ETAF
European Tax Adviser Federation

10TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

From past to future: Lessons from a decade of EU tax developments

3 November 2026 • 09:00 – 17:00 CET
Sofitel Brussels Europe, Place Jourdan 1, 1040 Brussels

PROGRAMME BOOKLET

PROGRAMME

Morning session

ETAF achievements & the role of the regulated tax profession

09:15 Registration & Welcome coffee

09:45 **Welcome speech**
by ETAF President, **Philippe Arraou**

10:00 **Keynote I:** Defending the professional law frameworks
by **Paula Franco**, President of the Portuguese Order of Certified Accountants (OCC)

10:15 Coffee break

10:45 **Panel discussion I:** The evolving role of the tax profession
Damien Charrier, President of the French National Council of the Order of Chartered Accountants (CNOEC)
Prof. Susanne Schmidt-Pfeiffer, Vice-President of the Chamber of Tax Advisers of Nürnberg
Oana Nicorescu, Member of the Superior Council of the Body of Expert and Licensed Accountants of Romania (CECCAR)
Andrea Rabb, Vice-President of International Affairs of the Association of Hungarian Certified Tax Experts (Moklasz) and ETAF Board member
Moderator: **Jacomien van den Hurk**, Director of EU Public and Regulatory Affairs at PwC

12:00 Networking lunch

PROGRAMME

Afternoon session

EU tax policy: Today & tomorrow

13:15 **Keynote II:** The current state of EU taxation
by **Gerassimos Thomas**, Director-General for Taxation and Customs Union, DG TAXUD, European Commission

13:45 **Panel discussion II:** Decluttering the EU tax agenda
Benjamin Angel, Director for Direct Taxation, DG TAXUD, European Commission
Pascal Saint-Amans, Former Director of the OECD CTPA, Non-resident fellow at Bruegel, Founding President of Saint-Amans Global Advisory (SAGA)
Kristi Raba, Head of unit Tax Policy, Customs Union and Export Credits, General Secretariat of the Council of the EU
Philippe Vanclooster, Board member of ITAA, Vice-president of CFE Tax Advisers Europe
Moderator: **Elodie Lamer**, Senior Tax Reporter at Tax Analysts

15:00 Coffee break

15:30 **Keynote III:** The future of European tax policy
by **MEP Pasquale Tridico**, Chair of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Tax Matters (FISC)

15:45 **Panel discussion III:** Tax challenges for Europe in the next decade
MEP Pasquale Tridico, Chair of the FISC Subcommittee
Reinhard Biebel, Head of Unit, Direct Tax Policy and Cooperation, DG TAXUD, European Commission
Roel Dom, Economist and Research Fellow at Bruegel, EU Tax Compass
Kurt Van Dender, Head of the Tax Policy and Statistics Division, Centre for Tax Policy and Administration, OECD
Moderator: **Eleanor Butler**, Senior Tax Correspondent for Law360

17:00 **Closing remarks** by **Philippe Arraou**

19:00 **Celebratory invite-only dinner** at the Residence Palace

MORNING SESSION

Welcome & Keynote I

ETAF achievements & the role of the regulated tax profession



WELCOME SPEECH · 09:45

Philippe Arraou

ETAF President

Philippe Arraou is a Certified Public Accountant in France since 1986, with his own practice of 40 people, after serving as President and CEO of BDO France (1500 people) during 4 years till 2021. He was President of the French Institute of CPA “Ordre des Experts-Comptables”, from 2015 to 2017. He chairs the International Relations of the French profession since 2009. He served IFAC, the global Federation of his profession, as Board member from 2016 to November 2019, chairing the Advisory group on “Technology” which he founded. He is President-founder of ETAF, the European Tax Advisers Federation, since its launching in 2016. He was President of “CILEA”, the Latin Committee Europe America, from 2019 till 2022, and today Vice-President, on behalf of France. He was President of FCM, The Mediterranean Federation of Accountants in 2018 and 2019, and today Permanent Secretary. Philippe Arraou was founder and first President of the European Federation EFAA, the European Federation of Accountants and Auditors for SMEs, from 1996 to 1999. He was a Board member of BDO International for the region EMEA from 2018 to 2020



KEYNOTE I · 10:00

Paula Franco

President of the Portuguese Order of Certified Accountants (OCC)

Paula Franco is President of the Portuguese Order of Certified Accountants (OCC), a position she has held since 5 March 2018 as the third president in the Order’s history. A certified accountant, businesswoman, tax consultant and trainer, she previously worked in the OCC’s technical department and later advised the Order’s last two presidents on taxation, accounting and social security. She has run her own accounting firm for more than two decades.

She was re-elected in November 2021 with the highest share of votes in the OCC’s history (88.7 percent) and reappointed in 2024 for a term ending in 2028. Paula Franco is active in expert groups of international organisations such as EFAA and CILEA, and presided over the Union of Portuguese-Speaking Accountants and Auditors (UCALP) from September 2019 to February 2025.

