"Green Paper on the future of VAT - Towards a simpler, more robust and efficient VAT system"

Milan, 6 May 2011

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

This Conference takes place in the framework of the six month period of debate and consultation following the publication on 1 December 2010 of the Green Paper on the future of VAT - Towards a simpler, more robust and efficient VAT system.

08:30 – 09:30 **Registration and Welcome Coffee**

09:30 – 10:00 **Opening of the conference**

Welcome by Fabrizia Lapecorella, Director General at the Ministry of Finance, Italy
Speech by Algirdas Šemeta, Commissioner, Taxation and Customs Union, Audit and Anti-Fraud

10:00 – 12:30 **Session 1: Adapting the VAT system to the Single Market**

- VAT treatment of cross-border supplies (defining the place of supplies of services and goods and their taxation)
- Adapting the VAT system to large and pan-European businesses
- Small and Medium businesses (SMEs)

10:00 – 10:40 Keynote speeches:
Large businesses: Chris Needham (General Electric)
SMEs: Antonio Vento (Confcommercio)

10:40 – 11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00 – 12:30 Panel discussion
After a short statement by each member of the panel, the floor should be open for a discussion with all participants
Moderator: European Commission (DG Taxation and Customs Union)
Panellists:

- Chris Needham (General Electric)
- Stuart Adam (Institute for Fiscal Studies)
- Antonio Vento (Confcommercio)
- Ádám Balog (Hungarian Presidency)

12:30 - 14:00 **Buffet Lunch**

14:00 - 15:30 **Session 2: Enhancing the administration of the VAT system**

- Reducing complexity and administrative burden on businesses
- Enhancing the efficiency of tax administrations
- Reviewing VAT collection
- Protecting bona fide traders against involvement in fraud

14:00 – 14:15 Keynote speech: Ine Lejeune (PWC)

14:15 – 15:30 Panel discussion

After a short statement by each member of the panel, the floor should be open for a discussion with all participants

Moderator: European Commission (DG Taxation and Customs Union)

Panellists:

- Ine Lejeune (PWC)
- Gottfried Schellmann (Confédération Fiscale Européenne)
- Milena Piasente (Italian Ministry of Finance)
- Kristian Koktvedgaard (BusinessEurope)
- Richard Brown (HM Treasury)

15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee break**

16:00 – 17:20 **Session 3: The keys to fiscal consolidation and neutrality of VAT**

- Broadening the tax base and reviewing the rates structure
- Principles of deduction

16:00 – 16:15 Keynote speech: José Manuel García-Margallo Y Marfil (MEP, Vice-Chair of the ECON Committee)

16:15 – 17:20 Panel discussion

After a short statement by each member of the panel, the floor should be open for a discussion with all participants

Moderator: European Commission (DG Taxation and Customs Union)

Panellists:

- Piet Battiau (OECD)
- José Manuel García-Margallo Y Marfil (MEP, Vice-Chair of the ECON Committee)
- Jörg Kräusel (German Ministry of Finance)
- Claude Grosjean (Swiss Federal Tax administration)

17:20 – 18:00 **Closing Session**

Closing remarks: European Commission (DG Taxation and Customs Union)

Speech: Giulio Tremonti, Italian Minister of Economy and Finance