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LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject: COUNCIL DECISION on the signing, on behalf of the Union, of the Amending Protocol to the Agreement between the European Union and the Principality of Liechtenstein on the automatic exchange of financial account information to improve international tax compliance

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2025/...

of ...

**on the signing, on behalf of the Union,
of the Amending Protocol to the Agreement between the European Union
and the Principality of Liechtenstein on the automatic exchange
of financial account information to improve international tax compliance**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular
Article 115, in conjunction with Article 218(5) and Article 218(8), second subparagraph, thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The Agreement between the European Union and the Principality of Liechtenstein on the automatic exchange of financial account information to improve international tax compliance¹ ('the Agreement') has enhanced mutual assistance in tax matters between the Contracting Parties and improved international tax compliance.
- (2) Important changes to the Common Reporting Standard (CRS) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development were approved at international level on 26 August 2022 and were incorporated into Union law by means of Council Directive (EU) 2023/2226², which amended Council Directive 2011/16/EU³.
- (3) On 21 May 2024, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with the Principality of Liechtenstein ('Liechtenstein') for an amendment of the Agreement to reflect the changes to the CRS approved at the international level. The negotiations were successfully concluded with the initialling of the Amending Protocol to the Agreement between the European Union and the Principality of Liechtenstein on the automatic exchange of financial account information to improve international tax compliance ('the Amending Protocol').

¹ OJ L 379, 24.12.2004, p. 84, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_international/2004/897/oj.

² Council Directive (EU) 2023/2226 of 17 October 2023 amending Directive 2011/16/EU on administrative cooperation in the field of taxation (OJ L, 2023/2226, 24.10.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2023/2226/oj>).

³ Council Directive 2011/16/EU of 15 February 2011 on administrative cooperation in the field of taxation and repealing Directive 77/799/EEC (OJ L 64, 11.3.2011, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2011/16/oj>).

- (4) The negotiating directives also required the Commission to update the references to the data protection legislation of the Contracting Parties.
- (5) The text of the Amending Protocol, which is the result of the negotiations, duly reflects the negotiating directives issued by the Council.
- (6) Therefore, the Amending Protocol should be signed on behalf of the Union and the Joint Declarations attached to the Amending Protocol should be approved.
- (7) The European Data Protection Supervisor was consulted in accordance with Article 42(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴.
- (8) Liechtenstein has, on the basis of its membership of the European Economic Area, implemented Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁵ by means of the Data Protection Act of 4 October 2018,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p.39, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1725/oj>).

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj>).

Article 1

The signing of the Amending Protocol to the Agreement between the European Union and the Principality of Liechtenstein on the automatic exchange of financial account information to improve international tax compliance is hereby authorised on behalf of the Union, subject to the conclusion of the said Amending Protocol⁶.

Article 2

The Joint Declaration of the Contracting Parties on Article 5 of the Agreement and the Joint Declaration of the Contracting Parties on the entry into force and effect of the Amending Protocol are hereby approved on behalf of the Union.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at ..., ...

For the Council

The President

⁶ The text of the Amending Protocol will be published together with the decision on its conclusion.