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4th July 2018

TO: Professor Jan Amos Visek, Chair of the Habilitation Board

HABILITATION THESIS - DR. PETR JANSKÝ

Dear Professor Visek,

I am pleased to submit this report on the habilitation thesis of Dr. Petr Janský.

The thesis consists of nine chapters, seven of which have already been published, and one under consideration, all in international peer-reviewed journals. In addition, the first chapter provides an introduction, which outlines the scope of the work and the basic concepts and methods used, as well as summarising the main findings.

In addition to the Introduction two of the chapters are sole-authored by Dr. Janský; he is the lead author of four, and joint author for the remaining two. From my knowledge of these papers and of his work, I can attest that he has played the leading role in this research and the articles resulting from it. Overall, it is a comprehensive and coherent body of work, demonstrating a remarkable knowledge of the field, and making a substantial original contribution to it.

The work focuses on estimating and quantifying the extent of illicit financial flows, in particular corporate profit-shifting by multinational enterprises (MNEs). This requires a sound understanding of a complex body of technical knowledge about international tax rules, international finance, and the techniques used for international tax avoidance and evasion. The work shows an impressive mastery of the literature on tax havens and offshore financial secrecy, including both primary and secondary sources. These have been digested and distilled to produce the key operating concepts used in the research. This sophisticated analytical foundation has provided the basis for the various quantitative estimation exercises presented in the chapters.

The chapters demonstrate an imposing range of knowledge of data sources, and an ability to use them in conjunction with the conceptual foundation to produce relatively robust quantitative estimates to help guide policy formation. This type of work plays a key role, and it is especially important that it should be done rigorously in view of the contentious nature of this policy field. Both the conceptual analysis and the methodology used for quantification in this type of work are subject to continual critical challenges. Dr. Janský's work is regarded as sound, and has a high reputation, which is testimony to his achievements and standing as a scholar.

This is an original, indeed path-breaking, body of work, which has made significant contributions both to social sciences and to the formation of policy on an issue which today is very high on the agenda of national governments, as well as European and global organizations. Consequently, Dr. Janský has become well known as a specialist in this field, and is regularly involved in high-level consultations and research with international bodies, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

In my view this work fully justifies the award of the title of Docent, which I understand is the equivalent of a tenured or full Professor.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely

Sol Picciotto