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EP tax investigation

Lobbyists from non-compliant firms to lose access to EU Parliament

Lobbyists from corporations which refused to cooperate with the European Parliament's special committee investigating tax issues should lose access to the European Parliament according to MEPs on the committee. The proposal, which was made by Greens/EFA MEP Sven Giegold, has secured the support of the lead MEPs (coordinators) on the committee from all political groups (apart from the ECR group) (1). The initiative comes ahead of this week's meeting of the committee at which EU commission president Juncker will testify. Commenting on the initiative, Green economic and finance spokesperson **Sven Giegold** said:

"The EU parliament's tax investigation has finally woken up from its slumber. MEPs have made clear that businesses and politicians cannot simply 'excuse themselves' from democratic scrutiny. Lobbyists from big corporations use their access to EU politicians to shape laws and rules to their ends. These corporations also have duties under the democratic process however and that implies cooperating with a parliamentary investigation and testifying before such an investigation when requested. The EP's president must now take up the baton and push for the non-compliant corporations to be excluded from the EU's transparency register, so they also lose access to other institutions."

Commenting on the hearing of the committee with EU Commission president Juncker, Green economic and finance spokesperson **Molly Scott Cato** said:

"Jean Claude Juncker must deal with his role in the subject matter of the EP's tax investigation whilst prime minister and finance minister of Luxembourg. He cannot expect to hide behind his current position as Commission president. He also needs to ensure that the committee is provided with all necessary documents from the Commission to investigate the issue of tax dumping in the EU. Council and EU governments, but also the Commission (2), have failed to provide the committee with access to all requested documents. It is only by accessing all the relevant information that the EU Parliament can fulfil the mandate of the special committee and shed light on which EU member states have worked actively to prevent EU measures against aggressive tax competition. If access to these crucial documents continues to be blocked, the European Parliament must use proper legal and official avenues to ensure the committee can successfully complete its duties and fulfil its mandate."

(1) The chair of the European Parliament's special committee on taxation Alain Lamassoure will present

this initiative to EP president Martin Schulz, with a view to ensuring the parliament's administration takes the necessary steps to prevent these lobbyists from accessing the EP. In addition, the MEPs are calling for these corporations to be removed from the common transparency register of the European Parliament and Commission.

(2) Letter from commissioner Moscovici refusing access to documents http://www.sven-giegold.de/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Reply-from-Commissioner-Moscovici-to-TAXE-31.08.2015.pdf

The meeting of the TAXE committee with Jean-Claude Juncker will be broadcast at http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/en/committees/video?event=20150917-1000-COMMITTEE-TAXE-ECON

The following is a list of all corporations invited to take part in the European Parliament's investigation, including whether or not they complied. Those which failed to comply should lose access to the EU institutions.

Name	**Invited/Representatives**	**Situation 20 July 2015**
Airbus	Guillaume de la Villeguerin, Head of Tax	Participated - 02.07.2015
BNP Paribas	Christian Comolet-Tirman, Director, Fiscal Affairs	Participated - 23.06.2015
SSE plc	Martin McEwen, Head of Tax	Participated - 23.06.2015
Total S.A.	Nathalie Mognetti, Chief tax officer	Participated - 23.06.2015
Amazon.co.uk Ltd	Christopher Corson North, Managing Director	Declined, due to ongoing investigation
Amazon	Xavier Garambois,	Declined, due to

S.a.r.l.	General Director	ongoing investigation
Anheuser-Busch InBev	Stuart MacFarlane, President Europe Zone	Declined, due to ongoing investigation
Barclays Bank Group	Antony Jenkins, Chief Executive	Declined, but remains open to reply to any specific written questions
Coca-Cola Company	James Quincey, President	Declined, but met with co-rapporteurs
Facebook	Marc Zuckerberg, Chief Executive Officer	Declined
Fiat Chrysler Automobiles	Sergio Marchionne, Chief Executive Officer	Declined, due to ongoing investigation
Google	Eric E. Schmidt, Executive Chairman	Declined, but ready to send “position on the tax issues”
HSBC Bank plc	Alan Keir, Chief Executive	Declined, due to ongoing investigation
IKEA	Peter Agnefjäll, Chief Executive Officer	Declined, but offered to invite Members for a discussion and sent Ikea’s yearly summary report - 2014
McDonald’s Corporation	Douglas Goare, President Europe	Declined, due to coinciding with major company initiative and possible Commission enquiry

Philip Morris	Kristof Doms, Vice President European Affairs	Declined
Walmart	Shelley Broader, President and Chief Executive Officer	Declined
Walt Disney Company	Robert A. Iger, Chief Executive Officer	Declined, but offered to meet with representatives of the committee to hear their views

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Sven Giegold

Member



Molly Scott Cato

Vice-President

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