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To Mr Jeroen Dijsselbloem  
Minister for Finance of the Netherlands  
ECOFIN President  
President of the Eurogroup  
Chair of the Board of Governors of the European Stability Mechanism

And Mr Eric Wiebes  
State Secretary for Finance of the Netherlands

Brussels, 3 March 2016

Dear Mr Dijsselbloem,  
Dear Mr Wiebes,

We would like to take this opportunity to first of all thank you for the open debate with Members of the European Parliament at the exchanges of views on 18 and 29 February respectively.

During the second exchange of views of 18 February, Mr Dijsselbloem, in his capacity as current ECOFIN President and Minister for Finance of the Netherlands, was asked the following question with reference to an article published in the *Handelsblatt* on 11 February:

*"In the Code of Conduct Group on business taxation in the Council, which is meant to roll back harmful tax practices in Member States, your presidency work programme for this group was recently discussed on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Notably missing was the topic of outbound payments, contrary to what had been agreed under the Luxembourgish presidency last autumn. Could you explain why in particular this topic was dropped and how this relates to the fact that the Netherlands is known worldwide as the perfect gate for money to flow out of the EU untaxed thanks to some of your tax treaties?"*

In his response, he stated that he had not been aware of the issue, but that he would consult with his services with a view to providing a follow-up answer to the question in due course.

The same question was put to Mr Wiebes at the 29 February hearing. In his response, Mr Wiebes referred to the multi-annual work programme of the CoCG, agreed in 2015, as well as the Dutch Presidency's roadmap on BEPS.

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The question asked during both hearings by MEPs referred in fact to the Presidency's actual work plan for the CoCG, from which, according to our understanding, the topic was removed. While being part of the above-mentioned roadmap, which outlines work stretching beyond the Dutch Presidency's timeframe, the topic only figures in the medium-term targets with a very generic description.

We would hence like to reiterate the question and remind in particular Mr Dijsselbloem of his commitment to provide us with a more specific answer on the matter.

In addition, we would like to take this opportunity to inquire with you whether and how the Dutch Presidency is planning on assisting the European Parliament's TAX2 in fulfilling its current mandate. Specifically, we would like to know whether you will be in a position to make Council Presidency meeting minutes of the CoCG and other Council fora dealing with matters of direct taxation available to Members of the European Parliament for consultation in line with the requests sent by the TAXE committee in May 2015.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

With kind regards,



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