

## **ECOSOC Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

### **Committee of experts on international Cooperation in Tax Matters**

#### **Intervention made by Greece on behalf of EU and its Member States**

Thank you Mr President,

At the outset, I would like to point out that I am speaking on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

We welcome the strong support of the UN to domestic revenue mobilisation and in particular the international cooperation in tax matters. Domestic revenue mobilisation is important for the post 2015 process and it is a key source of financing development objectives in developing countries.

The support to developing countries in their efforts to reform their tax systems and to increase the mobilisation of domestic revenues is high on the EU's agenda. This was emphasised in the EU Communication "Tax and Development" (2010), which aims at improving synergies between tax and development policies by proposing concrete actions to support developing countries in their reform efforts. Furthermore, DRM plays an important role in all EU Budget Support programmes, both for the public finance management as well as for macro-economic stability.

While improving DRM is the prime responsibility of each country, the increasing integration of international markets and economic globalisation infuses a global nature to the challenges to raise domestic revenues and often hamper countries' national efforts. To provide the necessary international tax environment that is efficient, effective, fair and transparent, a joint and global approach by all countries as well as international organisations is needed.

Therefore, the EU and its Member States welcome the work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters and its acknowledgment of the need for an enhanced dialogue among national tax authorities, regional fora and international organisations on issues related to international cooperation in tax matters.

Moreover we are appreciating the discussion in the UN Council on how to further strengthen the work of the Committee and to establish an improved international dialogue. We see the participation of developing countries in discussions on issues of international taxation and international cooperation in tax matters as a key success factor to tackle international tax issues, such as tax evasion and tax fraud.

We are looking forward to the report examining the options for further strengthening the work of the Committee and we hope that all aspects, such as complementarity, effectiveness, cost-efficiency, relevance and financing will be examined in the report.

The EU and its Member States already promote strongly the participation of partner countries in international tax discussions and regional organisations of tax administrations (for example in the Inter-American Centre for Tax Administration (CIAT) and the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF)).

On the global level, we intend to strengthen our support to DRM through a dedicated flagship programme as part of the Global Goods and Global Challenges Programme proposed in the upcoming multi-annual financial framework, which aims at supporting the development of an international tax environment that is in line with the principles of good governance in tax matters (transparency, exchange of information and fair tax competition)

Finally, I would like to stress that the EU and its Member States also worked closely with the UN Financing for Development Office on the establishment of a United Nations Practical Manual on Transfer Pricing for Developing Countries, launched in May 2013.

I thank you!