



# Annual update: Financial reporting, Omnibus, tax and regulatory

Board Leadership Center

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15 January 2026



# Tax update

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15 January 2026



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# Contents

- 01** Belgian new legislation
- 02** Initiatives at European level
- 03** EU Green Deal - related topics update

# 01

# Belgian new legislation



# Belgian new legislation – income tax

## New legislation

- Investment deduction
- Car taxation / deductibility
- Liquidation reserve & VVPRbis-regime
- Carried interest & exit tax
- Dividend received deduction

## Draft legislation

- Capital gains on financial fixed assets
- Increase WHT dividends (VVPRbis and liquidation reserve)
- Copyright income (decrease of lump-sum cost allowance – applicable to software sector)
- WHT exemption: Temporary corrective factor (97% - 95,9%)
- Tax on securities accounts (0,15% → 0,3%)
- Annual tax on credit institutions (further increase up to 0,19286% and 0,25626% - but debt towards European Investment bank can be excluded)
- Group contribution
- Accelerated depreciation
- Tax shelter for start- and scale ups
- WHT reduction for R&D

# Investment deduction regime

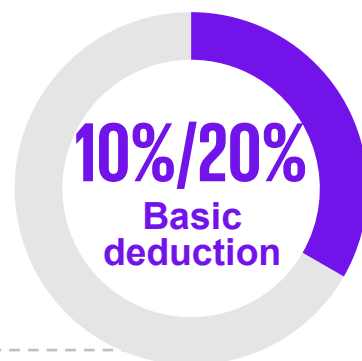
A new reformed investment deduction regime on fixed assets acquired or created as of January 1, 2025  
based on 3 axes (no cumul possible):

## Basic deduction

Both for NP and SME.

Climate and environmental exclusion list (exclusion of 8 categories)

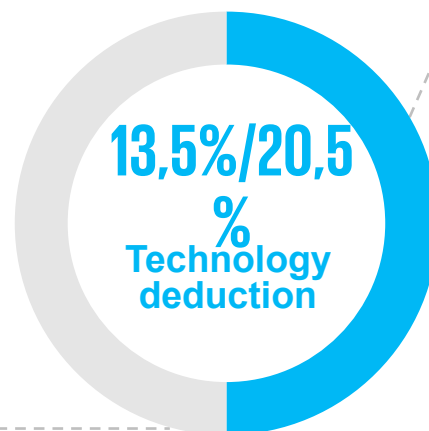
- 10%
- 20% (digital fixed assets\*)



## Technology deduction

Deduction for patents and fixed assets that promote R&D of new (eco-friendly or environmentally minimizing) products and technologies.

- 13,5% (one-time)
- 20,5% (spread)



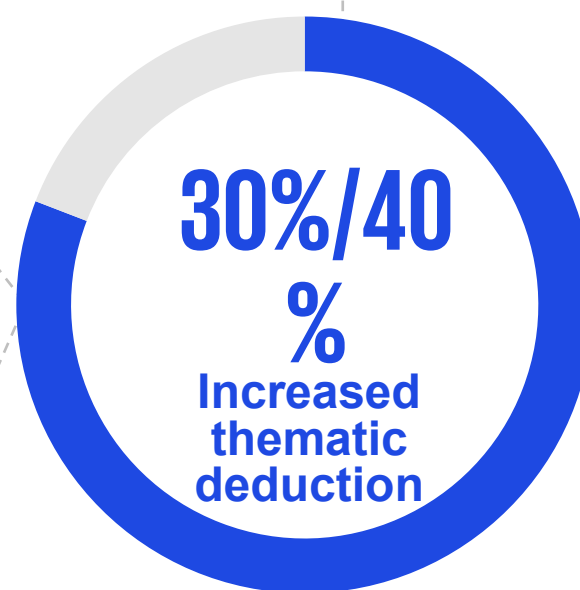
## Increased thematic deduction

Investments in:

- 1) Energy efficiency and renewable energy (e.g. insulation, heat pumps)
- 2) Carbon emission-free transport (e.g. bicycles)
- 3) Environmentally friendly investments
- 4) Supporting digital investments (supporting the three previous categories)

Limitative list of envisaged investments published ([link](#))

- 30% (all other companies)
- 40% (NP/SME) / also large companies as of AY2027



# Capital gain on financial assets: key essentials



## Only in the context of normal management of private assets

- Capital gains from professional activity and abnormal management continue to be taxed



## Taxpayer = Owner or bare owner of transferred financial assets



## Only in personal income tax and legal entities tax\*

- Not in corporate income tax or non-resident income tax!

\* Except for legal entities that can receive donations with tax reduction



## Capital gains from transfer of financial assets

- From 1 January 2026

# Capital gain on financial assets: 3 categories

## 01

### Internal capital gain (sale)

- Transfer of shares and profit certificates in case of control over the acquirer (alone or together with spouse, descendants, ascendants or family up to the second degree)
- Rate of 33%
- Exemption internal capital gain (contribution)

## 02

### Significant interest

- Transfer of shares in case of participation of at least 20% (alone)
- Exemption of first 1 MEUR
  - Over period of 5 years
- Progressive rates:
  - 1 – 2,5 MEUR: 1,25%
  - 2,5 – 5 MEUR: 2,5%
  - 5 – 10 MEUR: 5%
  - > 10 MEUR: 10%
- In case of transfer outside EEA: 16,5%

## 03

### Other transfers of financial assets

- Rate of 10%
- Exemption of first 10.000 EUR
  - If not used, additional exemption of maximum 1.000 EUR with total maximum exemption of 15.000 EUR after 5 years



# Capital gains - Draft law – what's new?



## Class 21 insurance contracts

Out of scope if no savings or investment objective

- Solely payout in the event of death
- To cover repayment of loan or funeral costs
- Even in the case of early surrender



## Valuation report by 31 Dec 2027

To determine the reference value on 31 December 2025

- Acquisition value of unlisted shares
- Auditor or certified accountant
- Based on annual accounts per 31 December 2025



## Postponement of WHT liability

Capital gain realised between 1 Jan 2026 and 30 June 2026

→ WHT due on 30 Sep 2026

# New and upcoming changes – VAT

## 01

### VAT new legislation

- E-invoicing B2B (tolerance during 3 months)
  - 01/01/2026
  - European level (2030)
- E-reporting (2028)

## 02

### VAT – budget agreement

- Changes to VAT rate:
  - Supply of pesticides (to 21%)
  - Providing furnished accommodation and camping sites (to 12%)
  - Takeaway meals and food that can be consumed without further preparation (to 12%)
  - Supply of non-alcoholic beverages for restaurant/caterings services (to 12%)
  - Access to cultural, sporting or entertainment facilities (to 12%)

## 03

### Sector specific

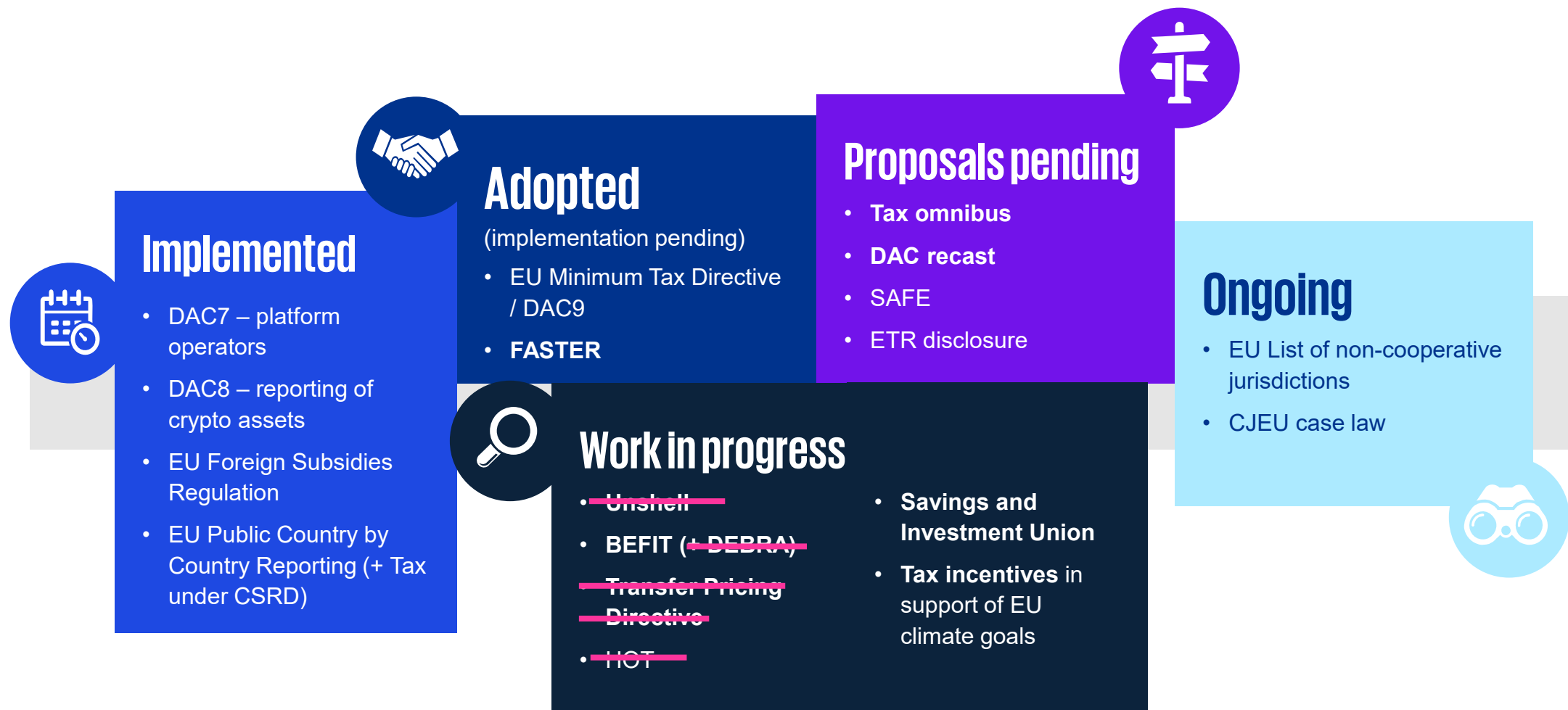
- Real estate (demolition and reconstruction)



