

EN
E-003343/2020
Answer given by Mr Gentiloni
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.8.2020)

According to Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union¹, Member States are responsible for the definition of their health policy and for the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care. EU funds to improve public health, such as the current or future Cohesion Policy Funds, are allocated according to priorities in Operational Programmes, which are in line with national and regional needs and strategies, and are paid in instalments, following the fulfilment of objective-oriented milestones and targets designed to scrutinize their appropriate use.

The Code of Conduct on Business Taxation plays an important role regulating unfair tax competition. On 15 July 2020, the Commission has presented a tax package consisting of three distinct, but related deliverables of the Commission, developing further the fair taxation agenda. The package includes a Communication on Tax Good Governance² with first ideas for reform, to ensure that the Code of Conduct remains up to date.

The international business tax system is in need of significant reform, and the coronavirus crisis has increased the urgency. Discussions ongoing at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) aim to introduce a minimum effective level of taxation in order to put a floor on tax competition and to close remaining loopholes. The goal remains to reach an agreement by the end of 2020, and the Commission will transpose this into EU law. If no agreement is reached, the Commission is committed to taking EU action.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A12008E168>

² Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Tax Good Governance in the EU and beyond, COM(2020) 313 final
https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/sites/taxation/files/2020_tax_package_tax_good_governance_communication_en.pdf