax purposes of the same income in the other jurisdiction (‘non-taxation without inclusion’).

Amendment

(c) in case of differences in the recognition of a commercial presence as a permanent establishment, non-taxation of income which has its source in a jurisdiction without a corresponding inclusion for tax purposes of the same income in the other jurisdiction (‘non-taxation without inclusion’).

Amendment 16

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point b
Directive (EU) 2016/1164
Article 2 – point 9 – subparagraph 1 – point c a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(ca) a payment to a hybrid entity or permanent establishment giving rise to a deduction without inclusion where the mismatch is attributable to differences in the recognition of payments made to the permanent establishment or hybrid entity;

Amendment

Or. en
Amendment 17
Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point b
Directive (EU) 2016/1164
Article 2 – point 9 – subparagraph 1 – point c b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(cb) a payment giving rise to a deduction without inclusion as a result of a payment to a disregarded permanent establishment;

Or. en

Amendment 18
Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point b
Directive (EU) 2016/1164
Article 2 – point 9 – subparagraph 1 – point c c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(cc) a payment under a financial instrument giving rise to a deduction without inclusion where:

(i) such payment cannot reasonably be expected to be included in the income within a reasonable period of time; and

(ii) the mismatch is attributable to the differences in the legal characterisation of the instrument or the payment made under it.

Or. en

Amendment 19
Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point b
Directive (EU) 2016/1164
Article 2 – point 9 – subparagraph 2
A hybrid mismatch only arises to the extent that the same payment deducted, expenses incurred or losses suffered in two jurisdictions exceed the amount of income that is included in both jurisdictions and which can be attributed to the same source.

Amendment

A hybrid mismatch that is a result of differences in the recognition of payments, expenses or losses incurred by a hybrid entity or permanent establishment or differences in the recognition of a deemed payment between two parts of the same taxpayer only arises to the extent that the resulting deduction in the jurisdiction of source is set off against an item that is not included in both jurisdictions where the mismatch has arisen. However, in the event that the payment giving rise to that hybrid mismatch also gives rise to a hybrid mismatch that is attributable to differences in the legal characterisation of a financial instrument or a payment made under it, or is the result of differences in the recognition of payments made to a hybrid entity or permanent establishment, the hybrid mismatch arises to the extent that the payment gives rise to a deduction without inclusion.

Amendment 20

Proposal for a directive

Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point b
Directive (EU) 2016/1164
Article 2 – point 9 – subparagraph 3 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

A hybrid mismatch also includes the transfer of a financial instrument under a structured arrangement involving a taxpayer where the underlying return on the transferred financial instrument is treated for tax purposes as derived simultaneously by more than one of the parties to the arrangement, who are resident for tax purposes in different jurisdictions, giving rise to any of the
jurisdictions, giving rise to any of the following outcomes:

Amendment 21
Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point b
Directive (EU) 2016/1164
Article 2 – point 9 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission Amendment
(9a) 'hybrid entity' means any entity or arrangement that is regarded as a person for tax purposes under the laws of one jurisdiction and the income or expenditure of which is treated as income or expenditure of one or more other persons under the laws of another jurisdiction;

Amendment 22
Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point b
Directive (EU) 2016/1164
Article 2 – point 9 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission Amendment
(9b) 'disregarded permanent establishment' means any arrangement that is treated as giving rise to a permanent establishment under the laws of the head office jurisdiction and is not treated as giving rise to a permanent establishment under the laws of the jurisdiction in which the permanent establishment is situated;
Amendment 23
Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 1 – point c
Directive (EU) 2016/1164
Article 2 – point 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) ‘structured arrangement’ means an arrangement involving a hybrid mismatch where the mismatch is priced into the terms of the arrangement or an arrangement that has been designed to produce a hybrid mismatch outcome, unless the taxpayer or an associated enterprise could not reasonably have been expected to be aware of the hybrid mismatch and did not share in the value of the tax benefit resulting from the hybrid mismatch.

