

## **Press release: New vehicle tax rates come into force today**

[unable to retrieve full-text content]New vehicle tax rates come into force for all cars and some motor homes that are registered from today (1 April 2017).

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## **Press release: Over 2 million of the UK's workers set for a pay rise on 1 April 2017**

[unable to retrieve full-text content]Around 1.7 million workers aged 25 years and over will see their hourly wage rise due to the increase in the National Living Wage.

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## **Press release: Minister for the Americas statement on developments in Venezuela**

On 28 and 29 March 2017, the Venezuelan Supreme Court issued two rulings giving itself new powers to exercise the National Assembly's legislative powers and restrict the parliamentary immunity of MPs. This effectively limits the constitutional powers of the National Assembly, which has been democratically elected by the people of Venezuela.

The Minister for Europe and the Americas, Sir Alan Duncan, said:

I am utterly shocked by the latest developments in Venezuela. The manner in which the Supreme Court of Venezuela has wrested power from the parliament represents a total breakdown in the separation of powers. Indeed, the Venezuelan Prosecutor General has herself said the decision of the Supreme Court is unconstitutional.

A strong, independent parliament is vital to any democracy and

necessary to address the economic and social challenges Venezuela faces. The Venezuelan Government must therefore urgently act to restore Venezuela's democratic norms. Continued shortages of basic goods are having a detrimental impact on the lives of ordinary Venezuelan citizens. I implore President Maduro and his Government to take positive action to rectify this situation.

## **Further information**

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## **Further information**

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# [Press Release: Member State spending plans targeted towards EU 2020 goals, but performance measures too complex, say Auditors](#)

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