

## Media Release

### ***Business at OECD Delegation participates in 5th Meeting of the Global Forum on VAT in Melbourne***

**Melbourne, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019** – Over 300 international VAT/GST experts from government, international business, and academia met in Melbourne for the 5<sup>th</sup> OECD Global Forum on VAT. Discussions focused on learning from practical experiences and exploring how VAT/GST revenues can be safeguarded, while ensuring a global level playing field and efficient VAT/GST collection for business and tax administrations—key elements for fostering economic growth.

*“To safeguard VAT/GST revenues for governments and ensure a level playing field for business, business calls for a consistent global implementation and application of the neutrality and destination principles, as recommended in the OECD International VAT/GST Guidelines. This includes efficient VAT/GST collection based on a well-functioning cooperative compliance regime, and simple, proportionate and consistently applied measures, that allow an efficient use of modern technology”*, said Karl-Heinz Haydl, Business at OECD VAT/GST Chair and Business Co-Chair of the OECD VAT Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

The Global Forum also endorsed a forthcoming OECD report on the role of digital platforms in the VAT/GST collection process. *“Business at OECD welcomes this report and calls for consistent implementation by governments around the world, looking at all possible roles digital platforms can play, as highlighted in the report”*, Haydl said. We welcome the development of further Implementation Guidance by the OECD for the consistent implementation of the policy options provided in this new report.

In light of digitalization and the global nature of VAT/GST, we believe global dialogue and cooperation between business, which serves an important function in VAT/GST collection, and governments under the lead of the OECD and its Global Forum on VAT, is more important than ever.

*“Consultation with business to shape sound future policies and appropriate lead time for business to implement these policies in practice are key aspects to make global VAT/GST systems more consistent and futureproof”*, Haydl pointed out. *“We will continue to actively support this work under the lead of the OECD’s Working Party 9 on Consumption Taxes, through the well-established OECD VAT/GST TAG process”*, Haydl emphasized.

#### About Business at OECD

*Established in 1962, Business at OECD stands for policies that enable businesses of all sizes to contribute to growth, economic development, and societal prosperity. Through Business at OECD, national businesses and employers’ federations representing over 7 million companies provide and receive expertise via our participation with the OECD and governments promoting competitive economies and better business.*