



BRUSSELS | 25 JANUARY 2021

EU Parliament Adopts Resolution Urging Revisions to EU Tax Blacklist Process

The EU Parliament has adopted a [resolution](#) calling for a wider scope, tougher criteria and a more transparent listing process concerning the EU's list of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions.

The Parliament in its resolution notes that *“jurisdictions currently on the list cover less than 2 % of worldwide tax revenue losses, making the list confusing and ineffective”* and calls for *“increased transparency and consistency, stricter and more impartial listing criteria, and stronger defensive measures against tax avoidance”*. The Parliament also expressly noted that it *“deplores the removal of countries with a clear record of promoting BEPS, such as the Cayman Islands, from the list”*.

Chair of the EU Parliament's Subcommittee on Tax Matters, Paul Tang, said of the resolution: *“By calling the EU list of tax havens “confusing and inefficient”, the Parliament tells it like it is... The truth is, the list is not getting better, it's getting worse... the Parliament strongly condemns the recent delisting of the Cayman Islands and calls for more transparency and stricter listing criteria. However, if we focus on others, we also need to look ourselves in the mirror. The picture is not pretty. EU countries are responsible for 36% of tax havens.”*

OECD Tax & Development Day - 29 January

The [agenda](#) has been published for the upcoming 11th plenary meeting from 27 to 28 January of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS which is to be held virtually and will be open to the public via live webstream on the [OECD website](#).

Day 1 of the meeting will focus on the global economic outlook and post COVID-19 recovery, as well as a session on Sustainable Development Goals and the role of taxation, and tax morale. Day 2 will focus on the topic of the future of international tax, the tax challenges of digitalisation, 2021 priorities of the G20, a debrief on the recent OECD Pillar 1 & 2 Consultation and a BEPS update.

On 29 January a briefing session “Tax & Development Day” will be held on current OECD tax and development work, examining the topics of: BEPS & the extractive industries; fighting tax and crime; tax in the COVID era & beyond; digitalisation to support efficient tax administration; and a work update on the Platform for Collaboration on Tax, amongst other topics. Those wishing to participate in the sessions can register via links in the agenda [here](#).

ECOFIN Discusses Portuguese Presidency Priorities

The Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU held its first [ECOFIN meeting](#) last week, discussing the Portuguese Presidency Agenda for the first half of 2021.

Speaking at a press conference following the meeting, Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis stated that finalising recovery plans and ratifying the EU own resources decision was of utmost priority, and that country-specific recommendations from 2019 and 2020 would be essential in countries compiling plans, to ensure that the EU green and digital transition targets are achieved.

As concerns tax, Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis stated “We will also work further on digital and sustainable finance, and tax policy. For example, we will soon publish a Communication on Business Taxation for the 21st century, outlining the next steps of our agenda on digital and corporate taxation, followed by our proposal for a digital levy by the middle of the year. “

The next ECOFIN meeting will take place on 16 February.

EU Commission Proposes to Extend Temporary State Aid Framework

The EU Commission has launched a [consultation](#) with Member States on extending the duration and scope of the Temporary State Aid Framework, adopted in March to assist Member States in dealing with the economic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak and prolonged in October 2020 to apply until 30 June 2021.

The Framework allows Member States to provide aid by: providing grants, selective tax advantages and advance payments; providing State guarantees for loans taken by businesses; subsidising public loans to companies, putting in place safeguards for banks providing State aid to the economy; and providing short-term export credit insurance.

The Commission is proposing to extend the Framework to apply until 31 December 2021, to increase the amounts of aid that can be granted to companies and to enable Member States at a later stage to convert repayable loans provided into grants.

Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager stated of the consultation, “*As the second wave of the coronavirus outbreak continues to deeply affect our lives, businesses across Europe are in need of further support to weather the crisis. That’s why we are proposing to prolong the State aid Temporary Framework until*

31 December 2021 and to increase the aid amounts available to companies under certain measures to ensure that effective support remains available. We will decide on the way forward taking into account the views of all Member States and the need to preserve effective competition in the Single Market.”

Applications Open: CFE's 2020 Albert J. Raedler Award for Best Master's Thesis

Submissions are now invited for CFE's 2020 Albert J. Rädler Medal Award. The award was established in 2013 in order to encourage and reward academic excellence in European taxation, as well as to recognise Professor Albert J. Rädler's esteemed contribution to the field of taxation within Europe.

In order to be eligible to apply, an applicant must have completed a Master's thesis in European taxation which received a distinction in the calendar year of 2020, and be 30 years or under on the 31st December of 2020. The thesis should be written in English or, in the alternative, an English translation must be provided. The examining panel is composed of Professors Michael Lang and Pasquale Pistone, both of the Vienna University of Economics and Business, as well as of Professor Otmar Thömmes, Tax Partner at Deloitte Munich.

The successful applicant will be announced at the virtual CFE Forum on 6 May 2021 and will be awarded with the medal at an Award Ceremony which will take place at the CFE Professional Affairs Conference convened in Zagreb, Croatia on 3 December 2021. In addition to the Albert J. Rädler medal itself, the recipient will be offered travel costs to Zagreb in order to attend the 2021 CFE Professional Affairs Conference, as well as a selection of premium technical literature from our partner IBFD.

Please send the applications until 15 March 2021 to the attention of Ms. Karima Baakil via email at: info@taxadviserseurope.org

The selection of the remitted material has been prepared by:
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