

Medium Term Revenue Strategy (MTRS)—Building More Effective Tax Systems

Conference Agenda

Venue – Federal Academy of Finance, Sonnwendgasse 13, 1100 Vienna, Austria

Day 1: October 29, 2019

11.00 to 13.20	<i>Registration at the Federal Academy of Finance.</i>
12.00 to 13.20	<i>Buffet lunch for delegates who arrive early.</i>
13.30 to 13.50	<p>Day 1—Welcoming Remarks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eduard Müller – Minister of Finance, Austria. • Vitor Gaspar – Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF. • Thomas Richardson – Director, Joint Vienna Institute (JVI).
13.50 to 14.10	<p>Keynote Address: MTRS—An Approach to Effective Tax System Reform.</p> <p>Vitor Gaspar – Director, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF.</p> <p>What is the MTRS approach? Why is it different? What problems is it designed to solve for achieving a more effective tax system? How does it drive a more integrated approach to tax system reform to increase the likelihood of success? How does it empower ministers of finance in leading tax system reforms? What are the four MTRS interdependent components? How to build broad national consensus, make the tax system more efficient, including by undertaking a holistic reform, develop and ensure whole-of-government commitment and secure aligned external support?</p>
14.10 to 15.10	<p>Session One: Transition Ongoing Tax System Reform into an MTRS—The Need for a Well-Articulated MTRS Formulation; and Subsequent Implementation.</p> <p>What are the steps to MTRS formulation? How are ongoing tax system reform efforts mapped? How are ongoing tax system reform efforts and MTRS components compared? How are identified “MTRS gaps” addressed to transition ongoing reform efforts into an MTRS? What are the key contents of an action plan for MTRS formulation? How fiscal tools can help address identified gaps? What are the experiential lessons and emerging challenges in formulating and implementing an MTRS?</p> <p>Panel Discussion</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Juan Toro, Assistant Director, Fiscal Affairs Department – IMF.</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albania: Elton Haxhi, Deputy Minister of Finance. • Egypt: Mohamed Maait, Minister of Finance. • Uzbekistan: Dilshod Sultanov, Deputy Minister of Finance.
15.10 to 15.30	<i>Coffee break</i>

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15.30 to 16.30 **Session Two: Setting Revenue and Efficiency Goals to meet Expenditure Needs and Social and Economic Development—Building Country Ownership.**

What are the challenges in determining base expenditures and revenues, and medium-term expenditure needs and revenue goals? What investment is needed to support economic growth and meet sustainable development goals? How can Government build country stakeholders support to medium-term objectives and contribution of the tax system? How to discuss changes that will modify the tax policy, administration, and legal setting, which in turn will alter incentives in different fronts?

Panel Discussion

Moderator: Thomas Richardson – Director, JVI.

Panelists:

- **Egypt:** Ahmed Kouchouk, Vice-Minister of Finance.
- **Finland:** Markus Sovala, Director General of Economic Policy Coordinator, Ministry of Finance.
- **Moldova:** Natalia Gavrilița, Minister of Finance.

16.30 to 17.30 **Session Three: Achieving an Effective Tax System through a Comprehensive Reform Plan - Policy, Administration and Tax Legal Framework.**

What are the current trends in tax system reform in countries covers by JVI— Policy, Administration and Tax Legal Framework? What are the main different and common features among countries? What are the key elements to support investment, enhance fairness, and meet sustainable development present in “JVI countries”? Are there differences between EU member countries and non-EU members? How globalization, international cooperation and technology developments are being leveraged in the region? How are tax system reforms communicated and behavioral changes in different fronts managed?

Panel Discussion

Moderator: Marijn Verhoeven, Acting Practice Manager, Fiscal Policy & Sustainable Growth – World Bank Group.

Panelists:

- **IMF:** Dora Benedek, Deputy Division Chief of Tax Policy Division, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF.
- **IOTA:** František Imrecze, Executive Secretary, Intra-European Organization of Tax Administrations.
- **Latvia:** Ilmārs Šņucins, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Finance.
- **Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU):** Jeffrey Owens, Director of the WU Global Tax Policy Center.

18.30 *Bus Transfer from the Federal Academy of Finance to Restaurant “Heuriger Wolff”.*

19.30 *Reception and Dinner*

Day 2: October 30, 2019

09.15 to 09.45 **Day 2—Recap of Day 1: A conversation with the audience and Day 1 moderators.**

09.50 to 10.50 **Session Four: Developing Government-led effort to Tax System Reform through Sustained Political Commitment and Whole-of-Government Support.**

How to ensure the government takes the lead in tax system reform? How to achieve whole-of-government support including recognizing the political, social and economic effects of tax system reform? What are the challenges in achieving steady and sustained political support, including the need for coordinated reform governance? What are the opportunities for securing domestic resources?

Panel Discussion

Moderator: Dmitri Jegorov, Deputy Secretary-General for Tax and Customs Policy, Ministry of Finance, Estonia.

Panelists:

- **Azerbaijan:** Samira Musayeva, Head of Tax Policy Main Department, Ministry of Taxes.
- **Bulgaria:** Nikolay Getov, Director of Strategic Planning and Change Management, Bulgarian National Revenue Agency.
- **Kazakhstan:** Mr. Talgat Mamayev, Deputy Chairman, State Revenue Committee.
- **Romania:** Mirela Călugăreanu, President, National Agency for Fiscal Administration.

10.50 to 11.10 *Coffee break*

11.10 to 12.10 **Session Five: Securing and Aligning External Support to Government-led Tax System Reform.**

What would attract external support to countries tax system reform efforts? How can countries best coordinate such external support to provide a coherent and orderly implementation of the reform plan? How to sequence support with MTRS timescales? What do external support providers (financial and TA) need to do to ensure this outcome? Could a formalized agreement under the government-led tax system reform strategy be pursued to secure alignment of support?

Panel Discussion

Moderator: Benjamin Dickinson, Head of the Global Relations and Development Division at the Centre for Tax Policy and Administration – OECD.

Panelists:

- **DFID:** Samrita Sidhu, Head of Public Finance and Tax Department.
- **European Commission (EC):** Frank Van-Driessche, Advisor to the Director General of the EC Structural Reform Support Service.
- **Montenegro:** Mr. Branko Kravac, Senior Advisor, Directorate for Fiscal Analysis and Projections, Ministry of Finance.
- **Russia:** Dmitry Volvach, Head of Department of Capital Flow Control and International Cooperation, Federal Tax Service.

12.10 to 12.30 **Closing Summary.**

12:30 to 13.30 *Buffet lunch for delegates.*