



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ



ΑΑΔΕ

Ανεξάρτητη Αρχή
Δημοσίων Εσόδων

Αθήνα, 15 Σεπτεμβρίου 2022

Ομιλία Διοικητή ΑΑΔΕ, Γιώργου Πιτσιλή, στο Συνέδριο της Ολομέλειας των Φορολογικών Διοικήσεων της ΕΕ (TADEUS), Ρόδος 15-16.09.2022

“Minister Staikouras,
DG Gerassimos Thomas,
Dear colleagues and friends,

It is with great pleasure that I am welcoming you here in the historic island of beautiful Rhodes. I feel happy, proud and privileged to do so after the past few years of unprecedented crises, challenges and still amidst socio economic turbulence and national conflicts.

Before we start, I would like to say a few words about Rhodes that will help you understand why we chose this island of the Aegean apart from the obvious reason, its unique beauty of the landscape.

Rhodes is a crossroads of civilizations, a place where Greek and European history meet. It is the fourth largest Greek island and has a long and impressive history; it's a place where the strong medieval aspect blends with the ancient and byzantine Greek origin and culture.

This Mediterranean gem boasts centuries'-old history: an adventurous and glorious past full of unexpected turns and twists of fate. It flourished during the 4th century BC and this is when the famous Colossus of Rhodes, considered one of the Seven Wonders of the world, was sculpted. One of the most interesting aspects of Rhodes' history is that each conqueror, each visitor and trader left their strong mark on the island and many of them are visible to date. Therefore you will see elements of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires and of course, a strong and lasting mark of the Crusaders, the famous Knights Hospitaller. The latter rebuilt the city of Rhodes into a model of the

European medieval ideal and many of the city's famous monuments, including the Palace of the Grand Master, were built during this period.

It has already been 3 years since the last time we had the chance to meet in person in September 2019 in Helsinki. It was 4 years ago that we were here again in Greece where the idea of what soon after became TADEUS was born. So, for this reason as well, it is a happy occasion to hold a TADEUS Plenary meeting in its (conception and) birthplace.

TADEUS was established in Thessaloniki in an effort to develop a European level response to tax administration issues and challenges. It aims to collect experience, analyze data and share experience. Its goal is to positively influence the environment within which tax systems operate: to move away from a confrontational dialogue to more constructive two way engagement with businesses and taxpayers. It brings together DG'S from across Europe to share information and experience and to identify good practices for resolving more complex issues and confront common challenges of the future.

The past few years of global crises changed the face of the world, changed our everyday lives and inevitably the way tax administrations act, react and respond to crisis and a constantly changing – both financially and socially - environment.

We were all forced to rethink!

We were forced to re-evaluate our priorities and sometimes to assume drastically different and diverse roles. All This, while the clock was ticking and everything needed to be done in a blink of an eye. And we made it so far!

The pandemic, apart from all the difficulties that has brought about, has also served as a driving force for progress and change. A process of innovation both in technological, digital matters but in terms of re-inventing our services and redefining our institutional roles. The question is now, and facing new challenges, where does that leave us. Which are now our priorities and what will tax administrations look like in 10 years time. The world is continuously changing and we have to be the definition of change. We must forecast with accuracy, design with caution, adapt and implement immediately in order to be ambassadors of evolution as next gen Tax institutions.

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

This is a unique opportunity to discuss and elaborate on these matters, identify global trends, develop new ideas to enhance tax administrations, as well as share our success stories and celebrate what we have achieved to date.

Over the next couple of days we have the opportunity to present our ideas in a very important session on Foresight and discuss current and future trends and projects. Furthermore, on the second day, we will focus on a very relevant to all of us theme: digitization. We will share our success stories and finally have an award ceremony for the three top projects presented, as these will be selected and voted by all of us.

So, without further ado, I welcome you once again and wish a constructive and enjoyable two days ahead.

Let's make the most of this opportunity.

Let's seize the day, let's design and shape the future of our work here in Rhodes, Greece.

Let the conference begin.”