

Participants

STATES	HEADS OF DELEGATIONS
France Co-chairman	Mr. Eric WOERTH Minister for the Budget, Public Accounts and the Civil Service
Germany Co-chairman	Mr. Peer STEINBRÜCK Federal Minister of Finance
Australia	Mr. Chris BOWEN Assistant Treasurer and Minister for competition policy and consumer affairs
Austria	—
Belgium	Mr. Bernard CLERFAYT State Secretary of Finances
Canada	—
Denmark	Mr. Kristian JENSEN Minister for Taxation
Finland	Mr. Antero TOIVAINEN Director for International Tax Affaires
Ireland	Mr. Martin MANSERGH Minister of State at the department of finance including special responsibility for the office of public works
Iceland	Mr. Tómas Ingi OLRICH Ambassador
Italy	Mrs. Fabrizia LAPECORELLA Director General of Finance
Japan	Mr. Takuji TANAKA Director of International Tax Policy Division
Korea	Mr. Sang Ryule HAN Commissioner, National Tax Service
Luxembourg	—
Mexico	Mr. Armando LARA YAFFAR General Director for International Treaties
Netherlands	M. Jan Kees de JAGER State Secretary of Finances
Norway	Mr. Geir AXELSEN State Secretary
Spain	Mrs. Dolores BEATO General Secretary of Finances
Sweden	Mr. Ingemar HANSSON State Secretary (Fiscal affairs)
Switzerland	—
United-Kingdom	Mr. Stephen TIMMS Financial Secretary to the Treasury
USA	—
OECD	Mr. Angel GURRIÀ OECD Secretary-General

Presentation of France activities in Community and multilateral bodies against tax havens and harmful tax practices

With their harmful tax practices, tax havens hamper the efficient operation of the markets and undermine the level playing field required for fair tax competition. A combination of tax breaks and lack of disclosure gives taxpayers an incentive not to declare income in their country of residence, depriving such countries from the necessary financial resources.

Tax avoidance and evasion tend to attract the most mobile tax bases and to benefit taxpayers (multinationals, high-net-worth individuals) most able to take advantage of the coexistence of different tax systems. Conversely, small and medium-size enterprises are the first victims of harmful tax competition. Tax avoidance by individuals automatically shifts the tax burden to the least mobile taxpayers, i.e. unskilled workers (and therefore low-income households) and consumers. Lastly, tax avoidance and evasion do not just hurt the wealthiest nations. They also weaken developing countries, which similarly lose tax revenues they could have used to consolidate their public finances and to continue their economic development.

These threats call for a concerted response on the part of the largest possible number of countries. France and its partner countries are working actively towards better transparency and fair tax competition within the framework of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) [I] and the European Union [II].

I. France and initiatives by OECD to improve transparency and the exchange of information in tax matters.

1. France's implementation of the most stringent OECD information exchange standards through its network of treaties

Tax treaties are intended to align the tax systems of two countries. As a general rule, their purpose is to avoid situations in which an individual or corporate taxpayer is taxed twice on the same income or, conversely, is not taxed due to the coexistence of two tax systems.

In 2005, the OECD Model Tax Convention was amended to strengthen the tax information exchange criteria in Article 26. In its new wording, Article 26 stipulates that signatory countries may no longer decline to supply information (a) by arguing that such information is covered by banking secrecy or (b) by making disclosure dependent upon the existence of a domestic interest to apply their own tax legislation.

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France currently has the largest network of tax treaties in the world (with 119 treaties in force). The new Article 26 is included in treaties renegotiated recently with low-tax countries such as Qatar and Malta. In the same spirit, France refuses to sign treaties that do not meet the requirements of the new Article 26, which is why it has suspended negotiations with Hong Kong.

2. France's initiatives within the framework of the OECD to improve transparency in tax havens

In 1998, the OECD published its first report on harmful tax competition. The report examined preferential regimes implemented in certain OECD countries³ as well as the practices of many non-OECD territories and countries which could be considered "tax havens" according to the following four criteria: an almost total lack of direct taxation, weak local economic activities, impenetrable tax rules and lack of disclosure of information to the tax authorities of other countries. As regards the latter, the OECD has instructed one of its bodies - the Forum on Harmful Tax Practices - to draw up a list of countries and territories against which its members would be invited to apply retaliation measures.

