

CODE OF CONDUCT GROUP (BUSINESS TAXATION):**WORK PROGRAMME UNDER THE IRISH PRESIDENCY**

1. The Ecofin Council has, on multiple occasions, recognised the positive impact of the Code of Conduct and the efforts of the Group in mitigating harmful tax practices and contributing to the reduction of preferential tax regimes, both within the EU and globally¹. In its conclusions of 12 June 2026², the Ecofin Council appreciated the progress achieved by the Group and encouraged the Group to continue its valuable work.
2. Furthermore, the Ecofin Council notably:
 - a) endorsed the assessments of actual effects of individual measures as agreed by the Group and asked the Group to continue monitoring standstill, implementation of the rollback and the monitoring of individual measures;
 - b) welcomed the progress achieved by the Group in the revision of the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions in February 2026 and encouraged the Group to maintain effective dialogue with jurisdictions, monitoring and screening to support their compliance with the EU listing criteria and fulfilment of commitments within the agreed deadline;
 - c) welcomed the progress made by jurisdictions in the scope of criterion 2.1 to reform their foreign-source income exemption (FSIE) regimes, recognised the Group's continuous monitoring of no or only nominal tax jurisdictions under criterion 2.2, and acknowledged the Group's ongoing monitoring of relevant jurisdictions previously exempted from criterion 3.2;

¹ Council conclusions of 16 June 2023 (10157/23), 17 October 2023 (13879/23), 8 December 2023 (16361/23), 24 February 2024 (6776/24), 21 June 2024 (11465/24), 8 October 2024 (14269/24), 10 December 2024 (16770/24), 18 February 2025 (6322/25), 20 June 2025 (10627/25), 10 October 2025 (13777/25), 12 December 2025 (16765/25).

² Council Conclusions of 17 February 2026 (5869/26)

- d) encouraged the continuous work of the Group on evaluating the effectiveness of defensive measures towards listed jurisdictions;
 - e) called on the Group to regularly review international developments related to beneficial ownership and to continue efforts to incorporate beneficial ownership as a fourth transparency criterion;
 - f) called on the Group to continue the work on the appropriate selection indicators for future modifications of the geographical scope of the EU list;
 - g) invited the Group to report back to the Council on its work during the Irish Presidency.
3. Against this background, this note sets out the proposed Code of Conduct work programme for the duration of the Irish Presidency of the Council (second semester of 2026).

I. General aspects

4. The revised Code of Conduct for business taxation set out in the Resolution of the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council of 8 November 2022 applies from 1 January 2023 and will continue to constitute the mandate for the work during the Irish Presidency.
5. The Code of Conduct Group will pursue its work in accordance with the agreed multiannual work package, the work programme and the guidance provided by the Ecofin Council.

II. Monitoring of the standstill and implementation of the rollback

6. The Group will monitor developments in the administrative practices of the Member States and continue the review of tax measures notified by Member States under the standstill and rollback process.
7. The Group will follow up, as appropriate, on the measures notified in the framework of 2025 standstill notification exercise.

8. The Group will also continue the monitoring of the actual effects of regimes which are subject to regular monitoring on the basis of decisions previously made by the Group.

III. Monitoring of Highly Mobile Activities in the Special Economic Zones

9. The Group will continue, as necessary, the monitoring of outstanding measures relating to highly mobile activities in Special Economic Zones, taking into account the discussions and decisions already taken by the Group.

IV. Links with third countries

10. The Code of Conduct Group will continue monitoring jurisdictions covered by the geographical scope of the EU list and the implementation of commitments taken by cooperative jurisdictions.
11. The EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes will be prepared for its next update by the Council in October 2026 with the following objectives:
- remove from Annex I jurisdictions which have addressed pending issues;
 - list in Annex I jurisdictions which do not comply with the requirements of the EU listing criteria, or have declined to undertake appropriate commitments to comply with the EU listing criteria;
 - remove from Annex II jurisdictions which have fulfilled their commitments;
 - include in Annex II jurisdictions which have undertaken commitments to cooperate with the EU and to take the necessary steps towards complying with one or more EU listing criteria with which their systems have been found to be inconsistent.

V. Tax defensive measures

12. The Group will continue the annual monitoring of the implementation of tax defensive measures against listed jurisdictions through a questionnaire, building on the first annual monitoring exercise and the updated state of play on the implementation of the 2019 Guidance on tax defensive measures.
13. The Group will also continue its work on monitoring the implementation of defensive measures towards listed jurisdictions, with a view to evaluating the application and effectiveness of the defensive measures.

VI. Further work by the Group

14. The Group will review international developments related to the exchange of beneficial ownership information.
15. The Group will continue work on the appropriate selection indicators for future modifications of the geographical scope of the EU list, with a view to ensuring the effectiveness of the screening process and the principle of equal treatment.
16. The Group will continue to consider, as appropriate, the impact of the revised FHTP methodology on the EU listing criteria and on the Group's general monitoring processes.
17. The Group will continue work on streamlining and simplifying monitoring procedures for companies, partnerships and collective investment funds under criterion 2.2, and on the review of preferential tax regimes under criterion 2.1.
18. The Chair will continue the procedural and political dialogue with jurisdictions, as necessary.

VII. Organisation of work

19. It is scheduled to organise two meetings of the Code of Conduct Group (22 September 2026 and 24 November 2026) and of the relevant subgroups (on 3 July, 8 September, 13 October and 5 November 2026) during the Irish Presidency, to make progress on items falling within the Group's remit and to report to the Council before the end of the Presidency.
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