

For the attention of:

Minister of Finance Hartwig Löger, AUSTRIA
Minister of Finance Johan Van Overtveldt, BELGIUM
Minister of the Economy and Finance Bruno Le Maire, FRANCE
Minister of Finance Olaf Scholz, GERMANY
Minister of Finance Euclid Tsakalotos, GREECE
Minister of Economy and Finance Giovanni Tria, ITALY
Minister of Finance Mário Centeno, PORTUGAL
Minister of Finance Peter Kažimír, SLOVAKIA
Minister of Finance Andrej Bertoncelj, SLOVENIA
Minister of Economy and Business Nadia Calviño, SPAIN

Subject: Do not derail the Robin Hood Tax, put the project back on track

November, 29th 2018

Dear Minister Scholz,

We, the undersigned, civil society organisations and trade unions, representing more than 100 million European citizens, campaigning for the achievement of the Financial Transactions Tax (FTT) - popularly known as the Robin Hood Tax - are writing to express our deep concern at your recent words in the media saying that the well - advanced FTT negotiations, conducted over many years, could be “scrapped”.

This is particularly difficult to understand given the historic agreement on the core elements of an FTT deal in October 2016 which, according to EC estimates (had the deal been finalised that year) would by now have generated more than €40 billion for public services and job creation in Europe, as well as the fight against poverty and pandemics around the world.

The campaign for an FTT came into being and grew immensely popular across Europe as a direct response to the financial crisis, specifically to get the banks to pay for the bail - outs and economic downturn they caused and to stabilize the financial system. 10 years on, citizens are frustrated that politicians have dragged their feet, failing to deliver the FTT they promised, which would raise billions in extra revenue each year. FTT revenue which is badly needed, not only to fund public goods in Europe, but also to support efforts particularly in poorest countries to further sustainable development, improve healthcare and combat climate change.

We are dismayed that after coming so close to an agreement, you have failed to move the talks forward over the last 2 years, forfeiting all the money that would have been raised. During this period, critics have regularly cited Brexit as an excuse for not advancing the FTT, claiming it would scare the financial sector into relocating. However, nothing could be further from the truth. This is because the FTT is designed to take advantage of automated payment systems so that the tax gets paid wherever in the world a company trades. Whether the UK is a member of the EU has no bearing on this. Brexit is therefore not a reason for delay.

This Summer, France and Germany proposed an economic road map for the euro area, which includes a weak version of the FTT, that was immediately rejected by 12 Member States, including the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Finland and Sweden. The

Franco - German plan moves the FTT negotiations back to the level of all 27 EU countries. However, a unanimous FTT agreement is not possible. It is precisely because the previous attempt failed that in 2013 countries who did not want to be held back were granted a way forward using the Enhanced Cooperation Procedure. Why abandon this perfectly good road to an FTT agreement for the sake of this new plan that, due to the countries that already oppose it, cannot succeed? In light of this, we demand that you do not "scrap" your Enhanced Cooperation negotiations, especially after the immense work on the FTT file to date.

Particularly in prospect of the forthcoming EU elections, if Member States want to restore the trust of Europe's electorates in your policies, please restart your 10 - country FTT negotiations immediately and advance them to a speedy conclusion. The FTT remains hugely popular and respected - more than 1 million EU citizens have signed the FTT petition, more than 1000 economists claim the FTT will make the financial system more stable - please ensure it is agreed at the earliest possible time so the revenues it generates can be immediately put to good use.

We look forward to receiving your response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

INTERNATIONAL SIGNATURES FROM THE FTT-10 COUNTRIES

Austria:

Anja Appel - Director, Coordination Office of the Austrian Episcopal Conference for International Development and Mission (KOO)

Martina Neuwirth - Senior Expert, Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC)

Elisabeth Klatzer - Board Member, ATTAC Austria

Belgium: On behalf of a broad coalition of 150 civil society organisations and trade unions:

Arnaud Zacharie - General Secretary, Centre National de Coopération au Développement (CNCD-11.11.11)

Eva Smets - General Director, Oxfam-Solidarité

Bogdan Vanden Berghe - General Director, 11.11.11.

