



2025 KPMG Global Indirect Taxes Conference Program



From Ancient Rome to Modern AI — a journey through the future of indirect taxes to 2030

Join industry leaders and KPMG professionals on a journey through the future of indirect taxes to 2030 with a distinctly Roman feel!

The KPMG Global Indirect Taxes Conference is designed with the audience in mind — highly interactive and engaging sessions tailored to facilitate small group interactions and strictly limited to 150 guests. We look forward to welcoming you to Rome!

Tuesday 11 February 2025

8:30am–9:30am

From the Colosseum to today, the transformative impact of AI on organizations

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is expected to transform organizations and our roles — but how? As we look toward 2030, the integration of generative AI into the tax function can enhance our capabilities, reshape our engagement with tax authorities and augment the roles and responsibilities of tax professionals in a rapidly evolving landscape.

This opening session will be led by the highly renowned **Ian Beacraft**, CEO and Chief Futurist of Signal and Cipher, who will examine the impact of AI from an organizational transformational perspective. Following his presentation, he will join a panel discussion moderated by **Laurent Chetcuti** (KPMG in France), together with **Stephen Vitale** (KPMG in the US) and **Nancy Schanda** (KPMG in Germany).

Considered one of the top voices in AI and the future of work, **Ian Beacraft** is a trusted advisor to the world's most innovative companies. The Founder, CEO and Chief Futurist of Signal and Cipher, Ian leads a strategic foresight and development agency guiding companies through the rapidly changing technology landscape to find meaningful routes to innovation that impact the bottom line, inspire cultural change, and create new products and services.

<p>9:30am–10:30am</p>	<p>Rome wasn't built in a day — our journey through the future of indirect taxes to 2030</p> <p>Since 2015, KPMG has released a provocative and highly regarded series of propositions and predictions on the Future of indirect taxes every five years. In this next five-year instalment, KPMG will launch a detailed thought leadership piece on the Future of Indirect Taxes to 2030.</p> <p>This piece examines the suitability of indirect tax systems to handle new and modern forms of business activity, including social media influencers, virtual gamers and crypto traders. It will also challenge the role of credit offset systems in a modern economy and whether a VAT system can be redesigned in a more progressive form. Additionally, the session will explore the effectiveness of several growing forms of indirect taxes on the horizon, including carbon tax and pricing schemes, digital services taxes and tariff policies. Finally, we will look at how the digitalization of our tax system is likely to affect businesses, including the impact of e-invoicing and developments in AI on managing risk and compliance obligations.</p> <p>This session will be presented by the authors of the 'Future of Indirect Taxes to 2030', including Professor Wei Cui (University of British Columbia) and Lachlan Wolfers (Head of Global Indirect Taxes, KPMG International) together with Jennifer Petersen (KPMG in the US). It will be moderated by James Freed (KPMG in the US).</p>
<p>10:30am–10:50am</p>	<p>Caesar's cup: Morning tea in modern Rome</p>
<p>10:50am–12:20pm</p>	<p>The Colosseum — entering the gladiatorial battlefield</p> <p>Participants will rotate through four break-out sessions, each led by a KPMG professional in that field. You will have the opportunity to dive deep into the different components in which technology may impact the future of indirect taxes, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) compliance automation (led by Chris Downing (KPMG in the UK) and Johny Makhija (KPMG in the US)); (2) data and analytics (led by Doug Fagan (KPMG in the US) and Zsofia Barta (KPMG in the US)); (3) ERP implementations (led Nancy Schanda (KPMG in Germany) and Martin Weigand (KPMG in Germany)); (4) data management (led by Alexander Zegers (KPMG in the Netherlands)); (5) generative AI (led by Christian Stender (KPMG in Germany)) and (6) controversy and advisory (led by Steve Vitale (KPMG in US) and Jacques Harmse (KPMG in the US)). <p>These sessions will be highly interactive, with participants guided in defining their future state position in 2030 and the AI use cases in each area.</p>

