**EP TAXE Committee to fight against Apple, Google, Ikea and McDonald's tax avoidance**

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**Locations:** European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

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**Sound:** natural with English speech

**Duration:**  02:26

**Source:** S&D group

**Restriction:** none

**STORY**

*Brussels, 15th March 2016.*

This evening, the special TAXE Committee in the European Parliament, held a hearing with big multinationals to learn more about their business model and tax habits, which "harms our society, SMEs and citizens", said EP co-rapporteur on this new round of hearings (TAXE2), Jeppe Kofod. Firms such as Apple, Google, IKEA and McDonald's, are pointed out for having been taxed at less than 1% in Europe, whereas medium-sized businesses pay much more. Representatives from countries well known for their low tax regime -Guernsey and Jersey, Andorra, Liechtenstein and Monaco- were also asked to answer open questions from the special Committee. Among the bad practices: the Tax rulings negotiated by some Member States, which ease the tax burden of large corporations.

Following the meeting, the TAXE Committee will come up with clear recommendations to the EU Commission and the Council to stop tax avoidance which costs billions of € to the EU every year.

**Shotlist**

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (MARCH 15, 2016) (SOCIALISTS AND DEMOCRATS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - ACCESS ALL)

1. CUTAWAY: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN STRASBOURG (EXTERIOR)
2. CUTAWAY: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN STRASBOURG (INTERIOR)
3. CUTAWAY: VARIOUS OF THE MEETING ROOM WHERE THE AUDITION WAS TAKING PLACE
4. APPLE REPRESENTATIVE SAYING (ENGLISH):

“Apple has become what we believe is the largest tax payer in the world. We pay taxes wherever we operate and in accordance with the law.”

1. CUTAWAY: GOOGLE PANEL IN FRONT OF THE GOOGLE REPRESENTATIVE
2. GOOGLE REPRESENTATIVE SAYING (ENGLISH):

“Google, for its part, has long advocated a simpler, more coherent international tax system.”

1. CUTAWAY: JEPPE KODOF DURING THE MEETING
2. JEPPE KODOF (S&D MEP, DK) SAYING (ENGLISH):

“Today, the aim is to confront the biggest multinational corporations which are active in Europe and try to confront them with their business model; indeed, they avoid paying taxes on their profits by setting up very creative structure in Europe. That harms our society, that harms SMEs and that harms ordinary citizens.”

1. CUTAWAY: JEPPE KODOF TALKING TO A JOURNALIST
2. JEPPE KODOF (S&D MEP, DK) SAYING (ENGLISH):

 “The aim of the TAXE Committee is to look at tax agreements that companies and countries have set in the EU and to propose a new legislation, which will stop that kind of tax evasion and aggressive tax planning. “

1. CUTAWAY: JEPPE KODOF TALKING TO A JOURNALIST
2. JEPPE KODOF (S&D MEP, DK) SAYING (ENGLISH):

‘The next step will be that the TAXE Committee will come up with clear recommendations to the EU Commission and the Council about how to stop that tax evasion which costs billions € to our society every year. We will come up with very clear recommendations after we've had our hearings and meeting with the committee.’

1. CUTAWAY: JEPPE KODOF DURING THE MEETING

**END**