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GOVERNMENT OF ANGUILLA

PRESS RELEASE

The Government of Anguilla takes the opportunity to announce it has signed a letter of commitment with the OECD in respect of the latter's "harmful tax competition" initiative. The commitment letter covers the principles of transparency and exchange of information on the basis of special requests for such information, which meet defined criteria. The programme for implementation of these commitments will be phased in over an agreed period up to the tax year commencing after 31 December 2005.

The Minister of Finance of Anguilla, Hon Victor Banks, said, "It is certainly not Anguilla's long term policy objective to be put on any black or uncooperative list of jurisdictions and one of the conditions of signing the letter is that Anguilla shall not appear on any such list nor shall it be subject to any defensive measures introduced by OECD member states".

Extensive dialogue with the OECD has been undertaken to ensure that Anguilla's interests are fully protected and a further condition is that Anguilla will be invited to participate in any Global Forum or similar grouping which is tasked with the development and implementation of standards of transparency and issues surrounding information exchange agreements. One particular issue that Anguilla highlights in its letter of commitment is the civil tax point that Anguilla will not collect taxes on behalf of any foreign government nor will it institute legal proceedings for any such collection.

The Minister remarked, "It is particularly important to emphasise that the need to establish a totally level playing field on transparency and information exchange between the smaller jurisdictions and OECD members, as well as amongst OECD members themselves, is of paramount importance. It is an objective which all jurisdictions must commit themselves to achieving. There must be consistency in transparency and information exchange and there can be no room for differing standards of regulation. Anguilla, together with other members of the International Tax and Investment Organisation (ITIO), will be working closely together to ensure ITIO members' commitments are protected in the context of a level playing field.

"Anguilla looks forward to working actively with other ITIO committed members on the Global Forum to ensure that the level playing field objective is achieved".