

I, Maurice Fitzgerald, Shanbally, County Cork: make the following submission in relation to tax treaty policy.

Questions:

a) Does Ireland's tax treaty policy sufficiently cater for the evolving economic and business environment?

Answer: It does not sufficiently cater for an evolving business environment. Ireland is infamous for treating foreign multinational companies differently when it comes to corporate tax, than indigenous business. This policy has always come under international pressure and needs to be addressed. What is the point in having foreign multinationals in Ireland if their profits go elsewhere. The "double Irish" system has to go and maybe forced upon us by the EU at some stage.

b) Do you have any suggestions on how could Ireland's tax treaty policy be enhanced, as a means to continue to facilitate economic opportunity into the future?

Answer: Government revenue is important and will be crucial in any restart policy for the economy and tax evasion is rife in this country in many sectors of our society. Unfortunately, large sectors of our society are paying little or no tax. E.G. The self-employed (both craft and professional); agriculture; directors of companies; EU nationals outside Ireland setting up shop in Ireland. The problem with this country is that any tax free status which is given to companies or individuals for a while is continued well beyond its sunset date. Strict warnings need to be issued to all companies that any free tax status is no longer in effect after a certain period and companies, individuals, partners, etc, rigorously pursued to pay their fair share.

We must also severely restrict the number of days a person or other taxable entity must be offshore before they are considered resident.

c) Does Ireland's tax treaty network sufficiently serve all business sectors in the economy?

Answer: Tax treaties should automatically cover every area of the economy. Is there any reason why they should not...?

d) How can Ireland optimise its tax treaty priorities in the context of recent international tax reforms, notably at the OECD?

Answer: Obviously our double corporate rate is a matter of international angst and needs review. The OECD takes a dim view of our attitude and bias towards foreign multinationals. Ireland must not be seen as a corporate tax shelter, but a place where lower taxation is situated.

e) What should the criteria be for prioritising the negotiation and renegotiation of specific tax treaties in the years ahead? Are there any significant gaps in Ireland's tax treaty network by reference to those criteria?

Answer: Foreign companies in Ireland need to pay more tax, rather than their near tax-less status at present.

Developing countries.

a) Are there any specific areas of Ireland's treaty policy which should be modified or tailored, in relation to developing countries?

Answer: Ireland is a developing country – there is a long way to go and many of our people live in poverty.

b) Are there international best practices which Ireland can draw on to further enhance our approach to the specific circumstances of developing countries?

Answer: Yes, refuse to give any aid or assistance to third countries if benefits do not benefit the entire population of that country and end up in the hand of corrupt government officials of foreign governments.

c) When negotiating with developing countries, should more emphasis be placed on the UN Model Treaty? If so, please provide details.

Answer: No Answer.

d) Should any specific standard positions, e.g. on source taxation, be adopted for treaties with developing countries?

Answer: All treaties should have anti-corruption and anti-competition clauses in them as standard, which render them null and void in the case of lack of honour and delivery of agreed terms.

You may publish this submission in full.

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