

To the
UfE Member Associations

Berlin, 17 September 2009 /bb

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Committee proposes actions for a more efficient cooperation between the tax authorities

Dear Colleagues,

In connection with its strategy for the fight against tax fraud, the Committee has adopted a proposal on 18 August 2009 for the revised version of the regulation concerning the cooperation between the administrative authorities in the field of value added tax which shall extend and strengthen the legal framework for the exchange of information and the cooperation between the tax authorities. The creation of a legal basis for the establishment Eurofisc, a joint operational structure, which enables the member states to quickly act in the fight against border-crossing value added tax fraud, is one of the key issues of the proposal.

UfE President Dieter Ondracek welcomed the proposal of Commissioner Kovács for an improved fight against tax fraud in the media.

The proposal for the revised version of the regulation concerning the cooperation between the administrative authorities in the field of value added tax includes proposals which have been submitted by UfE to the EU on different ways. UfE President Dieter Ondracek has expressed

respective proposals towards Commissioner Kovács personally, but also towards his responsible Director Alexander Wiedow. The value added tax fraud in Europe damages the public budgets in a Europe-wide order of up to EUR 100 billion per year. In order to limit the damage all has to be done to put a stop to the offenders' game.

Ufe has called for a central authority, similar to Europol, several times. Now, the establishment of Eurofisc in the style of Europol is planned in the draft regulation. Eurofisc is an operational structure which enables the member states in practice to act against the fraud jointly. Eurofisc shall permit a very quick exchange of professional information between all member states, the implementation of a joint risk analysis as well as a joint strategic analysis.

According to the opinion of ufe, it is important that the exchange of information is organized without red tape and in a quick manner. It must be the aim to get the information, which is needed for further investigations, from one responsible contact person in Eurofisc within one month.

Thus, László Kovács and the responsible Ladies and Gentlemen in the Directorate-General TAXUD are keeping the promises which they made to the delegates at the last Committee congress of ufe in Budapest.

Accordingly, the political institutions being in charge of the adoption of the regulation are now requested to agree upon and to implement the revised version of the regulation without any delay.

You may see more details of the proposal of the Committee in the detailed explanation which is enclosed in German, English and French.

I remain with my best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(R. Zender)
Ufe General Secretary