



Federation of European Accountants  
Fédération des Experts comptables Européens

# INFO

*Standing for trust and integrity*

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## FEE Second Tax Day:

**“From Policy to Practice – Highway to hell or heaven?”**

### FEE leads the debate on the future of tax policy

**Brussels, 11 October 2011** – In a context where fiscal consolidation and growth stimulation are equally required, FEE (Fédération des Experts-comptables Européens – Federation of European Accountants) organised its second tax day, a high level conference aimed at stimulating debate amongst all stakeholders: business, both SMEs and large enterprises, national and EU top policymakers, professional accountants and taxpayers. The conference challenged participants asking whether, in the current climate, taxation is on highway to hell or heaven.

In opening the conference, **Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Institutional Reforms, Belgium**, answered that if we are to reach heaven we can only do so together through an open, inclusive, respectful and mutually trustful relationship. He outlined the need for further cooperation amongst Member States and for reform ensuring a shift from labourtax to greentax, alleviating tax obstacles to growth and investment and securing tax revenues enabling to cope with the challenges of investing in innovation and education and an ageing society.

**Algirdas Semeta, EU Commissioner, Taxation and Customs Union, Audit and Anti-Fraud**, declared that tax policy is back on the EU agenda. He outlined the importance of taxation as a policy instrument aimed at supporting sustainable growth and employment. He highlighted the Commission's priorities, in particular: the Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB), the need to further prevent double taxation in the EU and move away to a definitive VAT regime. He thanked FEE for stimulating the tax policy debate and contributing substantial input.

Commenting on the event, **Philip Johnson, FEE President**, outlined the importance of tax expertise that represent a significant part of the accountancy profession's activity in certain FEE member countries and a critical element of the public interest in today's economic climate. Multidisciplinary expertise is an important added value of professional firms that advisory clients, in particular SMEs, are expecting.

**Olivier Boutellis-Taft, FEE CEO**, underlined FEE's commitment to contribute to a more efficient, transparent and sustainable European economy and the instrumental importance of fair, simple and coordinated tax policy in the EU to this end.

The conference brought together about 200 participants from more than 30 countries.

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## NOTES FOR EDITORS

### About FEE

**FEE (Fédération des Experts-comptables Européens – Federation of European Accountants) is an international non-profit organisation based in Brussels that represents 45 institutes of professional accountants and auditors from 33 European countries, including all of the 27 EU Member States.**

FEE has a combined membership of more than 700.000 professional accountants, working in different capacities in public practice, small and big accountancy firms, businesses of all sizes, government and education, who all contribute to a more efficient, transparent and sustainable European economy.

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