



EUROPEAN COMMISSION Audiovisual Services

Extracts from the press conference by Algirdas Šemeta on the setting up by the EC of a platform for tax good governance

Type: [Press conference - summary](#) Référence: [I077707](#) Durée: 03:26 Lieu: [Brussels - EC/Berlaymont](#)

On 23 April 2013, Algirdas Šemeta, Member of the EC in charge of Taxation, Customs, Statistics, Audit and Anti-Fraud, held a press conference on the Platform for Tax Good Governance set up by the Commission to fight tax evasion. The Platform will monitor Member States' progress in tackling aggressive tax planning and clamping down on tax havens. The aim is to ensure that real and effective action is taken by Member States to address these problems, within a coordinated EU framework. The Platform will be comprised of a wide cross-section of interested parties - national tax authorities, European Parliament, businesses, academics, NGOs and other stakeholders. This will also facilitate dialogue and exchange of expertise, which can feed into a more coordinated and effective EU approach against tax evasion and avoidance.



HEURE	DESCRIPTION	DUREE
00:00:00	Title	00:00:05
00:00:05	Exterior view of the European Commission Berlaymont building	00:00:05
00:00:10	General view of the EC press briefing	00:00:02
00:00:12	SOUNDBITE by Algirdas Šemeta, Member of the EC in charge of Taxation, Customs, Statistics, Audit and Anti-Fraud, (in ENGLISH) saying that the EC has established a Platform for Tax Good Governance, to ensure real delivery on an EU approach against tax evaders and avoiders; this Platform was foreseen in the Action Plan he presented in December 2012; in bringing together national authorities and non-governmental experts, it will serve as a forum to coordinate and develop the best possible defence against tax evasion, tax avoidance and tax havens; but, just as importantly, it will serve as a source of strong peer pressure; in recent weeks, there has been a renewed vigour amongst Member States to take up the fight against tax evasion; this is a highly welcome development; however, words must be turned into deeds; good intentions must develop into concrete actions.	00:01:04

00:01:16	Cutaway of press	00:00:03
00:01:19	SOUNDBITE by Algirdas Šemeta (in ENGLISH) on an exchange of information agreement with Switzerland: saying that first, the EC needs to get a mandate from the Member States to negotiate; taking into account the recent international developments, these negotiations could cover a broad range of income; the EC is ready to start negotiating as soon as the Council extends the mandate.	00:00:33
00:01:53	Cutaway	00:00:03
00:01:56	SOUNDBITE by Algirdas Šemeta (in ENGLISH) saying that the EU has all the necessary legislation to ensure the broadest possible scope of automatic exchange of information; he sees this initiative of five Member States as an initiative to frontload the entry into force of this legislation; because some provisions – agreed by all 27 Member States in 2011 – will enter into force only after 2017 and these provisions concern very important types of income, like dividends, capital gains and royalties.	00:00:53
00:02:48	Cutaway	00:00:05
00:02:53	SOUNDBITE by Algirdas Šemeta (in ENGLISH) on how long it will take: saying that it can be done relatively quickly, in the course of 2013, if there is an opportunity to make the necessary tests to ensure that the automatic exchange of information within the European Union includes the as broad a scope as necessary.	00:00:29
00:03:23	Cutaway	00:00:03