

# **International Tax**

Newsletter



This e-newsletter gives you an overview of international tax developments being reported globally by KPMG member firms in the Europe and Africa regions between **1 November and 30 November 2014**.

Czech Republic	Germany	<u>Lithuania</u>	<u>OECD</u>	<u>Switzerland</u>
<u>Denmark</u>	Greece	Luxembourg	Poland	United Kingdom
<u>Estonia</u>	<u>Hungary</u>	<u>Mauritius</u>	Slovakia	
European Union	Ireland	<u>Netherlands</u>	<u>Spain</u>	
<u>France</u>	<u>Italy</u>	<u>Nigeria</u>	Sweden	

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To contact the International Tax Team email internationaltax@kpmg.com.

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	Tax area concerned	Relevant date/case reference	Description of measures and publication link (Considerations in italic where necessary)
Czech Republic			
Tax legislation adopted and regulatory update	Various tax areas	1 January 2015 / September 2017	<ul> <li>KPMG in the Czech Republic reports on the following developments:</li> <li>Taxpayer-favorable changes to tax procedure rules, effective January 2015, concerning payments of interest and penalties</li> <li>Concerning VAT, application of a reverse-charge mechanism concerning domestic taxable supplies has been extended to some other commodities effective 1 January 2015</li> <li>Assessing taxpayer economic stability for excise tax purposes under a stricter licensing procedure</li> <li>Ministry of Finance proposes measures for substantiation; taxpayers would have to substantiate the difference between the value of their property and the income they report in tax returns</li> </ul>

Czech Republic likely to introduce global automatic exchange of financial information in September 2017
<ul> <li>Interest on excessive VAT deductions.</li> </ul>
Read more

Denmark			
KPMG Publications	WHT	12 November 2014	Danish companies subject to Danish corporate income tax generally must withhold tax at a rate of 27 percent on dividend distributions, but the rate of the withholding tax may be reduced to 15 percent when dividends are distributed to Danish domiciled investments funds that are known as "IMBs" (i.e., investment companies or investment institutes with minimum taxation).  Read more

### Back to top

Estonia				
Tax legislation adopted and regulatory update	Tax compliance	2015	A new version of a combined form used to report both corporate income tax and payroll taxes (Form TSD) will be effective beginning in 2015, with the first one to be filed by 10 February 2015.  Read more	

European Union			
Proposed legislation	Financial transaction tax/General anti- avoidance rule	14 November 2014	The Council of the EU (ECOFIN) late last week considered in more detail two proposals:  • A proposal for a directive on a financial transaction tax (FTT) for those EU Member States participating under the enhanced cooperation regime  • A proposal to introduce a general anti-avoidance rule (GAAR) into the Parent-Subsidiary Directive. The discussions did not result in either proposal being approved.  Read more
KPMG publications	OECD BEPS Action Plan - Taking the pulse in the EMA region	18 November 2014	KPMG report examines survey results concerning actions and reactions in several European countries—Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom—to the OECD's initiative to curb base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).  Read more

France			
Tax legislation adopted and regulatory update	VAT	7 November 2014	Foreign companies that are not established in France, but that are subject to the French VAT rules, must comply with certain new electronic reporting requirements.  Read more
Proposed legislation	Various tax areas	November 2014	Recent tax legislative action in France includes:  Passage by the French assembly on 18 November 2014 of a draft Finance Bill for 2015 (which now will be presented to the Senate)  Introduction by the French government on 12 November 2014 of a second draft amended Finance Bill for 2014.  Read more

### Back to top

Germany			
Proposed legislation	Anti-hybrid financing rules/ BEPS	24 October 2014	Legislative proposals in Germany would, if enacted, limit cross-border hybrid financing arrangements, amend the rules for intra-group transfers, and revise the rules for the participation exemption for capital gains on portfolio shareholding.  Read more
	BEPS	11 November 2014	The governments of Germany and the United Kingdom agreed to a joint proposal to advance negotiations on new rules on preferential IP (intellectual property) regimes within the G20/OECD BEPS project.  Read more

# Back to top

Greece			
Tax legislation adopted and regulatory update	Individual income tax	October 2014	Guidance issued by the Ministry of Finance addresses the tax treatment of benefits-in-kind provided to employees.  Read more