Amendment

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 24
Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 3
Directive (EU) 2016/1164
Article 9 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. To the extent that a hybrid mismatch between Member States results in a double deduction of the same payment, expenses or losses, the deduction shall be given only in the Member State where such payment has its source, the expenses are incurred or the losses are suffered.

To the extent that a hybrid mismatch involving a third country results in a double deduction of the same payment, expenses or losses, the Member State concerned shall deny the deduction of

Amendment

1. To the extent that a hybrid mismatch results in a double deduction of the same payment, expenses or losses, the deduction shall be denied in the Member State that is the payee jurisdiction.

In the event that the deduction is not denied in the payee jurisdiction, the deduction shall be denied in the payer jurisdiction.
such payment, expenses or losses, unless the third country has already done so.

Amendment 25

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 3
Directive (EU) 2016/1164
Article 9 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. To the extent that a hybrid mismatch between Member States results in a deduction without inclusion, the Member State of the payer shall deny the deduction of such payment.

Amendment

2. To the extent that a hybrid mismatch results in a deduction without inclusion, the deduction shall be denied in the Member State that is the payer jurisdiction of such payment. Where the deduction is not denied in the payer jurisdiction, the amount of the payment that would otherwise give rise to a mismatch shall be included in the income in the payee jurisdiction.

To the extent that a hybrid mismatch involving a third country results in a deduction without inclusion:

(i) if the payment has its source in a Member State, that Member State shall deny the deduction, or

(ii) if the payment has its source in a third country, the Member State concerned shall require the taxpayer to include such payment in the taxable base, unless the third country has already denied the deduction or has required that payment to be included.
Amendment 26

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 3
Directive (EU) 2016/1164
Article 9 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. To the extent that a hybrid mismatch between Member States involving a permanent establishment results in non-taxation without inclusion, the Member State in which the taxpayer is resident for tax purposes shall require the taxpayer to include in the taxable base the income attributed to the permanent establishment.

To the extent that a hybrid mismatch involving a permanent establishment situated in a third country results in non-taxation without inclusion, the Member State concerned shall require the taxpayer to include in the taxable base the income attributed to the permanent establishment in the third country.

Amendment

3. To the extent that a hybrid mismatch involves disregarded permanent establishment income which is not subject to tax in the Member State in which the taxpayer is resident for tax purposes, that Member State shall require the taxpayer to include the income that would otherwise be attributed to the disregarded permanent establishment.

Or. en

Amendment 27

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 3
Directive (EU) 2016/1164
Article 9 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

3a. Member States shall deny a deduction for any payment by a taxpayer to the extent that such payment directly or indirectly funds deductible expenditure giving rise to a hybrid mismatch through a transaction or a series of transactions.

Amendment

3a. Member States shall deny a deduction for any payment by a taxpayer to the extent that such payment directly or indirectly funds deductible expenditure giving rise to a hybrid mismatch through a transaction or a series of transactions.

Or. en
Amendment 28

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 3
Directive (EU) 2016/1164
Article 9 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. To the extent that a payment by a taxpayer to an associated enterprise in a third country is set off directly or indirectly against a payment, expenses or losses which due to a hybrid mismatch are deductible in two different jurisdictions outside the Union, the Member State of the taxpayer shall deny the deduction of the payment by the taxpayer to an associated enterprise in a third country from the taxable base, unless one of the third countries involved has already denied the deduction of the payment, expenses or losses that would be deductible in two different jurisdictions.

Amendment

4. To the extent that a payment by a taxpayer in a third country is set off directly or indirectly against a payment, expenses or losses which due to a hybrid mismatch are deductible in two different jurisdictions outside the Union, the Member State of the taxpayer shall deny the deduction of the payment by the taxpayer in a third country from the taxable base, unless one of the third countries involved has already denied the deduction of the payment, expenses or losses that would be deductible in two different jurisdictions.