# 02

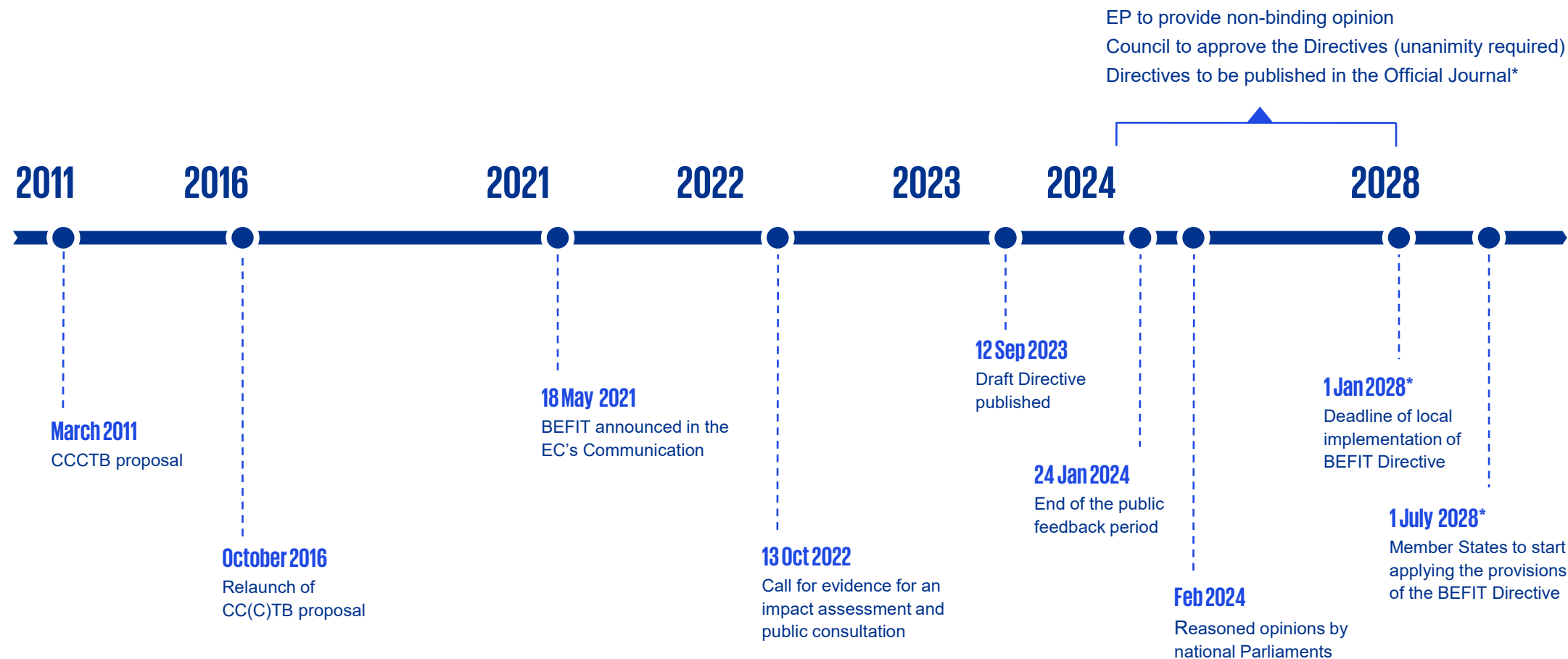
## EC work program for 2026

# EU direct tax policy at a glance





# BEFIT on a timeline



\* Based on the assumption that the Directive will be adopted without altering the proposed timeline as per the current draft text. Neither the Commission, nor the Council provided an indicative timetable for adoption.

# EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions (Oct 2025)

## Non-cooperative (Annex I)

1. American Samoa <sup>2022 2023 2024 2025</sup>
2. Anguilla <sup>2022 2023 2024 2025</sup>
3. Fiji <sup>2022 2023 2024 2025</sup>
4. Guam <sup>2022 2023 2024 2025</sup>
5. Palau <sup>2022 2023 2024 2025</sup>
6. Panama <sup>2022 2023 2024 2025</sup>
7. The Russian Federation <sup>2022 2023 2024 2025</sup>
8. Samoa <sup>2022 2023 2024 2025</sup>
9. Trinidad and Tobago <sup>2022 2023 2024 2025</sup>
10. The US Virgin Islands <sup>2022 2023 2024 2025</sup>
11. Vanuatu <sup>2022 2023 2024 2025</sup>

### Removed February 2024

1. The Bahamas <sup>2022 2023</sup>
2. Turks and Caicos Islands <sup>2022 2023</sup>

## Monitored (Annex II)

1. Antigua and Barbuda <sup>2024 2025</sup>
2. Belize <sup>2022 2023 2024 2025</sup>
3. The British Virgin Islands <sup>2022 2023 2024 2025</sup>
4. Brunei Darussalam <sup>2025</sup>
5. Eswatini <sup>2023 2024 2025</sup>
6. Greenland <sup>2025</sup>
7. Jordan <sup>2025</sup>
8. Montenegro <sup>2025</sup>
9. Morocco <sup>2025</sup>
10. The Seychelles <sup>2022 2023 2024 2025</sup>
11. Türkiye <sup>2022 2023 2024 2025</sup>

### Removed February 2024

1. Albania <sup>2023</sup>
2. Aruba <sup>2023</sup>
3. Botswana <sup>2022 2023</sup>
4. Dominica <sup>2022 2023</sup>
5. Hong Kong <sup>2022 2023</sup>
6. Israel <sup>2022 2023</sup>

### Removed October 2024

1. Armenia <sup>2023 2024</sup>
2. Malaysia <sup>2022 2023 2024</sup>

### Removed February 2025

1. Costa Rica <sup>2022 2023 2024</sup>
2. Curaçao <sup>2023 2024</sup>

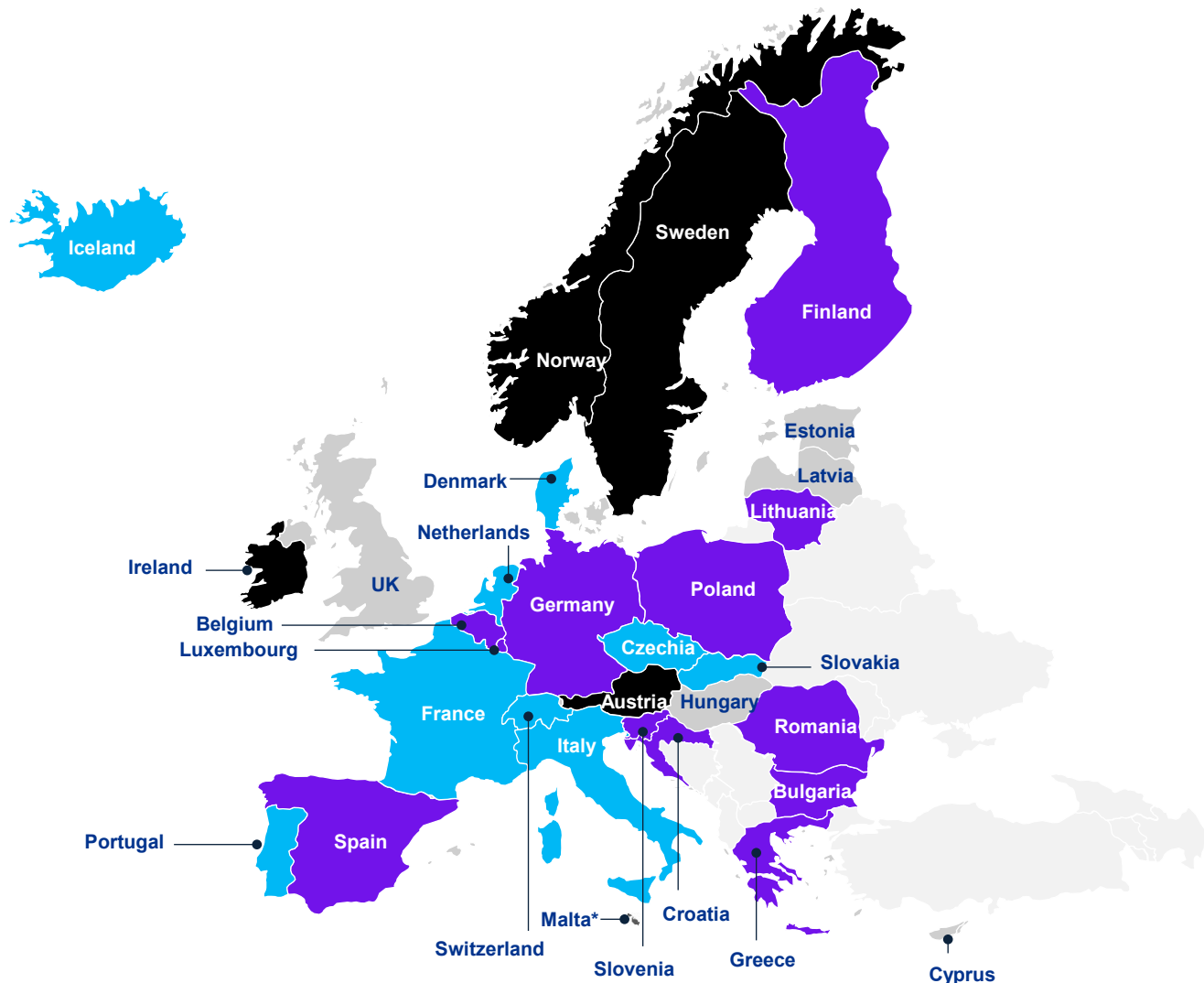
### Removed October 2025

1. Vietnam <sup>2022 2023 2024 2025</sup>



# Beneficial ownership

# In case of dividends, does your jurisdiction apply a BO concept?



## Legend

- BO concept applies
- No BO concept as such, but a similar concept in place
- No BO concept, but WHT benefits denied on specific anti-treaty / EU directive shopping rules / local GAAR
- Country does not levy WHT on dividend payments

## Notes

**“BO concept applies”** – refers to the case when a BO requirement is specifically codified in the law or included in the relevant administrative guidance, and WHT benefits can generally be denied solely based on that specific requirement

