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| **Images**  | **Sound** | **Text English** | **Deutsch/Francais/Espanol** |
| TITLES | TITLES |  |  |
| GFX:-Fighting tax avoidance | CB off | The Panama Papers scandal, exposing tax avoidance around the world, blew open in 2016, shaking the confidence of many Europeans in the fairness of their tax systems amid tight government budgets and a slow economic recovery. |  |
| GFX:-Special Committee-Blacklist | CB off | Responding to that outrage, MEPs launched their own investigation and sought ways to make Europe more financially transparent. They set up a special committee to fight tax fraud, and successfully pushed for a blacklist of countries that fail to combat tax avoidance. |  |
|  | CB off | Ludek Niedermayer was the EPP Group's author of the final report by the Panama Papers Inquiry Committee. |  |
| Interview | Ludek Niedermayer, Czech MEP on | *:00**The Panama Papers were just part of our effort to eliminate some of the wrong things that are going on. Governments are losing hundreds of billions of taxes that should be paid. Money laundering is taking place and it´s financing the terrorism, allowing the corruption, and we just want to stop it. So Panama Papers was one of the milestones mainly focusing on money laundering, transparency of ownership.* |  |
| GFX:-Sharpen Conduct Code | CB off | Niedermayer and his colleague Dariusz Rosati, the EPP Group’s spokesperson on the committee, have urgently called for reform of the so-called 'Code of Conduct Group on Business Taxation' set up by Member States 20 years earlier. |  |
|  | Dariusz Rosati, Polish MEP | *We first encourage countries to cooperate, we encourage different jurisdictions to be more forthcoming. If they resist, if they refuse to cooperate, then we put them on the blacklist, which involves serious implications at the end of the day, because they will be cut off from EU financing, development aid.*  |  |
| GFX:-Common Reporting Standards | CB off | Niedermayer and Rosati have also called for a more intense exchange of information through Common Reporting Standards, Europe-wide and worldwide. That would help combat the shell game that companies play, of shifting their profits to lower-tax countries.  |  |
|  | Niedermeyer on | :33*Increased transparency is on one hand a kind of controlling mechanism, and on the other hand we want to increase the confidence of people in their governments and in the European Union, make sure that competition in the market is fair. That´s why increasing transparency is one of our main goals.*  |  |
| GFX:-Simpler for SMEs | CB off | Along with those reforms, the EPP Group also wants simplified tax procedures for small and medium-size businesses in Europe, to lift the burden on SMEs. |  |
|  | Niedermayer on  | 1:06*In Parliament there is quite a consensus that we must eliminate wrongdoing, bad practices. But EPP is special because we are concerned about responsible and fair taxpayers. They are sometimes subject to increased burden of higher cost for fulfilling their tax obligations. Sometimes they are witnessing double taxation that obviously is damaging for their businesses. So we are trying to also stress this part of the problem, not only going after bad guys, but make sure that good guys are rewarded for responsibility.* |  |
|  | Rosati on | 3:57*The EPP Group is the leading political force in this respect. We’ve always been in favour of a very tough approach in this case, but at the same time we want to protect our companies. We don’t want to harass them with excessive regulations, and we are pretty sure we can strike the right balance, restoring fairness and at the same time creating a conducive environment for our companies to develop and to compete worldwide.* |  |
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| Headline |  | **Tax fairness to fight the bad guys, reward the good guys** |  |
| Description |  | Spurred by revelations of tax evasion and avoidance, the EPP Group has pressed for greater transparency to uncover companies and individuals who fail to pay their fair share of taxes. Ludek Niedermeyer, the EPP Group's author of Parliament’s final Report by the Money Laundering, Tax Avoidance and Tax Evasion Committee, says greater international exchange of tax information will help uncover tax cheats posing unfair competition to EU businesses. Dariusz Rosati, the Group’s spokesman on the same committee, says blacklists of governments failing to enforce tax laws can lose EU funding. |  |
| Tags |  | Taxes, tax fairness, tax avoidance, tax evasion, blacklists, Panama Papers, Common Reporting Standards, Code of Conduct Group, Ludek Niedermayer, Dariusz Rosati, EPP Group, European Parliament, European Union |  |
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