Or. en

Amendment 29

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 3
Directive (EU) 2016/1164
Article 9 – paragraph 5

Text proposed by the Commission

5. To the extent that the corresponding inclusion of a deductible payment by a taxpayer to an associated enterprise in a third country is set off directly or indirectly against a payment which due to a hybrid mismatch is not included by the payee in its taxable base, the Member State of the taxpayer shall deny the deduction of the payment by the taxpayer to an associated enterprise.

Amendment

5. To the extent that the corresponding inclusion of a deductible payment by a taxpayer in a third country is set off directly or indirectly against a payment which due to a hybrid mismatch is not included by the payee in its taxable base, the Member State of the taxpayer shall deny the deduction of the payment by the taxpayer in a third country from the taxable base.
enterprise in a third country from the taxable base, unless one of the third countries involved has already denied the deduction of the non-included payment.

Amendment 30

Proposal for a directive
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 3 a (new)
Directive (EU) 2016/1164
Article -9a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3a) in Chapter II, the following Article is added:

‘Article -9a

Reverse hybrid mismatches

Where one or more associated non-resident entities holding a share of profit in a hybrid entity that is incorporated or established in a Member State is located in a jurisdiction or jurisdictions that regard the hybrid entity as a taxable person, the hybrid entity shall be regarded as a resident of that Member State and taxed on its income to the extent that the income is not otherwise taxed under the laws of the Member State or any other jurisdiction.’
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Looking at the proposal on amending Directive (EU) 2016/1164 as regards hybrid mismatches with third countries, your Rapporteur believes that the Commission has presented a proposal that effectively narrows the scope for corporate tax avoidance.

International tax issues have in recent years been at the top of the political agenda for good reasons. Increased speed of globalisation, digitalisation and the integration of national economies and markets have exposed weaknesses in the current rules, thus creating opportunities for base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS). Consequently, the OECD and G20 countries adopted a 15-point Action Plan to address BEPS in September 2013. A final report on Action 2 – Neutralising the Effects of Hybrid Mismatch Arrangements – was published in 2015.

Hybrid mismatch arrangements exploit differences in the tax treatment of an entity or instrument under the laws of two or more tax jurisdictions to achieve double non-taxation. These types of arrangements are frequently created with the sole purpose to reduce corporate taxation, resulting in a substantial erosion of the taxable bases of corporate taxpayers in the EU. Hence, it has been necessary to lay down rules against these types of arrangements.

The hybrid mismatch rules in the Council Directive laying down rules against tax avoidance practices that directly affect the functioning of the internal market (the Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive), address the most common practises of hybrid mismatches, although merely within the EU. Article 9 of the Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive targets hybrid mismatches arising from differences in the legal characterisation of an entity, or a financial instrument between a taxpayer in a Member State and an associated enterprise in another Member State, or from a structured arrangement between parties in Member States.

Yet, taxpayers in the EU also take advantage of hybrid mismatches to reduce their overall tax liability in the EU through engagement in cross-border structures involving third countries. Therefore the ECOFIN Council issued a statement on hybrid mismatches – included in the final compromise proposal for the Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive, agreed on the 20 June 2016 – requesting the Commission “to put forward by October 2016 a proposal on hybrid mismatches involving third countries in order to provide for rules consistent with and no less effective than the rules recommended by the OECD BEPS report on Action 2, with the view of reaching an agreement by the end of 2016”.

Thus, it is welcomed that the Commission now presents measures to tackle hybrid mismatches also involving third countries. The Rapporteur further considers that other types of mismatches included in the Commission’s proposal, such as hybrid permanent establishment mismatches, hybrid transfers, so-called imported mismatches and dual resident mismatches, which are not addressed in Article 9 of the Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive, also should be tackled in order to minimising opportunities for base erosion and profit shifting.

As a part of a package that includes the re-launch of the proposal for a common consolidated corporate tax base (CCCTB) and a proposal on a common corporate tax base (CCTB), the Rapporteur considers that this proposed directive is a fundamental step in to counter hybrid mismatches involving third countries in order to neutralize hybrid mismatch arrangements.