At the Spring Meetings, the IMF organised a conference on “Splitting the Riches” which explored whether and how it would be possible to apply unitary taxation on multinational companies, analysing their accounts globally and country-by-country, and then apportioning the resulting tax revenues among different countries where each company is based using formulas based on value added, employment and other factors.

The overall conclusion of the day was that it is potentially desirable and technically feasible to use these methods, especially to combat profit-shifting by multinational enterprises. However, whether they are implemented will depend on the political will of different countries’ tax authorities to cooperate closely – the strongest perspectives being in the EU.