

International Tax Conference
'Pay your taxes where you add the value'
Thursday, 2 July 2015



to be held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
The Hague, the Netherlands

In co-operation with the Universities of Groningen and Tilburg and the Dutch Association of Investors for Sustainable Development (VBDO) the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands organizes a one-day international tax conference. The conference will provide a forum for academics, companies, government officials and members of civil society to discuss effective ways to support developing countries' tax policy and revenue collection. The conference aims to feed national policymaking as well as the international debate on domestic resource mobilization in the post 2015 area. The conference is held in the context of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, of which Lilianne Ploumen, the Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, is co-chair.

Tax avoidance by multinationals is hampering domestic resources mobilisation in many countries. In particular developing countries find it very hard to levy the right amount of taxes on profits of foreign companies earned within their borders. At the same time developing countries are confronted with decreasing aid budgets and badly need the revenues to finance essential public investments. Mobilisation of domestic resources will also be one of the major issues at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13 to 16 July 2015.

Insufficient coordination between the different national fiscal systems offers ample opportunities for tax avoidance world-wide. G20 and OECD try to address mismatches and loopholes in the global 'patchwork' of tax regulations through the BEPS (Base Erosion and Profit Shifting) project. The OECD will come with its full set of recommendations by the end of 2015. Other international organizations, such as EU, IMF, UN and World Bank, as well as regional organisations and individual countries are active with own initiatives, either to enhance fiscal co-operation or to strengthen capacities of tax administrations. The conference 'Pay your taxes where you add the value' will focus on how we can best support developing countries in fighting tax avoidance and collecting a fair amount of taxes.

The conference includes introductions of various experts on fiscal rule-making and cooperation and a presentation of the results of the Tax Transparency Benchmark 2015.

The conference is free of charge for registered participants. Please use the accompanying registration form.

Tentative Conference Programme

08:15 – 09:00 Registration

09:00 – 10:45 Plenary opening session

1. Introduction by Marnix van Rij, Chairman of the Conference (Senior Tax Partner, Ernst & Young Belastingadviseurs LLP)
2. Introduction by Lilianne Ploumen, Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation and Co-Chair of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation
3. Introduction by Pascal Saint-Amans, Director, OECD Centre for Tax Policy and Administration
4. Award ceremony of the Tax Transparency Benchmark 2015 with an introduction by Giuseppe van der Helm, Chairman Dutch Association of Investors for Sustainable Development (VBDO)

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 – 12:45 Plenary session

Ensuring a sound tax base in developing countries: Are the current international initiatives sufficient?

The session is organized in cooperation with Tilburg University and will provide an overview of the way the international fiscal challenges are actually addressed.

Moderator: Professor Eric Kemmeren, Tilburg University

Speakers of IMF, World Bank and ATAF

12:45 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 Two parallel afternoon sessions

1. Responsible corporate behaviour in tax matters: What are the potential benefits for developing countries?

This session is organized in cooperation with the Dutch Association of Investors for Sustainable Development (VBDO) and will address the role of corporate social responsibility.

Moderator: Marnix van Rij

Speakers of VBDO, Business, Accountancy and NGO

2. Support to developing countries: How to assist them to fight tax evasion and tax avoidance and to collect their fair share of taxes?

This session is organized in cooperation with the University of Groningen and will address particular measures which may assist developing countries in raising their tax revenues.

Moderator: Professor Irene Burgers, University of Groningen

Speakers of tax administration of a developing country, foreign university and IBFD

15:30 - 16:15 Tea break

16:15 - 17:00 Plenary closing session on the way forward

1. Rapporteurs of various sessions will present their recommendations
2. Address by Eric Wiebes, Dutch State Secretary for Finance
3. Conclusions by the Chairman of the Conference

17:00 – 19:00 Drinks

