

Danuta Hübner
Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, European Parliament

The Anti Tax-Avoidance Directive

Plenary session statement
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Dear colleagues,

We should see the measures contained in this directive as part of a bigger picture, part of the EU agenda to fight tax dodging. It is fair to admit that over a short period of time a lot has been undertaken in order to improve our tax systems and we also understand better the need of sound cooperation in tax policies at the level of the EU and globally.

I hope to see the Council reach swift agreement on this directive because it is a much-needed fix. I hope also that at the end of the day this Directive will be designed and implemented in accordance with global standards and in coordination with our partners.

There are, of course, other items on the agenda in order to achieve fair, efficient and simple taxation in our internal market. It is true that beneficial owners of shell companies often exploit weak rules in offshore tax havens but gaps exist also in our tax rules and can be exploited. Tax systems are in need of reform to fully close loopholes allowing for tax evasion and avoidance, eliminate special rules, limit deductions, exemptions and credits. This would allow a lower rate for everybody. It is important because we need a system that energises growth, a tax system that is built for growth, ensuring that fair rules are respected and the economy works for everybody.