

[en](#)

[Publication](#) | 12.02.2016

IKEA - Flat pack tax avoidance

A report commissioned by the Greens/EFA

This research builds on previous investigations to quantify how much several European countries are losing in tax because of IKEA's tax planning strategies. With most of its retail activities located in Europe, we prove that IKEA is using a series of tax loopholes in different European countries, namely the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg to avoid paying taxes.

One of the techniques is shifting royalties from each IKEA store to a subsidiary in the Netherlands, which acts as a conduit. The royalties go in and out the Netherlands untaxed and end up in Liechtenstein (or at least partly). And for 2014 alone, we estimate it amounts to €35 million of missing tax revenues in Germany, €24 million in France and €11.6 million in the UK. Countries like Sweden, Spain and Belgium are likely losing between €7.5 and €10 million as well.

The report also shows that the European Corporate Tax Package, recently presented by the European Commission, does not fully address these concerns and will still allow IKEA and other multinationals to practice aggressive tax avoidance. While this package may address the "offshore dimension" of tax havens, it does not seem to apprehend the reality of tax competition between EU countries themselves.

At a time when the Netherlands holds the Presidency of the European Union, this report therefore also aims at identifying needed additional national and European corporate tax reforms. It should prompt various authorities to investigate IKEA's practices as well as the national-level laws and tax arrangements which facilitate them.

- [Download full report on IKEA tax avoidance scheme](#)
 - [Infographics - IKEA tax avoidance scheme](#)
- also available in [FR](#) - [DE](#) - [ES](#) - [CAT](#) - [SV](#) - [FI](#) - [NL](#)

Recommended

Press release

Photo by Julian on Unsplash



[Win for consumers with new bank liability, but fight a...](#)

27.11.2025

Press release

josue-isai-ramos-figueroa-unsplash

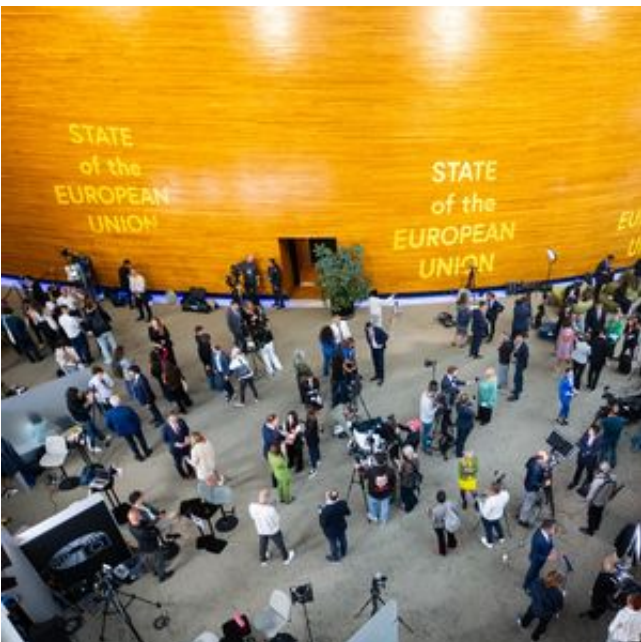


[Greens/EFA welcome Court ruling on Minimum Wage Direct...](#)

11.11.2025

Press release

© European Union 2025 - Source : EP



[Von der Leyen takes step forward, but crucial change o...](#)

10.09.2025

Press release

Image by NakNakNak from Pixabay



[Climate spending welcome but budget not large enough f...](#)

16.07.2025

Responsible MEPs



Bas Eickhout

Co-President



Sven Giegold

Member



Heidi Hautala

EP Vice-President, Member



Eva Joly

Member



Philippe Lamberts

Member



Ernest Maragall



Michel Reimon

Member



Molly Scott Cato

Vice-President



Ernest Urtasun

Vice-President

Contact person



Catherine Olier

Please share

[.E-Mail](#)