Robert Vertenueil - President, ABVV-FGTB

Miranda Ulens - General Secretary, ABVV-FGTB

Mario Coppens - National President, ACLVB-CGSLB

Marc Leemans - President, ACV-CSC

France: On behalf of French NGOs and citizens supporting the French Robin Hood Tax Campaign ('Taxe Robin des Bois'):

Patrick Bertrand - Executive Director, Action Santé Mondiale (GHA France)

Aurélien Beaucamp - Président, AIDES

Claire Le Calonnec - Secrétaire générale, CFDT Interco

Maryvonne Nicole - Secrétaire fédérale, CFDT santé sociaux

Françoise Geng - Member of Executive Board, CGT Santé Action Sociale

Léa Rambaud - Advocacy Officer, Coalition Éducation

Professor Hakima Himmich - President, Coalition PLUS

Cécile Ostria - Executive Director, Fondation Pour la Nature et l'Homme

Friederike Röder - Director, ONE France

Cécile Duflot - Executive Director, Oxfam France

Hugo Charles Castelli Eyre - Secretariat Member, Réseau Européen Eglises et Libertés EN-RE
Jean-Louis Marolleau - Secrétaire Exécutif, Réseau Foi et Justice Afrique Europe
Luc Bérille - Secrétaire général, UNSA
Luc Farré - Secrétaire général, UNSA Fonction Publique
Pascal Canfin - Executive Director, WWF France

Germany: On behalf of the 'Steuer gegen Armut' campaign supported by 101 civil society organisations:

Stefan Körzell - Mitglied des Geschäftsführenden, DGB-Bundesvorstandes
P. Dr. Jörg Alt SJ - Jesuitenmission
Marion Lieser - Geschäftsführerin, Oxfam Deutschland
Detlev von Larcher - Steuer gegen Armut
Frank Bsirske - Vorsitzender der Vereinten, Dienstleistungsgewerkschaft (ver.di)

Greece:

Ioannis Koutsoumpelis - General Secretary, Adedy

Italy: On behalf of the Italian FTT coalition, supported by 62 civil society organisations:

Leonardo Becchetti - Spokesperson, ZeroZeroCinque
Nicoletta Grieco - Head of International Department, FPCGIL

Portugal:

João Fernandes - Executive Director, Oikos - Cooperação e Desenvolvimento

Slovenia:

Branko Sevcnikar - President, Syndikat Delavceck Dejavnosti Energetike Slovenije

Spain: On behalf of Spanish NGOs and citizens supporting the FTT:

María Luisa Hernández - Coordinator, ATTAC Spain
José Ángel Moreno - Vive-president, Economistas sin Fronteras
Julio Lacuerda - General Secretary, FeSP-UGT
Javier de Vicente - International Secretary, Unión Sindical Obrera (USO)

NON-FTT-10 SIGNATORIES

Ireland: On behalf of the Robin Hood Tax Ireland campaign, supported by 42 civil society organisations:

Eugene Flynn - Acting Chair, Robin Hood Tax Ireland
Paul Ginnell - Director, European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland
Sean Healy - CEO, Social Justice Ireland

United Kingdom: On behalf of the Robin Hood Tax UK Campaign, supported by 115 civil society organizations:

David Hillman - Director, Stamp Out Poverty / Robin Hood Tax Steering Group
Dave Prentis - General Secretary, UNISON
Kevin Courtney - Joint General Secretary, National Education Union
Mark Serwotka - General Secretary, Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS)
Mick Whelan - General Secretary, ASLEF
Kate Bell - Head of Rights, International, Social and Economics, Trades Union Congress (TUC)
Nick Dearden - Director, Global Justice Now
Martin Drewry - Director, Health Poverty Action
David Powell - Head of Environment & Green Transition, New Economics Foundation (NEF)
Mike Podmore - Director, StopAIDS
Mike Mandlebaum - Chief Executive, TB Alert

Michael Buraimoh - Director, Action for Southern Africa (ACTSA)

OTHER NETWORKS/COALITIONS

1. ActionAid International

Soren Ambrose, Policy Advisor

2. AK EUROPA (Bundesarbeitskammer Österreich) – representing 3.7 million members in Austria

Petra Voelkerer, Head of Office

3. Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe - over 150 member organisations from 35 European countries, representing over 1.700 NGOs and more than 40 million citizens

Wendel Trio, Director

4. Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité (CIDSE) - representing 17 Catholic Development organisations in Europe and North America

Josianne Gauthier, Secretary General

5. European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) - 31 national anti-poverty networks throughout Europe and 13 European organisations, representing tens of thousands of NGOs

Leo Williams, Director

6. European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) - representing 8 million European workers

Jan Willem Goudriaan, General Secretary

7. European Trades Union Congress (ETUC) – representing 45 million members of 89 trade union organisations in 39 European countries, and 10 European Trade Union Federations

Luca Visentini, General Secretary

8. Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) Europe - representing more than 1,000 organisations in national coalitions and platforms in 23 European countries

Ingo Ritz, Director

9. International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) European Region - representing 30 member organisations in countries in the European Economic Area

Ana Radulescu, European President

10. The ONE Campaign

Friederike Röder, EU Director

11. Oxfam International

Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director

12. Public Services International (PSI) - representing 20 million members of 669 unions in 154 countries and territories

Rosa Pavanelli, General Secretary