

To: Taxation Working Group; Financial Reporting Working Group; Public Affairs & Communications Committee

## Commission proposes new transparency rules for tax planning intermediaries

### Latest developments

Today, the European Commission's DG TAXUD published a proposal on new transparency rules for intermediaries. The proposal aims to strengthen scrutiny of certain professions such as tax advisors, accountants, banks and lawyers who design and promote tax planning schemes for their clients.

Under the proposed rules, authorities would be able to react much more quickly to risks of tax abuse, as intermediaries will have to report the relevant arrangements before they are used. Member state authorities would receive such reports and be able to act on fraudulent practices.

Moreover, Member States must put in place proper penalties are in place for intermediaries that fail to meet these reporting requirements. In cross-border cases, the information is to be shared with tax authorities of other member states as well under the DAC automatic exchange provisions.

The EC notes that the provisions would act as a deterrent for those that promote aggressive tax planning schemes on grounds that intermediaries are less likely to design arrangements that will be blocked before they can be implemented.

Please refer to the following published documents:

[Press Release on the proposal](#)

[Memo on the proposal](#)

[Text of the proposal](#) and the [annex](#)

[Impact assessment](#)

[Outcome of the public consultation on intermediaries](#)

### Next steps

The proposal, which takes the form of an amendment to the Directive for Administration Cooperation (DAC), will be submitted to the European Parliament for consultation and to the Council for adoption. It is foreseen that the new reporting requirements would enter into force on 1 January 2019, with EU Member States obliged to exchange information every 3 months after that.

### For more info

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