U.S. Virgin Islands Commits to Co-operate with OECD to Address Harmful Tax Practices

The OECD is pleased to announce that the U.S. Virgin Islands has committed to co-operate in the OECD’s efforts to address harmful tax practices.

The U.S. Virgin Islands was among 35 jurisdictions identified by the OECD in June 2000 as meeting the technical criteria for being a tax haven. As a result of having made a commitment, the U.S. Virgin Islands will not be listed as an unco-operative tax haven.

The U.S. Virgin Islands already satisfies OECD requirements with respect to exchange of information. Effective exchange of information located in the U.S. Virgin Islands is available to foreign countries through the operation of U.S. federal law, the exchange of information provisions of U.S. tax treaties and tax information exchange agreements and the Tax Implementation Agreement Between the United States of America and the Virgin Islands entered into on 24 February 1987. The United States currently has tax treaties or tax information exchange agreements with over 70 countries and is able to use its compulsory powers in the U.S. Virgin Islands to obtain information to respond to requests in accordance with those treaties and agreements. Information provided by the U.S. Virgin Islands to the United States pursuant to the Tax Implementation Agreement may be redisclosed to third countries pursuant to the provisions of an applicable treaty.

The U.S. Virgin Islands largely satisfies OECD requirements with respect to transparency and, where this is not the case, has committed to reviewing its account filing or audit requirements with the objective of ensuring that by December 31, 2005, they meet the standards to be developed by the OECD and co-operative jurisdictions.


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