

FROM A PAPER ON TAXATION TO A CAMPAIGN TO EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL TAXATION

A proposal by ATTAC Spain

In the framework of the EAN (European ATTAC Network), work has been carried out in the last few weeks on the elaboration of a **shared document** of common proposals at European and transnational level on taxation. The document touches various aspects related to taxation: from an initial statement of the principles that should inspire and underpin a fair and equitable tax system, to proposals for measures to address challenges such as the transition to an ecologically and socially sustainable economic model, the redistribution of wealth, the primacy of earned income over financial and speculative income, tax decentralisation and the path towards increasingly transnational taxation.

This is certainly an important step in trying to harmonise and coordinate the ATTAC chapters' proposals on tax justice in the different countries of Europe.

ATTAC Spain believes that, once this phase is over, it is necessary to take a further step forward. We propose that the document becomes a working basis for articulating and launching a European campaign on tax justice in 2023 and 2024. The idea is to identify, on the basis of the common document on taxation, some "star proposals" which are:

- *shared by the European Attac network; that identify the ATTAC "brand", i.e. that are consistent with our mission and objectives;*
- *with an impact at transnational and national level;*
- *aligned with national and European political agendas in the coming months.*

We believe that the political and social moment is propitious for this initiative. For example, it is worth mentioning the proposal for the creation of a tax on large fortunes, with the aim of creating a global climate fund, launched last January by the *World Inequality Lab*, a research group linked to the *École d'économie de Paris* and coordinated by the French economists Thomas Piketty and Lucas Chancel:

<https://wid.world/news-article/climate-inequality-report-2023-fair-taxes-for-a-sustainable-future-in-the-global-south/>

On the political side, it is interesting to note the position expressed by the Spanish government in favour of promoting the debate on an international tax on the richest during the Spanish Presidency of the European Union in the second half of this year. Finally, we must not forget the 33% "temporary solidarity tax" on the extra profits generated by companies in the energy sector, introduced last autumn through an European Council regulation.

These are measures which, despite their temporary and non-structural nature, are evidence of the existence of a favourable climate for significant progress towards a fairer and more solidarity-based tax system at European and global level.

At ATTAC Spain we consider 3 "star proposals" to be a priority at the moment:

1. **A more ambitious EU-wide Financial Transaction Tax (FTT)**, going beyond the minimum rate of 0.1% for equity transactions and 0.01% for derivatives, which was proposed a decade ago. The FTT has been ATTAC's main workhorse and main identifying proposal for years, which is why we must continue to push for its consolidation.
2. **A tax on large fortunes**, finalised to the creation of a global climate fund, in line with what has been proposed by the *World Inequality Lab*.
3. **Consolidate the 15% tax on multinational companies' profits**, also in view of the reforms planned in the period 2023-24, which aim to discourage multinationals from shifting their profits to low tax countries.

We believe that these 3 taxes should become EU taxes. This would make it possible to move towards the progressive creation of common taxation at European level, as part of a broader system of global taxation, which would make it possible to curb the current unequal and speculative globalisation.

We also believe that these 3 proposals would justify the creation of a European tax authority, as the germ of an international tax authority to counter speculation and tax evasion.

We believe that as a movement for a fair globalisation, ATTAC must take this campaign forward in the coming months, bringing together around our proposal all other movements that share our values and objectives.

In the event that EAN agrees with this proposal, ATTAC Spain commits itself to present in the coming weeks a first structure of contents to organise and launch the campaign.

Action plan

OBJECTIVES.

Launch a European **awareness** campaign **on tax justice**, promoting the **progressive creation** of a fair and equitable tax system at European level and encouraging the adoption of corresponding **legislative measures** in the European Union and the European Economic Area (EEA). The campaign will focus on **3 "star proposals"**:

1. **A more ambitious Europe-wide Financial Transaction Tax (FTT)**, covering stock, bond and currency trading at **0.5%** and derivatives at **0.1%** of the nominal value of the transaction.
2. **A tax on large fortunes** aimed at the creation of a global climate fund, in line with what has been approved in some EU countries, such as Spain. This tax should be applied according to a **progressive scale**, ranging from **0.5% to 20%** for billionaires, with a tax exemption of 1 million euros.
3. Consolidation of the **minimum tax on multinational companies' profits**, with an **increase** from the current minimum rate of 15%, to ensure an overall taxation of profits in the **range of 20% to 40%**.