Hungary			
Tax legislation adopted and regulatory update	Various tax areas	18 November 2014	The Hungarian Parliament approved legislation that, once enacted, would amend provisions relating to corporate income tax, individual (personal) income tax, value added tax, customs duties, among other

	measures.
	Read more

Ireland	Ireland			
Tax legislation adopted and regulatory update	Individual income tax	2015	Changes to Ireland's foreign earnings deduction—a tax relief mechanism available to employees of Irish companies who spend time working overseas in certain qualifying countries—make the deduction available to Irish-resident individuals who spend at least 40 qualifying days* working outside of Ireland in any of the qualifying countries for a continuous 12-month period (compared to a required minimum of 60 qualifying days for years prior to 2015).  Read more	
Administrative and case law	Air travel tax	25 November 2014	The General Court of the European Union issued a judgment that partially annuls a decision of the European Commission declaring that an exemption of transfer and transit passengers from the payment of the Irish air travel tax did not constitute State aid. Ryanair v. Commission, T-512/11.  Read more	
KPMG publications	Choose Ireland / Corporate Tax	4 November 2014	Ireland's corporate tax rates are EU approved and Ireland offers some of the world's lowest corporate tax rates. Ireland's low tax policies are pursued consistently and are supported by all of the major political parties.  Read more	
Other	Exchange of information	12 November 2014	Ireland joined some 65 other countries and jurisdictions in committing to putting the necessary arrangements in place to allow for financial information to be shared with the other countries that also signed the agreement for automatic sharing of financial information for tax purposes.  Read more	

Italy	Italy			
Tax legislation adopted and regulatory update	VAT	November 2014	The Italian government approved a decree that contains changes to the VAT rules and that will be effective with the publication of the decree in the official gazette.  Read more	
Proposed legislation	Voluntary disclosures	November 2014	Legislation in Italy would allow Italian taxable entities and individuals to regularize their assets—before the introduction of the automatic exchange of information standard—by making voluntary disclosures.  Read more	

Lithuania			
Tax legislation adopted and regulatory update	Various tax areas	August/ September 2014	Commentaries prepared by the State Tax Inspectorate of the Finance Ministry concern:  Individual (personal) income tax treatment of interest on non-equity securities, life insurance, and pension premiums paid  What type of income of an individual non-resident is taxable in Lithuania  Corporate income tax incentive for film production companies  Loss carry forwards for corporate income tax purposes  VAT registration of newly established entities.  Read more

### Back to top

Luxembourg			
Treaties	Various tax areas	2016	Legislation concerning the ratification of the fourth Protocol to amend the Luxembourg-France income tax treaty is expected to be submitted in early 2015. Consequently, the Protocol (signed in September 2014) is expected to be effective—at the earliest—as from the 2016 civil or financial year.  Read more
KPMG publications	Impact of new Dutch case law on tax reclaim procedure	14 November 2014	What is the effect of withholding tax refund procedures in the Netherlands on Luxembourg investment arrangements or funds? KPMG in Luxembourg asserts that the Dutch refund procedures may be viewed as being potentially discriminatory, given a reduction rule that is applicable to Dutch financial investment institutions, but not to others.  Read more
	WHT Reclaims in Sweden – A positive evolution	October 2014	The KPMG member firm in Luxembourg has prepared a report that addresses the availability of withholding tax refunds for UTICS funds, including Luxembourg SICAVs, in Sweden.  Read more
	Withholding tax refunds of SICAVs in Austria, Finland	October 2014	The KPMG member firm in Luxembourg has prepared reports that address the tax treatment of Luxembourg SICAVs in Austria and Finland.  Read more

### Back to top

# Mauritius

Tax legislation FA adopted and regulatory update	ATCA November 2014	The Mauritius Revenue Authority released guidance that is intended to provide practical assistance to financial institutions, businesses, their advisers, and officials dealing with the application of FATCA.  Read more
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Netherlands	Netherlands			
Tax legislation adopted and regulatory update	Exchange of information	1 January 2016	The Dutch Finance Minister signed a declaration on the automatic exchange of tax information based on the "common reporting standard" (CRS).  Read more	
Administrative and case law	Individual income tax	13 November 2014	The Advocate General of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), in a 13 November 2014 opinion, concluded that the 150-kilometer limit for purposes of the "30 percent tax relief" in the Netherlands—i.e., foreign employees with specific expertise deemed to be scarce in the Dutch labor market are eligible for a 30 percent tax relief benefit—does not violate EU law in the majority of cases when the subject employees can commute daily between their foreign residences and their places of work in the Netherlands.  Read more	

### Back to top

Nigeria			
Administrative and case law	Corporate tax	20 November 2014	The Tax Appeal Tribunal issued a decision that addresses tax issues of oil and gas entities in Nigeria, and whether the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has the authority to disallow expenses claimed as tax-deductible expenses by oil and gas entities.  Read more
Other	Retroactive changes to tax guidance	November 2014	The policy of the Federal Inland Revenue Service of Nigeria is that it may change its position or treatment of a tax issue retroactively if, subsequently, it is determined that the prior position was not correct.  Read more

