

Opening Remarks, Shane Wallace, ITI President

Global Tax Policy Conference - 23 October 2025

Good morning, esteemed guests, colleagues, and friends.

On behalf of the Irish Tax Institute and the Harvard Center for International Development, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Dublin and to our Fifth Global Tax Policy Conference.

It's wonderful to look out here and to see such a distinguished gathering of tax experts and professionals, policymakers and administrators, academics, and NGOs - all united by a shared commitment to shape better, fairer, and more effective tax systems across the globe.

Tax lies at the heart of the social fabric of each of our communities. It funds the public services people need, it underpins fairness, and it shapes behaviour.

The rules governing it ultimately determine whether Governments can deliver on priority areas such as healthcare, housing and education while also enticing investment and enterprise so that their countries can grow.

Over the next day and a half, we will explore some of the most pressing and transformative issues in international tax - from the ongoing Pillar Two and ‘side-by-side’ negotiations to the digitalisation of the global economy and the challenges of climate-related taxation and achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

This morning’s opening session will set the scene with a keynote address recording from Minister for Finance Paschal Donohoe who unfortunately can’t be with us in person due to unexpected travel. The Minister, who of course is also President of the Eurogroup, was eager to provide a brief update on where things stand and so he kindly recorded some of his views which we will play for you shortly.

Afterward, we’ll move into a series of panel discussions.

We will begin with taking stock of where we are now, before we delve into a wide array of topics from enforcement to resolution, finishing tomorrow with our quest for consistency, cohesion and certainty – *whether or not we find that remains to be seen.*

These sessions will provide you with insights which you won't find elsewhere. That's a big claim I know, but I am confident in making it because of the breadth and depth of expertise represented in this room – which is what makes it a truly remarkable conference.

Our speakers include global tax leaders from institutions such as the European Commission, the OECD and the UN as well as senior officials from finance ministries, tax authorities, distinguished academics, industry professionals, and international organisations, alongside private-sector experts and civil society advisers. We have voices from all across Europe, America, Canada, Indonesia, Egypt, and beyond – making this conference a truly international event.

As you all know, the challenges we face in tax today are as complex as they are consequential.

From managing global upheaval and cross-border investment to ensuring fiscal resilience and supporting innovation, effective tax policy lies at the heart of sustainable development. Forums like this one are crucial in advancing that mission — allowing us to share evidence, challenge assumptions, and build consensus on what truly works. I'm personally looking forward to the catchups, the side-bar discussions, and the *small* bit of socialising we will be doing at dinner later this evening.

I want to take a moment to thank our partners at Harvard CID for their collaboration, and in particular Prof. Jay Rosengard who is a great friend of the Institute. A special word of appreciation also goes to our organising teams, whose dedication and professionalism ensure that every detail runs smoothly.

So, let me officially welcome you once again to Dublin — a city with a long history of ideas, debate, and innovation. I hope the next day and a half will be engaging, thought-provoking, and, above all, inspiring and I trust you will all leave here with fresh perspectives and stronger connections.

I will now direct you to our recording of the Minister for Finance and President of the Eurogroup, Paschal Donohoe TD.

Thank you, and I wish you all a very successful conference.