



2021 HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Commission Policy Papers and Recommendations

BRITACOM report: Digitalisation of tax administrations: A business perspective (Sept 2021)

ICC developed an updated report providing a business perspective on the digitalisation of tax administrations, in the context of the of the second Conference of the Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Forum (BRITACOF), held virtually in September 2021. The [ICC report](#) addresses COVID-19 implications for digitalisation of tax administrations as well as other specific areas including: Principles for digitalisation, Continuous Transaction Controls, Objectives of Digitalisation, Key components of a successful digital transformation, Tax technology and Infrastructure, and Benefits from efficient digitalisation of tax administrations.

ICC Discussion Paper: Tax Reform for Remote Working Abroad (Oct 2021)

Over the past few years, remote working has become considerably more important in the daily operations of businesses globally. This trend has increased significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic. As businesses plan for a post-pandemic scenario, it is imperative that they are equipped with clear guidance to help inform their decision-making as they consider parameters for sustained remote working conditions, as well as the relative implications and compliance requirements to set these in place. This [ICC Discussion Paper](#) explores the key tax considerations for longer term remote working abroad and provides some recommendations for approaches to address the challenges that may arise in this context. The paper was presented to the EU Platform for Tax Good Governance at a meeting in October 2021.

ICC Carbon Pricing Principles (Nov 2021)

Carbon pricing is seen as an important instrument to help reduce emissions and will play a key role in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. As governments are increasingly considering carbon pricing mechanisms, there's a strong need for a consistent and coherent approach to carbon pricing to help reduce the risk of fragmentation, which creates increased challenges for businesses globally. A dedicated working group, under the auspices of the Global Environment & Energy and Taxation Commissions, developed the [ICC Carbon Pricing Principles](#) which were [launched](#) during COP26, with recognised media coverage in the [Financial Times](#) and [BBC](#). The paper makes a clear and powerful case for how harmonisation of national carbon pricing regimes around a common set of best practices can help drive more ambitious climate action without imposing unnecessary costs on the real economy. A second phase of work will continue in 2022 on design features.

Consultations

ICC continues to provide fundamental high-level comments on OECD, European Commission and the United Nations Tax Committee consultations.

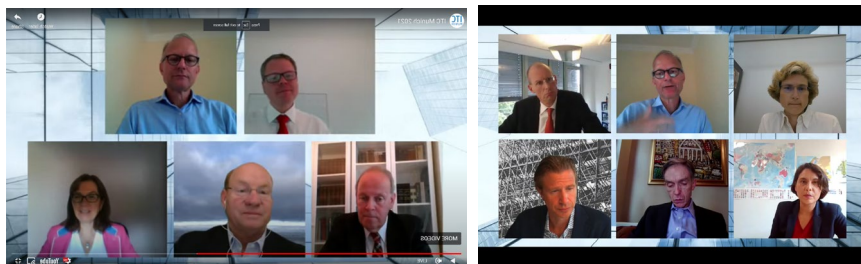
- ICC [comments](#) to the OECD public [consultation](#) on the review of BEPS Action 14: Making Dispute Resolution Mechanisms More Effective (Jan 2021)
- ICC [input](#) to OECD Community of Interest business survey on Standard Audit File - Tax (SAF-T) (Feb 2021)
- ICC [comments](#) to the UN Tax Committee public consultation on the revised Discussion Draft on the inclusion of software payments in the definition of royalties (March 2021)
- ICC [comments](#) to the European Commission public [consultation](#) on the digital levy (April 2021)
- ICC [comments](#) to the OECD public consultation on proposals for changes to the Commentary on Article 9 and other related articles (May 2021)

- Individual ICC member companies have also contributed to the following questionnaires/surveys:
 - BRITACOM [survey](#) on rule of law and tax certainty
 - WU [questionnaire](#) on cross-border VAT disputes

Collaboration with international/regional organisations

International Tax Conference

ICC, in cooperation with Business@OECD and BusinessEurope, organized its fourth annual international tax International Tax Conference: **"The Future of International Taxation: Towards a Global Tax Base?"** held virtually on the 12th of July 2021. The event provided a unique and timely opportunity to further explore the parameters of the agreement established the week before by 130 members of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework to address the tax challenges arising from the digitalization of the economy. The event drew interest from around the globe with +1,200 registered participants. The play-back link to the event is available here: www.itc-munich.tax



UN Engagement

ICC, as Permanent Observer to the United Nations, continues to provide global business input to the UN Committee of Experts on International Tax Matters and its Subcommittees, including member participation on the UN Subcommittees on dispute avoidance and dispute resolution, and environmental taxation.

