

Mr Toomas Tõniste
Minister of Finance
Ministry of Finance
Suur-Ameerika 1
Tallinn 10122
Republic of Estonia

9 November 2017

Dear Minister Tõniste,

We are writing to you to convey our support and commitment to the EU's fight against tax fraud, evasion and avoidance, which erodes Member States' tax bases and leads to unfair competition. We believe that coordinated policy efforts in this area at EU and global level contribute to economic growth and tax certainty. We have made progress and agreed on important results in the ECOFIN Council in recent years and Denmark has raised the issue in the Foreign Affairs Council to underline the importance of the matter.

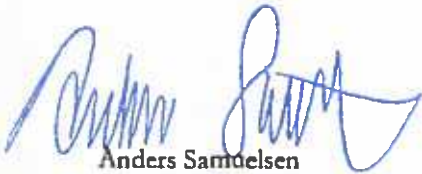
Within the EU, Member States must implement OECD-standards, respect legislation on transparency and information exchange, state aid rules and the principles of the Code of Conduct on Business Taxation. Provisions are in place to deal with breaches of these requirements. However, the fight against tax avoidance and evasion requires a global effort. In particular, the EU therefore needs stronger instruments to respond to third countries that refuse to respect good governance standards on taxation.

As you know, in December the Council aims to agree on a list of non-cooperative jurisdictions. We believe that this list will send a strong political signal to non-cooperative jurisdictions.

We welcome the discussion of defensive measures, including in the non-tax area. In order to further promote the effectiveness of the list we propose that the list is also taken into account in our foreign policy towards the relevant third countries in a coordinated and comprehensive approach. For example, when relevant the EU could raise the issue of tax avoidance in bilateral meetings and in negotiations on agreements with countries listed on the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions. With such an approach, we would ensure that we make full use of the range of the EU's diplomatic instruments to produce results that resonate with the citizens of Europe.

We look forward to working with you on developing such an approach with a view to it being reflected in the Council conclusions on the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions to be adopted in December. We have also sent a letter to Commissioner Moscovici and Vice-President and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy who is responsible for the coordination a common approach for EU external actions.

Yours sincerely



Anders Samuelsen
Minister for Foreign Affairs



Kristian Jensen
Minister for Finance



Karsten Lauritzen
Minister for Taxation

