

**Tax Justice Working Group event**  
**Barcelona – EU Representation in Barcelona - 09 June 2017**

Objectives

- Present the Report on Tax Harmonisation of the European Parliament released in May 2017.
- Show how tax evasion and tax avoidance affect the EU budget and how to fight against both practices.
- Re-frame the terms of the debate about tax havens and fighting tax avoidance/evasion.

Date & Time

Friday 9th of June 2017 - 18h00 / 20h00

Room: Aula Europa at EU Commission Representation

Suggested title

Tax harmonization in Europe. Consequences to the EU budget.

Draft concept note

Tax competition has led Member States to a difficult race-to-the-bottom in their tax collection capacity, being thus European policies and at last, its citizens, jeopardised.

The European Commission is trying to legislate on some harmonisation focused on taxes levied on goods and services, like value added tax or corporate income tax, but Member States have to delegate sovereignty to the EU in order to achieve so.

Tax scandals of avoidance or fraud are more than ever on G20 and EU's political agenda. The Offshore leaks, Luxleaks, Swissleaks or the Panama Papers have evidenced how serious the problem is and demonstrating again the need for greater European coordination and harmonisation on tax matters. Also, state aids via tax benefits from some countries have lately been a highlight on tax matters.

Even progress on this matter is still limited, tax harmonisation is a clear goal to be achieved for a sound internal market functioning.

Detailed agenda

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|---------------|--|
| 18h00 - 18h10 | Welcome and introduction by Albert Castellanos (General Director of Economic Promotion, Competition and Regulation at the Catalan Government)  |
| 18h10 - 18h25 | Tax harmonisation in the EU. Report of the European Parliament. Eva Joly (MEP Greens EFA).<br><i>The sound functioning of the internal market depends, among others, on a necessary tax harmonisation between Member States. Tax harmonisation is back in the political agenda at an EU and a worldwide level. The question is whether or not Member States will focus on the reforms needed in order to achieve the long-awaited harmonisation.</i> |
| 18h25 - 18h40 | Tax evasion, tax avoidance and EU budget. Jordi Solé (MEP Greens/EFA)  |

*Tax evasion and tax avoidance have a negative impact on the EU budget. The importance and the effects of both phenomena on the EU budget consists of less tools for new policies or improving the existing ones.*

18h40 - 18h55

The Panama Papers. Daniele Grasso (El Confidencial)

*Daniele Grasso is an Italian journalist based in Madrid. Since 2013 he works at the Spanish newspaper El Confidencial where he created and now coordinates the Data Journalism Unit. He has had a leading role working from Spain in cross-border investigations such as LuxLeaks, SwissLeaks or The Panama Papers a global effort to reveal the secret accounts of the offshore world.*

18h55 - 19h30

Debate and questions: How can we fight against tax fraud and tax avoidance?

*Is there a real political will to fight against tax evasion? Is legislation adequate and encourages transparency in this respect? Do we have the right tools to fight against tax avoidance and tax evasion? How can we set up the basis for fighting against tax fraud?*

19h30 - 19h40

Wrapping up and concluding remarks by Lluís Salvadó (Tax Secretary of the Catalan Government)

19h40 - 20h00

Catering

## KERKOVE-LEUSSINK Monica

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**From:** SOLÉ Jordi  
**Sent:** 20 March 2017 12:58  
**To:** JOLY Gro Eva  
**Subject:** Invitation pour participer à une conference sur harmonisation fiscale et lutte contre la fraude fiscale -Barcelone, 9 juin  
**Attachments:** Greens tax conference - June 2017 - draft programme.doc  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Due By:** 27 March 2017 16:30  
**Flag Status:** Flagged  
**Categories:** Monica; Coralie

Bonjour Eva,

Dans le cadre de la Commission Panama et le Tax Justice Working Group, je suis en train d'organiser une conférence sur **l'harmonisation fiscale et la lutte contre la fraude fiscale dans l'Union Européenne** qui se déroulera à **Barcelone** le prochain **vendredi 9 juin à 18h**.

Je t'écris, donc, pour t'inviter à y participer comme intervenante principale, vu que tu es une des plus actives députés à la Commission PANA et que tu es, aussi, la shadow rapporteur du rapport sur l'Harmonisation Fiscale.

Adjoint dans ce mail je t'envoie un draft programme de la conférence, avec des informations sur les objectifs, le contenu et les autres participants.

Si tu as besoin de plus d'informations, svp, n'hésite pas à me contacter.

En attendant ta réponse, je te remercie encore pour ton temps.

**Jordi Solé i Ferrando**

Eurodiputat per Esquerra Republicana  
MEP for Esquerra Republicana