The OECD has drawn up lists of tax havens since 2000. In addition to six countries⁴ which immediately agreed to improve their tax practices, the first list included 35 jurisdictions.

Change in the OECD list of tax havens

OECD list of tax havens in 2000

Andorra, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Guernsey-Sark-Alderney, Cook Islands, Dominica, Gibraltar, Grenada, Isle of Man, Jersey, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montserrat, Nauru, Dutch Antilles, Niue, Panama, Saint-Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint-Vincent and the Grenadines, Western Samoa Islands, Seychelles, Tonga, Turks and Caicos Islands, American Virgin Islands, Vanuatu

OECD list of non-cooperative tax havens in 2002

Andorra, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Nauru, Vanuatu

Current OECD list of non-cooperative tax havens

Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco.

³ 47 harmful regimes have subsequently been identified and dismantled by a Forum on Harmful Tax Practices set up by the OECD's Committee on Fiscal Affairs. The Forum is currently chaired by France.

⁴ Bermuda Islands, Caiman Islands, San Marino, Mauritius, Cyprus and Malta.

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The method recommended in 2001 was not to impose penalties but to offer incentives to tax havens. Tax havens were asked to agree officially to implement OECD transparency and information exchange standards in return for withdrawal from future OECD lists. Most of the countries and territories in question have done so.

This approach partly achieved the OECD's objectives since jurisdictions as Malta and the Isle of Man agreed to implement significant improvements. Certain other countries and territories have never honoured their commitments, taken in some cases as early as 2000. This is inter alia the case with Panama. Lastly, several major financial centres, such as Singapore, remain a source of problems with transparency and exchange of information.

Against this background, France is an active member of OECD bodies set up to improve the situation in the least cooperative countries and is ready to consider retaliation measures to achieve this. It inter alia chairs the Forum on Harmful Tax Practices.

French legislation already includes mechanisms intended to prevent or punish abuse. For example, a French taxpayer whose wages are paid by a straw company established in a foreign country remains liable to taxation in France, and holders of foreign bank accounts are fined when they do not declare their accounts.

At the same time, France encourages jurisdictions that have agreed to improve their practices to sign information exchange agreements. Such an agreement is about to be signed with the Isle of Man, and the ongoing negotiations with Jersey could be wrapped up shortly.

II. Priorities of the French Presidency of the European Union in the fight against tax evasion and harmful tax practices

1. The French Presidency is actively working towards completion of the array of Community legal instruments required to exchange tax information

Smooth operation of the internal market requires that the EU Member States do not use taxation as an obstacle to cross-border activities.

However, the freedom for European citizens to choose their place of residence or establishment should not create opportunities for tax evasion or avoidance. The European Union has therefore developed a legal framework under which its tax administrations are allowed to exchange information.

Main directives on transparency and the exchange of information.

- Council Directive 76/308/EEC of 15 March 1976 on mutual assistance for the recovery of claims;
- Council Directive 77/799/EEC of 19 December 1977 concerning mutual assistance by the competent authorities of the Member States in the field of direct taxation and taxation of insurance premiums;
- Council Directive 2003/48/EC of 3 June 2003 on taxation of savings income in the form of interest payments;
- Directive 2005/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2005 on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering and terrorist financing;
- Council Regulation No. 1798/2003 (EC) of 7 October 2003 on administrative cooperation in the field of value added tax.

In its capacity as the President of the Council of the European Union, France inter alia supports two projects intended to improve the exchange of information:

- *at France's initiative, the Member States have just approved (during the Ecofin Council meeting of 7 October) the creation of an official network to facilitate the multilateral exchange of information on high-risk operators: Eurofisc. In practice, subject to the principles of reciprocity and confidentiality, the Member States are invited to coordinate their actions in order to facilitate the detection of VAT carousel fraud. This type of fraud calls for a rapid, concerted response;*
- *in November, the European Commission is expected to publish a proposal for a directive improving the Savings Directive of 2003, based on a first review after 3 years of application by the Member States. This proposal is inter alia expected to broaden the scope of products and entities covered by the information exchange obligation.*

Note, moreover, that the Savings Directive also applies outside EU territory.

