

EUFAX

Observatory

COMPETITION OR COOPERATION

EU TAX POLICIES FOR TOMORROW

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P R O G R A M M E

9.00 - 9.30	Registration and Coffee
9.30 - 9.40	Opening Remarks by Gerassimos Thomas
9.40 - 9.50	Opening Remarks by Pasquale Tridico
9.50 - 10.00	Welcome Address by Gabriel Zucman
10.00 - 11.00	Panel Discussion - Multinationals: Changing Forms of Tax Competition in Corporate Taxes Sarah Godar Kira Peter-Hansen Benjamin Angel MEP representing EPP group Moderator: Elodie Lamer
11.00 - 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 - 12.00	What Lies Ahead: Keynote Speeches from Civil Society & Business-Representatives Tove Maria Ryding Lúcio Vinhas de Souza
12.00 - 13.00	Panel Discussion - Wealth: Unfair Tax Competition Driving Tax Progressivity Down at the Top Quentin Parrionello Bruno Gonçalves Marlene Engelhorn Andy Summers
13.00 - 14.30	Lunch Break
14.30 - 15.00	Fireside Chat with Wopke Hoekstra "Fiscal policies for a Green Transition: The Role of Environmental Taxation" Moderator: Paola Tamma
15.00 - 16.00	Panel Discussion - The Role of Tax Enforcement in a Competitive World Pierre Bachas Michael Schick Reinhard Biebel MEP representing RENEW group Moderator: Séverine Picard
16.00 - 16.30	Coffee Break
16.30 - 17.00	Fireside chat with Gabriel Zucman "Tax Wars: What Role for the EU?" Moderator: Giulia Varaschin
17.00 - 17.20	Young Researcher Award
17.20 - 17.30	Closing Remarks by Gabriel Zucman
17.30 - 18.30	Networking Cocktail

SPEAKERS

WELCOMING REMARKS

9.30 - 10.00



Gerassimos Thomas | Director-General in the Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union

Gerassimos Thomas is Director-General in the Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union at the European Commission. Prior to his current assignment, G. Thomas had professional assignments as: Deputy Minister for Environment and Energy in Greece (2019-2020); Deputy Director-General in the Directorate-General for Energy and Chairman of the Steering Board of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) (2014-2019); Director Finance at DG ECFIN (2009-2014); member of the EIB and EIF Board of Directors (2009-2017); Head of cabinet of Joaquin Almunia, Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs (2005-2009); Deputy Spokesman for Commission President Romano Prodi; Spokesman for economic and monetary affairs for Commissioner Pedro Solbes (2000-2004). Prior to 2000 held various positions in the European Commission, the European Investment Fund and in investment banking in London.

Pasquale Tridico | Chair of the FISC of the European Parliament - Subcommittee on Tax Matters

Pasquale Tridico is an Italian Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the FISC Subcommittee, and serving as the head of the Movimento Cinque Stelle delegation. In the European Parliament, he serves on the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, the Subcommittee on Tax Matters, the Committee on Budgetary Control and the Committee on Transport and Tourism. He is also a member of the Parliament's Delegation for relations with the United States and the Delegation to the OACPS-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, as well as the Delegation to the Caribbean-EU Parliamentary Assembly. Pasquale is an economist and a full professor of Economic Policy at Roma Tre University, within the Department of Economics. He also serves as the Director of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on Labour, Welfare, and Social Rights. He served as an economic advisor to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies from June 2018 to February 2019. Tridico has authored over 100 articles, books, and edited volumes on topics such as the labor market, inequality, institutional economics, human development, varieties of capitalism, financial crises, and Europe. From 2019 to 2023, Pasquale Tridico served as president of the National Institute for Social Security in France.



SPEAKERS

Gabriel Zucman | Director of the EU Tax Observatory



Gabriel Zucman is a professor of economics at the Paris School of Economics, Ecole Normale Supérieure – PSL, and the University of California, Berkeley. He is also the founding director of the EU Tax Observatory, headquartered in Paris, France. His research focuses on the accumulation, distribution, and taxation of global income and wealth. The EU Tax Observatory is an independent research organization working on tax evasion and tax progressivity to foster dialogues between academia, policymakers and civil society. In 2023, Professor Zucman received the John Bates Clark Medal of the American Economic Association, awarded to an economist under forty who is judged to have made the most significant contribution to economic thought and knowledge.