PANEL DISCUSSION I

The evolving role of the tax profession

10:45 – 12:00 · Morning session



MODERATOR

Jacomien van den Hurk

Director of EU Public and Regulatory Affairs at PwC

Jacomien van den Hurk is Director of EU Policy and Regulation at PwC, where she focuses on EU developments impacting the firm. Based in Brussels, she works closely with EU policymakers and PwC colleagues on a broad range of EU policy issues, including tax, corporate reporting, audit and assurance.



PANELLIST

Damien Charrier

President of the French National Council of the Order of Chartered Accountants (CNOEC)

Based in Normandy with his associates and team for 25 years, Damien Charrier has been President of the Conseil national de l'Ordre des experts-comptables (French National Institute of Chartered Accountants) since 2024. He has dedicated his presidency to modernising the profession, strengthening the role of chartered accountants as strategic partners to French businesses, and securing recognition of their work, particularly from public authorities and civil society, both in France and internationally. He previously chaired the Normandy Regional Council of the Ordre des experts-comptables from 2016 to 2020 and held several strategic positions, including spokesperson for the IFEC (majority professional trade union) group within the Conseil national. He also chaired MEDEF Calvados, a role that enabled him to forge close ties with economic stakeholders and to carry the voice of entrepreneurs to the heart of decision-making bodies.



PANELLIST

Prof. Susanne Schmidt-Pfeiffer

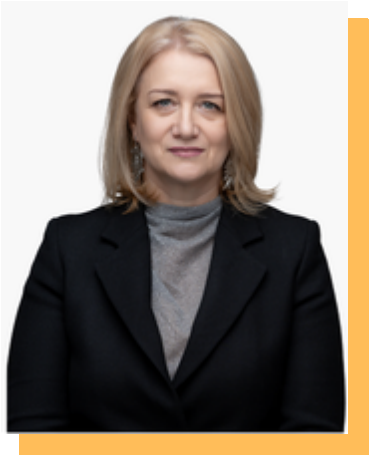
Vice-President of the Chamber of Tax Advisers of Nürnberg

Graduated from secondary school (Abitur) in 1992. Studied Business Administration and Economics at Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg. Awarded a Dr. rer. pol (Doctor of Economics and Social Sciences) in 2001. Certified as a Tax Advisor (Steuerberaterin) in 2002. Own tax advisory firm founded in 2008. Professor of Business Taxation and General Business Administration at Technische Hochschule Nürnberg Georg Simon Ohm since 2009. Member of the Executive Board of the Nuremberg Chamber of Tax Advisors since 2019. Vice President of the Nuremberg Chamber of Tax Advisors since 2023. Member of the Advisory Board of DATEV eG since 2023.

PANEL DISCUSSION I

The evolving role of the tax profession

10:45 – 12:00 · continued



PANELLIST

Oana Nicorescu

Member of the Superior Council of the Body of Expert and Licensed Accountants of Romania (CECCAR)

Oana Nicorescu is Managing Partner of a Romanian tax and finance firm, where she coordinates the accounting, tax advisory, payroll, and transfer pricing teams. Together with her fellow partners, she contributes to the firm's strategic development and represents the company in Romania and internationally. With over 20 years of experience in accounting and taxation, Oana has worked on complex projects for Romanian and multinational companies across a range of industries. She established the firm's accounting division dedicated to the insurance sector and contributed to the development of its transfer pricing practice. Oana is a member of the Superior Council of CECCAR and Vice President of Accountancy Europe. She is actively involved in the development of the accountancy profession in Romania and internationally, including through her contribution to professional education as a lecturer. She is a CECCAR-qualified expert accountant, an ACCA member and a tax consultant registered with the Romanian Chamber of Tax Consultants. She previously served as a Technical Advisor to the Small and Medium Practices Advisory Group of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).



PANELLIST

Andrea Rabb

Vice-President of International Affairs of the Association of Hungarian Certified Tax Experts (Moklasz) and ETAF Board member

Andrea Rabb is an international economist and certified VAT expert with 25 years of tax experience: ten years in the Hungarian National Tax and Customs Administration (NTCA), where she was head of department, and 15 years in VAT consulting, tax training and examining. She holds a degree in finance from the University of Humberside (1998) and a master's degree in international relations and economics (2000), and is fluent in English, German and French. She heads the qualified VAT expert course in Hungary and the ET (English Taxational) Club, and founded the English Taxational courses in 2013 to support tax professionals working in English. A regular speaker at professional tax conferences in Hungary and abroad, she also publishes VAT articles in tax periodicals and books. Andrea Rabb has been a board member of ETAF since 2021.



