

## Report to the Federal Parliament

### Annual tax on securities accounts – Management by the tax administration



In its report to the Federal Parliament, the Belgian Court of Audit examined how the tax administration has managed the Belgian tax on securities accounts (TSA). According to the Belgian legislator, this tax only has a budgetary purpose and is levied annually (0.15%) on securities accounts with an average value of more than 1 million euros.

The Court examined, on the one hand, whether the tax administration has been able to check effectively and efficiently the correct application of the TSA and, on the other hand, whether the initially estimated tax revenues have been collected.

In the absence of a clear legal framework, the Court of Audit pointed to a number of major difficulties, resulting in frequent problems in practice, both in applying this complex legislation and in carrying out the checks. It formulated a number of recommendations to overcome these problems and contribute to a more effective risk analysis.

The Court also found that the revenues from the TSA show a clear downward trend from about 470 million euros in the first reference period to (provisionally) 362 million euros in the third reference period. It is currently not possible to make a thorough evaluation of these revenues because the tax returns cannot yet be submitted digitally and not all data from these tax returns are systematically entered into the relevant administrative application. According to the Court of Audit, this precludes an effective risk analysis and a thorough evaluation and monitoring of the TSA.

Finally, the Court of Audit emphasised the importance of reliable measurement instruments to further monitor and analyse the tax outcome, especially if the revenues should continue to decline in the next few years.

The report *Annual tax on securities accounts – Management by the tax administration* is now available (in either French or Dutch) on the Court's website ([courtofaudit.be](http://courtofaudit.be)).