**“No BO concept as such, but a similar concept in place”** – refer to the case where local rules include a reference to a concept that is similar to BO, based on which WHT benefits can generally be denied

**General comment:** this map should be interpreted in conjunction with the notes on the next slide.



# Pillar 2

# Pillar 2 in a nutshell



## What

Minimum level of tax of 15% per country



## Who

Multinational groups with revenue above 750 MEUR in 2 of 4 prior financial years



## How

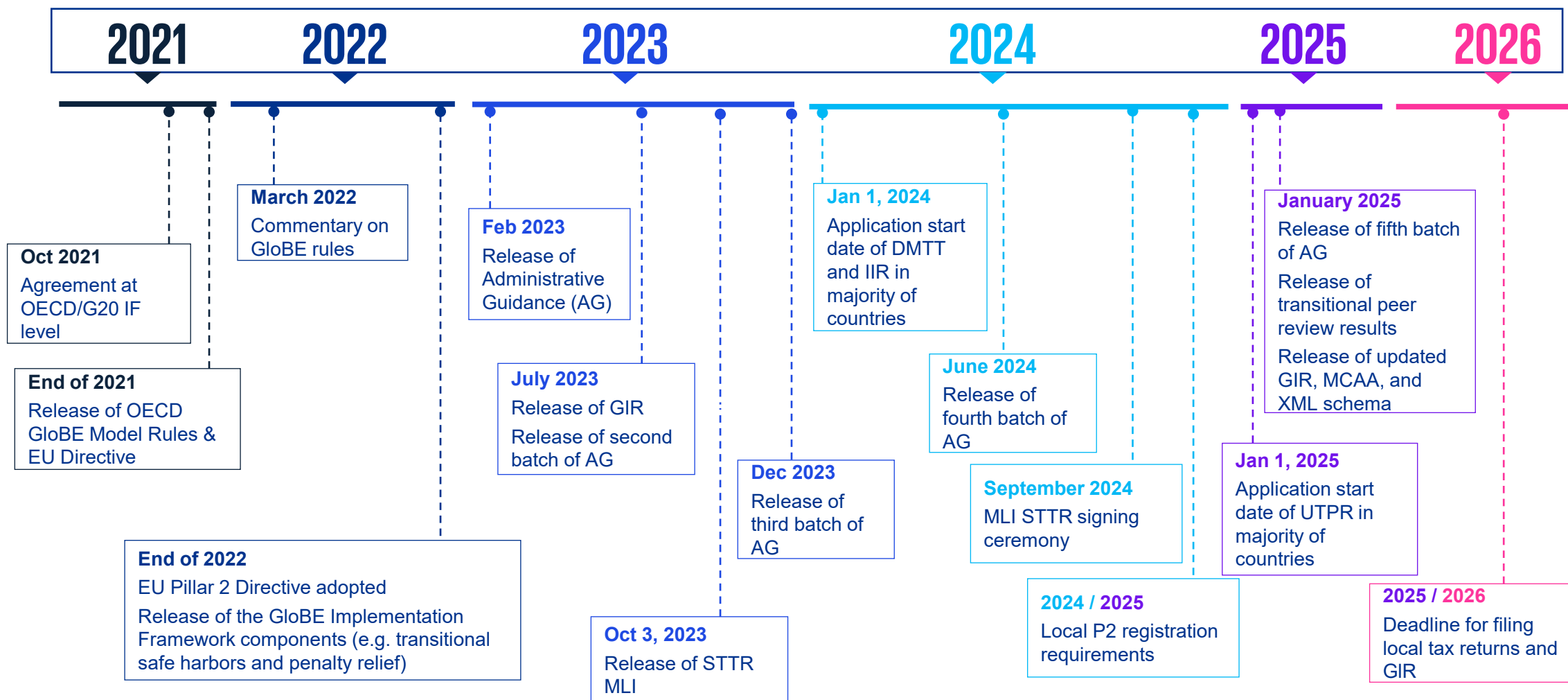
Top-up Tax: difference between 15% and effective tax rate



## When

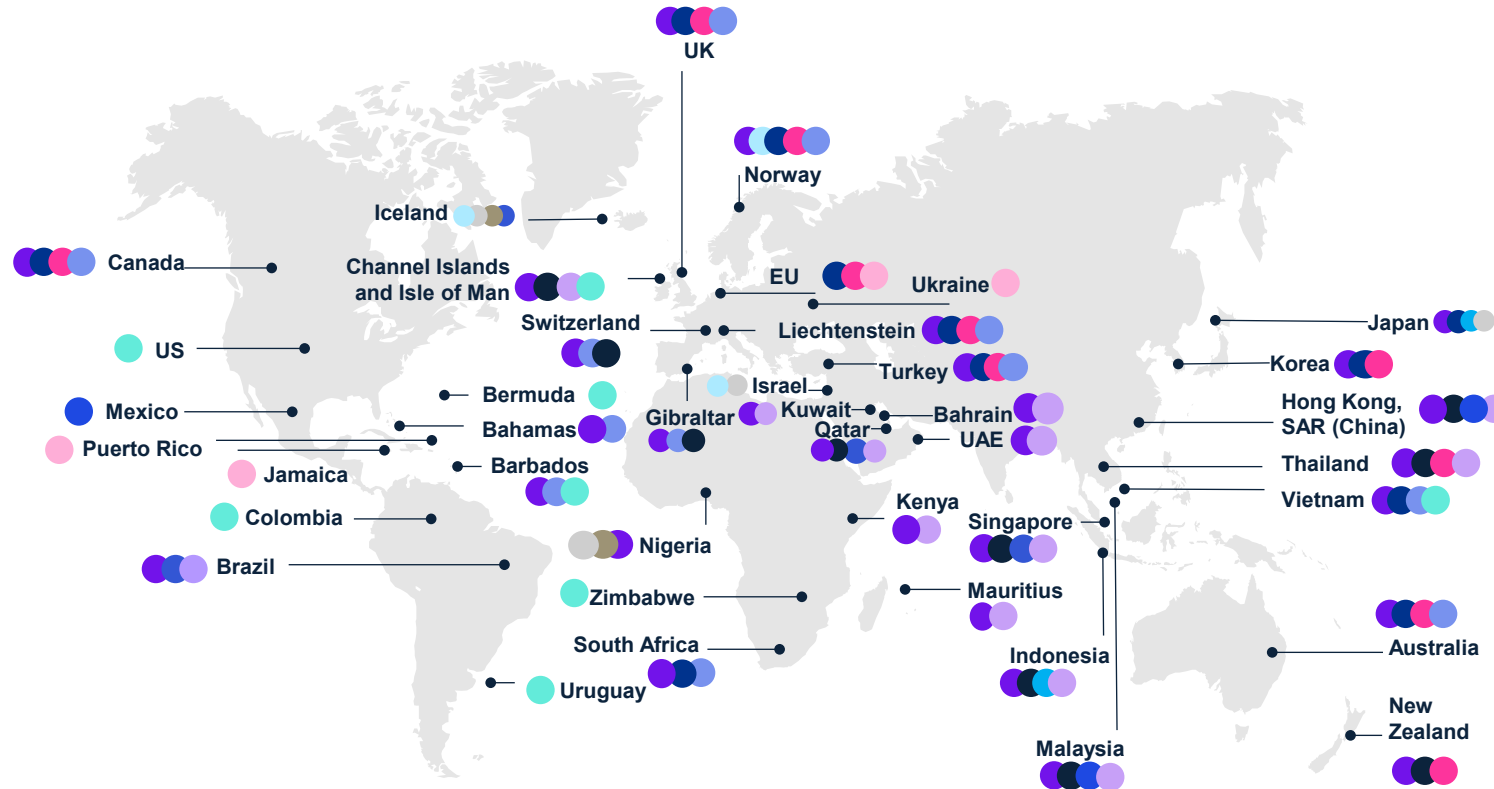
In Belgium, the first deadline to file Pillar Two returns (the Global Information Return and most local Pillar Two returns) is 30 June 2026