12:20pm–01:00pm	A taste of Rome: Lunch break
01:00pm–02:05pm	<p>From digital census to e-invoicing</p> <p>In the past, the Roman census assessed citizens’ property and tax obligations. Today, e-invoicing systems act as a modern “digital census” for tracking business transactions and tax liabilities. This panel session will address the topic from a practical perspective and delve into the transformative potential of e-invoicing within indirect taxes. By examining the challenges and opportunities e-invoicing presents, participants can gain valuable insights into how this digital revolution can be harnessed to enhance business efficiency and compliance. The session promises to be an engaging exploration of how e-invoicing can move beyond just a compliance requirement to becoming a strategic business tool.</p> <p>The specialist panel will discuss the impact of e-invoicing from various perspectives, including the standardization efforts under ViDA, the critical timing of invoice issuance, and the often-overlooked accounts payable (AP) perspective. Participants can learn how to navigate these changes effectively, helping ensure their organizations are not only compliant but also primed to leverage e-invoicing for competitive advantages, including reduced processing times and errors, faster payments and improved cash flow management, enhanced visibility and control over financial data.</p> <p>E-invoicing systems generate a wealth of data that can be analyzed for trends and insights, helping businesses optimize their operations and identify new opportunities for growth. This data-driven approach can lead to more informed strategies and enhanced operational efficiency.</p> <p>This session will be led by Christiaan Van der Valk (Vice President, Strategy, Sovos), Rob van Praat (European VAT Manager, Canon), Lyubov Skenderova (KPMG in the Netherlands) and facilitated by Davide Morabito (KPMG in Italy).</p>
02:10pm	Buses leave for the colosseum

03:00pm–04:30pm	Colosseum visit (please be reminded to bring with you a form of photo ID, which the Colosseum requires for security purposes).
04:45pm–05:45pm	<p>The Consul’s Ear</p> <p>Plenary session — Gaining the attention of a Roman consul was crucial for influencing policy.</p> <p>For this session we are pleased to welcome Betsey Stevenson, Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the University of Michigan Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy. Betsey was appointed as a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers during the Obama Administration, a post she served from 2013 through 2015. She previously served as Chief Economist of the U.S. Department of Labor under Secretary Hilda Solis from 2010 to 2011. In this insightful session, as if we were gaining the attention of a Roman Consul, Betsey will share her experience around influencing policy makers.</p>
05:45pm–06:30pm	<p><i>“Aut viam inveniam aut faciam” (I shall either find a way or make one)</i></p> <p>Every leader will face adversity at some point. It’s just as important to prepare for the hard times as it is to celebrate the good. This is an inspiring session for leaders, presented by Russell Boulter, a former actor from the long running UK TV show “The Bill” and a renowned communications coach.</p>
06:45pm	Bacchus’ Banquet (Aperitifs followed by dinner)

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08:45am–10:45am	<p>Client meetings: Details of these meetings will be shared with your KPMG contacts. This will give you the opportunity to meet with KPMG subject matter or country experts to discuss your issues and needs.</p> <p>Communications skills: When not participating in client meetings, you will have the opportunity to join small group coaching sessions being led by Russell Boulter. Take the chance to improve your communication skills from an industry expert!</p>
10:45am–11:00am	Caesar’s cup: Morning tea in modern Rome
11:00am–11:45am	<p>Exegi Momentum aere perennius (a monument more lasting than bronze)</p> <p>Originally uttered by Horace, this Roman saying speaks to the importance of building something that lasts, that is future proofed.</p> <p>How ready is your business to adapt and thrive in the ever-evolving landscape of indirect taxes? This plenary session will provide attendees with insights into how indirect tax governance models are evolving and offer real-life strategies to ensure your business is future-ready. This session will be led by Anitha Chakravarthi (Global Head of Indirect Tax and Tax Technology, eBay), Todd Frazier (Vice President, Global Indirect Tax, Ecolab), Thorsten Lang (Vice President, Head of International Tax & Global Indirect Taxes, HP), and moderated by Will Gull (KPMG in the UK).</p> <p>Our panel of diverse in-house experts will share their practical experience on the steps companies are taking to ensure their governance framework is fit for purpose, effectively mitigating risk and integrating it into their daily operations. You’ll gain a comprehensive understanding of the successes and challenges faced in this pursuit. Moreover, you’ll get an insider’s perspective on the renewed emphasis tax authorities are placing on indirect tax governance, its implications for businesses, and the outcomes it’s driving.</p>