KEYNOTE II · 13:15

The current state of EU taxation

Gerassimos Thomas

Director-General for Taxation and Customs Union, DG TAXUD, European Commission

Gerassimos Thomas is Director-General for Taxation and Customs Union at the European Commission.

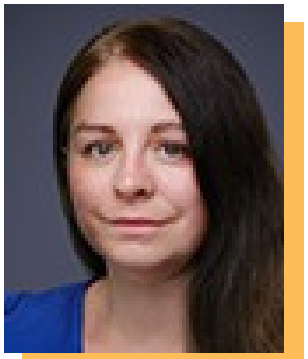
Previously he served as Deputy Minister for Environment and Energy in Greece (2019–2020); Deputy Director-General in the Directorate-General for Energy and Chairman of the Steering Board of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) (2014–2019); and Director Finance at DG ECFIN (2009–2014). He was a member of the EIB and EIF Board of Directors (2009–2017) and Head of Cabinet of Joaquin Almunia, Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs (2005–2009). Earlier he was Deputy Spokesman for Commission President Romano Prodi and Spokesman for economic and monetary affairs for Commissioner Pedro Solbes (2000–2004).

Before 2000 he held various positions in the European Commission, the European Investment Fund and in investment banking in London.

PANEL DISCUSSION II

Decluttering the EU tax agenda

13:45 – 15:00 · Afternoon session



MODERATOR

Elodie Lamer

Senior Tax Reporter at Tax Analysts

Elodie Lamer is Senior Tax Reporter at Tax Analysts, which she joined in 2022. She reports on EU tax issues, covering institutions such as the European Commission, the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament. Previously she worked as a reporter for the Belgian newspaper Le Soir and, before that, for Agence Europe. She holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in journalism from the Institut des Hautes Etudes des Communications Sociales in Brussels and is a native French speaker.



PANELLIST

Benjamin Angel

Director for Direct Taxation, DG TAXUD, European Commission

Benjamin Angel is currently Director for direct taxation, tax coordination, economic analysis and evaluation, in the Directorate General for Taxation and Customs Union of the European Commission (TAXUD), where he has also served as Director for indirect taxation. He has been Director for the Treasury and Financial operations and Director for the economies of the Member States in the Directorate General for economic and financial affairs (ECFIN). He has been a member of the cabinet of three European Commissioners for economic and monetary affairs (Yves-Thibault de Silguy, Pedro Solbes and Joaquin Almunia) and has served as Head of the unit 'Financial institutions and stability mechanisms' in DG ECFIN. Benjamin Angel has a PhD in law, a master in Business Administration with a specialisation in finance, a master of Public Administration with a specialisation in economics and a master in political science.



PANELLIST

Pascal Saint-Amans

Former Director of the OECD CTPA, Non-resident fellow at Bruegel, Founding President of Saint-Amans Global Advisory (SAGA)

Pascal Saint-Amans is the founding chairman of Saint-Amans Global Advisory (SAGA), a strategic advisory firm for governments. Through SAGA, Pascal Saint-Amans advises governments on tax policy, international taxation, domestic resource mobilization, tax transparency and compliance with international standards. Non-Resident Fellow at Bruegel and Director of the EU Tax Observatory on competitiveness, Pascal Saint-Amans is also Professor at HEC Paris business school. He researches and teaches tax policy. Currently, Saint-Amans is Senior Fellow at the Africa-Europe Foundation and Co-Chair of the working group on Illicit Financial Flows. Saint-Amans joined the OECD in 2007. He founded the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes in 2009. Saint-Amans became director of the Centre for Tax Policy and Administration in 2012, where he played an instrumental role in promoting transparency and delivering the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) agenda as well as the Global minimum tax.

PANEL DISCUSSION II

Decluttering the EU tax agenda

13:45 – 15:00 · continued



PANELLIST

Kristi Raba

Head of unit Tax Policy, Customs Union and Export Credits, General Secretariat of the Council of the EU

Kristi Raba arrived in Brussels in 2000 for the accession negotiations of Estonia to the European Union. Has worked for the General Secretariat of the Council since 2004 in different policy areas: judicial cooperation in civil law matters, cooperation in criminal matters, data protection, migration, fundamental rights, rule of law, taxation. From 2020-2025 served as the Antici Councillor of the Council and head of Coreper 2 Coordination Unit. Since 1 April 2025 Head of Unit of Tax Policy, Customs Union and Export Credits.



PANELLIST

Philippe Vanclooster

Board member of ITAA, Vice-president of CFE Tax Advisers Europe

Senior tax executive and board-level adviser with more than three decades of experience at PwC and within leading professional bodies. Progressed from Tax Adviser in Antwerp and Luxembourg to management roles and directorships in Brussels and Antwerp, before serving for two decades as a Tax Partner with a primary focus on corporate taxation. Held senior governance and leadership positions across PwC Belgium, including Chair of both the Tax Technical Committee and the Policy Panel. Board experience includes IFA Belgium, the IAB and the Institute for Tax Advisers and Accountants (ITAA), where he also chairs the Tax Committee. At European level, he has chaired CFE's Professional Affairs Committee and is nominated vice-president in the leadership of CFE Tax Advisers Europe as from January 2027.