# Pillar 2 - Timeline





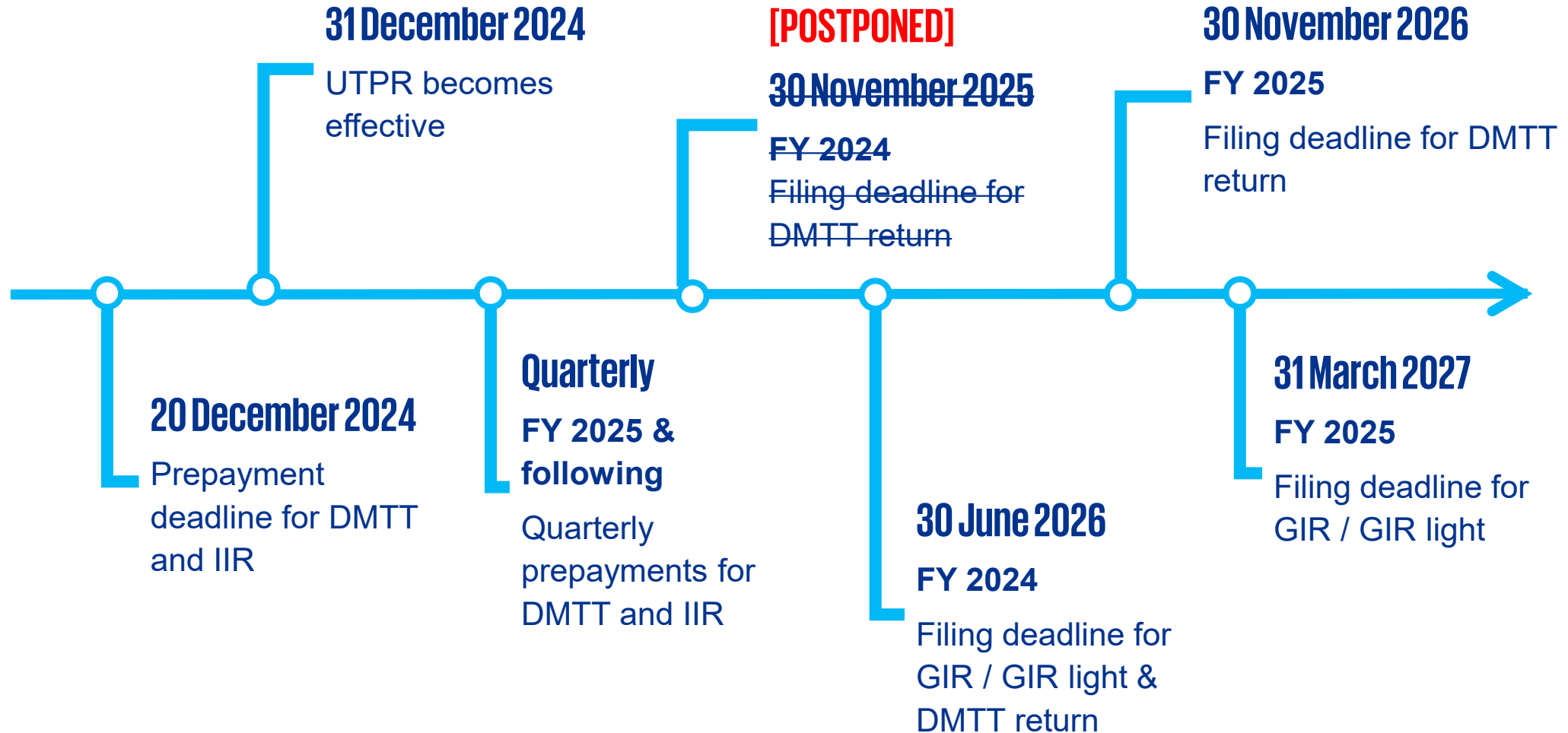
# Pillar 2 - Global overview



## Legend

<span style="color: purple;">●</span> Legislation passed/approved	<span style="color: grey;">●</span> DMTT (2026)	<span style="color: pink;">●</span> UTPR (2025)	<span style="color: teal;">●</span> Other related legislation/announcement
<span style="color: lightblue;">●</span> Legislative process ongoing	<span style="color: darkblue;">●</span> IIR (2024)	<span style="color: cyan;">●</span> UTPR (2026)	
<span style="color: blue;">●</span> DMTT (2024)	<span style="color: black;">●</span> IIR (2025)	<span style="color: pink;">●</span> Intention/option to apply DMTT (timing uncertain)	
<span style="color: lightpurple;">●</span> DMTT (2025)	<span style="color: brown;">●</span> IIR (2026)	<span style="color: darkblue;">●</span> Intention to apply IIR/UTPR (timing uncertain or deferred)	

# GloBE compliance in Belgium



# Pillar 2: latest developments

**G7 Statement, June 2025** → Work to deliver a side-by-side system / material simplifications to Pillar 2

**5 January 2026** → New OECD administrative guidance “Side-by-Side Package” which includes most notably:

- Extension of the Transitional CbCR Safe Harbour for one year (to include FY 2027)
- Simplified ETR Safe Harbour
- Side-by-Side System (key impact: no IIR/UTPR where UPE is located in jurisdiction with regime similar to Pillar 2 → for example GILTI US)



# 03

## EU Green Deal - related topics update

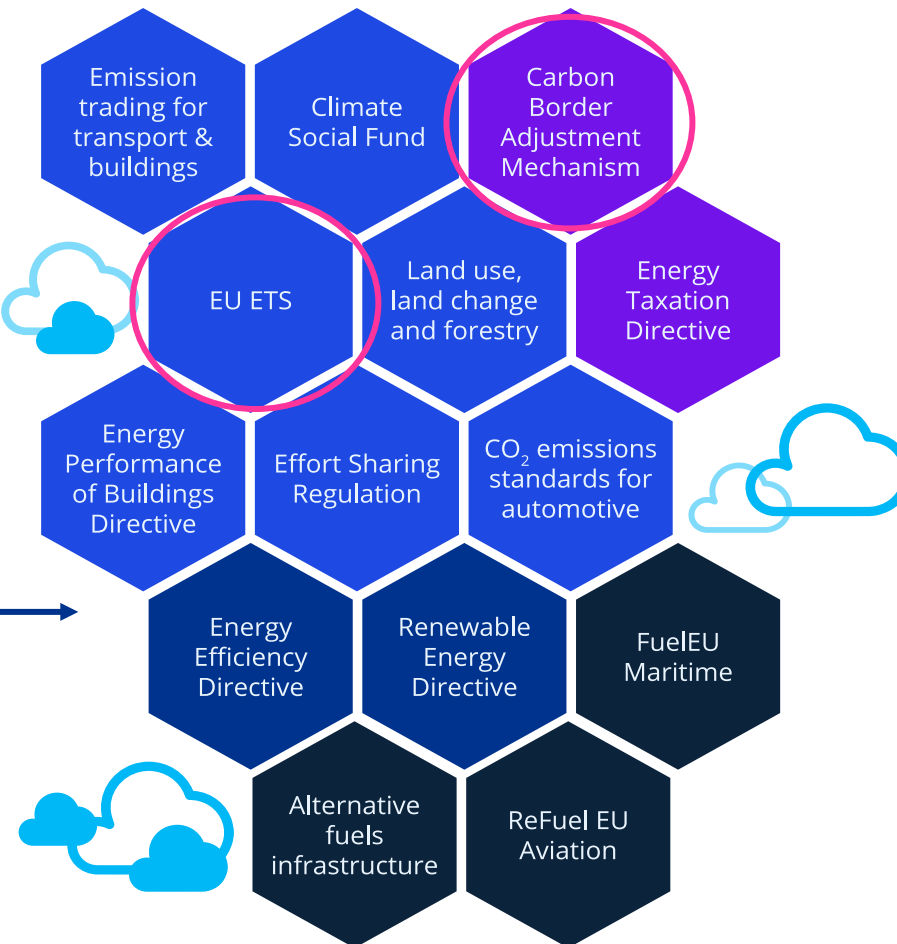
# The European Green Deal & Fit for 55



General action plan to fight climate change.  
Preparatory path to meet the targets of the EGD.

**Milestone target:** Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by **55% by 2030.**

## Fit for 55 Package



# EU Insights: Tax components of the European Green Deal

Fit for 55  
Package components



## Plastic Tax

- Revenue collection based on **non-recycled plastic consumption**

Up to Each Member State whether or not to introduce own plastics tax



## Energy Taxation Directive (ETD)

- Tiered rates based on sustainability of fuels
- **Change from unitary to EUR/GJ**
- Removal/phasing out of exemptions

Increased transport costs incentive to transition to more sustainable motor fuels



## Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

- **Shadow ETS** mirroring phase out of free permits
- **Limited sectors:** Aluminum, iron and steel, cement, fertilizer, hydrogen and electricity plus the potential to expand

Increased costs for importing certain goods/ Prevent carbon leakage



## New Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS 2)

- New separate ETS for **road transport and buildings** based on fuel consumption / 2027

New carbon price that will more directly impact consumers



## Existing Emission Trading System (ETS 1)

- Accelerated emission reduction by **lower cap** and **free allowance reduction**
- **Inclusion of shipping**

Increased cost / incentive to reduce emissions



# EU Emissions Trading System (ETS2)

The EU ETS started in 2005 by putting a carbon price on stationary installations (power plants, steel, cement, etc.) for their annual direct emissions. This scope has been expanded to fuels combusted in aviation and maritime transport.

The Commission wanted to further expand the EU ETS to the other large fuel consuming sectors.

## Products – energy taxation directive

- (un)Leaded petrol, gas oil, kerosene, LPG, natural gas, heavy fuel oil, coal and coke;
- Any other product intended for use, offered for sale or used as motor fuel or heating fuel

From downstream (ETS1 – entities combusting fuel) to upstream (ETS2 – entities releasing the fuel for consumption).



## Actors – excise directive

- Authorised warehousekeeper
- Distributor natural gas
- Coal supplier
- None of the above: any other person

### 2025:

- Authorization
- Monitoring & reporting

### 2027:

- Financial impact
- Probably postponed till 2028

## Activities

- Shipping
- Road transport use
- Heating of buildings
- Additional sectors (energy and manufacturing industry not covered by ETS1)



# CBAM overview

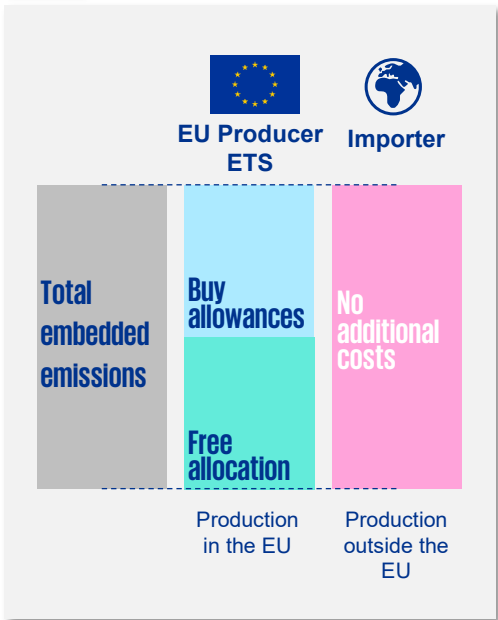
## Climate neutrality

CBAM is designed to function in parallel with the EU ETS which encourages high-emission industries in the EU to reduce emissions.

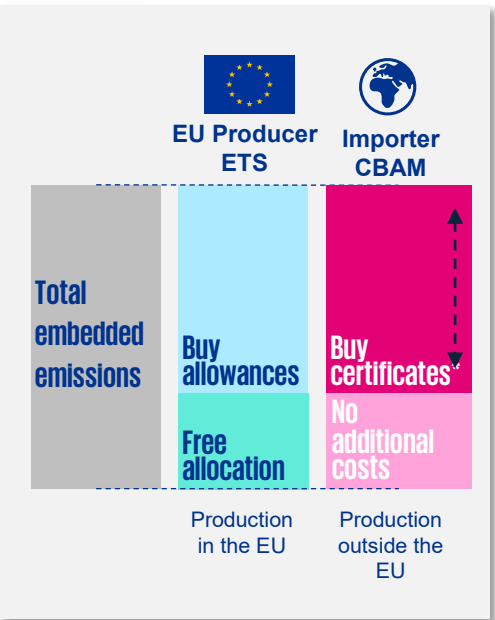
## CBAM aim

- Counteract the risk of carbon leakage arising from the removal of the free ETS allowances.
- Encourage other countries to establish carbon pricing policies.

