**Des TAXE Ausschuss des EP will Apple, Google, Ikea und McDonald's steuervermeidungen stoppen**

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**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: PETER SIMON DURING THE MEETING
2. PETER SIMON (S&D MEP, DE) SAYING (GERMAN):

EN: “Already, the first hearing of multinationals with the TAXE Committee (TAXE1) was important for our work in order to see, to gain an to understand how international companies do business to reach 0.3% tax rates or 1% tax rates, whereas medium-sized businesses pay much more taxes. Today, we focus on those businesses of which we now know that they apply illegitimate tax practices due to the investigations made by the EU Commission and those companies we suspect to do the same.”

**DE**: “Bereits die erste Anhörung multinationaler Unternehmen vor TAXE1 war wichtig für unsere Arbeit zu sehen, ein Verständnis zu gewinnen, wie internationale Konzerne wirtschaften, um auf 0,3% Steuersätze, 1% Steuersätze zu kommen, wo mittelständische Unternehmen doch ein zigfaches davon zahlen. Hier haben wir heute einen Schwerpunkt gesetzt auf solche Unternehmen, wo wir mittlerweile aufgrund Ermittlungen der EU-Kommission wissen, dass nach deren Auffassung illegitimes Steuerhandeln vorliegt und auch solche Unternehmen geladen, bei denen ein Verdacht für uns schon schwer auf der Hand liegt.”

1. CUTAWAY: PETER SIMON TALKING TO A JOURNALIST
2. PETER SIMON (S&D MEP, DE) SAYING (GERMAN):

**EN:** “We have to hear all the parties. We have to hear the states. We now have invited to TAXE2 states which have the reputation of tax havens. Yet, we have to listen to companies that are beneficiaries of these co-operations between States, allowing payments of artificially small amounts of taxes, if we want to have a complete picture. We expect answers to our open questions from the companies involved.”

**DE:** “Man muss alle Beteiligten hören. Man muss die Staaten hören. Wir haben jetzt in TAXE2 insbesondere Staaten geladen, die den Ruf von Steueroasen hatten oder haben. Aber man muss natürlich auch die Unternehmen, die Begünstigte sind von einer Kooperation zwischen Staaten auf der einen Seite, die ein künstliches Kleinrechnen von Steuern ermöglichen, und den Unternehmen selbst heranziehen, wenn man ein volles Bild gewinnen will. Wir erwarten hier einige Antworten von Unternehmen, die daran beteiligt waren, auf aus unserer Sicht offene Fragen. »

1. CUTAWAY: PETER SIMON TALKING TO A JOURNALIST

**END**