

The EU Standard of good governance in tax matters for third (non-EU) countries

Irma Johanna Mosquera Valderrama

Associate Professor of Tax Law– Principal investigator *EU-ERC GLOBTAXGOV*



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands



European
Research
Council

Topics

**Standard of good
governance in tax matters**

Import/export

Legal status standard



1. Standard of good governance

- **2008: Transparency, exchange of information and fair tax competition**
 - 2012: Harmful tax and list of non-cooperative jurisdictions
 - 2016: Anti-tax avoidance package: Harmful tax, anti-Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) measures and fair economic activity (tax rate/not artificial)
 - 2017: List of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes
- **2018: Transparency, exchange of information, fair taxation and BEPS 4 Minimum Standards**

2. Role EU

EU role in the formation of international law – proactive co-shaping of the international legal order alongside other actors
(*Kochenov and Amtenbrink, 2013*)

In taxation

- **Standard:** Improve international tax cooperation and facilitate the collection of legitimate tax revenues
- **EU as a major political and economic player internationally:** To support BEPS (smooth and timely implementation) in the single market and internationally

3. EU and standard of good governance in tax matters

Standard can be introduced in:

- For third (non-EU countries) strategic partnership agreement: Legally binding framework for cooperation
- For third (non-EU countries) a coordinated tax clause that should be included in free trade agreements that the EU concludes with third countries
- For third (non-EU countries) relevant agreements, without prejudice to their respective competences. Thus trade and strategic partnership but also other areas (aid, cooperation)

4. Import/Export EU standards

- Reasons: (i) authority; (ii) prestige and imposition; (iii) chance and necessity (iv) expected efficacy of law and (v) political, economical and reputational incentives (*Mosquera 2007*)

Examples

- Environmental and labour standards
- 1995 Data Protection Directive
- Sometimes standards are not developed by EU, but international standards (agreed, before entering into force, before binding form, only adopted by few countries) (*Scott 2014*)

Standard of good governance is an import or export of EU norms?

Legal status of the standards?

4. Import/Export EU standards

Import of norms: Transparency and exchange of information: International standards used developed by The G20-OECD and then, used by the EU in international agreements. After import, the standard is exported throughout the agreements.

Export of norms: Fair tax Competition. Standard developed by the EU, and later on by the OECD

5. Legal status standards

Transparency and exchange of information

Binding

- Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance (126 countries/jurisdictions)
- MCAA CRS - Automatic Exchange of Information (104 countries/jurisdictions)

Consequences

- The international standards introduced in the agreement become binding standards.
- However, mismatches between the countries adopting the standards and countries required to implement the standards (if not yet adopted)

5. Legal status standards

4 BEPS Minimum Standards

Non- Binding

- Participants BEPS Inclusive Framework 124 countries/jurisdictions

Consequences

- The international standards introduced in the agreement become binding standards.
- However, mismatches between the countries adopting the standards and countries required to implement the standards (if not yet adopted)

5. Legal status standards

Fair tax competition

- Fair tax competition, fair taxation, harmful tax regimes, state aid (selected tax competition)
- Unclear and vague standard with different meanings: fair, unfair, harmful. Applicable in a subjective way

Non- Binding

- Code of conduct

Consequences

- List of non-cooperative jurisdictions: Member States and Code of Conduct group. Applicable also to EU countries?
- Selected tax competition results in indirect protectionism (*Dourado 2016*)

6. EU Standard in Agreements

➤ **EU- Canada Strategic Partnership Agreement**

- **Title II** The EU and **Canada** commit to upholding democratic principles and human rights, to advancing democracy, including free and fair elections, and the importance of the rule of law for effective democratic governance.

Other agreements

EU- Japan April 2018 Strategic partnership agreement

- A legally binding pact covering not only political dialogue and policy cooperation, but also cooperation on regional and global challenges
- Also linked to Economic Partnership agreement (trade).

EU-South Korea 2010 Framework Agreement

- Also signed trade and investment agreement and framework participation agreement

EU Standard in Agreements: South Korea

Article 12

Taxation

- With a view to strengthening and developing economic activities while taking into account the need to develop an appropriate regulatory framework, the Parties recognise and commit themselves to implement in the tax area the principles of **transparency, exchange of information and fair tax competition**. To that effect, in accordance with their respective competences, the Parties will improve international cooperation in the tax area, facilitate the collection of legitimate tax revenues, and develop measures for the effective implementation of the above mentioned principles.

EU Standard in Agreements: Canada

Article 11

Cooperation on Taxation

With a view to strengthening and developing their economic cooperation, the Parties adhere to and apply **the principles of good governance in the tax area, i.e., transparency, exchange of information and avoidance of harmful tax practices** in the frameworks of the OECD Forum on harmful tax practices and the Union Code of Conduct on business taxation, as applicable. The Parties shall endeavour to work together to promote and improve the implementation of these principles internationally.

1. EU Standard in Agreements: Japan

Article 19

Taxation

With a view to promoting good governance in tax matters, the Parties shall endeavour to enhance cooperation in line with internationally established tax standards, in particular by encouraging third countries to enhance **transparency, ensure exchange of information and eliminate harmful tax practices.**

EU Standard in Agreements

EU- China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation

- Commit to reach an agreement on the adoption of the Global Standard on **Automatic Exchange of Information** being developed by the OECD together with G20 countries in the area of taxation.

EU- Colombia and Peru. 2010 Free Trade Agreement

Art. 155(5) Effective and Transparent regulation

- The Parties also take note of the "Ten Key Principles for Information Sharing" promulgated by the Finance Ministers of the G7 Nations and the Agreement **on Exchange of Information** on Tax Matters of the Organisation on Economic Cooperation and Development's (hereinafter referred to as "OECD") and the Statement on Transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes of the G20.

Visit us at

- **Leiden University, Institute of Tax Law and Economics**
- **GLOBTAXGOV project receives funding from the EU H2020 Research & Innovation Programme and European Research Council**
Blog <https://globtaxgov.weblog.leidenuniv.nl/>
- **Twitter: @GLOBTAXGOV**



**Universiteit
Leiden**
The Netherlands



**European
Research
Council**