



**Europeans for Financial Reform
“Fighting for a Financial Transaction Tax - how and why?”**

15th March 2010

Solvay Library, Rue Belliard 137, 1000 Brussels

Draft programme

After the devastation of the economic crisis, and the anger that this has provoked, there is now genuine political momentum for the establishment of a global financial transaction tax. For this reason, the first seminar of the Europeans for Financial Reform initiative will look in detail at how we can make a financial transaction tax a reality. The seminar will take place on 15th March 2010 in the Solvay library in Brussels, and will be co-organized by the Global Progressive Forum and the Foundation for Europeans Progressive Studies.

Although there is an unprecedented groundswell of support for the FTT – among citizens, civil society and progressive politicians - this has not been mirrored by concrete action at G20 level. This seminar aims to embolden you, our allies and opinion-shapers, to further generate political momentum towards the realization of this essential instrument for the global financial system.



13.30 Welcoming the participants

14.00 - 16.00: Panel I: “Putting the global financial transaction tax on the global political agenda. How and why?”

The Transatlantic initiatives – live video link with Washington DC

Poul Nyrup RASMUSSEN	President of the Party of European Socialists, Co-chair of the Global Progressive Forum
Richard TRUMKA	Chair of AFL-CIO (in video from USA)
Moderator: Conny REUTER	Secretary General of Solidar

“Putting the global financial transaction tax on the global political agenda: How and why?”

Pervenche BERES	Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the Employment Committee, S&D Group
Andreas SCHIEDER	Secretary of State for Finance, Austria
Philippe LAMBERTS	Member of the European Parliament, Co-President of the European Green Party
Pedro PÁEZ	Former Minister for Economic Policy Coordination of Ecuador, Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Ecuador and President of the Presidential technical Commission for the new Regional Financial Architecture at the Banco del Sur
Guy RYDER	General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
Damon SILVERS	AFL-CIO, Member of the US Congressional Oversight Panel, USA
Moderator: Cornelia PRIMOSCH	Journalist, ORF, Austria

Discussion

Conclusions

Poul Nyrup RASMUSSEN	President of the Party of European Socialists, Co-chair of the Global Progressive Forum
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People are angry at the global financial system and they have every right to be. The growing awareness that much of the financial market activity is socially useless has put the spotlight on speculators. The question people are asking is a simple one; *“what do the speculators contribute to society?”* The FTT resonates with people as that rare concept: a popular tax.

While addressing these political concerns, the first panel of international politicians and experts will be invited to comment on the international political agenda and answer some key political questions that remain open: Why do we need a financial transaction tax? What should be its main characteristics? Should the scope of the FTT be global, regional or domestic? And perhaps the key question people want answered; *what will the money be spent on?*

16.15 – 17.45: Panel II: “How can it function?”

The second panel of experts and politicians will address the practical implementation of the FTT. What should be taxed? What is the right size for the tax? How can such a tax be collected? Is the financial tax too complicated to put in place? How can tax evasion be addressed by the FTT? How has it been put in place in other parts of the world? What lessons to draw from past experiences?

Pr Ross BUCKLEY	Co-director of the Tim Fischer Centre for Global Trade & Finance at Bond University, Economist, Australia
Udo BULLMANN	Member of the European Parliament, S&D Coordinator ECON Committee, S&D Group
John EVANS	TUAC Secretary General, OECD
Pr Stephany GRIFFITH-JONES	University of Columbia IPD, New York, USA
Eva JOLY	Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the Development Committee, Green Party
Dr. Y Venugopal REDDY	Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India
Alexandra STRICKNER	ATTAC Europe
Moderator: Guillaume DUVAL	Chief Editor, Alternatives économiques, France

Discussion



17.45 - 18.00: Conclusions

Philippe LAMBERTS

Member of the European Parliament, Co-President of the European Green Party

Javier MORENO SANCHEZ

Secretary General of the GPF

Ernst STETTER

Secretary General of FEPS

Format

The event will take place in the Solvay Library in Brussels, on the eve of political deliberations on financial regulation in ECOFIN. The objective is to bring together a wide range of progressive politicians and experts, from NGOs, trade unions, international institutions, European and national parliaments. Speakers from all over the world will be invited in order to stress the global scope of the campaign.