PANEL DISCUSSION

MULTINATIONALS: CHANGING FORMS OF TAX COMPETITION IN CORPORATE TAXES

10.00 - 11.00

MODERATOR

Elodie Lamer | Journalist for Tax Notes

Elodie, who joined Tax Notes in 2022, reports on EU tax issues, covering institutions such as the European Commission, Council of the European Union, and European Parliament. Previously, she worked as a reporter for the Belgian newspaper Le Soir and, before that, for Agence Europe. Elodie has a bachelor's and a master's degree in journalism from the Institut des Hautes Etudes des Communications Sociales in Brussels, and she is a native French speaker.



SPEAKERS

MULTINATIONALS: CHANGING FORMS OF TAX COMPETITION IN CORPORATE TAXES

PANEL

Sarah Godar | EU Tax Observatory

Sarah Godar is a post-doctoral researcher at the EU Tax Observatory, based at the DIW Berlin. Her research focuses on international tax avoidance, tax competition and offshore financial wealth. She is part of the team behind the Atlas of the Offshore World in her role as data coordinator of the offshore financial wealth dataset. She holds a Ph.D. from the Institute of Economic Studies, Charles University in Prague.



Kira Peter-Hansen | MEP - Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance and Vice-chair of the FISC of the EP

Kira Marie Peter-Hansen is a Danish Member of the European Parliament for the Socialistisk Folkeparti, part of the Greens/EFA group. She was elected in May 2019 and is the youngest politician ever elected for the European Parliament. She serves as vice president of the Greens/EFA Group and is the group coordinator in the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs. She is also a member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, vice chair in the subcommittee on tax evasion. Her political interest lies in the intersection between human rights, gender equality and a social, sustainable economy. Before joining the European Parliament, she served as campaign manager for Astrid Aller in the Danish local election in Copenhagen. Peter-Hansen engaged in politics in 2015 when she joined the Youth of the Socialist People's Party. She was still studying economics at the University of Copenhagen when she was appointed MEP.

Benjamin Angel | Director 'Direct taxation, tax coordination, economic analysis and evaluation' and acting Director 'Indirect taxation and tax administration' European Commission – DG Taxation and Customs Union (TAXUD)

Benjamin Angel is a French official at the European Commission, where he serves as Director for 'Direct taxation, tax coordination, economic analysis and evaluation' and acting Director for 'Indirect taxation and tax administration' in DG TAXUD. He plays a key role in shaping EU tax policy, from corporate taxation to VAT and global tax reform. With a background in economics and public administration, he has represented the Commission in major international tax negotiations. Angel is a graduate of Sciences Po Paris and the École Nationale d'Administration.



SPEAKERS

WHAT LIES AHEAD: KEYNOTE SPEECHES FROM CIVIL SOCIETY & BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES

11.30 - 12.00

Tove Maria Ryding | Policy and Advocacy Manager - Tax Justice



Tove joined Eurodad in March 2013 as Senior Policy Analyst. She now leads the work on tax and transparency, and carries out coordination, advocacy, communications work as well as research and analysis. Tove is one of two elected representatives for Tax Justice Europe in the coordinating committee of the Global Alliance for Tax Justice. Before joining Eurodad Tove worked with Greenpeace International as coordinator for climate policy. She's also been chair of the Danish 92 Group for over 5 years and head of the Danish NGO Forests of the World for 3 years. Tove speaks Danish, Swedish and English.

Lúcio Vinhas de Souza | Director of the Economics Department and Chief Economist of BusinessEurope

Lúcio Vinhas de Souza is since September 2024 the Director of the Economics Department and Chief Economist of BusinessEurope. Before that, he was a Visiting Professor at Brandeis University and a Fellow at Harvard University in the United States. Previously, Dr. Vinhas de Souza was an Advisor to the leadership of the European External Action Service, the Head of the Economics Department of an internal advisory body to the European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and Managing Director and Global Chief Economist of Moody's Investors Service at its headquarters in New York City. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Erasmus University in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, and Masters and Bachelor degrees in economics from the NOVA University in Lisbon, Portugal. He has over a 100 different publications in several languages and has spoken in hundreds of events for diverse audiences around the world.



SPEAKERS

PANEL DISCUSSION

WEALTH: UNFAIR TAX COMPETITION DRIVING TAX PROGRESSIVITY DOWN AT THE TOP

12.00 - 13.00

PANEL

Quentin Parrinello | Policy Director - EU Tax Observatory

Quentin Parrinello is a Policy Director at the EU Tax Observatory. He is responsible for promoting the work of the Observatory with policymakers, the media, and other stakeholders as well as building policy recommendations. Quentin has extensive experience working on tax policy campaigns. In 2020, he was appointed among the 35 leaders of the future on taxation by TaxCoop.



