

**Remarks - Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister for Finance, Ireland & President
of the Eurogroup**

Global Tax Policy Conference

23 October 2025

Good morning,

I'm sorry I couldn't be with you this morning, but I've had to travel to Brussels for a meeting of the European Council in my capacity as President of the Eurogroup.

International cooperation is the means to resolve the challenges we collectively face.

A belief that I know you share with me, as you come together from all over the world to exchange views, to reflect, and to discuss.

I want to commend the Irish Tax Institute for the broad number of issues which will be tackled in the sessions at this, the fifth Global Tax Policy Conference. These are issues at the forefront of our minds: cooperation, corporate tax complexity, to taxation arising from a changing workplace to then, for example, the role tax policy plays in climate policy.

It is my view that the international tax code must keep pace with how business is conducted and must meet the needs of countries across the world.

Extensive work has been carried out in the past decade to deal with aggressive tax planning with base erosion and profit sharing, but we must also recognise the realities of the transformed global landscape we're now in.

Effective multilateral cooperation is the key to achieving our shared goal of maintaining a stable international tax environment.

Effective engagement between tax administrations and governments has paved the way towards deeper, multilateral cooperation and a more transparent international tax system.

At the OECD we have negotiated a finely balanced approach to global minimum taxes and we're now assessing how to design a side-by-side solution to respond to emerging developments, avoid trade tensions, and streamline existing rules, retaining an approach which protects the original policy objectives of that agreement in a way that is fair to all. A way that avoids widespread fragmentation and maintains a level playing field is key to securing an effective outcome.

I am confident we can achieve an implementable solution that preserves the integrity of the global minimum tax agreement through constructive engagement by all parties over the coming months.

Another important institution is the United Nations. The development of a framework convention on International Tax Cooperation is ongoing, and I commend the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for utilising the multilateral approach to address issues they see as important to jurisdictions who previously might not have felt that such an approach was available to them.

Ireland will also hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the second half of next year and work is ongoing to ensure our term is fruitful in bringing together the EU 27 in a productive way, working with our colleagues in the European Commission to advance the Union's agenda against the complex security and geopolitical background.

Complexity is an issue voiced by industry, by administrations alike, and I hope to further advance the simplification agenda of the EU during our Presidency.

Closer to home, our national budget has been my priority in recent weeks with the Finance Bill just published.

Hearing calls to respond to the challenging environment, with geopolitical uncertainty cited by businesses as a key concern, the budget did contain measures to support our own competitiveness, to ensure that Ireland continues to be an agile pro-business investment hub.

I want to conclude by thanking both the Irish Tax Institute and the Harvard Centre for International Development, for co-hosting this wonderful event.

My officials and colleagues look forward to reflecting on insights and on the reflections of delegates over the coming weeks and months as we respond to the many challenges we now face.

I wish you the very best in the next few days.

Thank you.