Jurisdictions with which "Savings Directive" agreements have been signed

Switzerland, Liechtenstein, San Marino, Monaco, Andorra, Guernsey, Jersey, Isle of Man, Anguilla, Caiman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands, British Virgin Islands, Dutch Antilles and Aruba.

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In its capacity as the President of the Council of the European Union during the second half of 2008, France endeavours to wrap up the ongoing negotiations with other countries. Such an agreement is shortly expected with Norway, while negotiations are underway with Hong Kong.

2. Elimination of harmful tax practices by the Code of Conduct Group.

In 1997, the EU Member States decided to set up a group responsible for evaluating so-called harmful tax measures, i.e. those which may lead to unfair tax competition due to their measurable impact on the location of economic activities within the European Union. The Code of Conduct Group - currently chaired by the United Kingdom - does not encroach upon the powers of the Member States or the Commission.

In essence, this Group reflects a political agreement between the Member States to eliminate tax practices that could lead to unfair competition. In practice, the Member States use a common analysis chart to analyse whether or not a tax measure adopted by a particular Member State is harmful for other Member States. If so, the Member State in question has to eliminate the harmful measure. So far, the Group's efforts have resulted in the elimination or rollback of more than 100 harmful measures.

France currently co-chairs this Group.

3. Conclusion of anti-fraud agreements within the European Economic Area (EEA)

Lastly, the EU Member States are strengthening their ties with the Member States of the European Free Trade Association. They are adopting so-called "anti-fraud" agreements, intended to streamline administrative cooperation between the signatory countries.

In 2004, the European Union signed an anti-fraud agreement on indirect taxation with Switzerland. Another agreement is being negotiated with Liechtenstein.

The French Presidency of the Council of the European Union endeavours to make sure that this agreement more than covers every possible area of tax evasion, including evasion of direct taxes

TYOLOGY OF NON-OECD COUNTRIES ACCORDING TO THEIR DGREE OF COOPERATION

Examples of jurisdictions with a certain importance for France

Non-cooperative tax havens (list drawn up by OECD)

LIECHTENSTEIN
MONACO
ANDORRA

Important financial centres

SINGAPORE
Hong-Kong ((but has recently given a few positive signals)
Dubai
Brunei

Jurisdictions which have accepted official commitments but failed to carry them out

Jurisdictions Commitments accepted in 2000

Bermuda Islands
Caiman Islands
Mauritius
San Marino

Commitments accepted in 2002

Panama
Gibraltar
Barhain
British Virgin Islands

Jurisdictions which have begun to carry out their commitments⁵

Malta
Cyprus
Isle of Man
Jersey

⁵ These jurisdictions have already signed or are about to sign information exchange agreements with OECD member countries according to OECD standards .

France is about to sign agreements with the Isle of Man and, subsequently, Jersey. In 2008, France became the first country to sign a new treaty with Malta according to the latest OECD standards. Cyprus, which recently amended its national legislation to improve administrative cooperation, could

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GLOSSARY

Administrative cooperation: to optimise the operation of the internal market, the European Union very early on realised the need to fight tax practices promoting tax avoidance, tax evasion and money laundering. EU legislation provides for cooperation between the tax administrations of the Member States, in the form of an exchange of tax information.

Code of Conduct (Code of Conduct Group): the Code of Conduct is the result of a political agreement reached in 1997 between the EU Member States to dismantle tax practices harmful for other Member States (see Harmful).

Harmful (harmful taxation): for the purposes of the Code of Conduct Group, harmful taxation includes any very advantageous tax measure restricted to businesses not resident in a particular country in order to attract such businesses.

Jurisdiction: a generic term for countries and territories.

Model Tax Convention (OECD): the purpose of this bilateral modal tax convention is to eliminate double taxation or, as applicable no taxation at all. Article 26 of this model convention is currently the most advanced information exchange standard. In its new wording of 2005, Article 26 no longer allows countries to decline to supply tax-related information by arguing that the information is covered by banking secrecy or by making disclosure dependent upon the existence of a domestic interest in the application of their own tax legislation.

Money laundering: knowing concealment of the origins of money obtained unlawfully in order to reinvest it in lawful activities.

OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development): an international economic research organisation whose member countries share a democratic system of government and a market economy. The OECD is the successor to the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC), which existed from 1948 to 1960, and is headquartered in Paris. In order to support sustainable economic growth, the OECD shares its expertise through a dialogue with more than 100 countries and economies, including Brazil, China, Russia and the African countries.

Savings (Savings Directive): the Savings Directive provides for automatic exchange of information on savings income paid to individuals resident in another Member State or any other country that has signed a Savings Treaty. However, a preferential transition regime allows Belgium, Luxembourg and Austria to exempt themselves from the information exchange obligation and, instead, to levy a fixed withholding tax (see below) in favour of the country where the taxpayer is a resident.

Tax avoidance: avoidance is the intentional use by individual and corporate taxpayers of defects or discrepancies between national tax laws in order to obtain tax breaks.

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Tax evasion: evasion is the intentional use by individual and corporate taxpayers of unlawful means to reduce their tax burden.

Tax haven: as defined by the OECD, a tax haven fulfills 4 criteria: an almost total lack of direct taxation, weak local economic activities, impenetrable tax rules and lack of disclosure of information to the tax authorities of other countries. In practice, however, the OECD focuses on the lack of transparency and exchange of information.

Unfair tax competition: tax competition between countries is normal. It expresses the sovereign stature of each country. Countries are free to exercise their sovereign power to tax and to define their own tax system. However, tax competition becomes unfair when a country's tax rules intentionally or effectively make it impossible for other countries to apply their own tax laws.

VAT carousel: carousel fraud is a form of VAT fraud involving several companies of the same business group established in at least two EU Member States. The principle of this fraud is to obtain a VAT deduction or reimbursement for the delivery of goods when the supplier does not make a corresponding payment to the Treasury.

Withholding tax: the transition regime introduced by the Savings Directive provides that Member States which do not participate in the exchange of information must tax savings income at a fixed rate (currently 20% and 35% after 1 July 2011) and repay 75% of the withholding to the Member State where the beneficial owner is resident.

Data on international tax audits

The recent tax evasion scandals have highlighted the leading role played by tax havens in the relocation of income and assets. Because of the amounts involved, all players responsible for tax policy and tax audits need to contribute to the preparation and application of measures to fight evasion through such countries.

• **Anti-fraud organisation at the Public Finances General Directorate (DGFIP) en matière de lutte contre la fraude**

The Sub-directorate of the Public Finances General Directorate in charge of tax audits helps implement and supervise the anti-fraud guidelines adopted by the Minister.

- **The National Tax Investigation** Directorate (DNEF) collects and exploits information at national level. It applies specific procedures and enjoys special rights, such as the right to demand disclosure by institutions likely to hold information on bank accounts and related capital movements, and the right to conduct searches according to particular procedures in the case of tax evasion. The purpose is to use such information for tax audits.
- Businesses and high-net-worth individuals are audited by **specialised national audit entities**, i.e. the National and International Audit Directorate (DVNI) and the National Tax Situation Examination Directorate (DNVSF).
- **Local tax audits** and investigations are the responsibility of regional entities (Interregional Tax Audit Directorate - DIRCOFI) and entities at *département* [district] level (Tax Services Directorate - DSF).

• **DGFIP resources for obtaining information**

Certain tax regulations make it easier to obtain banking and financial information.

▪ **Declaration obligations for taxpayers and banks**

Declaration obligations come into play when securities or assets are held or transferred abroad.

Thus, the income tax return of each French taxpayer must mention the references of his or her foreign bank accounts. Failure to do so makes him or her liable for a fine of €750 for every undeclared bank account.

Transfers to and from undeclared bank accounts are furthermore assumed to concern concealed income and therefore taxable.

Every capital transfer to a foreign country in excess of €10,000 without going through a bank must also be declared. If not, it is assumed to be taxable.

Lastly, as part of the transposition of the 3rd Anti-Money Laundering Directive,

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banks and other financial professions are obliged to report cases of suspected tax evasion to TRACFIN, France's anti-money laundering unit. TRACFIN reports this information to the tax authorities.

▪ **Right to demand disclosure from banks**

The tax administration may demand disclosure from financial institutions in order to obtain information about bank accounts and capital transfers to other countries.

