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## GÖD-FSG/GdG-KMSfB/EPSU meeting

### ***Building awareness of tax justice in Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa***

24 June 2015, Vienna, ÖGB headquarters

*As part of an EC-funded project, EPSU and Austrian affiliates GÖD-FSG and GdG-KMSfB organise a training seminar to discuss corporate flight, recent initiatives to curb tax dumping and what trade unions can do to develop a fair and progressive tax regime to finance quality public services and contribute to the UN Millennium Development goals. Corporate tax avoidance has become a major concern of public interest. The tax gap in Europe, i.e. the difference between tax owed and tax paid, is estimated at € 1 Trillion per year. Instead of cutting down on public service pay and jobs to make up for public debts and deficits, public service trade unions call for tough action against tax dodgers. Tax justice is also an essential development tool. Whilst developing countries receive around € 56.6 bn in foreign aid from EU and member states, between 7 and 10 times as much money is lost through illicit financial outflows annually, a large part of which through a variety of tax avoidance schemes including transfer pricing that shifts profits from developing to developed countries. Africa alone may be losing between 7% and 8% of its GDP through tax avoidance schemes.*

#### Draft Agenda

9h00 **Welcome**

9h15 **Introduction to tax fraud and avoidance**

Ice-breaking activity—EPSU and GÖD-FSG/GdG-KMSfB trainers

9h45 **How does capital evade tax collectors... and why?**

Mc Donalds tax avoidance schemes in Europe and job cuts in tax administrations, Ms Nadja Salson, EPSU officer, presentation based on the following reports *Unhappy meal, € 1bn in tax avoidance on the menu of Mc Donald's & Impact of austerity in tax administrations*, see [www.notaxfraud.eu](http://www.notaxfraud.eu)

(Global) Tax Justice for Social Justice: Reaching international development goals by fair and transparent tax systems, Martina Neuwirth, VIDC/Global Alliance for Tax Justice, Austria

Debate

12h30 *Lunch*

14h00 **Trade union actions to stop tax dumping and promote a progressive, transparent, efficient tax regime**

- Tax reforms in Austria, Mr. Otto Farny, AK Vienna (Chamber of Labour)
- Trade union demands at European and International levels, Ms Salson and Ms Neuwirth

Debate

*15h30 coffee break*

15h45 **Mainstreaming tax justice objectives in trade union agenda as a means to:**

- Organizing workers in trade unions
- Campaigning for quality public services and social justice and against austerity
- Negotiating with the employers

17h00 **Conclusions and next meeting (9 October, Brussels)**



This meeting is organised with the assistance of the European Union – DCI-NAED/2011/247.