



EU COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

BRUSSELS, 17 FEBRUARY 2009

PROVISIONAL APPLICATION OF THE ANTI-FRAUD AGREEMENT WITH SWITZERLAND

Today is published in the Official Journal of the European Union the Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Swiss Confederation, of the other part, to combat fraud and any other illegal activity to the detriment of their financial interests.

The anti-fraud agreement's aim is to counter fraud and other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of both the EU and Switzerland. It contains provisions relating to administrative assistance and to mutual legal assistance in criminal matters for the protection of financial interests. Within the scope of the agreement are indirect tax (VAT and excise duties) and customs offences (including smuggling), corruption and money laundering. Direct taxation is excluded from the scope of the agreement.

Pending ratification by all member states, the agreement can be applied provisionally by means of a declaration by contracting parties as foreseen in Article 44(3). By the terms of the said article, a contracting party can apply at any time the agreement with any other contracting party having made the same declaration. Thus, since the European Community, some member states¹ and Switzerland have made such a declaration, the agreement will be applicable bilaterally between them as from 8 April 2009, except for Germany for which it will be applicable from 9 April, Finland from 15 April and the United Kingdom from 20 April.

More information can be found at

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/applications/Accords/details.asp?cmsid=297&id=2004084&lang=FR&doclang=EN>

¹ Poland, Sweden, Romania, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Finland and the United Kingdom

P R E S S