

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs
Committee on Legal Affairs
The Chairs

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Mr. Pedro SIZA VIEIRA
Minister of State for the Economy and
the Digital Transition
Presidency of the Council of the
European Union
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B - 1048 Bruxelles

(sent only electronically to reper@reper-portugal.be)

Subject: *Relaunching the principle of sincere cooperation between the Council and the Parliament on Public Country-by-Country Reporting*

Honourable Minister,

The European Parliament negotiating team in the Legal Affairs (JURI) and Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) committees warmly welcomes the decision by the Council Presidency to include a discussion on public Country-by-Country Reporting (pCBCR) with a view of achieving a highly awaited agreement on the Council's position.

The ongoing global pandemic which resulted in social and economic crisis has obliged public authorities to grant financial support to many economic operators including large multinationals, either through tax exemptions, tax deferrals, public backed loans or direct state aids. The beneficiaries, therefore, should be in compliance with the highest transparency standards. Public CBCR would allow the public to have an oversight on whether companies fairly contribute to the recovery efforts by investing in people and in EU countries, while monitoring if those businesses also pay their fair share of tax. Strong accountability and transparency requirements remain urgently needed to create a trustful recovery environment.

Nearly five years ago, the European Commission presented a proposal for pCBCR in the wake of numerous tax scandals. The recent Openlux revelations reinforce the need to improve access to tax and financial information that would have a greater deterring effect on tax avoidance and aggressive tax planning strategies.

In 2017 the European Parliament adopted its position and re-confirmed the first reading in 2019. The newly constituted negotiating team is ready and willing to start working on this important file without further delay.

We therefore strongly support Council's efforts to bring back pCBCR on the Competitiveness Council's agenda with a view of delivering a long awaited agreement. We stand ready to engage rapidly in negotiations in order to deliver on a key, robust and comprehensive tool for decision makers, investors, journalists, NGOs and citizens as a whole.

We would appreciate if you could share this letter with your colleague Ministers dealing with this proposal in Council.

Yours sincerely,



Irene TINAGLI
Chair of the Committee on
Economic and Monetary Affairs
(ECON)



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Shadow Rapporteurs on pCBCR