

## Press release

# Expert group recommends soft landing for tax information exchange

The European Banking Federation, considering its commitment to support international measures against tax fraud, draws attention to today's publication of the first report of the European Commission's Expert Group on Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information for Direct Taxation Purposes. The report, based also on input from the EBF, recommends that governments start exchanging information with a soft landing period of two years.

The expert group report provides governments with 11 recommendations on the implementation of the Directive 2014/107/EU as regards to mandatory automatic exchange of information (AEOI) in the field of taxation. This measure will effectively put an end to banking secrecy and tax evasion in an international context.

The expert group report recommends the adoption of a soft-landing period of two years during which financial institutions and tax administrations would dialogue and seek to reach a fully operational system. Banks are making significant investments in system upgrades and in adapting internal processes.

The report of the expert group emphasizes that the CRS Commentary developed by the OECD is not sufficient in terms of guidance. Member States are urged to adopt legislation and to issue detailed guidance well ahead of the 1 January 2016 deadline in order to ease compliance by financial institutions which need an 18-month lead-time to upgrade their systems.

The AEOI directive - aligned on an OECD Model that is known as the 'Common Reporting Standard', or CRS - is designed as an EU measure to fight tax evasion. It will require banks to systematically report information on their non-resident customers. It will enter into force on 1 January 2016, with the first exchange of information foreseen for 2017.

The report is available on the EU Commission website at: <http://bit.ly/taxinfoexchange>

### **For more information:**

Roger Kaiser, Senior Adviser, Tax & Financial Reporting  
+32 (0) 2 508 37 21, [r.kaiser@ebf-fbe.eu](mailto:r.kaiser@ebf-fbe.eu)

### **Media contact:**

Raymond Frenken, Head of Communication  
+32 (0) 496 52 59 47, [press@ebf-fbe.eu](mailto:press@ebf-fbe.eu)

### **About the European Banking Federation:**

*The European Banking Federation is the voice of the European banking sector, uniting 32 national banking associations in Europe that together represent some 4,500 banks - large and small, wholesale and retail, local and international - employing about 2.5 million people. EBF members represent banks that make available loans to the European economy in excess of €20 trillion and that securely handle more than 300 million payment transactions per day. Launched in 1960, the EBF is committed to creating a single market for financial services in the European Union and to supporting policies that foster economic growth. Website: [www.ebf-fbe.eu](http://www.ebf-fbe.eu)*