▪ **Exchange of information with other States**

Cross-border tax evasion can only be fought effectively by stepping up cooperation between the Member States. This moreover presents operators with a dissuasive example.

When circumstances permit, tax administrations carry out simultaneous audits and use international administrative assistance procedures to collect the information required to prove such evasion.

The Member States may exchange information - especially banking data - under bilateral tax treaties.

The European Savings Directive provides for the automatic exchange of information between Member States and certain third countries when such information concerns savings income in the form of interest payments.

• **Tools used by the DGFiP's audit teams**

The Directorate uses specific anti-abuse mechanisms to prevent and punish abuses.

These mechanisms target structures involving tax havens and, more broadly, any arrangement with foreign persons taxed at a significantly lower rate than applied in France.

▪ **Certain mechanisms were developed for structures involving natural persons:**

- For instance, taxpayers may be taxed in France on income earned through entities benefiting from low taxation in foreign countries;
- Similarly, French taxpayers (particularly artists and athletes) who collect income through foreign bogus companies remain subject to taxation on such income.

▪ **Other mechanisms are intended for structures set up by companies, including:**

- A mechanism to fight tax relocation of passive income to entities with low tax liabilities, similar to the one for individuals;
- A mechanism to fight schemes designed to reduce taxable income in France by making payments to persons domiciled in tax havens.

Taxpayers can moreover be prosecuted for tax evasion.



CV of Eric WOERTH, French Secretary of State in charge of Budget, Public Accounts and Civil Service

Eric WOERTH was born on 29 January 1956 in Creil (Oise-France)

Education:

HEC Paris and Institut d'études politiques de Paris

Career:

- June 1997 up to June 2002: Senior Executive at Arthur Andersen (in charge of public sector department)
- 1990: Director then Partner at Brossard Consultants (in charge of local government department)
- 1982: Director for internal audit then Deputy Chief Financial Officer at Pechiney
- 1981: Tax and legal advisor at Arthur Andersen International

Electoral Office:

Member of Parliament for Oise, from 2002 to 2004, and since 2005. Re-elected in 2007.

Mayor of Chantilly (Oise), since June 1995.

Regional Counsellor for the region Picardie, from 1986 to 2002.

Deputy-chairman of the region Picardie, from 1992 to 1998.

Ministerial Office:

- Since June 2007: Secretary of State in charge of Budget, Public Accounts and Civil Service
- 2004-2005: Minister of State in charge of public sector reform, in the Department for civil service and public sector reform.

Political Office:

- Since 2002: Treasurer for UMP, the ruling party in France
- 2007: Treasurer for the presidential campaign of Nicolas Sarkozy, current French President
- 2002: Treasurer for the presidential campaign of Jacques Chirac, former French President
- 1995-1997: counsellor in charge of relations with Parliament in the French Prime Minister's private office

Recent publications:

Le Duc d'Aumale, Publisher l'Archipel, 2006.

Peer STEINBRÜCK

Born on 10 January 1947 in Hamburg,
married, three children

1968	School leaving examination, followed by two years' military service in the Bundeswehr
1970 to 1974	Studied economics and social sciences at the Christian-Albrechts-University in Kiel, degree in economics December 1974
1974 to 1976	Work contract with the Federal Construction Ministry (Regional Planning)
1976 to 1977	Worked in the planning group of the Federal Ministry of Research and Technology
1977 to 1978	Personal secretary to Federal Ministers Matthöfer and Hauff
June 1978 to February 1981	Worked at the Federal Chancellery in the division responsible for the Federal Ministry Research and Technology
1981	Worked at the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany in East Berlin, Economics Directorate
1981 to 1982	Personal secretary to the Federal Minister of Research and Technology, von Bülow
October 1983 to September 1985	Co-ordinating desk officer in the area of environmental protection of the SPD parliamentary group in the Bundestag (lower house of the German parliament)
October 1985 to November 1986	Desk officer for national economic policy in the planning group of the Ministry of Environment and Agriculture of North Rhine/Westphalia
December 1986 to May 1990	Head of the office of the Minister President of North Rhine/Westphalia, Johannes Rau
June 1990 to April 1992	State Secretary in the Ministry of Nature, Environment and Land Development of Schleswig-Holstein
May 1992 to May 1993	State Secretary in the Ministry of Economics, Technology and Transportation of Schleswig-Holstein
May 1993 to October 1998	Minister of Economics, Technology and Transportation of Schleswig-Holstein
October 1998 to February 2000	Minister of Economics and Small Business, Technology and Transportation of North-Rhine/Westphalia

