



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 4.11.2015  
C(2015) 7557 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion concerning the Commission proposals for a Council Directive repealing Council Directive 2003/48/EC {COM(2015) 129 final} and for a Council Directive amending Directive 2011/16/EU as regards mandatory automatic exchange of information in the field of taxation {COM(2015) 135 final}.*

*The two proposals are part of a package of tax transparency measures adopted by the Commission on 18 March 2015 with a view to tackle in an efficient and effective way tax avoidance and harmful tax competition in the EU. The main element of this package is the Commission's proposal set out in the second document referred to above {COM (2015) 135 final}, which is designed to ensure that a broad range of relevant tax rulings issued by Member States is captured by an automatic exchange of information, allowing the Member States potentially concerned by the risk of abuse of these rulings to ask individually for more detailed information.*

*The Commission is grateful to the Senato della Repubblica for its acknowledgement that the Commission's legislative proposals respect the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, and for its endorsement of the two-step stage approach for the exchange of information enshrined in the proposal concerning rulings.*

*In the proposal concerning tax rulings, the Commission took steps to minimise the administrative burden for administrations and limit the transfer of confidential information to what is strictly necessary to address the issues at stake.*

*As President Juncker noted in his State of the Union speech to the European Parliament in September, the Commission has been working hard with the Council to conclude an agreement on the proposal on rulings before the end of the year and welcomes the political agreement reached at the Economic and Financial Affairs Council of 6 October 2015. The Commission hopes that this will allow the new Directive to be up and running*

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*as from 2017. Whilst meeting this target will also require efforts on the part of national administrations, the successful and timely implementation of the Directive will demonstrate the EU's commitment to a fairer and more transparent tax system, not only to its international partners in the OECD and beyond, but also to its own citizens.*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Senato della Repubblica and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Pierre Moscovici  
Member of the Commission*