

GLOBAL FORUM ON  
**TRANSPARENCY AND EXCHANGE OF  
INFORMATION FOR TAX PURPOSES**



# 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting of the Global Forum

26 November 2019 | Paris, France

## **AGENDA**

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*In 2009, the G20 Leaders declared that “[t]he era of banking secrecy is over” and established the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes (the Global Forum) to ensure global tax transparency. Ten years on, the world has changed significantly, to a level few could have predicted. The Global Forum now has over 150 members and tax transparency standards are firmly embedded.*

*Practically all Global Forum members have eliminated bank secrecy and many other barriers to effective information exchange. More recently, nearly 100 jurisdictions began automatically exchanging information on offshore financial accounts. In 2018 alone, information on more than 47 million financial accounts was exchanged, with a total value of around EUR 4.9 trillion. These developments had significant impact with voluntary disclosure programmes and related compliance activities generating over EUR 100 billion in additional revenue.*

*These observations represent the culmination of the huge efforts by Global Forum members, with meticulous changes of hundreds of legal provisions worldwide, along with effective enforcement practices, as ensured through the Global Forum’s peer review processes. The Global Forum also has a significant programme of technical assistance to ensure developing countries benefit from the international tax transparency standards.*

*OECD analysis shows that, in addition to generating significant tax revenues, greater tax transparency also changes taxpayers’ behaviour. Specifically, the automatic exchange of information has led to a sizeable decline in bank deposits in international financial centres over the past decade. This reflects the emerging consensus in academic studies that shows that bank deposits and other capital flows are dropping international financial centres in response to tax transparency measures. Practitioners are also confirming these observations: the appetite for tax evasion and aggressive tax planning has decreased.*

***This year’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary plenary of the Global Forum provides an opportunity to highlight the successes of the Global Forum, reaffirming the progress that has been made to crack down on safe harbours for tax evaders and to show how multilateral tax cooperation works. The event will be attended by over 500 delegates, including over 60 ministerial level participants, who will exchange views on the changes that have taken place and the future agenda. The event will be opened to media and will be streamed online.***

*During the event, participants will reflect on what has been achieved and the impact made by the G20, OECD and Global Forum working together. We will also look to set the agenda for the coming years, to consolidate our achievements but also to ensure the Global Forum has continuing impact in the future in supporting the international community to tackle offshore evasion and avoidance.*

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#### Masters of Ceremony:

Ms Maria José GARDE, Chair, Global Forum and Ms Zayda MANATTA, Head, Global Forum Secretariat

#### 09.00-09.15 Welcoming remarks

- Mr Angel GURRÍA, Secretary-General, OECD

#### 09.15-09.30 Special address

- Mr Bruno LE MAIRE, Minister of Economy and Finance of France

#### 09.30-10.30 Session 1: What made the crackdown on bank secrecy so successful?

In ten years an immense change has been achieved in international tax cooperation. Bank secrecy and other barriers constraining the access to information held by other jurisdictions have been removed – ensuring the international community can effectively tackle offshore tax evasion. This session will bring together key players in this change to discuss the factors that came together in 2009 to ensure the success of the multilateral action.

**Moderator:** Ms Gabriela RAMOS, OECD Chief of Staff and Sherpa

##### Panellists:

Mr Pierre GRAMEGNA, Minister of Finance, Luxembourg

Mr David MASONDO, Deputy Minister of Finance, South Africa

Ms Anne MICHEL, Journalist, Le Monde

Mr Pierre MOSCOVICI, Commissioner of Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs, European Commission

Mr Wolfgang SCHMIDT, State Secretary, Germany

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#### 10.30-10.45 Group Photo – For all participants

#### 10.45-11.15 Networking Break

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#### 11.15-12.45 Session 2: Tax transparency delivered: How different is the world today?

The impact of increased transparency and exchange of tax information can be observed at several levels. This session will consist of three panels, each providing a different perspective:

##### *2.a. Insights from governments: “What does the increased tax transparency mean for your jurisdiction?”*

Each of the 158 member jurisdictions of the Global Forum has its own story to share about tackling offshore tax evasion through the effective implementation of the international tax transparency standards. In this session, jurisdictions will present their experience in fighting offshore tax evasion, the challenges which they have faced and the gains generated by tackling offshore tax evasion through tax transparency and the exchange of information.

**Moderator:** Ms. Stephanie JOHNSTON, Journalist, Tax Analysts

##### Panellists:

Mr Kwaku AGYEMAN KWARTENG, Deputy Minister of Revenue, Ghana

Mr António MENDONÇA MENDES, Secretary of State, Portugal

Ms Daniela STOFFEL, State Secretary, Switzerland

Mr Kevin Peter TURNQUEST, Deputy Prime Minister, The Bahamas



*2.b. Insights from the financial sector: “Has the financial industry changed?”*

With the worldwide implementation of tax transparency standards, the use of shell entities and anonymous accounts to evade taxes is no longer viable. In this session, industry leaders will discuss how the practices of the financial sector have changed as a result of increased tax transparency.

