

AEOI NEWSLETTER

Dear Subscriber,

We hope you had a good start to the year. As you may be aware, the beginning of 2026 marks the transposition of the DAC8 directive¹ into domestic legislation, through an amending Legal Notice to S.L. 123.127 [the Cooperation Regulations]. This development continues to support the overarching objective of the Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) framework—namely, to combat tax fraud, tax evasion, and tax avoidance—by expanding its scope to include crypto-assets. The legal notice is currently in the final stages for adoption and publication.

Furthermore, the 2026 introduces a compliance obligation for FIs registered within scope of CRS/DAC2/FATCA. The purpose of this Self-Compliance Questionnaire is to provide for a simplified process for FIs to confirm their compliance with CRS and/or FATCA related obligations under the Cooperation Regulations. We appreciate your cooperation in fulfilling this newly introduced annual obligation to complete the questionnaire, and we welcome any feedback you may wish to provide during its compilation.

Further information is provided below.

A. DAC8 - Amendment to DAC for mandatory automatic exchange of information reported by Reporting Crypto- Asset Service Providers

The MTCA has transposed DAC8, through an amending legal notice to S.L. 123.127. The legal notice is in the final stages of approval and publication – a notice will be issued once this is published. DAC8 rules enter into force on 1 January 2026, expanding tax transparency to crypto-asset transactions and providing for automatic exchange of information on crypto-assets between EU countries. It is the eighth amendment of the Directive on Administrative Cooperation in Direct Taxation.

¹ https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/taxation/tax-transparency-cooperation/administrative-co-operation-and-mutual-assistance/directive-administrative-cooperation-dac/dac8_en

DAC8 implements reporting obligations on Crypto-Asset Service Providers, who are required to:

- Start collecting data on reportable crypto-asset transactions of EU-resident users from 1 January 2026.
- Reporting will be due within 9 months after the end of the first fiscal year covered by the directive – that is between 1 January and 30 September 2027.

Further updates will be made available once the legal notice is published and there shall thus be further communication in the next newsletter in this regard.

B. Self-Compliance Questionnaire

As communicated in the previous newsletter, the MTCA has introduced a new annual reporting obligation, the Self-Compliance Questionnaire (SCQ), for all entities that qualify as Financial Institutions for CRS and/or FATCA purposes, including both reportable and non-reportable Financial Institutions.

All relevant FIs are required to complete and submit the Annual SCQ by **13 March 2026**, based on reportable data for the year 2025.

What is the Self-Compliance Questionnaire?

The Self-Compliance Questionnaire is an annual declaration through which Financial Institutions confirm their CRS and FATCA classification, registration status, and compliance with due diligence, reporting, and record-keeping requirements under the applicable regulations.

The questionnaire covers, among others:

- General FI details (including CRS/FATCA registration, GIIN/PYR, MFSA licensing status, and FI/NRFI classification);
- Excluded and non-reportable accounts for CRS and FATCA purposes;
- Confirmation of policies and procedures in place for CRS/FATCA compliance;
- Due diligence practices, including self-certifications, pre-existing accounts, enhanced due diligence (where applicable), staff training, and record retention;
- Details of any outsourcing arrangements related to CRS and/or FATCA obligations.

A declaration must be made at the end of the questionnaire for the submission to be successfully completed.

Key points to note:

- All sections must be completed, except where specifically indicated.
- Only one submission per PYR / GIIN number is permitted.
- Once submitted, the questionnaire cannot be retrieved or amended.
- All contact details must be fully completed.
- The accuracy of the information provided is essential, as sanctions apply for inaccurate information or breaches of CRS/FATCA obligations.

[CLICK HERE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION](#)

For assistance, MTCA provides an [Entity Classification Self Review Toolkit](#) on its website. This practical tool can help entities:

- Determine whether they qualify as a Financial Institution;
- Identify their CRS and FATCA classification; and
- Understand their registration and reporting obligations.

Entities are encouraged to make use of this toolkit, particularly where there is uncertainty regarding their classification.

C. FATCA XML Scheme Update²

A new version has been issued within the FATCA XML Schema V2.0 to include the ISO update, specifically to the isofatcatypes_v1.2.xsd file. The fatcaxml_v2.0.1 was deployed to production on Monday, September 29, 2025. Only FATCA reporting filers impacted by the following country name changes will need to download and apply the updated fatcaxml_v2.0.1. There are also a few additional currency code updates within the new version as noted below:

² [FATCA XML schemas and business rules for Form 8966 | Internal Revenue Service](#)

Updated Country Names		
Country Code**	Previous	Current
CV	CAPE VERDE	CABO VERDE
CZ	CZECH REPUBLIC	CZECHIA
SZ	SWAZILAND	ESWATINI
MK	MACEDONIA, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF	NORTH MACEDONIA
TR	TURKEY	TÜRKİYE
Additional Country Codes*		
Currency Code	Description	
BYN	Belarussian Ruble: BELARUS	
MRU	Ouguiya: MAURITANIA	
STN	Dobra: SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE	
UYW	Unidad Previsional: URUGUAY	
VED	Bolívar Soberano: VENEZUELA, BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF	
VES	Bolívar Soberano: VENEZUELA, BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF	
*Additional countries were included that use the currency code EUR		
**Added the country code “XX” for Other		

D. Updates on the Implementing Guidelines on Automatic Exchange of Financial Information V4.8

1. *Update to Section 3.4 – De-Registration Process of RMFIs*

Financial institutions in Malta that are required to de-register may now do so by modifying their registration form and selecting the de-registration status by ticking the relevant box, where applicable. FIs must ensure that all reporting obligations are fulfilled up to the effective date of de-registration. A copy of the updated registration form reflecting this modification, must be submitted to aeoi-admin.mtca@gov.mt.

2. *Amendment to the Trustee Declaration Return submission procedure in Section 12.3.3*

The Trustee Declaration Return must be submitted exclusively via email to aeoi-admin.mtca@gov.mt. The submission deadline for the Trustee Declaration Return in respect of the preceding reporting year remains 31st January.

3. *Section 12.5 Self-Compliance Questionnaire*

A new section has been included in the guidelines outlining the annual obligation for Financial Institutions to complete and submit the Self-Compliance Questionnaire.

4. *Updates to Exchange Jurisdictions in Annex 1 and 2*

The list of exchange partners has been updated in Annex 1 and Annex 2. Senegal and Rwanda have been added as new reportable jurisdictions and data will be collected for reporting year 2025 for exchange in 2026. Additionally, Antigua and Barbuda will not be considered a reportable jurisdiction for reporting year 2025, as reflected in Annex 1.

Furthermore, Malta is expected to commence receiving CRS data exchanges in 2026 from Trinidad, Senegal and Rwanda, as outlined in Annex 2.

GUIDELINES

E. Upcoming Deadlines

- SCQ submission 13 March 2026 for reporting period 2025
- Nil Return CRS/FATCA submissions 30 March 2026 for reporting period 2025.
- Spreadsheet CRS/FATCA submissions 30 March 2026 for reporting period 2025.
- XML CRS/FATCA submissions 30 April 2026 for reporting period 2025.

SUBSCRIBE TO FUTURE NEWSLETTER