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The Commission presents Package to fight tax evasion and aggressive tax planning: extracts from the press conference by Algirdas ŠEMETA, Member of the EC in charge of Taxation and Customs Union, Audit, Anti-Fraud

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On 6 December, Algirdas Šemeta, Member of the EC in charge of Taxation and Customs Union, Audit, Anti-Fraud presented the comprehensive package to strengthen the fight against tax evasion and aggressive tax planning in the EU that the European Commission adopted today. These recommendations urge Member States to use, to full effect, the powerful tools already at their disposal. They should properly apply EU rules on administrative cooperation and information exchange, and rapidly agree on key proposals that could help recapture billions of euros. These include the revision of the EU Savings Tax Directive, a negotiating mandate to update the existing EU savings taxation agreements with Switzerland and other European third countries, and the Quick Reaction Mechanism to fight VAT fraud. The Code of Conduct on Business Taxation should also be reinvigorated, to better address instances of harmful tax competition. Its scope could also be widened e.g. to cover wealthy individuals. In the short term, EU measures will include a Taxpayers' Code to improve compliance and standardised forms for information exchange. The Commission will review the anti-abuse provisions in the Directives on Parent-Subsidiary, Mergers and Interest and Royalties. In the medium and long term, measures will include an EU Tax Identification Number (TIN), an EU tax web portal, guidelines for tracing money flows and possibly common sanctions for tax offences.

HEURE	DESCRIPTION	DUREE
00:00:00	Title	00:00:05
00:00:05	Algirdas Šemeta, Member of the EC in charge of Taxation and Customs Union, Audit, Anti-Fraud, on stage	00:00:04
00:00:09	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:04
00:00:13	SOUNDBITE (in English) Algirdas Šemeta: I present to you today a comprehensive Action Plan to better fight tax evasion and avoidance as a Union. It sets out over 30 measures to close loopholes, increase information exchange, reinforce rules and intensify cooperation between Member States. And all those measures support a new EU stance based on 3 fundamental points: Tax competition in the EU cannot open ways to fraudsters and evaders; the EU should have a stronger EU stance in relation to 3rd countries that facilitate evaders.	00:00:39
00:00:52	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:09

00:01:01	SOUNDBITE (in English) Algirdas Šemeta: The Code of Conduct on Business Taxation provides a solid basis for Member States to assess each other's tax regimes, and demand that harmful ones be amended. However, I believe that this Code could be used with more ambition by Member States than it is today. I urge any Member State that has any concern that our standards are being compromised to immediately put this before the Code. They should also look into strengthening it and expanding its scope, notably to wealthy individuals. Among the other ideas in today's Action Plan are an EU Tax Identification Number, better tools for information exchange, and extending the scope of Eurofisc. Through better use of our current tools and targeted new actions, we can reinforce transparency, information exchange and fair competition within the EU.	00:01:10
00:02:11	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:05
00:02:16	SOUNDBITE (in English) Algirdas Šemeta: The next important step that I propose is to extend our good governance principles beyond the EU. There is no valid reason why our global partners should not respect the same minimum standards as our Member States. So, we must take a tougher line against tax havens. And we must take it together. It is time for the EU to have its own definition of tax havens, which goes beyond current globally accepted standards, and to define and use defensive tools against uncooperative jurisdictions.	00:00:42
00:02:58	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:04
00:03:02	SOUNDBITE (in English) Algirdas Šemeta: We are currently in the process of infringement procedures against Luxembourg on specific issues of electronics books. And this infringement procedure is ongoing and I would urge Luxembourg to change this regime in order to comply with the EU legislation.	00:00:27
00:03:29	Cutaway of journalists	00:00:05
00:03:34	Algirdas Šemeta leaving	00:00:07
00:03:41	End	00:00:00

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