

CFE Connect March 2025

CFE Connect provides our readers with monthly updates on European and international tax policy developments, CFE's technical work and engagement with key stakeholders. Read on to stay informed about CFE's latest activities & events!

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CFE POLICY ENGAGEMENT



Throughout March, CFE Tax Advisers Europe actively engaged with key policymakers and stakeholders on critical tax policy issues:

★ **17 & 18 March** – Director of CFE, Aleksandar Ivanovski, was invited to attend the EU Tax Symposium Gala Dinner, attended by key tax policy stakeholders. The Symposium focused on the strategic role of tax policy in a competitive and sustainable EU. Sessions explored green taxation, energy policy, and simplification measures to support EU resilience.

★ **25 March** – Aleksandar Ivanovski participated in the #BrusselsCalling panel, featuring European Commission Vice-President Teresa Ribera. The event focused on the challenges of communicating regulatory initiatives—especially in tax and tech—while maintaining trust in public institutions.



info@taxadvisereurope.com | www.taxadvisereurope.com

★ 8th Cyprus International Tax Conference – 10 March

Aleksandar Ivanovski was a featured speaker at the 8th Cyprus International Tax Conference in Nicosia, discussing international tax cooperation, the future of BEPS, and the changing landscape of tax advisory work.

CFE FORUM 2025 RECAP



The CFE Forum was held on 28 March, and brought together global thought leaders to explore the theme “Navigating Tax Transformation: From Compliance to Competitiveness.”

The panel topics included:

Panel 1 – Global Tax Reform & Pillar Two

Speakers examined how recent developments in the US and several EU Member States may influence the broader international tax framework, with a focus on the political viability of the global minimum tax and the evolving multilateral landscape.

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Panel 2 – DAC6, Legal Privilege & Compliance

This panel explored post-CJEU developments concerning legal professional privilege under DAC6. Speakers debated the potential for harmonisation in a future DAC10 and raised concerns around “legal privilege shopping” and inconsistent national enforcement.

Panel 3 – Transfer Pricing, VAT & Technical Tax Challenges

Panellists addressed complex issues in cross-border compliance, including transfer pricing adjustments and VAT mismatches, with practical examples of simplification in multinational settings.

Panel 4 – Digital & Green Taxation

The final panel focused on the EU’s dual digital and sustainability agenda, evaluating fiscal measures that support the green transition, the role of digital services taxes, and the path forward for climate-aligned tax policy.

CFE extends its sincere thanks to all moderators, speakers and contributors. The presentations will be distributed to attendees in due course, and a selection of photographs from the event will be made available on the CFE website.

TAX POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

CFE’s Tax Top5 KEY TAX NEWS OF THE WEEK

Key Global & EU Tax Developments

G20 Calls for Inclusive Progress on Pillar Two & UN Process

At the G20 Finance Ministers meeting in São Paulo, leaders reaffirmed their support for completing the OECD Pillar One and Two reforms and welcomed increased UN involvement in international tax dialogue, provided it avoids duplication.

EU Commission Launches Omnibus I & II to Cut Red Tape

The Commission announced major simplification packages to reduce administrative burdens by up to 35% for SMEs. Proposed changes include streamlined CSRD reporting, simplified due diligence, and clarified CBAM obligations.

UN Tax Committee 30th Session

The 30th Session of the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters took place in Geneva, focusing on updates to the UN Model Tax Convention, sust-

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ainable taxation, dispute resolution, digital tax administration, and enhancing developing country participation in treaty negotiations and capacity building.

✦ **ECOFIN Agrees on DAC9 and ViDA Proposals**

The Council reached political agreement on DAC9 and ViDA. DAC9 ensures consistent reporting on top-up tax under Pillar Two, while ViDA paves the way for digital VAT reporting and a broader one-stop-shop regime by 2030.

✦ **EU-US Trade Tensions Escalate over Digital Tax and Tariffs**

President Trump issued an executive order reimposing tariffs on EU car imports and criticising EU digital services taxes as discriminatory against US companies.

The European Commission responded by defending the EU's VAT and State aid frameworks, warning that retaliatory tariffs would undermine transatlantic cooperation. The issue adds pressure to ongoing talks on DSTs, the OECD tax deal, and broader digital regulation.

✦ **OECD Releases Capital Gains Taxation Report**

A comprehensive OECD report analysed the design of capital gains taxation regimes, examining policy trade-offs and the need to address equity and revenue efficiency without distorting investment behaviour.

✦ **European Commission Publishes Taxation Trends in the EU**

DG TAXUD released its latest comparative data on tax structures and revenues across Member States, providing a vital resource for analysing shifts in tax policy and competitiveness.

✦ **BEPS Action 14 Peer Reviews Highlight Progress on Dispute Resolution**

New peer reviews show that more countries are resolving MAP cases within 24 months and aligning national procedures with OECD minimum standards. Several jurisdictions also signed the MLI.

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CFE TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS

CFE Issues Opinion Statement FC 1/2025 on Chain Transactions Involving Imports

The CFE VAT Technical Committee issued Opinion Statement FC 1/2025 addressing the VAT treatment of chain transactions involving imports into the EU.

The Statement identifies legal uncertainty around allocation of transport and import VAT exemptions, calling for coordinated guidance and harmonised implementation to support traders and advisers across the Single Market.

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CFE SPRING MEETINGS

In the week of 24 March, CFE held its Spring Technical and Governance Meetings, welcoming Committee delegates in Brussels as well as online for hybrid-format meetings.

Technical Committee Meetings

Fiscal Committee – Indirect Taxes

Discussed the VAT in the Digital Age developments, cross-border implementation issues, and next steps in indirect tax simplification.

Fiscal Committee – Direct Taxes

Reviewed international tax policy, ECJ case-law developments, and future work on taxation of remote work and professional mobility.

Tax Technology Committee

Discussed AI in tax advisory, cybersecurity, and digitalisation, with working groups reporting on new professional and educational tools.



Professional Affairs Committee

Discussed AI ethics, professional privilege, IESBA updates, AML obligations, and preparations for the September Professional Affairs Conference.

New Tax Professionals Committee

Explored skills and ethical challenges for early-career advisers, with a focus on inter-committee cooperation.

Governance Meetings

General Assembly Dialogue & General Assembly

The Assembly discussed governance priorities, approved the 2024 accounts and discussed the September 2025 meetings in Ghent.

Executive Board Meeting

Reviewed strategic planning, technical committee progress, and the future direction of CFE's policy and engagement work.

FALL CFE EVENTS & MEETINGS

17 Fall CFE Conference & Meetings

CFE's Professional Affairs Conference and the Fall Technical & Governance meetings will take place from 17 to 19 September 2025 in Ghent, Belgium. Save the date! More details will follow in due course.

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CFE Tax Advisers Europe Avenue De Broqueville 12 Brussels 1150 Belgium

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