

JOINT DECLARATION OF V4 FINANCE MINISTERS ON THE COOPERATION IN THE FINANCIAL AREA

We, the Ministers of Finance from the Visegrad Group, met in Warsaw on 4 September 2020 to exchange views on the issues related to financial and economic cooperation.

WE BELIEVE that initiatives and challenges in the financial field present in Europe require cooperation of the V4 Finance Ministers to ensure that solutions to be adopted at the EU level correspond to the interests of the countries of the region.

AS WE ARE AWARE that the COVID-19 pandemic is a global challenge, we agree that multilateral collaboration is vital to guarantee the effectiveness of individual responses to ensure sustainable and inclusive recovery. In this respect, we welcome the actions of international institutions and organizations such as: the G20 Action Plan to tackle the world-wide outbreak of coronavirus, and we appreciate efforts of the EIB, IMF, World Bank Group, and multilateral development banks to deliver a robust and coherent financial package.

WE AGREE that the issue of taxation, including that of the digital economy and the debate on global minimum taxation is pressing and deserves our full attention. The lack of need for physical presence, as well as the increased mobility of the digital market, could have a negative impact on government revenues, especially in absence of world-wide agreed measures and administrative cooperation. The pandemic may provide an incentive for the European countries to unite against tax base abuse. The fight against tax evasion, tax avoidance and tax criminality is a priority, especially in the matter of income taxes and value-added tax (VAT).

WE ARE OF THE VIEW that efficient cooperation between European countries can tackle the tax fraud and non-compliance. Enhancement of the administrative cooperation in the tax area in the spirit of tax solidarity and within the EU legal framework, especially with respect to exchange of information, knowledge, new technologies and experience/best practices is crucial in this respect. Therefore we will welcome initiatives, within the EU legal framework, that aim at its strengthening.

WE BELIEVE that climate change is one of the biggest global challenges that determine the prosperity of future generations. V4 group fully endorses the objective of achieving a climate-neutral EU by 2050. The transition should be cost-effective, just, as well as socially balanced and fair, respecting different national circumstances in terms of starting points and energy mix.

WE UNDERLINE that the new EU own resources system should be transparent, simple and proportional to the Member States' wealth. For that reason, we note with concern the re-introduction of the correction mechanisms in the MFF 2021-2027. There is no justification for them and they should be abolished as of 2028. In order to ensure a sufficient income for the EU budget we are ready to examine further efforts to introduce new own resources, which are preferably not regressive and do not generate additional burden for the national budgets.

WE NOTE that more efforts need to be made towards increasing the efficiency of the EU legal framework on anti-money laundering, including the new EU anti-money laundering supervision that ensures consistent high-quality application of the AML/CFT standards. Should an EU-level supervisor be established either as a new dedicated body or as a part of an existing EU agency, we should strive to achieve maximum operational efficiency and flexibility to design a tailored system in terms of organisation and governance. The decision-making processes should be simplified to respond swiftly to risks. They should respect at the same time the principle of subsidiarity as much as possible. In the

context of considerations on the establishment of a new AML supervisory authority we would welcome its headquarters in one of the V4 countries.

WE DECLARE to continue our V4 Ministers of Finance cooperation in European and international initiatives aimed at strengthening our position and visibility in the region and European and international fora. **Simultaneously, we emphasize** the need to continue our dialogue within this framework and the possibility to meet again in June 2021.



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