KEYNOTE III · 15:30

The future of European tax policy

MEP Pasquale Tridico

Chair of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Tax Matters (FISC)

Pasquale Tridico is a Member of the European Parliament and Chair of its Subcommittee on Tax Matters (FISC). He is Full Professor at Roma Tre University in Rome, where he directs the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on Labour, Welfare and Social Rights.

From March 2019 to June 2023 he was President of the Italian National Social Security Institute (INPS) while on leave from the university, and from June 2018 to February 2019 he served as economic adviser at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. He was General Secretary of the European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy (EAEPE) from 2012 to 2019 and a Fulbright scholar at New York University in 2010–2011.

He has authored more than 100 articles and books on labour markets, inequality, human development, institutional economics and the European economy, including Inequality in Financial Capitalism (Routledge, 2017).

PANEL DISCUSSION III

Tax challenges for Europe in the next decade

15:45 – 17:00 · Afternoon session



MODERATOR

Eleanor Butler

Senior Tax Correspondent for Law360

Eleanor Butler is a tax journalist based in Brussels, working for the subscription-based legal news service Law360. Before joining Law360, she worked as a multimedia business reporter for Euronews in Belgium and in France, interviewing CEOs from companies including Volvo, Orange and Revolut. Originally from the UK, she holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Exeter and a master's degree from City, University of London.



PANELLIST

MEP Pasquale Tridico

Chair of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Tax Matters (FISC)

Biography on page 11.



PANELLIST

Reinhard Biebel

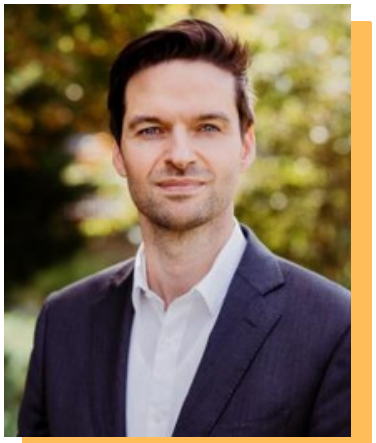
Head of Unit, Direct Tax Policy and Cooperation, DG TAXUD, European Commission

Reinhard Biebel is German Wirtschaftsprüfer, Steuerberater and US CPA (Illinois). For more than 10 years he was working as a consultant in the field of international financial reporting (IFRS) and related tax issues. In 2006, Reinhard joined the European Commission dealing with internal market issues including financial reporting, audit and financial markets more generally. In 2014 he joined DG TAXUD where he became responsible for the administrative cooperation and exchange of information file (DAC) in the area of direct taxation. The most recent proposals he is in charge of are mainly the simplification file (DAC recast), the implementation of the directive on refund procedures of withholding taxes (FASTER), transfer pricing issues related to the Savings and Investment Union. His unit also covers digital taxation and dispute resolution mechanisms more broadly. Since June 2020 he is in charge of these topics as Head of Unit.

PANEL DISCUSSION III

Tax challenges for Europe in the next decade

15:45 – 17:00 · continued



PANELLIST

Roel Dom

Economist and Research Fellow at Bruegel, EU Tax Compass

Roel Dom is a Research Fellow at Bruegel. He specialises in public finance and international development. He covers tax policy, fiscal policy, European Union budget revenues and debt sustainability, as well as international development, in particular European relations with lower-income countries. He speaks English, Dutch and French. Roel is also a Visiting Professor at the University of Antwerp. Before joining Bruegel, he held various positions in policy and research, including as a Policy Advisor to Belgium's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice. Prior to that, he was an Economist at the World Bank, which he joined as a Young Professional, a Research Fellow at the International Centre for Tax and Development and an Economist at the Overseas Development Institute. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Nottingham.



PANELLIST

Kurt Van Dender

Head of the Tax Policy and Statistics Division, Centre for Tax Policy and Administration, OECD

Kurt Van Dender is the Head of the Tax Policy and Statistics Division of the Centre for Tax Policy and Administration (CTPA) at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Kurt joined the OECD in 2013, where he now leads a team of economists, lawyers and statisticians focused on delivering high-quality tax policy advice based on internationally comparable tax data and economic analysis. In prior roles, Kurt led the Tax and the Environment work at the CTPA, was Chief Economist of the International Transport Forum, and was an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of California at Irvine. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Leuven in Belgium.

17:00

Closing remarks

by Philippe Arraou, ETAF President (biography on page 5)

19:00

Celebratory dinner

Invite-only, at the Residence Palace

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