

Move your money!

Switch your bank – change politics!

Three years after billion-euro rescue packages were handed to the banks in an attempt to save them, the devastating results of these political efforts to solve the crisis are becoming apparent: banks are continuing their gambling and the big ones have grown even bigger since 2008. For example, the largest German bank Deutsche Bank incorporated Postbank and the second largest, the Commerzbank, swallowed Dresdner Bank. Credit rating agencies have not been tamed, neither have hedge funds been disarmed, nor have tax havens been abolished. Destructive speculation with agricultural raw materials has not been curtailed either. German banks are financing the arms and nuclear industry, and are exerting massive influence on politics.

Attac Germany now calls on customers to switch their banks and demand an end to their interference into politics.

We demand:

- Shrink big banks!
- Disarm financial markets!
- Force banks to pay up!

Reasons to switch

Attac Germany examined different well-known banks and concluded: there are good reasons to say good-bye to your old big bank:

- it has been saved with taxes – due to “system relevance”;
- it is active in tax havens;
- it does business with hunger, for example, through speculation in agricultural raw materials or landgrabbing;
- it invests in the arms and nuclear industry;
- it has a strong influence on politics through intense lobbying activity

You don't want to support this system?
Move your money!



”Kröte” (toad) is a german slang word for money and indicates the mascot of the german campaign

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Better banks are possible!

Different political and economic framework conditions are necessary: tax havens need to be closed, big banks dismantled and particularly harmful financial practices prohibited. Yet some banks already existing today have business models that make clear that a different way is feasible.

In Germany we can recommend the switch to one of the four most consistently ethical banks – and a critical examination of savings and cooperative banks. The four alternative banks are GLS Bank, EthikBank, UmweltBank und Triodos Bank. The ethical banks have made it a principle to reveal their financial involvements. They work with exclusion criteria that preclude the collaboration with the arms and nuclear industry or with firms that accept child work, etc. They also support specifically future-sustainable projects, such as ecological agriculture and renewable energy. Savings and cooperative banks can sometimes be an alternative. As they differ from place to place Attac Germany has created a critical questionnaire which enables customers to question their banks about critical aspects of the daily banking business.

Become active!

Switching banks is easy and important. Apart from this there is more you can do!

For the German campaign for instance, we have created information material and have come up with different creative ideas how to spread the word: why not organize a “bank switch party”? With presentations, bank switch-cocktails and music. Or an information desk in your city – get into dialogue with other people and let them know about the different kinds of activities of the big banks. Maybe you also want to invent a short play? One strength of the campaign is its creative approach to the topic and that it gives people the possibility to act locally. Besides the ideas mentioned above there are many more options to convey the subject. It is up to your creativity – so, go out and act!

For more information we have created an own homepage, unfortunately, it is only in German, though: www.attac.de/bankwechsel.

You can find reliable bank-critical background information in several languages also on www.banksecrets.org

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