



## Miliband serious about the offshore blacklist



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Leader of the Labour party, Ed Miliband, has put the UK's Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories on notice: come up with a public register of beneficial ownership or be blacklisted. Labour has maintained a narrow lead in the opinion polls, including in those published so far in this month of February. The General Election is less than three months away.

Miliband has made much of the fact that David Cameron, during his chairmanship of the G8, had promised to make a crackdown on tax evasion and had asked the Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories to come up with a public registry of beneficial of companies located in their jurisdictions.

Miliband said: "Cameron made this big promise 18 months ago that he was going to force UK tax havens in Crown Dependencies to open up and he has totally failed to meet that promise. We are sending a very clear message today.

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## European Commission to investigate Ireland and Luxembourg

Just as ADI was going to press the European Commission issued a statement in which it said that it will begin investigating tax rulings issued by Ireland, Luxembourg (and the Netherlands). The investigation begins in March.

The Commission has also stated that it will be announcing what it calls "a wide set of measures to increase tax transparency" next month. And it added that March's "Tax Transparency package is just the beginning." The Commission will present a second package of measures dealing with fair and efficient corporate taxation this summer, which will also take into account current initiatives by the G20 and OECD to tackle tax avoidance.

More generally the European Commission says it has begun working on what it calls "an ambitious agenda to combat tax avoidance and aggressive tax planning". The Commission adds that President Jean-Claude Juncker has made the fight against tax evasion and avoidance

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