



Tax alert Belgium

The nine takeaways from the State of the European Union

The President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, delivered his State of the [European Union speech on 13 September 2017](#).

Below are nine standout points that may affect businesses.

Common labour authority



The EU commission will propose to set up a European inspection and enforcement body similar to the European Banking Authority. The aim is to enforce the European rules on labour mobility in a fair, simple and effective way across all Member States.

Tax



The EU Commission proposes to use the simpler co-decision procedure with a more easily qualified majority, which according to Mr. Juncker, does not require treaty changes if unanimously decided in the European council. This might lead to swifter and more EU decisions on financial transaction tax, fairness tax and a re-launch of the common corporate tax base.

Schengen and migration



Bulgaria and Romania should immediately be included in the Schengen area. Croatia will join as soon as all criteria are met.

Mr. Juncker calls for a swift conclusion on the revised Blue card.

The Eurozone



The Euro is destined to become the currency of all Member States, and all Member States should be allowed to access the European Banking Union. Member States need support and a European-accession instrument will be created. Risk reduction/mitigation checks should allow them to join.

Social rights



The EU Commission suggests the creation of a European Social Standards Union. The EU should agree on a Union of Social Standards to ensure consensus about what is socially fair in the single market. The EU should conclude new rules on posted workers.

European Minister of Economy and Finance



The EU proposes that a Commissioner hold this position and coordinate all EU financial instruments that can be used in cases of crisis. The Minister supports structural reform in Member States and can build upon the Structural Reform Support Service of the EU Commission.

European Foreign Policy



The EU Commission believes that foreign policy decisions should be made more quickly and proposes to use qualified majority instead of unanimous decisions.

BREXIT



The UK will leave the EU by 29 March 2019 at the latest. In May 2019, EU elections will take place. Mr. Juncker calls upon the Council and Romania, as president of the European Council, to organise a meeting in Romania on 30 March 2019 and prepare for the "meeting with the citizens".

The EU budget



To meet the challenges of the future, Mr Juncker proposes to increase the budget of the EU.

Contacts

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