February 2000 to November 2002	Finance Minister of North-Rhine/Westphalia
November 2002 to June 2005	Minister President of North-Rhine/Westphalia
Since 22 November 2005	Federal Minister of Finance
Duties and core responsibilities	<p>The main task of the Federal Minister of Finance is shaping fiscal policy and the basic thrust of the federal government's economic policy. The Minister is thus entrusted with a central steering function within the federal government. The Finance Minister coordinates the budgets submitted by the individual Ministries within the context of the political guidelines set out by the Chancellor and then drafts the annual federal budget. In doing so, the Minister has the right to challenge any fiscal policy decision made by the government. Thus, the Ministry of Finance combines all the financial affairs of the government to form a sustainable financial policy.</p> <p>The federal government uses tax policy to safeguard the financial health of the State. In doing so, it must take care not to detract from the willingness and incentives of individuals and companies to contribute. In addition, tax policy must support the preservation of ecological fundamentals for our common benefit.</p> <p>The Annual Report plays a large part in the how overall economic and fiscal policy is shaped. It shows, in particular, the federal government's economic and fiscal policy goals and measures planned for the current year - not least within the European context, which is becoming increasingly important.²</p> <p>The legal framework for these responsibilities is contained in the Basic Law (<i>Grundgesetz</i>), the Act to Promote Economic Stability and Growth, the Act on the Basic Principles of Budgetary Law for the Federation and the <i>Länder</i>, and the Federal Budget Code.</p>

Chris BOWEN MP

Assistant Treasurer, Minister for Competition Policy & Consumer Affairs

Chris Bowen was elected to the Federal Parliament as the Member for Prospect in October 2004.

He has a Bachelor of Economics degree from the University of Sydney. He won the Australian Transport Officers Federation Prize for the best industrial relations student at the University.

Chris was elected Mayor of Fairfield for 1998 and 1999, and became President of the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils from 2000 to 2002.

Immediately before being elected to Parliament, Chris was Chief of Staff to Hon. Carl Scully, NSW Minister for Roads, Housing and Leader of the House.

Since being in Parliament, Chris was elected as Deputy Chair of the House of Reps Standing Committee on Economics, Finance and Public Administration and was a member of the Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services. Chris was also Chair of Labor's Caucus Economics and Waste Watch Committees.

In December 2006, Chris was elected to the Federal Labor Party's frontbench and appointed Shadow Assistant Treasurer and Shadow Minister for Revenue & Competition Policy.

Following the election of the Rudd Government in November 2007, Chris was appointed as the Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Competition Policy & Consumer Affairs where he has responsibility for carriage of the government's policy on Australia as a financial services hub, trade practices, tax administration, competition policy and consumer affairs.

Bernard CLERFAYT



Born on 30 December 1961, Bernard Clerfayt has a bachelor's and master's degree in Economic Sciences from the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium). He has distinguished himself as a researcher and a professor. He was first elected to local office in 1988. From 1989 to 2007, he was a member of the Regional Council (Parliament) of Brussels. Bernard Clerfayt is also Vice-Chairman of the Front Démocratique des Francophones, which is part of the Mouvement Réformateur (a liberal party for French-speaking Belgians). He has been Mayor of Schaerbeek since 2001. He became a member of the Chamber after the 2007 elections. On 20 March 2008, Bernard Clerfayt was sworn in by King Albert II as Belgium's Minister of State for Finances in charge of the Fight against Tax Evasion, Financial Modernisation and Green Taxation.

Mr JAN KEES DE JAGER

State Secretary for Finance – the Netherlands

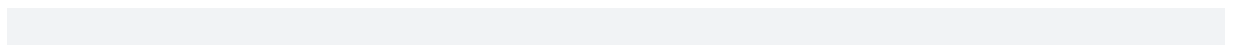
Jan Cornelis (Jan Kees) de Jager was born in Kapelle on 10 February 1969.