OECD			
Proposed legislation	BEPS	21 November 2014	The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) released a discussion draft concerning follow-up work as mandated under a report with respect to Action 6 (prevent treaty abuse) under the base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS)

	action plan.
	Read more

Poland	Poland		
Administrative and case law	VAT	16 October 2014	A judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in the case <i>Welmory Sp. z o.o.</i> ( <i>C-605/12</i> ) provides new guidelines concerning the definition of "fixed establishment" in a case concerning whether a Cypriot entity that entered into an agreement with a Polish company had a fixed establishment in Poland—and thus whether the services supplied would be subject to value added tax (VAT) and would need to be settled by the Polish company.  Read more
Treaties	Anti-triangular rule	2016	Because ratification of the pending income tax treaty between Poland and the United States has been delayed, certain provisions in the treaty to address the use of "triangular structures" are not yet effective. Consequently, the anti-triangular rule may continue to be available to U.S. companies until the treaty enters into force (which currently is not expected before 2016).  Read more

### Back to top

Slovakia	Slovakia			
Tax legislation adopted and regulatory update	Binding rulings	November 2014	Under a now-effective decree, issued by the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic in September 2014, taxpayers can submit applications for a binding ruling from the Slovak Financial Administration if the subject of the assessment concerns one of the following.  Read more	

Spain			
Tax legislation adopted and regulatory update	VAT	2015	Companies can request to be included in Spain's monthly VAT refund registry so as to be able to claim VAT refunds on a monthly basis—instead of on an annual basis under the general rules of Spain's VAT regime.  Read more
Administrative and case law	Deduction of shareholdings in foreign companies	7 November 2014	The General Court of the European Union annulled European Commission (EC) decisions declaring as incompatible with EU internal market rules, a

			Spanish tax regime allowing for the deduction of shareholdings in foreign companies. The General Court concluded that the EC had failed to establish the selective nature of that Spanish tax regime. It concerns two cases: Autogrill España SA v. Commission, T-219/10 and Banco Santander SA and Santusa Holding SL v. Commission, T-399/11.  Read more
	Taxation of investments in non-resident companies	26 November 2014	The European Commission announced that it has decided to refer Spain to the Court of Justice of the European Union for Spain's allegedly discriminatory tax treatment of investments in non-resident companies.  Read more
Treaties	WHT/Exchange of information	18 November 2014	Representatives of the governments of Spain and Canada on 18 November 2014 signed a Protocol to amend the existing income tax treaty.  Read more

Sweden						
Tax legislation adopted and regulatory update	Employer obligations	18 November 2014	The Swedish Migration Board issued guidance to clarify employer obligations under Swedish law when a citizen from a non-EU country, a non-EEA country, or Switzerland—a third-country citizen—is hired or posted to work in Sweden.  Read more			

### Back to top

Switzerland					
Treaties	Exchange of financial information	2018	The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) announced that Switzerland signed the multilateral competent authority agreement that will allow the Swiss government to move forward with plans to activate a system for the automatic exchange of financial information in tax matters with other countries beginning in 2018.  Read more		

United Kingdom						
Proposed legislation	BEPS	7 November 2014	KPMG in the UK released discussions of two recently issued discussion drafts under the OECD's base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) Action Plan:  BEPS Action 7 and the discussion draft on permanent establishments			

			BEPS Action 10 and the discussion draft on low value-adding intra-group services      Read more
	Corporate income tax	14 November 2014	HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) has proposed to revise the rules that apply for authorized investment funds. The proposal would be intended to provide clarity that UK authorized investment funds that qualify as bond funds and that receive income from real property can make a tax-deductible interest distribution.  Read more
	Various tax areas	November 2014	<ul> <li>KPMG in the UK has prepared a report that discusses the following topics:         <ul> <li>Taxation in Scotland</li> </ul> </li> <li>Autumn Statement and draft clauses for Finance Bill 2015</li> <li>Government response to direct recovery of debts consultation published</li> <li>UK-Germany joint proposal on IP regimes</li> <li>New reliefs for the refinancing of companies in financial difficulties</li> <li>Read more</li> </ul>
		3 December 2014	UK Chancellor is expected to deliver his "Autumn Statement" on Wednesday, 3 December 2014. The Autumn Statement in recent years includes taxrelated announcements, and this year would be expected to address international tax rules, especially targeting multinational technology companies.  Read more
Administrative and case law	Capital gains	13 November 2014	The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) this week issued a judgment concluding that UK antiavoidance measures that subjected taxpayers with a 10 percent or greater shareholding in non-resident "close" companies to immediate taxation on the capital gains realized on disposals of company assets—regardless of whether they actually received the proceeds—are contrary to the free movement of capital standard under EU law. Commission v. UK, C-112/14.  Read more

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