



Tweede Kamer

DER STATEN-GENERAAL

Voorzitter

President of the Assembleia da República
Mr. Eduardo Ferro Rodrigues
Palácio de S. Bento
1249-068 Lisboa
Portugal

Postbus 20018
2500 EA Den Haag
T 070 318 30 33

Den Haag, 17 May 2016

Subject: Response of the House of Representatives of the Netherlands on the "Green card" procedure on Taxation and Financial Transparency in the European Union

Dear Mr. President,

On 9 December 2016 we received a letter from the Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Assembleia da República regarding a proposal for a green card on taxation and financial transparency in the European Union. First of all, let me thank you for taking this initiative. With this letter I would like to inform you on the response from the Dutch House of Representatives.

The proposal was subject to preliminary discussions in the standing Committee for Finance. The Committee made a number of comments and suggestions for changes on the draft proposal, which were agreed upon by the House of Representatives in its plenary session of May 16th.

Our House has agreed to provisionally endorse the draft proposal on the green card, taking into account these remarks. The final text would have to be agreed upon again by the House. We therefore kindly request that the definitive version of this green card initiative will first be sent to the House of Representatives of the Netherlands for final decision-making before it will be forwarded to the European Commission.

Yours sincerely,

Khadija Arib
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Attachment: comments and suggestions for changes made by the House of Representatives on the draft proposal



Attachment: comments and suggestions for changes made by the House of Representatives on the draft proposal

1. Delete paragraph 1, sub b.

Explanatory note: The House of Representatives deems it not feasible, as well as disproportional, to require publication of these documents.

2. Delete the last part of paragraph 2, which runs from 'similarly taking into account...of July 2016'.

Explanatory note: Countries should maintain the possibility to choose whether they want to publish or not their Ultimate Beneficial Owner (UBO) register.

3. Delete paragraph 4.

Explanatory note: ATAP should first be implemented before new legal measures can be taken, in order to avoid the risk of 'stacking' legislation or other unwanted side-effects of (too) much new legislation in a short period of time. Furthermore, the House considers it desirable to first evaluate ATAP before taking further action. Finally, the precise definition of 'deepening' and what this would entail is not made sufficiently clear in the proposal.