Netherlands Antilles, Isle of Man Commit to Co-operate with OECD on Eliminating Harmful Tax Practices

The OECD is pleased to announce that the Netherlands Antilles and the Isle of Man have joined OECD member countries and six other jurisdictions in giving a commitment to eliminate harmful tax practices by 31 December 2005. The OECD welcomes these commitments, which include undertakings in favour of transparency, non-discrimination and effective co-operation, and looks forward to working with these jurisdictions to ensure their implementation.

The Netherlands Antilles and the Isle of Man were among 35 jurisdictions identified by the OECD in June as meeting the technical criteria for being tax havens. In making their commitments, the Netherlands Antilles and the Isle of Man ensure that they will not feature the list of Unco-operative Tax Havens to be completed in July 2001. Earlier this year, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Cyprus, Malta, Mauritius and San Marino also made similar commitments.

Both the Netherlands Antilles and the Isle of Man will be invited to participate in the next meeting of the OECD’s Global Forum on Taxation in March 2001, at which there will be a discussion of how to design and implement the effective exchange of information agreements. The OECD encourages other jurisdictions to come forward with such commitments.

To further advance its initiative on harmful tax practices, the OECD will participate early next year in two regional conferences, of which the first will be held in Barbados on 8-9 January 2001. The meeting, hosted by the Government of Barbados, is being jointly organised with the Commonwealth Secretariat. A second regional conference is planned to take place in Tokyo in February.

For further information, journalists are invited to contact Nicholas Bray in the OECD’s Media Relations Division (tel. 33 1 45 24 80 90 or e-mail nicholas.bray@oecd.org).