

## **Report of Tax Strategy Group (TSG) Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

### **Introduction to Budget 2014**

1. The Chair welcomed all Members to the annual TSG process. Included in the introduction was a short presentation on the economic and budgetary context, setting out the Department's view of the current economic situation including information on domestic, EU and international risks. The Chair noted the change in the running order of the agenda.

### **General Excise Duties**

**(TSG 15/05)**

2. The General Excise paper covered the areas of tobacco, alcohol, betting and sugar-sweetened drinks tax. The paper outlined the recent changes to rates, yield and consumption and recent developments.

### **Energy and Environmental Taxes and Vehicle Registration Tax**

**(TSG 15/06)**

3. The paper examined the options in respect of Energy and Environmental Taxes and Vehicle Registration Tax for Budget 2016. The issues covered included transport fuels, carbon taxes, VRT and commercial motor tax – HGVs. The Group noted that car sales are the highest since 2008.

### **Selected VAT Issues**

**(TSG 15/07)**

4. The paper reviewed the VAT rates and structures and the scope for possible change. Also included were options for assisting small and medium enterprises, the Charities Working Group and VAT issues/developments at EU level.

### **Taxation Policy and Housing**

**(TSG 15/03)**

5. This paper gives an overview of the current state of the housing market in relation to output, prices, credit availability and growth. The paper lists the current property related reliefs and incentives. The Group noted the draft conclusions of the ESRI report which is due to be published at Budget time.

**Corporation Tax****(TSG 15/01)**

6. The Corporation Tax paper includes a recap on recent developments, an update on international tax policy and the corporation tax focus for 2016.

**OECD BEPS Project****(TSG 15/02)**

7. The paper provided an overview of the background to and the purpose of the BEPS project, a high level summary of the outcome of each of the actions set out in the BEPS Action Plan and set out some of the options for Ireland as regards the implementation of recommendations arising from the BEPS Actions.

**Taxation Reviews – 2015****(TSG 15/04)**

8. A paper was presented for the information of the Group listing the taxation reviews which have been conducted during 2015.

**Attendance List and Next Meeting**

9. The attendance list for the meeting of 8th September 2015 is attached. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 15th September at 10.30 am in Room 0.2, South Block, Government Buildings, Merrion Street.

**Rory O’Kelly****Secretary to the Group****10 September 2015.**

## **TSG Attendance List – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

### **Department of Finance:**

Gary Tobin

Gerry Kenny

Rónán Hession

Seamus Milne

David Hegarty

John Palmer

John McCarthy

Mary Kenny

Paul Bolger

Ambrose Murray

Colm Forde

Rory O’Kelly (Secretary)

*Other members of the Department were present for parts of the meeting appropriate to their particular areas of work.*

### **Department of Public Expenditure and Reform**

Colin Menton

### **Department of the Taoiseach:**

Andrew McDowell

Helen Blake

John Callinan

Paul O’Brien

**Office of the Revenue Commissioners:**

Gerard Moran

Gerard Howard

Brian Boyle

Eamonn O'Dea

**Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation:**

Declan Hughes

Ciarán Conlon

Paul Kealy

**Department of Social Protection:**

Terry Quinn

John Conlon

**Attorney General**

Faye Breen