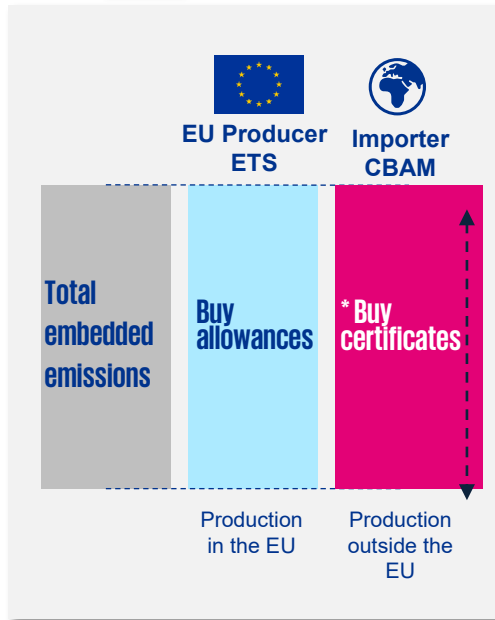
Past State



Current State



After 2034



\* adjusted for any mandatory carbon prices effectively paid in the exporting country

## CBAM initial scope

Electricity

Iron & steel

Cement

Fertilisers

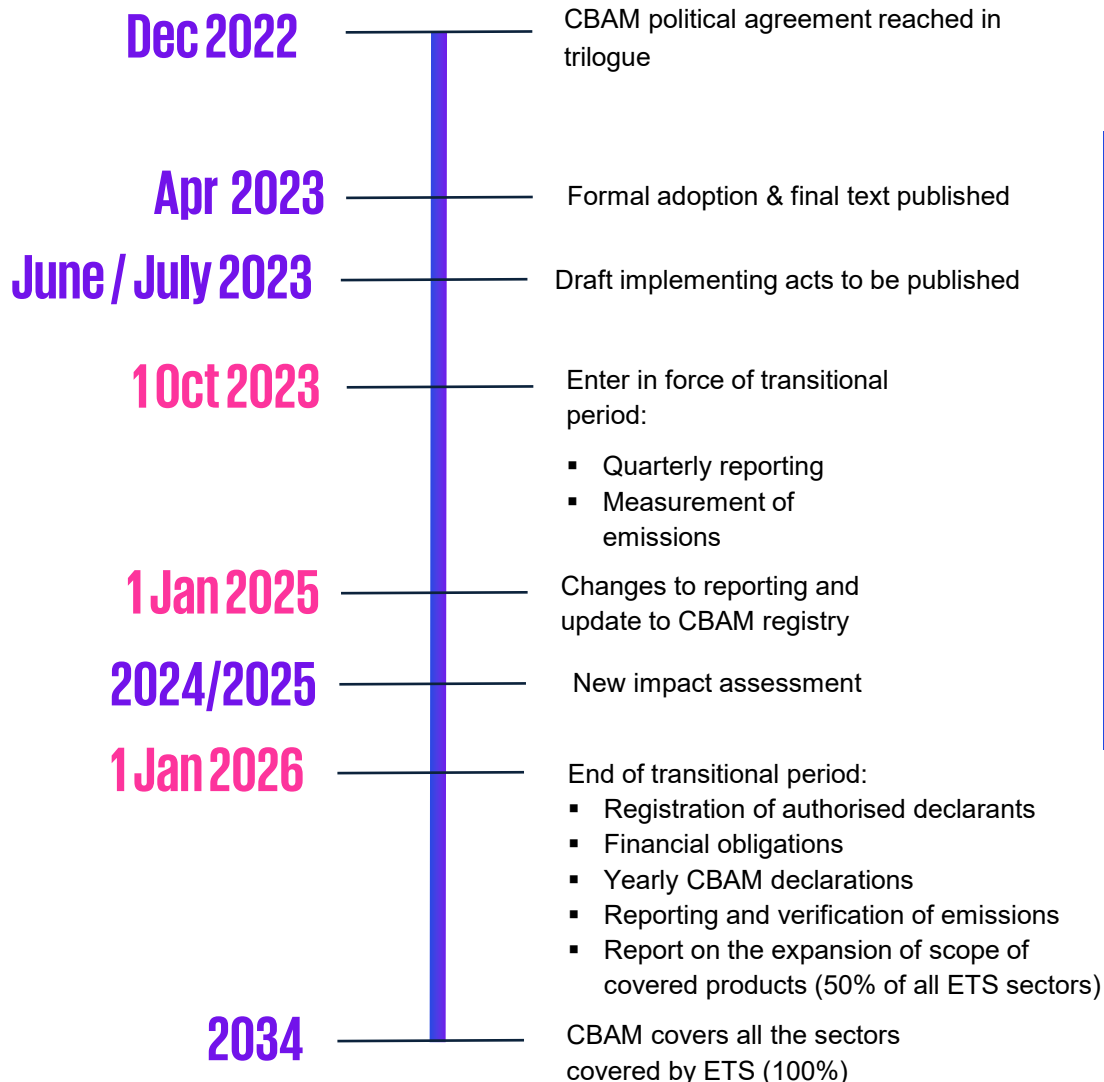
Aluminium

Hydrogen

- Direct emissions
- Indirect emissions included under certain conditions
- Certain precursors

- Cement (covered goods by CN code)**
- 2507 00 80 – Kaolin and other kaolinic clays, calcined
  - 2523 10 00 – Cement clinkers
  - 2523 21 00 – White Portland cement, whether or not artificially coloured
  - 2523 29 00 – Other Portland cement
  - 2523 30 00 – Aluminous cement
  - 2523 90 00 – Other hydraulic cements

# Preparing for implementation



## Preparation period

- Before 1 October 2023
- Review the scope and determine the impact of CBAM
- Check data availability (Understand the geographical composition of embedded emissions)

## Transitional period

- 1 Oct 2023 – 31 Dec 2025
- Reporting without paying
- CBAM report quarterly: Embedded emissions and carbon price paid in country of origin
- Financial impact and monitor scope

## Final period

- 1 January 2026 and further
- Authorization
- Certification
- Calculation & Verification
- Declaration & deduction





# KPMG



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# IFRS® Accounting Standards

## Update

Finding clarity in the complexity of accounting

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January 2026



**01**

# **IFRS - Newly effective and forthcoming requirements**

December 2025

# Newly effective requirements

Effective date	New standards or amendments	Resources
1 January 2025	Lack of Exchangeability – Amendments to IAS 21 <i>The Effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates</i>	<a href="#">Article</a>

Endorsed by EFRAG ([Update 18 December 2025](#))



# Forthcoming requirements (1/2)

Effective date	New standards or amendments	Web article
1 January 2026	Amendments to the Classification and Measurement of Financial Instruments – Amendments to IFRS 9 <i>Financial Instruments</i> and IFRS 7 <i>Financial Instruments: Disclosures</i>	Financial assets with ESG-linked features <a href="#">Web article</a> Settlement of financial liabilities by electronic payments <a href="#">Web article</a>
	Annual Improvements to IFRS Accounting Standards – Amendments to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ IFRS 1 <i>First-time Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards</i>;</li><li>▪ IFRS 7 <i>Financial Instruments: Disclosures</i> and its accompanying <i>Guidance on implementing IFRS 7</i>;</li><li>▪ IFRS 9 <i>Financial Instruments</i>;</li><li>▪ IFRS 10 <i>Consolidated Financial Statements</i>; and</li><li>▪ IAS 7 <i>Statement of Cash flows</i></li></ul>	<a href="#">Web article</a>
	Contracts Referencing Nature-dependent Electricity – Amendments to IFRS 9 and IFRS 7	<a href="#">Web article</a>



# Forthcoming requirements (2/2)

Effective date	New standards or amendments	Web article
1 January 2027	IFRS 18 <i>Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements</i>	<a href="#">Web article</a> , First impressions, talk book
	IFRS 19 <i>Subsidiaries without Public Accountability: Disclosures (incl. catch-up amendments)</i>	<a href="#">Web article</a>
	Amendments to IAS 21 <i>The Effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates: Translation to a Hyperinflationary Presentation Currency</i>	<a href="#">Web article</a>

Not yet endorsed by EFRAG ([Update 18 December 2025](#))

