**MEPs approve a new agenda for tax justice**

**Original Script Date:** October 27, 2015

**Script Version:** 1

**Locations:** European Parliament, Strasbourg ; Brussels, Belgium; Graben-Lechfeld, Germany ; USA

**Dates Shot:** June 3, 2015; October 26, 2015; October 27, 2015; June 10, 2013, November 11, 2013

**Sound:** natural with English speech, natural with French speech

**Duration:**  03:45

**Source:** S&D group

**Restriction:** none

**Intro**

*Strasbourg, the 27th of October.* After more than six months of intensive investigations into the aggressive tax planning exemplified by the tax rulings and similar measures that became common practice in several member states, the European Parliament's special TAXE committee adopted a set of recommendations yesterday night in Strasbourg. These aim to improve tax co-ordination and co-operation in the EU in order to fight aggressive tax planning.

**This Broadcast-quality video package contains:**

extract of Monday's Committee vote on corporate taxes

* extracts of Tuesday's plenary vote on tax rulings
* interview with **Elisa Ferreira**, co-rapporteur on the EP recommendations on corporate taxes (in English)
* interview with **Hughes Bayet**, S&D spokesperson on tax rulings (in French + English subtitles)
* interview with the economist **Thomas Piketty** (in French + English subtitles)
* 1 ***Ready-to-air*** ***video***, with a voice-over and subtitles (English)
* 1 ***B-roll video***
* Stock Shots of multinationals' Headquarters

**Shotlist**

FRANCE, STRASBOURG (OCTOBER 26, 2015) (SOCIALISTS AND DEMOCRATS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - ACCESS ALL)

1. CUTAWAY: VARIOUS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN STRASBOURG (EXTERIOR)
2. CUTAWAY: VARIOUS OF VOTE IN THE TAXE COMMITTEE
3. CUTAWAY: ELISA FERREIRA TALKING DURING THE VOTES
4. VOICE-OVER SAYING (ENGLISH):

“This week, MEPs are taking a strong position to argue for fair and transparent corporate taxation in Europe. The European Parliament's Special Committee on TAXE has set out practical recommendations targeted at member states and multinationals, in order to put an end to preferential tax deals, which – even where they are legal – are not necessarily fair.”

1. ELISA FERREIRA (CO-AUTHOR OF THE TAXE REPORT) SAYING (ENGLISH):

“The European parliament is representing citizens, and citizens cannot understand why they pay so much taxes, and multinationals pay 1 or 2per cent.”

1. CUTAWAY: ELISA FERREIRA HUGUES BAYET DURING THE VOTES
2. ELISA FERREIRA (CO-AUTHOR OF THE TAXE REPORT) SAYING (ENGLISH):

“Legislation that calls for a common base to calculate the profit; reporting publicly how much profit is made by each multinationals in every member states; issues such as European regime to protect whistle blowers, or a common definition of taxation.”

USA (NOVEMBER 11, 2013) (TV COUNCIL NEWSROOM – ACCESS TO ALL)

1. CUTAWAY: HEADQUARTERS OF BIG CAR COMPANIES IN THE UNITED STATES

GRABEN-LECHFELD, GERMANY (JUNE 10, 2013) (EUROPEAN COMMISSION AUDOVISUAL– ACCESS TO ALL)

1. CUTAWAY: AMAZON COMPANY IN GERMANY

BELGIUM, BRUSSELS (JUNE 3, 2015) (SOCIALISTS AND DEMOCRATS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - ACCESS ALL)

1. VOICE-OVER SAYING (ENGLISH):

“One of the best ways to calculate the profits made by multinationals would be to oblige listed companies to publish details of their activities and the taxes they pay in each country they operate in. The economist Thomas Piketty welcomed the proposal on this from the Socialists & Democrats:”

1. CUTAWAY: VARIOUS OF THE PROGRESSIVE ECONOMY CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY THE SOCIALISTS AND DEMOCRATS IN BRUSSELS
2. CUTAWAY: VARIOUS OF THOMAS PIKETTY TALKING DURING THE CONFERENCE
3. THOMAS PIKETTY (Economist, specialized in wealth and income inequality) SAYING (FRENCH):

“I think that the publication of big companies’ accounts, country-by-country, to see what they pay is a very important measure to get more transparency in Europe. At the same time, it can only be the first step because, on a longer term, we would need a common tax on the profit of the biggest companies in Europe if we want to get out of this situation of fiscal dumping.”

FRANCE, STRASBOURG (OCTOBER 27, 2015) (SOCIALISTS AND DEMOCRATS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - ACCESS ALL)

1. CUTAWAY: VARIOUS OF THE PLENARY AND THE VOTE ON TAX RULINGS
2. VOICE-OVER SAYING (ENGLISH):

“ In the meantime, MEPs voted today on a tax deals resolution to clamp down on corporate fiscal fraud.”

1. HUGUES BAYET (S&D SPOKEPERSON OF TAX RULINGS) SAYING (FRENCH):

“This report is very important because since the SwissLeaks and LuxLeaks affairs, we have discovered that Starbucks and Fiat have received hidden state aid from Luxembourg and the Netherlands.  So all these deals are not only immoral, they are illegal! »

1. CUTAWAY: ELISA FERREIRA HUGUES BAYET DURING THE VOTES
2. VOICE-OVER SAYING (ENGLISH):

“Hence the urgency of tackling the issue. As a first step, all deals – national and international – will be analysed, with no time limits. What else? »

1. HUGUES BAYET (S&D SPOKEPERSON OF TAX RULINGS) SAYING (FRENCH):

“We need more transparency of course – in a clear, precise and accessible way. We also need penalties. We all know that when there are no penalties, rules are not respected. The European Commission also has a more important role to play. One cannot be judge and jury, contrary to what the Council wants. We don’t want this. »

1. CUTAWAY: VARIOUS OF ELISA FERREIRA AND HUGUES BAYET DURING THE VOTES
2. CUTAWAY: GENERAL ATMOSPHERE IN THE TAXE COMMITTEE
3. VOICE-OVER SAYING (ENGLISH):

“The TAXE Special Committee has now invited a number of companies to share their views on their tax policies and practices on the 16 November before the Parliament's final vote on corporate taxation. This will be a good way to identify who is willing to co-operate and who is not…”

USA (NOVEMBER 11, 2013) (TV COUNCIL NEWSROOM – ACCESS TO ALL)

1. CUTAWAY: HEADQUARTERS OF SOCIETE GENERALE
2. CUTAWAY: HEADQUARTERS OF HSBC

**Story**

After more than six months of intensive investigations into the aggressive tax planning exemplified by the tax rulings and similar measures that became common practice in several member states, the European Parliament's special TAXE committee adopted a set of recommendations yesterday night in Strasbourg. These aim to improve tax co-ordination and co-operation in the EU in order to fight aggressive tax planning.

They include (among many other measures): a call for EU governments to adopt new rules to force multinational companies to report their profits and taxes paid on a country-by-country basis; a full common consolidated tax base for corporate taxation (CCCTB); a European blacklist of tax havens, with sanctions for those dealing with them; protection for whistleblowers; and an incompatibility regime for advisors on tax matters.

Later today, the European Parliament also called for increased transparency on the tax rulings negotiated between national tax administrations and multinationals which were at the heart of the LuxLeaks scandal.