

## POLITICAL STATEMENT

### JOINT INITIATIVE ON THE TAXATION OF COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

Being able to appropriately tax the companies operating in the digital economy is a major challenge for the European Union.

We should no longer accept that these companies do business in Europe while paying minimal amounts of tax to our treasuries. Economic efficiency is at stake, as well as tax fairness and sovereignty

We support the ongoing work on those questions at the G20/OECD level and are looking forward to the progress report in spring 2018. The European Commission has also taken important initiatives with the proposals for directives on a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCTB and CCCTB). These proposals are useful, and we must continue to work actively on them.

These initiatives must nevertheless be complemented. We would like to move ahead quickly at EU level. Therefore we ask the EU Commission to explore EU law compatible options and propose any effective solutions based on the concept of establishing a so-called “equalisation tax” on the turnover generated in Europe by the digital companies. The amounts raised would aim to reflect some of what these companies should be paying in terms of corporate tax.

This proposal is practical. It does not call into question the essential work on CCTB and CCCTB. The Commission could decide to propose a legislative initiative accordingly. It will demonstrate our commitment to appropriately tax the companies of the digital economy in a way that reflects their genuine activity in the EU.

Ministers' signatures

  
Bruno  
LE MAIRE

  
Wolfgang  
SCHÄUBLE

  
Pier-Carlo  
PADOAN

  
Luis  
DE GUINDOS