

This training meeting is organized by FSP-UGT and its European federation, EPSU as part of an EC-funded project. The objectives are to examine recent initiatives to curb corporate tax dumping and discuss trade union actions to develop a fair, progressive tax regime which is essential to finance quality public services we all need and achieve the UN Millennium development goals.

Corporate tax avoidance has become a major concern of public interest as series of tax scandals have revealed that many transnational corporations pay near 0% corporate tax. There is consensus that companies must pay their fair share of tax in the countries where they make profits, but the question is when will it become reality? Overall, the tax gap in Europe, i.e. the difference between tax owed and tax paid, is estimated at € 1000 billion per year. Instead of cutting down on public service pay and jobs, 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 or 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 corporate tax avoidance schemes.

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MEETING
BUILDING
AWARENESS
OF TAX JUSTICE
IN EUROPE AND SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

27 MAY 2015 · MADRID · ESCUELA JULIÁN BESTEIRO



Draft agenda

09.30 h. WELCOMING ADDRESS AND TRAINING OBJECTIVES

Nadja Salson (NEA policy officer EPSU) and Julio Lacuerda (secretary general, FSP-UGT)

09.45 h INTRODUCTION TO TAX FRAUD AND AVOIDANCE

Ice-breaking activity (card game) – War on Want , EPSU

10.15 h. TAX FRAUD IN SPAIN

Fighting Tax Fraud by Training on Tax Justice, Magdalena Álvarez (tax inspector. Former EIB Vice-president and former minister for Public Infrastructures)

Trade Union Proposals against Tax Fraud, Celso González (tax inspector. Former director general for Public Infrastructures)

10.45 h. HOW DOES CAPITAL EVADE TAX COLLECTORS... AND WHY ?

IN SPAIN: Corporate transparency in Spain, Susanna Ruiz (Responsible for tax justice at Oxfam)

11.30 h. COFFEE BREAK

11.50 h. HOW DOES CAPITAL EVADE TAX COLLECTORS... AND WHY ?

IN EUROPE: EU policy agenda and EPSU demands in light of Mc Donald's tax avoidance scheme. Report by EPSU/EFFAT/ SEIU/War on Want, *Unhappy meal, € 1 bn in tax avoidance on the menu of McDonald's* and EPSU report *Impact of austerity in tax administrations*, Nadja Salson

The global fight for tax justice: Challenging multinationals to pay back a fair share. Owen Espley (Campaign officer at War on Want, UK)

13.30 h. LUNCH

15.15 h. TRADE UNION ACTIONS TO STOP CORPORATE TAX DUMPING AND PROMOTE TAX JUSTICE

Trade union actions in Spain: Cooperative relations with companies, Marta Somarriba (tax inspector. Deputy chief of Large Taxpayers Unit)

Justice: Towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals, PSI-backed International Commission for Reforms of International Corporate tax ICRICT, Susanna Ruiz

16.15 h. COFFEE BREAK

16.35 h. MAINSTREAMING TAX JUSTICE IN TRADE UNION TRAINING AND POLICY AGENDA AS A MEANS TO:

Union proposals for more efficient fight against tax fraud; organizing workers in trade unions: Juan Lobato (technical tax inspector) and Antonio García Soto (responsible for the FSP-UGT section at the Spanish Tax Agency)

Campaigning for social justice

Forging alliances at national, EU and International levels: Adoption of action points, e.g. International Public Services Day 23 June focus on Corporate Tax Gap report, Nadja Salson

18.30 h. WRAPPING AND CLOSING OF THE SESSION