



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 27.5.2021
C(2021) 3964 final*

Dear Presidents,

The Commission would like to thank the Houses of the Oireachtas for their Opinion on the Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 2006/112/EC as regards conferral of implementing powers to the Commission to determine the meaning of the terms used in certain provisions of that Directive {COM(2020) 749 final}.

This proposal was announced by the Commission in its Communication on an Action Plan for Fair and Simple Taxation supporting the Recovery Strategy {COM(2020) 312 final}. An amendment of the Directive 2006/112/EC (hereinafter: 'the VAT Directive') has thus been proposed in order to create a committee that would oversee the adoption of implementing acts in certain areas of VAT by the Commission.

The Commission is pleased that the Houses of the Oireachtas share the view that action at EU level is required to tackle the problem of discrepancies in the application of EU VAT legislation. It takes note of the concerns regarding the qualified majority voting within the proposed committee, required for the adoption of implementing acts by the Commission. It would like to recall that qualified majority voting and comitology procedures are already used in indirect taxation, in particular for administrative cooperation and excise duties. Comitology is the long-standing standard approach used in EU Law for facilitating the emergence of a common view and practice.

The Commission also duly notes the Houses of the Oireachtas' recommendation that specific proposals be brought forward on VAT issues that require legislative clarity.

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The Commission hopes that these comments address the issues raised by the Houses of the Oireachtas and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

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Vice-President

Paolo Gentiloni
Member of the Commission

