

Embargoed: 11.55pm, Thursday 23 March 2006

Press Release

EU Commissioner for Taxation, Mr [László Kovács](#) addresses Inaugural Conference of Oxford University Centre for Business Taxation at Saïd Business School

This evening, EU Commissioner for Taxation and Customs Union, Mr [László Kovács](#) addressed an invited audience of senior corporate representatives, academics and policy-makers on the subject of the European Commission's Business Taxation Agenda. The speech was delivered at a dinner to mark the opening of the Inaugural Conference of the Oxford University Centre for Business Taxation at Saïd Business School, University of Oxford. The Centre has been established with a generous £5 million donation from The Hundred Group, which represents the largest listed companies in the UK.

Commissioner [Kovács](#) welcomed the creation of the Centre for Business Taxation, saying that too often the tax policy debate is driven by ideological beliefs rather than facts and figures. He expressed the hope that the new Centre would help to change the situation.

Commissioner [Kovács](#) went on to address three issues:

- What our tax policy priorities should be
- The role of the EU
- How the policies should be implemented

Copies of the text of the Commissioner's speech are available from the Press Office (contact details below).

The main sessions of the Inaugural Conference of the Centre for Business Taxation conference take place on 24 March and will address 'The Impact of Business Tax in an International Context' through plenary and breakout sessions. It will be attended by an invited audience of approximately 100 key commentators, policy-makers and practitioners in the field.

Speakers at the event include:

- Professor Joel Slemrod of University of Michigan, on *Taxing Multinationals* with a Business Response from Paul Morton, Head of Tax, Reed Elsevier Group plc
- Professor Michael Devereux of University of Warwick, on *Impact of Taxes on Capital Flows* with a Business Response from Ian Brimicombe, HOT, AstraZeneca plc
- Michael Keen, IMF, on *Impact on Trade of VAT and Corporation Tax* with a Business Response from Phillip Gillett, Group Taxation Controller ICI plc
- Roger Emerson, Senior VP Tax & Treasury, GlaxoSmithKline plc and Dhiren Shah, VP Global Tax Strategy, GlaxoSmithKline plc, on *A UK MNC perspective on tax policy*
- Professor Malcolm Gammie, QC, One Essex Court, on *Can the ECJ achieve a satisfactory single market outcome for business taxation?* With a Business Response from John Fox, HOT, BT Group plc
- Will Morris, Senior International Tax Counsel, General Electric on *An inbound investor view of UK tax policy*

Break out sessions will be held on:

- Taxing Multinationals
- Taxes, Trade and Capital Flows
- Developments in European Corporate Tax

For further details of the conference or to speak to Professor Colin Mayer, or Professor Judith Freedman, Acting Directors of the Centre, please contact the Press Office.

Clare Fisher, Public Relations Officer, Saïd Business School

Direct telephone: +44 (0) 1865 288851

Email: clare.fisher@sbs.ox.ac.uk

Charlotte Grimshaw, Public Relations Assistant, Saïd Business School

Direct telephone: +44 (0) 1865 288403

Email: charlotte.grimshaw@sbs.ox.ac.uk

Notes to Editors

1 About the Oxford University Centre for Business Taxation

The establishment of the Centre for Business Taxation was announced in October 2005. The Centre will provide a unique, independent research focus on taxation policies and policy options affecting business in the UK. The University of Oxford and The Hundred Group, representing the largest listed

companies in the UK, have co-operated to set up the Centre with The Hundred Group contributing £5 million over an initial 5 year period to support its work.

The Centre for Business Taxation will carry out a programme of multi-disciplinary research drawing together the expertise within the University across a wide range of areas including economics, finance and law. It will examine the approach to the taxation of business activities in the UK and evaluate the effects of the present structure of taxation on the business sector, the public finances, international competitiveness and the wider economy. The Centre will also address policy options that take account of the international dimension to business activity, the interaction between different tax systems and the global influences on policy formulation.

The Centre, which is based at the Saïd Business School, will be fully operational by September 2006. It will use a mixture of new academic appointments, existing Oxford academic staff in the Business School, the Department of Economics, the Faculty of Law and other departments and faculties of the University together with possible secondments of researchers from business and government, in its work. The Centre is expected to work closely with the multinational business community in the UK, with the UK government, the European Commission, the OECD and other academic research centres both inside and outside the UK. The international links will particularly facilitate joint research projects on cross-border issues of policy relevance.

The acting directors of the Centre are Professor Colin Mayer, Peter Moores Professor of Management Studies at the Saïd Business School and Professor Judith Freedman, KPMG Professor of Taxation Law, Oxford University Law Faculty. The Advisory Board of the Centre is chaired by Sir Derek Morris, Provost of Oriel College. The appointment of a full-time director is expected to be announced shortly.

2 About Saïd Business School

Established in 1996 the Saïd Business School is a full service business school and one of Europe's newest and fastest growing business schools. An integral part of Oxford University, the School embodies the academic rigour and forward thinking that has made Oxford a world leader in education. The School has an established reputation for research in a wide range of areas, including finance and accounting, organisational analysis, international management, strategy and operations management. The school is dedicated to developing a new generation of business leaders and entrepreneurs and conducting research not only into the nature of business, but the connections between business and the wider world. In the *Financial Times* ranking of business schools (Jan 06), Saïd improved its worldwide ranking by 5 positions and maintained its number one ranking for a one-year MBA programme in the UK. This achievement follows the School's success in HM Treasury's ranking

of the top 50 MBA programmes in the world, where it finished number one out of all the UK business schools. In the university league table published by *The Guardian*, Saïd ranked first of all UK universities for undergraduate business with a score of 94 out of a possible 100. The University of Oxford also ranked top for business studies in *The Times* report. For more information, see www.sbs.ox.ac.uk.

ENDS