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PhD seminar

Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium) | 7 September 2018

Invitation to the 6th EANO VAT PhD Seminar on Value Added Tax and other indirect taxes

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We would like to invite you to the international PhD seminar on Value Added Tax and other indirect taxes which will be held at the Catholic University of Louvain, in Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium) on 7 September 2018.

Background

Research in indirect taxes, in particular the value added tax (VAT, in some countries known as the goods and services tax (GST)) is still not very developed. However, due to its revenue-raising potential and its economy-friendly structure, growing attention has been devoted to VAT/GST by national governments and even international organizations. Due to the long-standing and still ongoing harmonization of indirect taxation, the European institutions have been carrying out an intense legislative and judicial activity in this area for many years. The OECD, too, has only recently begun to devote more attention to this topic.

It is therefore the duty of the academic community to foster research in VAT/GST and other indirect taxes. As we perceive it, even though there have been a growing number of initiatives focused on VAT/GST in recent years, there is a need to create opportunities for researchers, in particular early in their career, to meet and exchange views on their research topic in an informal atmosphere.

Our initiative, which is called *EANO VAT PhD Seminar Series on Indirect Tax*, aims therefore at remedying this situation. We intend to create an arena for PhD Candidates, to meet other researchers in indirect taxes and exchange experiences with their peers and with academics renowned for their expertise in this area. We are aiming primarily at European researchers in VAT from a legal prospective. However, we are open to

participants from other regions of the world or whose research focuses on indirect taxes other than VAT (e.g. in excises or customs duties). The idea is that you will have a chance to interact with your peers and with the organizers, discussing issues arising from your research.

This initiative has been designed as a recurring event. The first five editions were held on April 29-30, 2013 at Lund University (Sweden), May 6-7, 2014 at *Université Catholique de Louvain* (Belgium), May 12-13 at *Durham University* (UK), October 11-12, 2016 at *Münster University* (Germany) and September 26-27, 2017 at *Lund University*. Feedback and comments were extremely positive and we are happy to announce the fifth edition of the initiative.

Time, place and costs

The PhD Seminar will take place on **7 September** between 9:00 and 16:30 at the Catholic University of Louvain (UCL) in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. The University is located at approximately 45 minutes by train from Brussels.

The seminar, and accommodation, will be free of charge. Participants should cover the own travel expenses. Under specific circumstances, it is possible to apply for a travel subsidy. Please indicate whether you will need to apply for a subsidy when applying for the seminar. More specific information will be provided in due time. We invite you to consult our web-page at www.uclouvain.be/taxlaw or www.eanovat.org

The day before the PhD Seminar, on Thursday September 6, we will organize an academic conference on the topic: **« Current trends of VAT in the European Union: a review of pending European Commission proposals »**. This conference will be held in Brussels. You are also invited to take part also in this conference and the dinner the day before the PhD Seminar.

More details will be provided in due time.

Applications

In order to have a lively and intense discussion of research projects, we can admit only a limited number of participants, up to 15 PhD students. The intention is that indicatively 6 candidates will briefly present their research, focusing on key research issues they have identified and which they would like to discuss. All participants are then welcome to participate actively in the debate.

All candidates writing a thesis in VAT or other indirect taxes are welcome. Candidates are asked to apply on line <https://goo.gl/forms/QB2aafUn2ptYzSf83> (later applications will also be considered, but only if the maximum number of participants is not reached).

The application should contain the following information:

- A **CV** with contact details, supervisors' name and University connection;
- A brief (maximum 5 pages) description of the **research project**;
- Information on **stage** in which the candidate is in (when did you start and when are you scheduled to have your *viva* /public defence?);
- Whether you would also like to do a **presentation** and have an in-depth discussion of your research project; and
- Whether you intend to participate in the **Academic Conference**: on 6 September 2018 in Brussels (more information to follow)

You are welcome to participate in the seminar even if you have just started your PhD research and feel it is too early to discuss your research in depth. If the number of applicants wishing to presenting their research exceeds the available presentation spaces, the selection of presenters will be at our discretion based on criteria such as the stage of their research (those coming towards the end of their studies have a priority) and the topic of the research (if possible we will try to have presentations that can be grouped together based on, for example, the fact that they deal with the same theme or raise similar issues).

We are looking forward to seeing you in Louvain-la-Neuve! Please do forward this invitation to candidates or professors that may be interested.

academic contacts

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