# Hyperinflationary economies – Changes in status compared to December 2024

## Economies that became hyperinflationary in 2025

- Burundi

## Economies that ceased to be hyperinflationary in 2025

- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Lao PDR
- Suriname

## Economies for which the analysis could not be completed in 2025

- Myanmar



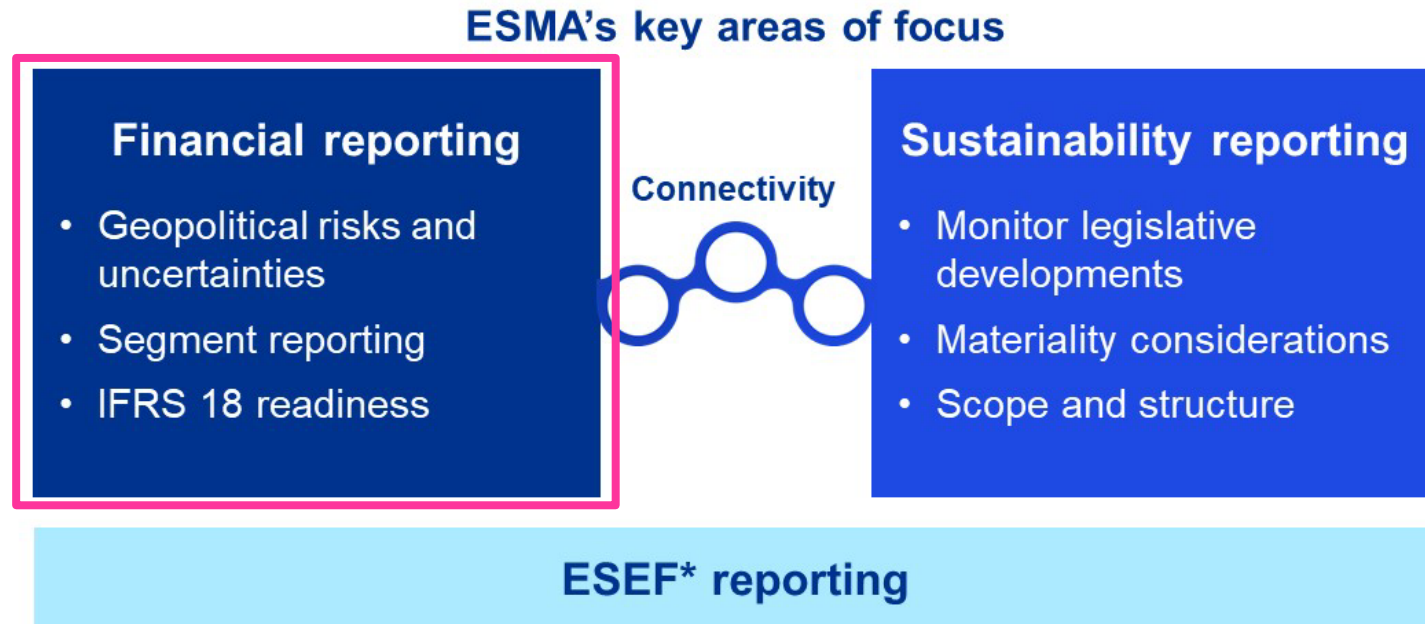
**02**

**ESMA  
Enforcement  
Priorities 2025**



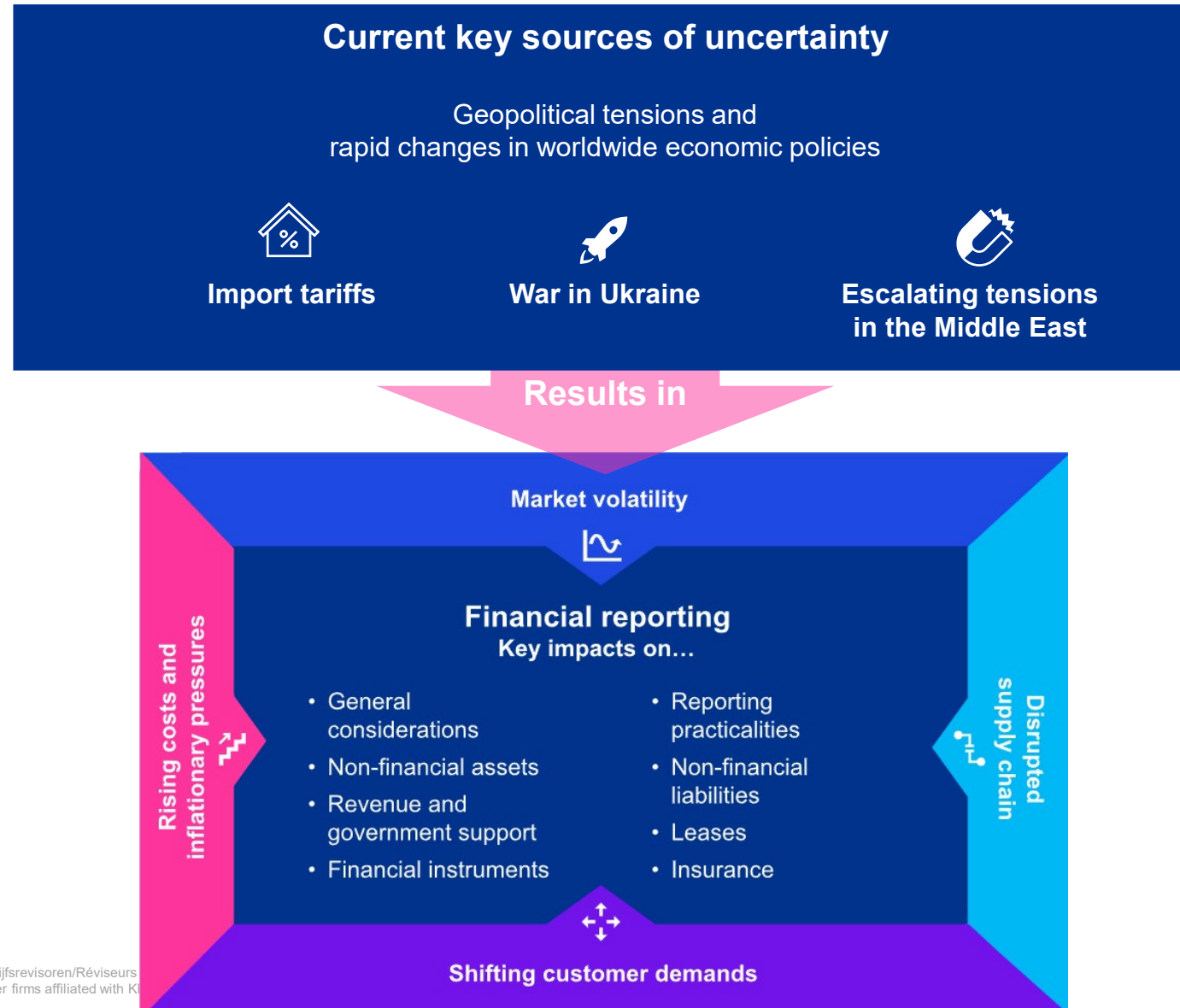
# Priorities of the ESMA

Extract ESMA Enforcement priorities:



\* European Single Electronic Format

# Priority 1 – Geopolitical risks and uncertainties



# Priority 1 – Geopolitical risks and uncertainties – What are the potential financial reporting implications?

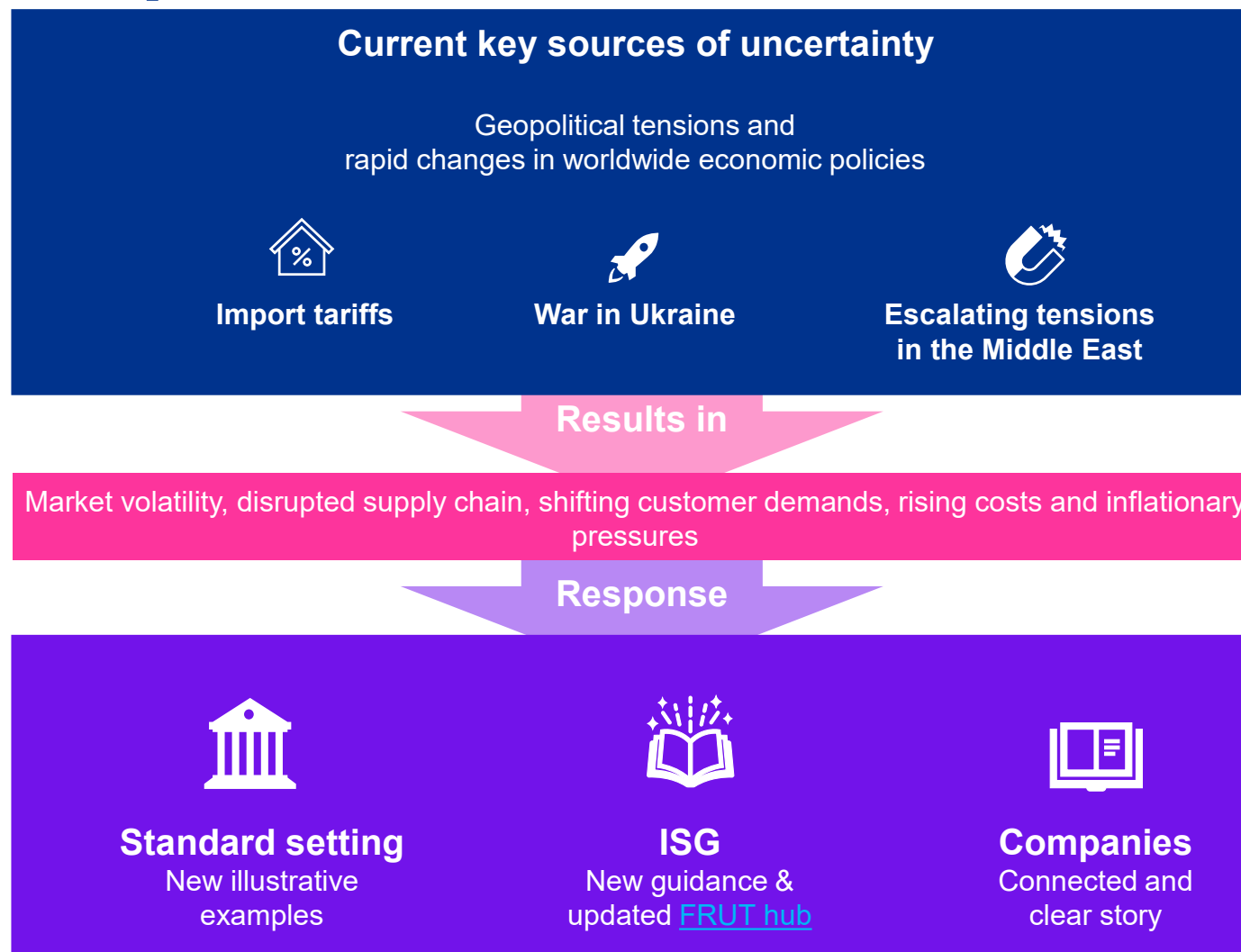
## Direct financial reporting implications (non-exhaustive):

- Asset impairments and write-downs
- Revenue recognition
- Recoverability of deferred tax assets
- Provisions
- Liquidity risk
- Assumptions used in valuation models (e.g., expected credit-losses and fair value measurement)
- Debt covenants
- Going concern
- Sensitivity analysis

**Avoid generic references to ‘geopolitical uncertainties’ – instead, you should be specific**

**Apply judgement and consider *all* facts and circumstances and determine whether additional disclosures (beyond those explicitly required by IFRS) are necessary to enable users to understand the effect (*or lack of effect*) on the financial position, cashflows and/or financial performance**

# Priority 1 – Geopolitical risks and uncertainties



**Additional guidance:**  
[IFRS Practice Statement 1 Management Commentary](#)  
(revised in July '25)



# Import tariffs – Think broadly and tell a clear story



# Priority 2 – Segment reporting

Geopolitical uncertainties and climate-related matters could cause changes in:

- Operating segments
- Applying the aggregation criteria for reportable segments
- Disaggregation disclosures provided under IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers

General reminders on segment reporting:

- Correctly apply the aggregation criteria for reportable segment (refer to next slide)
- Disclose company-specific information
- Consider IFRS® Interpretations Committee's agenda decision *Disclosure of Revenues and Expenses for Reportable Segments* (refer to previous updates)
- Provide clear and correct entity wide disclosures (geographical areas and major customers) (even if there is only one segment) (refer to next slide)

# Priority 2 – Segment reporting – Aggregation criteria

Operating segments may be aggregated into a single operating segment when the operating segments have characteristics so similar that they can be **expected to have essentially the same future prospects**.