<p>11:45am–12:45pm</p>	<p>Nom omnia possumus omnes (we all cannot do everything)</p> <p>We all are incapable of all things; however, how can we still ensure an effective operating model marked by significant changes driven by technological advancements and the evolution of the tax authorities?</p> <p>Dive into a dynamic and interactive session where our KPMG colleagues will provide insightful commentary, connecting the dots between evolving technology and its impact on the people and processes that form an organization’s indirect tax operating model.</p> <p>The session will bring to life all these changes, showcasing cutting-edge indirect tax technology developments driven by KPMG. This session will be led by Chris Downing (KPMG in the UK), Maria Catala (KPMG Delivery Network), Stephen Vitale (KPMG in the US), and Zsofia Barta (KPMG in the US), and will be moderated by Tania Segovia Tornero (KPMG in the UK). Accessible via a simple QR code scan on your mobile device, you’ll be guided through its impressive functionalities and have time to explore this powerful tool at your own pace.</p> <p>The journey continues as we demonstrate the diverse aspects of technology encapsulated within Digital Gateway, including the potential of Gen AI through practical use cases.</p>
<p>12:45pm–01:45pm</p>	<p>A taste of Rome: Lunch break</p>
<p>01:45pm–02:45pm</p>	<p>From digital census to e-invoicing</p> <p>Join this session to explore “From digital census to e-invoicing”. In this breakout session, participants will have the opportunity to choose two out of the three options below.</p> <p>Option 1 ‘The role of an e-invoicing solution provider’ — KPMG is delighted to have an e-invoicing provider to share their firsthand experiences in providing e-invoicing solutions, from specific components to comprehensive support that can be integrated seamlessly with your existing processes. Christiaan Van der Valk from Sovos will share insights on service provider role, highlight key differences based on countries e-invoicing models and requirements for a solution provider. This session will be facilitated by Nancy Schanda (KPMG in Germany) and Paula Smith (KPMG in the US).</p> <p>Option 2 ‘E-invoicing in EU’ — Facilitated by Christopher Böcker, KPMG in Germany and Lyubov Skenderova (KPMG in the Netherlands), we examine the developments in e-invoicing with a focus on Europe. In this session, participants will learn about the varying stages of digital reporting and e-invoicing implementation within the EU and the EU Commission’s efforts to harmonize these processes through ViDA.</p> <p>Option 3 ‘E-invoicing in ASPAC and GCC’ — Discover how countries in the Asia Pacific and Gulf regions, such as India and Saudi Arabia have implemented e-invoicing and digital reporting, while others like China, Malaysia and the UAE are quickly gathering pace. This session will be led by Alex Pavel (Managing Director, APAC & Middle East — Sovos), Julie Lere Pland (KPMG in the UAE) and Kenneth Leung (KPMG in China).</p>

<p>02:45pm–03:45pm</p>	<p><i>From Ancient Rome to Modern Tax: Voices shaping the future of indirect tax</i></p> <p>Drawing a parallel between Rome’s history and contemporary tax practices, in this closing session facilitated by Maria Catala (KPMG Delivery Network), Matthew Shepherd (KPMG in the UK) and Lachlan Wolfers (Head of Global Indirect Taxes, KPMG International), together with the voice of our clients in shaping the future of indirect tax strategies.</p>
<p>04:00pm</p>	<p>A Roman finale</p>
<p>04:15pm</p>	<p>Buses arranged by KPMG to leave for airport</p>

*Dress code: casual (jeans and sneakers are welcome)

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