ICC provided an intervention at the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) meeting in April 2021, during the session on Tax and the Environment. Individual ICC members also contributed to the development of the [UN Handbook on Carbon Taxation](#) as well as the [UN Handbook on the Avoidance and Resolution of Tax Disputes](#).

BRITACOM

ICC, as an official Observer of BRITACOM, continues to support BRITACOM's work. ICC contributed a [report on taxes and investment climate](#) to the BRITACOM journal circulated to BRI jurisdictions. ICC also hosted the Business and Industry Tax Dialogue in the context of the 2nd BRITACOF held in September 2021, where the ICC report on digitalisation of tax administrations was presented.



Christian Kaeser, in his capacity as BRITACOM Advisory Board member and ICC Taxation Commission Chair, shared on protection and control of tax-related data security at the BRITACOM seminar on digital transformation of tax administrations held on 16 December 2021.

European Commission

ICC is represented on the following European Commission fora:

- The Platform for Tax Good Governance, Aggressive Tax Planning & Double Taxation
- The EU VAT Forum

- The EU VAT Expert Group

Vienna University of Economics and Business Multistakeholder Group

ICC participated in a joint multistakeholder group, steered by the Vienna University of Economics and Business, to help raise the profile of co-operative compliance to enhance tax certainty. The group produced a final report, launched in September 2021: “[Co-operative Compliance: A multi-stakeholder and sustainable approach to taxation](#)” which is intended to provide practical guidance which could be used by governments and businesses who wish to implement co-operative compliance programmes.

Commission Meetings:

The ICC Global Taxation Commission convened twice virtually on 15 April and 28 October 2021 and enjoyed broad representation, with members from at least 30 countries attending.

Transversal Projects:

Carbon Pricing

Building on the ICC Carbon Pricing Principles noted above, members will contribute to the second phase of ICC’s work on carbon pricing to focus on the practical elements and design features for carbon pricing mechanisms, also taking into account further technical discussions on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and its implementation.



Digitalisation of tax administrations

Members continue to participate in the joint ICC Working Group on Continuous Transaction Controls and ongoing work to explore issues such as SAF-T e-accounting trends and their co-existence with CTCs and B2C transactions. ICC continues to provide business input to BRITACOM regarding digitalisation of tax administrations.

Indirect Tax Working Group

In the context of the ICC Indirect Tax Working Group, Tax Commission members explored regional indirect tax developments, including updates from the EU VAT Form & Expert Group, as well as contributions to the EU survey on VAT in the digital age. The group co-operates with members of the ICC Customs and Trade Facilitation Commission on cross-cutting issues.

Upcoming events:

Biannual 2022 Global Taxation Commission Meeting

- Details regarding the next meeting of the Global Taxation Commission will be shared in due course.

Joint International Tax Conference (ITC Munich)

- The fifth annual joint ICC/Business@OECD/BusinessEurope international tax conference is tentatively scheduled to take place on **24 June 2022** (subject to confirmation). Further details will be shared in due course with respect to the exact date and whether the conference will be a hybrid event.



ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (ICC)

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) is the institutional representative of more than 45 million companies in over 100 countries. ICC’s core mission is to make business work for everyone, every day, everywhere. Through a unique mix of advocacy, solutions and standard setting, we promote international trade, responsible business conduct and a global approach to regulation, in addition to providing market-leading dispute resolution services. Our members include many of the world’s leading companies, SMEs, business associations and local chambers of commerce.