Aggregation is permitted only if:

- it is consistent with the core principle of IFRS 8;
- the segments have similar economic characteristics; and
- the segments are similar *in each* of the following respects:
  - the nature of products and services;
  - the nature of the production processes;
  - the type or class of customer for their products and services;
  - the methods used to distribute their products or provide their services; and
  - if applicable, the nature of the regulatory environment. [IFRS 8.12]

Under IFRS 8, an entity is allowed to combine information about two or more operating segments into a single reportable segment if the segments meet the quantitative thresholds to produce a reportable segment only if the operating segments **share a major line of business** and **meet the quantitative thresholds**. **Aggregation criteria** listed above, **provided that the aggregation is consistent with the core principle of IFRS 8** and the segments **have similar economic characteristics**. [IFRS 8.14]

# Priority 2 – Segment reporting – Geographical areas and major customers

## ESMA statement:

ESMA emphasises the relevance of entity-wide disclosures on geographical areas and major customers required by paragraphs 33 and 34 of IFRS 8 in the current environment of trade barriers and geopolitical uncertainty. Issuers should provide information about revenues from external customers attributed to and certain non-current assets located in (i) the entity's country of domicile, (ii) all foreign countries in total and (iii) individual countries, if material. When assessing materiality, issuers should consider both quantitative and qualitative factors. For example, the fact that all (or significantly all) of the issuer's material revenues are attributed to foreign countries could be material information (in particular, if those foreign countries are subject to trade restrictions or tariffs). In addition, issuers may need to disclose how revenues have been allocated to individual countries or geographical areas (e.g., based on where the sales were originated or the location of end-customers). Finally, ESMA also notes that paragraph 34 of IFRS 8 does not provide exemptions from disclosing revenue information about major customers.

## KPMG's disclosure checklist - extract:

IFRS 8.31

Entity-wide disclosures are required even if the entity has only one reportable segment. Information required by IFRS 8.32–34 is provided only if it is not provided as part of the reportable segment information required by IFRS 8.

Insights 5.2.220.20

The information in IFRS 8.33 is provided by both the entity's country of domicile and by an individual foreign country, if material. In our view, disclosing such information by region – e.g. Europe or Asia – does not meet the requirement to disclose information by an individual foreign country, if material. Such information is disclosed by an individual foreign country – e.g. France, the Netherlands or Singapore – when material.

IFRS 8.34

Disclose information about the extent of reliance on major customers.

IFRS 8.34

If revenues from transactions with a single external customer amount to 10 percent or more of the entity's revenues, then disclose that fact along with the total amount of revenues from each such customer and the identity of the segment(s) reporting the revenues.

# Priority 3 – IFRS 18 readiness – What are the changes?

## More structured income statement



- New subtotals including 'operating profit'
- Income and expenses classified into three categories – operating, investing, financing
- Main business activities drive the classification of income and expenses

## Disclosed and audited MPMs



- MPMs\* are now disclosed in the financial statements and subject to audit
- MPMs capture some but not all 'non-GAAP' measures
- New disclosures may involve additional effort

\* Management performance measures

## Greater disaggregation of information



- New disclosures for items labelled as 'other'
- Enhanced guidance on how to group information within the financial statements
- Remains a judgement area

Will not impact recognition and measurement (net profit unchanged)



# IFRS 18 – Impact and timelines

- [EU endorsement status](#) (December 2025):

	Draft endorsement advice	Endorsement advice	ARC Vote	Expected endorsement	IASB Effective date	Endorsement expected before effective date
<b>IFRS standards and interpretations</b>						
IFRS 18 <i>Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements</i> (issued on 9 April 2024)	15/11/2024 ✓	05/05/2025 ✓	15/09/2025 ✓	1Q 2026	01/01/2027	▲
IFRS 19 <i>Subsidiaries without Public Accountability: Disclosures</i> (issued on 9 May 2024)	23/05/2025 ✓	25/09/2025 ✓			01/01/2027	
<b>Amendments</b>						
Amendments to IFRS 19 <i>Subsidiaries without public accountability: Disclosures</i> (issued on 21 August 2025)	29/09/2025 ✓	18/12/2025 ✓			01/01/2027	
Amendments to IAS 21 <i>The Effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates: Translation to a Hyperinflationary Presentation Currency</i> (issued on 13 November 2025)	18/12/2025 ✓				01/01/2027	▲

- IFRS 18 is to be applied **retrospectively** in accordance with IAS 8 *Basis of Preparation of Financial statements* (IFRS 18.C2)
- First year of application will require **disclosure of specific reconciliations** (both in **annual and interim financial statements**) (IFRS 18.C3)

# IFRS 18 – Anything to do this year?

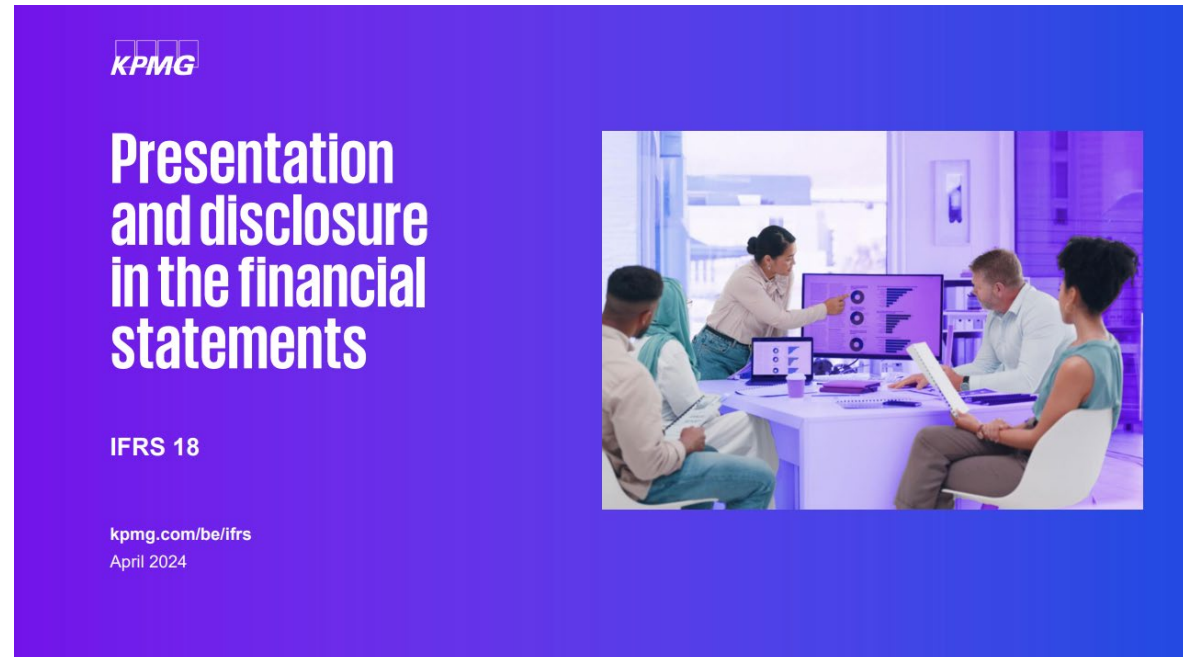
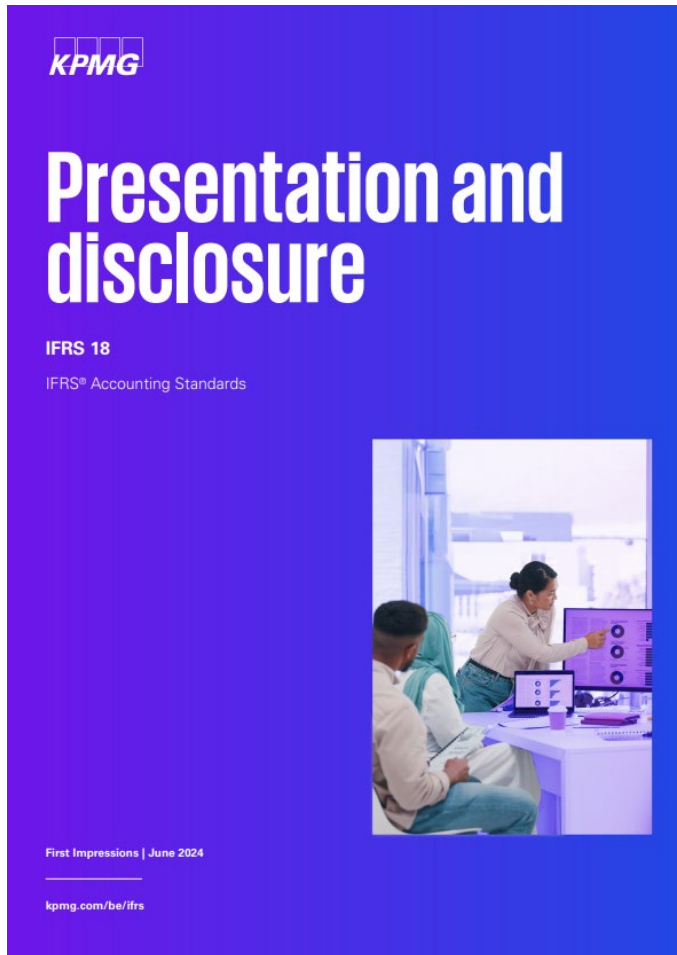
You should have started with assessing the impact of the new standard:

*ESMA urges issuers to start assessing the **impact of IFRS 18<sup>53</sup> on financial statements, reporting systems and communications**. Focus areas include aggregation/disaggregation principles, management-defined performance measures and the presentation of financial performance. To support early familiarisation and testing, ESMA has included the IFRS 18 taxonomy update in the draft 2025 RTS on ESEF<sup>54</sup> submitted to the EC. However, this update can only be used to mark-up annual financial reports after EU endorsement and official RTS on ESEF publication.*

Disclosure requirements in 2025 FS in relation of not yet effective IFRSs:

IFRSs not yet effective		
IAS 8.30	When the entity has not applied a new IFRS that has been issued, but is not yet effective, disclose:	IAS 8.31
IAS 8.30(a)	a. that fact; and	IAS 8.31(a)
IAS 8.30(b)	b. known or reasonably estimable information relevant to assessing the possible impact that the application of the new IFRS will have on the entity's financial statements in the period of initial application.	IAS 8.31(b)
		IAS 8.31(c)
		IAS 8.31(d)
		IAS 8.31(e)
		IAS 8.31(e)(i)
		IAS 8.31(e)(ii)
		Consider disclosing:
		a. the title of the new IFRS;
		b. the nature of the impending change or changes in accounting policy;
		c. the date by which application of the IFRS is required;
		d. the date at which the entity plans to adopt the IFRS initially; and
		e. either:
		i. a discussion of the impact that initial application of the IFRS is expected to have on the entity's financial statements; or
		ii. if that impact is not known or reasonably estimable, a statement to that effect.

