

2026

CFE FORUM :



TAX POLICY UNDER PRESSURE: STRATEGY, COHERENCE & TRADE-OFFS

How trade tensions, cross-border tax coherence challenges, global mobility and evolving compliance expectations are reshaping modern tax systems.



Tax Policy Under Pressure: Strategy, Coherence & Trade-Offs

How trade tensions, cross-border coherence challenges, global mobility and evolving compliance expectations are reshaping modern tax systems

Tax policy today operates under multiple and simultaneous pressures. Geopolitical tensions and renewed trade measures are reshaping economic relationships and competitiveness dynamics. Increased cross-border mobility of both individuals and businesses is testing traditional concepts of nexus and tax residence.

Efforts to align direct and indirect taxation are revealing structural frictions that translate into uncertainty, litigation risk and administrative burden. At the same time, digitalisation and expanding reporting and AML frameworks are rapidly redefining compliance expectations and professional responsibilities.

The CFE Forum 2026 will bring together senior policymakers, international organisations, tax administrations, academics and practitioners to examine how tax systems adapt when strategy, coherence and compliance must be balanced at once.

Through three focused panels, the CFE Forum will explore where trade-offs arise in practice, between simplification and safeguards, competitiveness and revenue protection, transparency and professional privilege, and what this means for the future design and governance of tax systems in Europe and beyond.

23 APRIL 2026
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

RUE MONTOYER 47
1000 BRUXELLES

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NOW**

2026

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TAX POLICY UNDER PRESSURE: STRATEGY, COHERENCE & TRADE-OFFS



8:30 REGISTRATION

9:00 WELCOME & SCENE SETTING

9:30 PANEL 1 - GLOBAL PRESSURES ON TAX POLICY

**Trade Tensions, Mobility and EU Policy Ambition: Balancing Competitiveness,
Simplification and Legal Certainty in a Shifting Global Tax Landscape**

This opening panel will examine how global economic and geopolitical developments are reshaping tax policy. It will consider the impact of renewed trade tensions and sustained cross-border mobility of individuals and businesses on national tax systems and competitiveness strategies.



BENJAMIN ANGEL

Director, Direct Taxation
European Commission
(TBC)



REPRESENTATIVE

Centre for Tax Policy
OECD



DANIEL BUNN

CEO
Tax Foundation



EDWIN VISSER

Dep. Global Tax Policy Leader
PwC



HELEN PAHAPILL

Vice-Chair
Intergovernmental Negotiating
Committee
UN Framework Convention on
International Tax Cooperation

MODERATOR:



SAIIM SAEED

Reporter
Bloomberg Tax

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11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:30 PANEL 2 - CROSS-BORDER COHERENCE: DIRECT AND INDIRECT TAX UNDER STRAIN

Where VAT, Transfer Pricing and Corporate Tax Intersect

This panel will explore areas where interaction between direct and indirect tax systems creates uncertainty, compliance burdens or litigation risk. It will assess whether current frameworks deliver coherent outcomes in practice.



SOPHIE CLAESSENS

Director, EU Public Policy
Amazon (TBC)



TRUDY PERIE

Chair
CFE Indirect Taxes Subcommittee



JAN-WILLEM VAN ROOIJ

Partner, Attorney-at-Law
Loyens & Loeff



REPRESENTATIVE

DG TAXUD
European Commission (TBC)

MODERATOR:



JEREMY WOOLF

Barrister-at-Law
Pump Court Tax Chambers

13:00 LUNCH

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14:00 PANEL 3 - ETHICS AND TRANSPARENCY IN A SHIFITING LANDSCAPE

The New Boundaries of Professional Trust

This panel will examine professional privilege, DAC-related disclosure duties, emerging AML supervision architectures, and the evolving ethical landscape of the profession. Panellists will consider what long-term equilibrium looks like between accountability, independence and professional privilege, and how transparency objectives can advance without eroding the legal and institutional safeguards that underpin professional trust.



REINHARD BIEBEL

Head of Unit, Direct Tax Policy
European Commission



KEN SIONG

Director
International Ethics Standards
Board for Accountants



REPRESENTATIVE

Regulatory Technical Standards
EU AML Authority (TBC)



ALEKSANDAR IVANOVSKI

Director
CFE Tax Advisers Europe

MODERATOR:



EDUARDO GRACIA ESPINAR

Head of Tax, EMEA & US
Ashurst

15:45 CLOSING REMARKS



ANNE GUNNELL

Chair
CFE Direct Taxes Subcommittee