The campaign will be promoted and led by the ATTAC European Network, in collaboration with all organisations and movements interested in joining. In the event that some of the chapters of the ATTAC European Network do not wish to participate, the campaign will be carried out only on behalf of those who formally declare their membership in the framework of the EAN.

The campaign will take place during the second half of 2023 and the first half of 2024 and will coincide with the Presidency of the European Council by Spain and Belgium, two states that have shown "sensitivity" towards tax justice issues. It will also take advantage of the election campaign for the European Parliament elections, scheduled for May 2024.

EXPECTED RESULTS.

RESULT	WHERE WE ARE
1. Raise awareness among European institutions and citizens in order to move towards the approval of an EU Regulation or Directive that establishes a Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) at EU level.	The FTT is currently applied in only 5 EU countries (France, Spain, Greece, Italy and Belgium). An attempt to adopt a common European directive failed in 2011. In 2022, under the Portuguese presidency, the debate between the countries was resumed and the European Commission raised the possibility of having a set of proposals ready by June 2024, in order to apply the tax from 2026.
2. Raise awareness among European institutions and citizens, in order to make progress in the approval of an EU regulation that establishes an EU tax on large fortunes aimed at creating a global climate fund.	In October 2022, the EU approved Regulation 2022/1854, which established a "temporary solidarity tax" of at least 33% on the extra profits generated by companies in the energy sector. In some countries, such as Spain, a temporary solidarity tax on large fortunes is already in force.
3. Raise awareness among European institutions and citizens and create the conditions for a new EU Directive, which would establish a minimum tax on the profits of multinational companies higher than the 15% currently foreseen and define strict and clear criteria for applying the tax.	An EU Directive was adopted in December 2022, which establishes a minimum tax rate of 15%. The Directive is pending transposition in each Member State, which must be completed by 31 December 2023.

TARGET-AUDIENCE.

TYOLOGY	PUBLIC
Institutions	1. Representatives of the Governments of Spain, Belgium and other EU Countries 2. Members of the European Parliament - members of the committees responsible for tax matters.
Political parties	1. Members of the Socialists and

	<p>Democrats Group.</p> <p>2. Members of "The Left" Group.</p> <p>3. Members of the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance.</p>
The media	1. Progressive area media in each country.
Other	General public

ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT AND TIMETABLE.

ACTIVITY	INDICATIVE TIMETABLE	MILESTONE
2023		
Establishment of the European Coordination Group, responsible for the planning, implementation and monitoring of the Action Plan. It shall be made up of 1 representative from each European section of ATTAC and allied/collaborating entities.	June	√
Meetings of the European Coordination Group to define the main messages and content of the campaign.	July	
Presentation of the objectives of the campaign at the University of Social Movements and Solidarities (Bobigny, France).	24- 27 August	√
Contacts with Spanish institutional and political representatives, on the occasion of the Spanish Presidency of the EU - <i>by ATTAC Spain</i>	July - September	
Meetings of the European Coordination Group, for the elaboration of campaign information materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign slogan; • Posters; • Brochures. 	September - October	
Preliminary contacts with institutional and political representatives of each country in the European institutions.	October	
Validation of the campaign at the EAN face-to-face meeting - Oslo	November	√
Contacts with institutional and political representatives of each country in the European institutions: presentation of the campaign.	November	
2024		
Launch of a press release in each participating country to frame the campaign with the European Parliament elections.	January	√
Contacts with Belgian institutional and political representatives, on the occasion of the start of the Belgian Presidency of the EU - <i>by ATTAC Belgium</i>	January	
Holding a Europe-wide webinar to present the campaign, involving political, social and media representatives.	February-March 2024	√

Participation in national and European events related to the European Parliament election campaign.	February - May 2024	
Launch of a 2nd press release in each participating country to report on the results of the campaign.	July 2024	√

POTENTIAL ALLIES AND PARTNERS.

TYOLOGY	NAME	WEBSITE
Social and civil movements/pressure groups	Global Justice Network	https://taxjustice.net/
	Alter Summit	
	11.11.11	https://11.be/about-111111
	Platform for Tax Justice	https://www.plataformajusticiafiscal.com/
Academy	EU Tax Observatory (Paris School of Economy)	https://www.taxobservatory.eu/
Think-tanks	Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung	https://www.rosalux.de/en/
	Transform Europe	https://www.transform-network.net/
Media	Voxeuropa	https://voxeurop.eu/