# IFRS 18 – Resources available



[First impressions guide](#)

[Talk book](#)



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**Document Classification: KPMG Public**



# Regulatory update

**Emmanuel Leroux**  
January 2026







# Programme

- 01** NIS2
- 02** Pay transparency directive
- 03** Reform of Civil Code
- 04** Liability for defective products

**01**

# **NIS 2 - Status**

# What is NIS2?



## Main objectives

European directive that ensures the level of cybersecurity across the entire EU and replaces NIS1.

The entities must take appropriate and proportionate measures to mitigate cyber risks with the aim of preventing cyberattacks and, in the event of an attack, limited the disruption of activities.



## Legislation

- Law of 26 April 2024
- Royal decree 9 June 2024

# Entry into force



# Scope

## Two categories:

Essential entities	Important entities
1° Entities exceeding the threshold of medium-sized and providing services within highly critical sectors, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Energy,</li><li>• Transport,</li><li>• Government;</li></ul>	1° Entities providing services within (highly) critical sectors that are not identified as essential entities;
2° Qualified trust service providers and the top-level domain name registries;	2° Entities identified as important by the national cybersecurity authority
3° Providers of public electronic communications networks exceeding the threshold of medium-sized	
4° Public authorities	
5° Entities identified as operators of critical infrastructure within the meaning of the Law of 1 July 2011	
6° Entities providing services within (highly) critical sectors identified as essential by the national cybersecurity authority	

The obligations and supervision for an entity under NIS2 depend on the category!



# Supervision: conformity assessment

## Supervisory framework: *ex ante* and *ex post*

Only for the essential entities. The important entities can voluntarily submit!

### 01 Assessment based on reference frameworks

- Reference frameworks set out the modalities for the assessment of measures taken in the context of cybersecurity management.
- Maturity levels:
  - Essential
  - Important
  - Basic
  - Small
- Based on audit, the entity will receive certification/verification at the required level. It is possible to request an assessment at a lower level if justified by the entity.
- Assessment by entities recognized by the national cybersecurity authority (CCB) e.g. KPMG Certification BV.

### 02 Inspections by the CCB

- Supervision conducted in an objective manner.
- Supervision subject to the safeguards of criminal procedure law:
  - Right to be heard,
  - Search warrant , ...
- Maximum once a year.

# Supervision: conformity assessment

## Deadline

Maturity level	To obtain	Deadline
Basic	Basic certification	18 April 2026
Important	Basic or important verification	18 April 2026
	First basic certification, then the important verification	18 April 2027
Essential	Basic or important certification	18 April 2026
	Essential certification	18 April 2027



02

# Pay Transparency

# What is Pay Transparency Directive?



## Main objectives

A lack of transparency about pay levels within organisations maintains a situation where gender-based pay discrimination can go undetected. The directive drives shifts in how companies communicate about pay, report on pay equity and ensure fairness across their workforce.



## Legislation

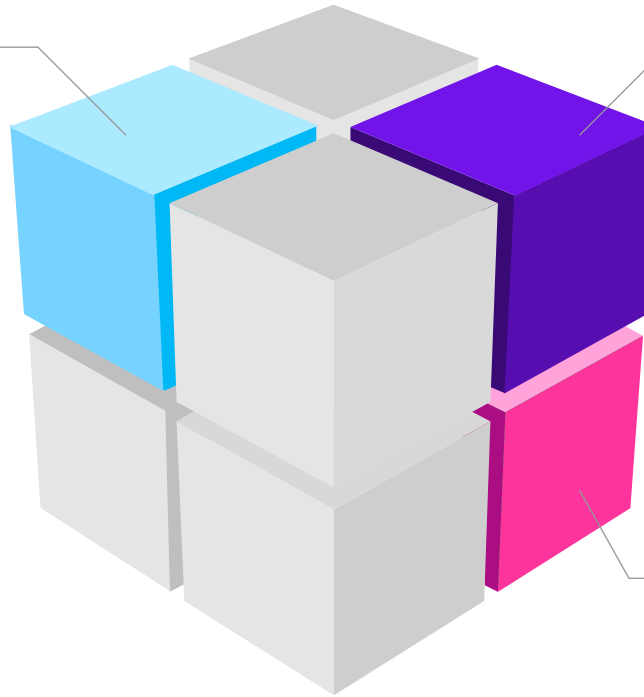
- Directive 2023/970
- Transposition into national law before 7 June 2026

# Obligations

## Equal pay for equal work

- (i) employers must have pay structures ensuring equal pay for equal work
- (ii) authorities shall provide the analytic tools to support the comparison

Directive provides minimum requirements: Member States may introduce provisions more favourable to workers!



## Transparency

- Pay transparency prior to employment
- Transparency of pay setting and pay progression policy
- Workers have the right to request and receive information on their individual pay level and the average pay levels

## Reporting

Employers will provide information concerning the gender pay gap, the median gender pay gap, the proportion of female and male workers etc

### Deadline:

- Employer with fewer than 100 workers: voluntary basis unless Member State requires differently
- Employer with 100-149 workers: 7 June 2031
- Employer with 150 or more workers: 7 June 2027



# Procedural aspects

- **Remedies**

- Right to compensation
- Penalties on the basis of contractual or extra-contractual liability
- Requiring the employer to take structural and organisational measures

e.g. Brussels Decree 16 May 2024: amount for moral damage is set at 1.950 - 3.900 EUR

- **Proof**

- Shift of burden of proof: employer has to prove there has been no direct or indirect discrimination in case of a prima facie case of discrimination
- The assessment of workers in a comparable situation is not limited to situations in which female and male workers work for the same employer

- **Limitation periods**

- Start: the moment the claimant is aware or can be reasonably be expected to be aware of the infringement
- Limitation period: no shorter than three (3) years

**03**

# **Reform of Civil Code: status update**

# Legislation procedure



# Reform of Civil Code – some highlights

- **Book 6: abolition of the quasi-immunity of the accessories**
- **Book 9: personal security**
  - framework for all forms of personal security, including warranty and co-debtorship
  - replacing a gracious surety with a consumer surety
- **Book 7: special contracts**
  - Sale and purchase agreements
  - Lease agreements
  - Services agreements
  - ...

**04**

# **Liability for defective products**

# What is the Product Safety Regulation?



## Main objectives

To ensure that all products placed on the market are safe for consumers. The Regulation is introduced as a *lex generalis* ensuring a broad safety net where no sector-specific product legislation applies.



## Background

The Regulation replaces the General Product Safety Directive from 2001 and provides a new EU general product safety framework to keep up with the challenges of digitalization and the increasing number of products sold online.

Directly applicable  
across EU since 13  
December 2024



# What is the Product Liability Directive?



## Main objectives

To update and adapt the EU's liability rules for new technologies and global value chains, ensuring better protection for victims and greater legal certainty for economic operators.



## Based on two main principles

- (i) Each manufacturer is responsible to compensate damage caused by a defect in its product;
- (ii) The victim has to prove the product's defectiveness, the damage that was caused and establish that this defectiveness was the cause of the damage.

EU Member States must transpose the Directive into national law by 9 December 2026

# Product Safety vs. Product Liability

Legislation	General Product Safety Regulation (EU) n° 2023/988	Product Liability Directive (EU) n° 2024/2853
Purpose	Prevention ( <i>ex ante</i> )	Liability and compensation for defective products ( <i>ex post</i> )
Material scope	All products intended to be sold to consumers or likely to be used by them (via all sales channels)	All movable goods (including electricity, raw materials, etc.)
Personal scope	Economic operators, such as manufacturers, importers, and distributors	Economic operators, such as manufacturers, importers, and distributors
Key aspects and novelties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broad(er) definition of “products” (e.g., new, used, repaired)</li> <li>Each product must be safe and compliant, traceable, identifiable and accompanied by instructions and safety information in the language where the product is marketed</li> <li>Stricter role-specific obligations for each economic operator (e.g., risk assessment, technical documentation, product recalls, etc.)</li> <li>Enhanced market surveillance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broad(er) scope (e.g., smart devices and AI systems)</li> <li>Liability without fault for defective products (10 years)</li> <li>A product is defective where it does not provide the safety one is entitled to expect from it or what is required by law</li> <li>Broader definition of “damage”: physical and psychological harm and damage to property</li> <li>Legal presumptions in favor of consumer (lower burden of proof)</li> </ul>
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sanctions such as administrative fines, product bans, product recalls etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broader liability without fault for defective products and increased risk for liability claims</li> </ul>

**Non-compliance**

**Presumption of defectiveness**

# *Need for action*

**New rules significantly expand obligations and liability exposure for economic operators across the supply chain**



## **Assess your role within the supply chain**

Assess whether your company falls within the scope of the new legislation and if so, qualify your role as an economic operator within the chain to determine which new requirements and obligations apply to your company.



## **Conduct gap analysis and adjust internal processes where needed**

Ensure your company has in place required procedures, such as for pre-market risk assessment, technical documentation, incident monitoring, complaint handling, and recall procedures.



## **Map commercial relationships and review commercial contracts**

Introduce, where possible, contractual safeguards in contracts with other actors across the chain (e.g., integrate future expansion of liability and additional responsibilities in contracts).



## **Protect IP and competitive position**

Strengthen NDAs, non-compete clauses and restrict reverse engineering where legally feasible.