

Interview with Mr. Jiri Necovar, President of the Confederation Fiscale Europeenne

During the General Meeting of the Confederation Fiscale Europeenne (CFE) held in Bucarest on September 20-21, 2012, the President of the CFE Council as well as the new members of the board have been selected. The new President, Mr Jiri Necovar from the Chamber of Tax Advisers of the Czech Republic, gave us one of his first interviews.

First of all, Mr President, we would like to congratulate you to be selected the President of the CFE Council. What are the basic tasks and assumptions you plan to perform during your term of office?

Thank you very much for your congratulations. I am very glad that I was elected also with the vote of the Polish Chamber of Tax Advisers. The main objective and perhaps also the main challenge at present are to cope with new approaches which tend to be practised in the field of taxation in individual countries. I mean perception of the tax adviser's profession in the following triangle: state authority - tax adviser - taxpayer. The aim of the governments to collect more tax revenues mean quite often also the aim to place tax advisers into the role of assistants of tax authorities. Therefore we must continue to explain, with a lot of patience, that tax advisers must have confidence of their clients who trust them and believe that in virtue of taxes they will not have to pay more than they are required to according to legal regulations.

Mr President, during the previous terms of office of CFE Council, you were the Vice President; what were the main issues?

Well, I believe that the main issue of our international organisation was and is the mutual communication between the Chambers and mutual understanding of the different opinions and positions in every member country. It is also the mutual understanding of traditional Member States of the EU for the challenges which we try to solve in the new Member States of the E.U.

How many members does the CFE Council acts and who are they?

CFE is an umbrella organisation of the Chambers of Tax Advisers from 27 countries and there are several professional organisations of tax advisers which are members of the CFE in some countries. This means that there are 32 member organisations of tax advisers from 24 countries of Europe.

What is the current number of tax advisers in Europe and how many of them are associated to the CFE?

I really do not know how many tax advisers are in Europe. One of the reasons is also the fact that no specific knowledge is required from tax advisers in a number of countries, and advisory services in the field of taxation are provided for example by accountants. It is, however, a fact that CFE represents more than 180,000 highly qualified tax advisers.

How the CFE activity can support an average tax adviser?

Well, I think that one of the tools of how to present the work of CFE and the information about the EU towards tax advisers is registration in the European register of tax advisers which is published on the CFE web site.

The tax advisers who are interested in cooperation with their colleagues in other Member States of the EU have a possibility of getting registered in the CFE European register of tax advisers. The tax advisers receive a certificate issued to them with the logos of CFE and of the national organisation, such as in Spain and in the Czech Republic. This certificate displayed on the wall of the tax adviser's office is, without any doubt, a good marketing tool in the relations towards clients.

These colleagues are regularly informed about the news in the field of taxation at the level of the European Union. Besides this, CFE surely helps to build up seriousness of the profession through its opinions and frequent negotiations with the officers of the Tax Directorates of the European Commission.

What are the forecasts for the profession which says a lot about deregulation?

I myself am not afraid of deregulation because I believe that high-quality and properly educated tax advisers will surely find their place on the market. In some countries this profession is already more or less deregulated, and yet the professional organisations of tax advisers enjoy high reputation.

I have read on the CFE website that the main aims of the association include, among others: to share information, in the public, on the services offered by the tax advisers and to provide the tax advisers with as good professional operating conditions as possible. In my country, we face the problem of a poor knowledge about the tax adviser profession. Evidently, it is related to the short period, i.e. 15 years long, the tax advisor profession exists in Poland. If, in your opinion, the CFE should increase its support for the countries like my country in the field of the profession's promotion?

I have had a possibility, for all the term of existence of the Polish Chamber of Tax Advisers, of meeting their representatives and I can only appreciate their highly professional conduct within the framework of the international forum. The main task is, as I have already mentioned, to intensify our mutual cooperation and communication.

Thank you for your time and I wish you continued success unions.

