

Trade and Investment Knowledge Centre

Commission on Taxation

2019 Highlights and Achievements

ICC Commission on Taxation Policy papers and recommendations:

ICC Policy Statement on Taxation Policy for the Digitalised Economy

ICC supports a harmonised approach to ensure that international tax rules remain relevant and applicable in an increasingly digitalised global economy. The [ICC Policy Statement on Taxation Policy for the Digitalised Economy](#) presents a framework of internationally established tax principles, intended to help define the contours of a suitable tax framework for the digitalised economy that encourages business activities, job creation and economic growth. The document was adopted by the ICC Executive Board in March 2019. See the full ICC news article [here](#).

ICC Policy Statement on Co-Operative Compliance

ICC supports measures aimed at increasing tax certainty in creating a more favourable environment for trade and investment. In the absence of a simplification of tax rules, tax certainty can be achieved through the increasing use of mechanisms such as cooperative compliance programmes. The [ICC Policy Statement on Co-operative Compliance](#) aims to encourage broader application of this concept to improve tax administrative efficiency and enhance certainty for business, which is an essential driver for trade and investment. The document was adopted by the ICC Executive Board in March 2019. See the full ICC news article [here](#).

ICC International Best Practices Guidance on VAT Implementation

ICC recognises that governments are increasingly relying on indirect taxes for revenue, whether it be by implementing a Value Added Tax (VAT) for the first time or by updating and expanding their existing laws. The purpose of the [ICC International Best Practices Guidance on VAT Implementation](#) is two-fold in that it provides guidance for government representatives outlining the key features of an efficient system and provides practical guidance for businesses on how to approach a VAT implementation – from inception to implementation. The document was adopted by the ICC Executive Board in March 2019. See the full ICC news article [here](#).

ICC Position Paper on Accredited Tax Payers (ATPs)

In an increasingly international commercial environment, taxation can pose complex challenges to both business and governments, fortifying the need for global standards and consistent procedures. The [ICC Position Paper on Accredited Tax Payers \(ATPs\)](#) outlines the benefits to both business and tax administrations, in line with the [ICC Tax Charter](#), and recommends specific criteria for establishing a globally standardised ATP programme, which aims to establish a global, mutually-recognised system to streamline the authorization of trusted tax payers by a national tax administration, on the basis that they meet a certain standard of criteria. The document was adopted by the ICC Executive Board in March 2019. See the full ICC news article [here](#).

ICC Report on Tax Challenges relating to the Belt and Road Initiative

In the context of the April 2019 Conference of the Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Forum (BRITACOF), held in China, ICC welcomed the opportunity to identify tax challenges from a business perspective for investing in Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) jurisdictions. The [ICC report](#) elaborates on four key areas for deliberation in this context with a view to designing future action plans for BRI tax administrations and legislators. The specific areas addressed include: achieving tax certainty; streamlining tax compliance; following the rule of law; and expediting dispute settlement. Commission Chair, Christian Kaeser, represented ICC at the conference and drew attention to the importance of tax certainty for business. See the full ICC news article [here](#).

Consultations:

ICC engagement in G20 mandated OECD work on addressing the tax challenges of the digitalised economy/Platform for Collaboration on Tax

ICC continues to provide fundamental high-level comments on OECD public consultations on addressing the tax challenges of the digitalised economy as well as the Platform for Collaboration on Tax public consultations.

- ICC [comments](#) on OECD public consultation on addressing the tax challenges of the digitalised economy (March 2019).
- ICC [comments](#) on OECD public consultation on Pillar 1 of the “Unified Approach” on digital taxation (November 2019).
- ICC [comments](#) on OECD public consultation on Pillar 2 of the “Unified Approach” on digital taxation (December 2019).
- ICC [comments](#) on PCOT Consultation Draft on Transfer Pricing Documentation Requirements (November 2019).

Collaboration with other international organizations:

UN Engagement

ICC continued to provide global business input to the UN Committee of Experts on International Tax Matters and its Subcommittees, particularly on the UN Subcommittee on dispute avoidance and dispute resolution. Formal interest has been expressed to participate in the Subcommittee on the tax consequences of the digital economy as well as anticipated work on tax and trade agreements.

International Tax Conference

The ICC Commission on Taxation organized its third annual international tax conference on the 28th of June in Munich. The conference: “Towards a New World Tax Order” was hosted in cooperation with Business at OECD and BusinessEurope and brought together renowned tax experts from international, regional and national organizations and institutions, as well as business representatives, to discuss the proposed approaches for addressing the challenges posed by digitalisation. The conference addressed issues relating to reallocation of taxing rights, significant economic presence and transfer pricing, minimum taxation and dispute resolution. See the full ICC news article [here](#).

Joint ICC/WU Co-operative Compliance Workshops

Two joint ICC/University of Economics and Business (WU) workshops were held in London on 11-12 March 2019 and on 16 - 17 December 2019 in Vienna. The joint ICC/WU workshops brought together tax officials, businesses, international and regional organizations and academics from OECD and non-OECD countries with the aim of advancing ongoing work to improve tax certainty through effective co-operative compliance programmes.

Upcoming events:

Spring 2020 Commission Meeting

- The next meeting of the Commission on Taxation is scheduled for **28 April 2020**, to coincide with the UN Tax Committee bi-annual meetings taking place in New York.

Business and Industry Dialogue: BRITACOF

- The Business and Industry Dialogue, hosted by ICC, will take place in the context of the second Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Conference (BRITACOF) in Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan on **19 May 2020**.

Joint ICC/WU co-operative compliance workshop

- The next joint ICC/WU workshop on co-operative compliance workshop is scheduled to take place in Vienna on **16 - 17 June 2020**.

Joint Tax Conference with BIAC and BusinessEurope

- The fourth annual international tax conference is being organized with Business at OECD and BusinessEurope, scheduled to take place in Munich on **26 June 2020**.