After completing his secondary education he studied business administration at Nyenrode University, obtaining his bachelor's degree in 1990. He continued his studies at Erasmus University, Rotterdam, where he graduated in sociology & economics and business economics in 1994 and in Dutch law in 1996.

In 1992 Mr De Jager was co-founder of Spectra Vision BV and was director, managing director and/or main shareholder of that company, its subsidiaries (from 2004) and ISM BV (from 1997). Since 2004 these businesses have operated under a joint name, ISM eCompany.

Mr De Jager has been a member of the board of the policy institute of the Christian Democratic Alliance (CDA), member and treasurer of the CDA executive board, deputy secretary general of the young people's organisation Youth of the European People's Party, member of the national innovation platform, chair of the NGN association (a forum for ICT professionals), member of the advisory board of the Centres for Work and Income and board member of ICT-Office, the organisation of IT, telecom, office and internet companies in the Netherlands.

On 22 February 2007 Mr de Jager was appointed State Secretary for Finance in the fourth Balkenende government.



Kristian JENSEN,

Minister for Taxation.



Jensen, Kristian, assistant commercial employee at Unibank Brande, Ydertofte 18, Lind, 7400 Herning, Denmark.

E-mail address: skm@skm.dk

The Liberal Party - Member of the Folketing for the Ringkøbing County constituency from 11 March 1998.

Born 21 May 1971 at Middelfart, son of free school teacher Jens Erik Jensen and free school teacher Ellen J.

Higher Commercial Examination from Lemvig Business School 1991, apprentice bank assistant at Unibank Lemvig 1991, bank assistant 1993 at Unibank Brande, Financial Diploma studies 1993 - 95.

Member of the governing body of Bøvling Youth Association 1991 - 93, chairman of the gymnastics committee 1991 - 93, trainer of the Brande Mix Team 1994 - 97, member of the Junior Chamber Brande from 1996.

Member of the Young Liberals' national steering committee, member of the executive committee 1994, national chairman 1995 - 97, member of the general council of the Liberal Party from 1995.

The party's candidate for the Ringkøbing County constituency 1996 - 98 and for the Herning/Ikast constituency from 1998.

German Marshall Fellow from 1999

Author of the book "Hurra for Globaliseringen" 2003

Ingemar HANSSON

Ingemar Hansson is State Secretary to Minister for Finance Anders Borg.

Areas of responsibility : Tax issues

Personal

Born in 1951. Two children.

Education

1988

Professor in Economics

1985

Associate Professor (docent) in Economics, Lund University

1981

PhD in Economics

1977-1978

Postgraduate studies at the University of California, Berkeley

1973

BA

1970

Upper secondary school certificate

Positions held

1999-2006

Director-General at the National Institute of Economic Research

1992-1999

Director-General and Head of the Economic Affairs Division at the Ministry of Finance

1989-1992

Deputy Director-General and Head of the Division for Tax Economics, Ministry of Finance

1987-1989

Secretary of the Ministry of Finance inquiry into reformed income taxation

1974-1987

Appointment at the Department of Economics at Lund University as a teacher and researcher

Other assignments

1984-1988

Member of the Swedish Economic Research Council at the Centre for Business and Policy Studies

1984-1987

Member of the Social Sciences Faculty Board of Lund University and its budget and estimates committee

1984-1987

Deputy Head of the Department of Economics at Lund University

1983-1986

Expert for the Committee on Housing

1982-1986

Expert for the Expenditure Tax Committee

1981-1985

Visiting researcher for various periods at the University of California, Santa Barbara

1981-1982

Expert for a Ministry of the Budget inquiry into real taxation

Contact

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State Secretary

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DR MARTIN MANSERGH TD

Minister of State at the Department of Finance (including special responsibility for the Office of Public Works) and Minister of State at Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism (with special responsibility for Arts)

TD for Tipperary South

POLITICAL RECORD

Appointed Minister of State, May 2008. Awarded a civic reception, Clonmel, June 2008.

Appointed Vice-Chair of Oireachtas Joint Committee for Finance and the Public Service, September 2007. Member 2002-7.

Elected to Dáil Éireann May 2007 for Tipperary South.

Appointed to the Council of State by President Mary McAleese, 2004.

Member of the National Forum on Europe, and of the British-Irish Interparliamentary Body 2002-2008.

