



High-Level Webinar Taxation and Business in Africa

An initiative by the European Commission and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States.

15 February: 14:00-17:30 (CET, GMT+1)

This webinar takes place in the context of the EU-Africa Business Forum and the Africa Week ahead of the EU-AU summit. Following the Pandora papers leak and the international deal on corporate taxation, the webinar will provide a platform for engagement about current international tax issues for stakeholders from tax authorities and businesses from Europe, Africa, and international organisations ahead of the political exchange. The three panel discussions will be on:

- International tax reform: Implications for tax administrations and business (14:30-15:25)
- Trade integration and taxation: challenges and opportunities (15:30-16:25)
- Tax transparency: making reporting work for the public and the private sector (16:30-17:30)

Opening

14:00-14:30 (CET, GMT+1)

- Paolo Gentiloni, Commissioner for Economy, European Commission
- Sylvie Baipo Temon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Central Africa Republic, President of the OACPS Council of Minister
- Dr. Yeo Dossina, Acting Director of Economic Development, Integration and Trade. AU
- Edward Kieswetter, Commissioner at South African Revenue Service
- Dr. Amany Asfour, President of the African Business Council
- Prof. Christian Kaeser, Global Head of Tax, SIEMENS. Chair of the International Chamber of Commerce Commission on Taxation

This session and the following panels will be moderated by Melinda Crane

PANEL 1

The Global Tax Reform of the Inclusive Framework: Opportunities and Challenges for Tax Administrations & Businesses

14:30-15:25 (CET, GMT+1)

This panel session will discuss the implications of the international tax reform for tax administrations, legislators and business. Which practical challenges lie ahead? What are the capacity needs that need to be addressed? How is business adapting and preparing for the changes? What may be a message or recommendation to the should be reflected for the OACPS-EU Partnership?

Fabrizia Lapecorella, Director General of Finance, Ministry of economy and finance, Italy, Chair of the Inclusive Framework	How the deal of struck, involvement of African countries, implications for implementation
Moumouni Lougue, Directeur générale des Impôts, Burkina Faso	Preliminary views on the reform, path forward, identified challenges, potential cooperation with the EU.
Benjamin Angel, Director for Direct Taxation, Directorate General for Taxation, European Commission	EU involvement to address reform needs and its own legislative follow-up.
Logan Wort, Secretary General, African Tax Administration Forum	Its role in the talks and what is sees as necessary follow-up support.
Christian Kaeser, Global Head of Tax, Siemens, Chair of the ICC Commission on Taxation	How the reform provides greater tax certainty and which changes will be necessary.
Ben Dickinson, Head of the Global Relations and Development, Centre for Tax Policy and Administration, OECD	The deals ambitious implementation agenda and how to build capacities to ensure it can be achieved.



PANEL 2

Trade integration and taxation: challenges and opportunities

15:30-16:25 (CET, GMT+1)

This panel will discuss the question of revenue implications of economic integration (AfCFTA, EPAs, regional integration) and how countries and business need to adapt in the process. What are the analytical tools necessary to anticipate revenue implications for Ministries of Finance? Which policy considerations should be factored in while moving from at the border taxation to within border taxation? Are there any general recommendations in term of the tax structure? What are practical implications for tax administrations (cooperation with customs, changes in HR requirements etc.) and for business (easier integration of value chains, electronic filing etc.). How can developing partner support partner countries in this process?

Gregoire Rota-Graziosi, Professor Director CERDI	What are some of the main research outcomes on the topic?
Githii Mburu, Commissioner General, Kenya Revenue Authority	What were the analyzed revenue implications linked to trade integration and what policy and administrative measures need to be taken to adapt to the changes?
Antti Karhunen, Director, Directorate General for International Partnerships, European Commission	How does the EU support the analysis of trade agreements on fiscal revenues and tax reforms pursued in partner countries?
Céline Correia, Deputy Tax Group Director of VINCI SA	What are the opportunities of Africa's trade integration and what are some of the key factors of ensuring a positive business revenue authorities relationship based on tax certainty, compliance, and easy handling.
Abdoulaye Coulibaly, Director of the Governance Department, Africa Development Bank	Which capacities are needed to ensure the fiscal transition is successful and how can partners such as the AfDB support process?

PANEL 3

TAX TRANSPARENCY: MAKING REPORTING WORK FOR THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR

16:30-17:30 (CET, GMT+1)

This panel will discuss how to increase transparency and fairness in reporting on international business taxation. It will explore the progress on country-by-country-reporting so far, but also how African can better access and use the data exchanged in the future. It will look into the EU's legislative proposal for public country-by-country reporting and how it responds to an increasing demand by the wider public for higher transparency on international corporate taxation. Finally, it will explore initiatives of voluntary disclosure of tax information beyond legislative obligations and how this can serve both business and administrations.

Mark Johnson, Head of CbCR, OECD	What is the current state of play on CbCR and how can African countries better access and use the data.
Edward Kieswetter, Commissioner at South African Revenue Service	What are the challenges and benefits in the use of CbCR information?
Evelyn Regner, Vice President, European Parliament	The new public CbCR legislation at EU level – more transparency in Europe and beyond.
Juergen Zattler, German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Director General for International Development Policy	How could voluntary disclosure further help in the development agenda
Alan McLean, Executive Vice President, Taxation and Controller, Shell International BV	Why voluntary disclosure of tax information and transparency can make good business sense.
Irma Mosquera Valderrama, Professor, University of Leiden, EUTAXGOV chair	The research perspective.