**Moderator:** Mr. Stephen SHAY, Harvard Law School

**Panellists:**

Ms Brooke HARRINGTON, Professor of Sociology, Dartmouth College

Mr Stefan LINIGER, Chief Executive, Kaiser Partner

Mr John RICHES, Co-Chair of Public Policy Committee, STEP

*2.c. Insights from academic community: “How do taxpayers react to these changes?”*

Several new studies have recently emerged documenting how taxpayers’ behaviour has changed in response to greater transparency. In this session, leading academics will set out the findings and discuss what conclusions can be drawn.

**Moderator:** Mr Stephen SHAY, Harvard Law School

**Panellists:**

Ms Annette ALSTADSÆTER, Professor, Norwegian University of Life Sciences

Mr Niels JOHANNESSEN, Professor, University of Copenhagen

Mr Pierce O'REILLY, Economist, Centre for Tax Policy & Administration, OECD

12:45-13:15

**Press Conference**

13.15-14.30

Lunch for Ministers and Heads of Delegation

Lunch for all other Participants

13:30-14:30

**OECD Film Corner: “The Price We Pay” with Brigitte ALEPIN**

14.30-15.30

**Session 3: Tax transparency and domestic revenue mobilisation**

The Global Forum has been supporting its developing country members to build their capacity through tax transparency. In 2019 alone, nearly 50 developing country members are receiving technical assistance and an increasing number of them are reporting improvements in their tax revenue as a result of exchange of information. In this session, ministers from developing countries, international organisations and civil society will discuss the role tax transparency plays in supporting domestic revenue mobilisation.

**Moderator:** Mr Simon BOWERS, Investigative Journalist, International Consortium of Investigative Journalists

**Panellists:**

Mr Victor HARISON, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, African Union Commission

Mr Ahmed KOUCHOUK, Vice-Minister, Fiscal Policies & Institutional Reforms, Egypt

Ms Irene OVONJI-ODIDA, ICRIT and Pan African Lawyers Union Task Force on IFFs

Mr Vladimir VILLALOBOS, Vice-Minister of Revenues, Costa Rica

Mr Logan WORT, Executive Secretary, African Tax Administration Forum

15.30-16.30

**Session 4: Is it the end of tax scandals? What's next?**

In this session, ministers and others will present their views on the future of tax transparency and cross-border cooperation between tax authorities. The session will focus on new challenges, such as digital financial assets, old challenges where multilateral tax cooperation falls short on delivering its full potential, such as international assistance in tax recovery and evolving challenges such as confidentiality of tax information.

**Moderator:** Mr Alexis FAVRE, Journalist, Radio Télévision Suisse (RTS)

**Panellists:**

Mr Andrej BERTONCELJ, Minister of Finance, Slovenia

Ms Siv JENSEN, Minister of Finance, Norway

Mr Otto SONNENHOLZNER, Vice-President, Ecuador

16.30-16.45

**Signing Ceremony**

Several members of the Global Forum will sign the multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters ("MAC") and/or the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting ("MLI"), therewith affirming their commitment to the tax transparency agenda.

16.45-17.15

**Networking Break**

17.15-18.15

**Session 5: Debate "So in conclusion, Is the job of the Global Forum done or just started?"**

This session will draw conclusions from the plenary and consider what the ongoing role of the Global Forum should be in the international tax transparency agenda. It will consist of a presidential candidate-style debate between several high-level representatives who will debate whether the Global Forum has fully achieved its goals and, as a consequence, what the role of the Global Forum should be in the future.

**Moderator:** Mr Christian CHAVAGNEUX, Journalist, Alternatives Économiques

**Panellists:**

Ms Erika MOUYNES, Vice-Minister of Multilateral Affairs and Cooperation, Panama

Mr Morten BØDSKOV, Minister of Taxation, Denmark

Mr Mohamed Ridha CHALGHOU, Minister of Finance, Tunisia

Mr Pascal SAINT-AMANS, Director, OECD Centre for Tax Policy & Administration

Mr Ryan STRAUGHN, Minister, Ministry of Finance, Barbados

18.15-18.30

**Closing Addresses:** Ms Maria José GARDE, Chair, Global Forum & Ms Zayda MANATTA, Head of the Global Forum Secretariat

18.30-23.30

**Gala Dinner**



<https://oe.cd/tax-transparency>



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