Weekly columnist with the *Irish Times* 2003-6 and monthly with the *Sunday Business Post* 2002-3.

Elected to Seanad Éireann on the Agricultural Panel after nomination by the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association, 2002.

Member of Post Office Philatelic Advisory Committee, 1999-2008.

Member of the Tax Strategy Group 1997-2002.

Author of *The Legacy of History for Making Peace in Ireland* (Mercier Press, 2003). Subject of biography by Kevin Rafter, 2002.

Political and Northern Ireland Advisor to three Taoisigh and leaders of Fianna Fáil over 21 years, 1981-2002.

Responsible for dialogue with Sinn Féin leadership and with Church intermediaries, including those in touch with Unionist and Loyalist leaderships, prior to first and second IRA ceasefires.

Worked on text of what subsequently became known as Hume-Adams and in expanded form the Downing Street Declaration.

Member of four-person negotiating team to put together and later review the Fianna Fáil-Progressive Democrats 'Action Programme for the Millennium' in 1997.

Author of the paper, which formed the basis of negotiations leading to formation of the Fianna Fáil-Labour Coalition 1992-94.

Member with Noel Dempsey of drafting Committee of Forum for Peace and Reconciliation.

Co-chair of British-Irish Constitutional Sub-Group 1994.

Member of Delegation and of official Steering Group for Good Friday Agreement negotiations.

Conducted discussions with IRSP prior to INLA ceasefire.

Martin has accompanied Taoisigh on visits to the White House and Downing Street. Winner with Fr. Reid and Rev Roy Magee of Tipperary Peace Prize. Awarded a Civic Reception, Tipperary UDC, May 1998.

Entered Department of Foreign Affairs by open civil service competition in 1974. Posted to embassy in Bonn 1975-7. Served in Political Division during Ireland's first EEC Presidency in 1975.

Promoted First Secretary, 1977, to Energy Section, Economic Division, Department of Foreign Affairs.

Principal Officer, Department of An Taoiseach, January-July 1981. Fianna Fáil Head of Research in opposition from July 1981-March 1982, December 1982 to March 1987 and from December 1994 to June 1997.

Prior to appointment as Minister of State, member of Excel Heritage Board, Tipperary and trustee of Cashel Bolton Library.

PERSONAL RECORD

Born in England, 1946.

Married to Liz with five children.

Son of Tipperary-born Irish and Commonwealth historian Nicholas Mansergh and mother Diana.

Educated at King's School, Canterbury, and Christ Church, Oxford (PPE) M.A., D Phil.

Degree in politics, philosophy and economics in Oxford, and obtained Doctorate (thesis on 18th c. pre-revolutionary French history).

Co-owner with brother of a farm near Tipperary with beef and suckler herd enterprise.

Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP
Financial Secretary to the Treasury



Stephen Timms was appointed Financial Secretary to the Treasury in October 2008. He has strategic oversight of taxation as a whole, including overall responsibility for the Finance Bill, HM Revenue and Customs, and European and international tax issues.

Before this Stephen had been the Minister of State for Employment and Welfare Reform at the Department for Work and Pensions since January 2008. This is Stephen's fourth spell as a Treasury minister, and his third as Financial Secretary to the Treasury. Most recently he was Chief Secretary to the Treasury from 2006-2007.

Other previous Ministerial positions include; Minister for Competitiveness at the Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform; Minister for Pensions Reform in the Department for Work and Pensions; Minister for e-Commerce and Competitiveness and Minister of State for Energy, e-Commerce and Postal Services in the Department for Trade and Industry; Minister of State for School Standards; and Minister of State and Parliamentary Under Secretary in the then Department for Social Security.

Stephen entered Parliament in 1994 as MP for Newham North East, and has been MP for East Ham since 1997. He served as Parliamentary Private Secretary to Andrew Smith from May 1997 to March 1998, and to Mo Mowlam from March to July 1998.

Stephen was born in 1955. He was educated at Farnborough Grammar School and read mathematics at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. He has lived in the East London Borough of Newham since 1979 and married Hui-Leng in July 1986. Before entering Parliament, Stephen worked in the telecommunications industry for 15 years, first for Logica and then for Ovum. He was elected to Newham Council in 1984 and served as Leader of the Council from 1990 to 1994.