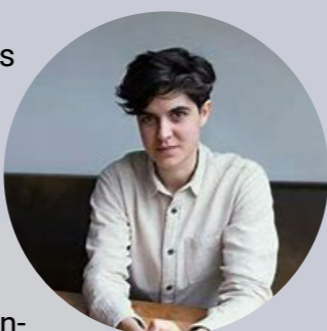
Bruno Gonçalves | MEP - Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance and Vice-chair of the FISC of the European Parliament



Bruno Gonçalves was born in Braga and graduated from the University of Minho with a master's degree in mechanical engineering. He served as Secretary-General of the International Union of Socialist Youth between 2021-2024, and as Vice-President of the Socialist International between 2022-2024. In June 2024, he was elected member of the European Parliament, representing the Socialist Party (PS) from Portugal. As an MEP, Bruno is a full member of the committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and the subcommittee on Tax Matters (FISC), in which he is the Coordinator for the S&D Group.

Marlene Engelhorn | Tax Me Now

Marlene Engelhorn is an Austrian political activist and heiress who advocates for wealth redistribution and tax justice. As a co-founder of the "Tax Me Now" initiative, she calls on governments to tax the ultra-wealthy more fairly, especially through inheritance and wealth taxes. Engelhorn gained international attention by pledging to give away 90% of her multimillion-euro inheritance. In 2024, she launched a democratic experiment in Austria, assembling 50 randomly selected citizens to decide how to distribute €25 million. Her activism challenges traditional philanthropy by promoting citizen-led redistribution instead of elite decision-making. Engelhorn's work questions inherited privilege and aims to create a more equitable economic system. She frequently speaks in the media, urging policy reforms and systemic change. Her message is clear: extreme wealth should not be a private right, but a public responsibility. She stands out as a rare voice from within the world of privilege demanding structural change.



SPEAKERS

Andy Summers | Associate Professor of Law LSE Law School



His research focuses on evaluating and designing tax policies, especially those that affect top earners and High Net Wealth Individuals (HNWIs). He brings together expertise in tax law, quantitative methods, and data science, working closely with economists and other social scientists. As Director of the Centre for Analysis of Taxation (CenTax), he leads a research centre committed to enhancing public understanding of taxation and contributing to the development of fairer, more effective tax systems through academically rigorous and policy-relevant research. He teaches two master's-level courses on taxation. LL4CG Tax Policy and Design introduces students to tax policy analysis from multiple perspectives—including economics, philosophy, political science, and law. LL4CO Taxation of Wealth explores how wealth is taxed in the UK and assesses proposals for reforming existing capital taxes. He also teaches the undergraduate course LL293 Tax and Tax Avoidance.

FIRESIDE CHAT 14.30 - 15.00

FISCAL POLICIES FOR A GREEN TRANSITION: THE ROLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL TAXATION

Wopke Hoekstra | Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth



As Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth, Wopke Hoekstra's task is to ensure that the EU delivers on its climate commitments in a way that is fair, enables economic growth, and supports industry. He is also tasked with strengthening our climate diplomacy through working with partners across the world. His work focuses on economic governance, international finance, and public policy, with particular attention to the fiscal frameworks of the European Union and global cooperation on taxation and sustainability. He brings a background in both the private sector and high-level politics, combining legal, financial, and diplomatic expertise. As a former Minister of Finance of the Netherlands and current European Commissioner for Climate Action, he plays a key role in shaping policy at the intersection of economics and climate.

He regularly engages with EU institutions, international organizations, and academic communities to promote responsible fiscal policy, sustainable finance, and climate transition strategies. He has represented the Netherlands in key negotiations on EU recovery funds and corporate tax reform. His current portfolio includes aligning European climate goals with global financial systems, ensuring that climate action is not only ambitious but also economically viable and socially fair.

SPEAKERS

PANEL DISCUSSION THE ROLE OF TAX ENFORCEMENT IN A COMPETITIVE WORLD

15.00 - 16.00

MODERATOR

Séverine Picard | Founder and Chief Executive Director - Progressive Policies

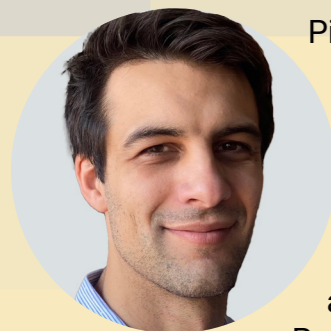
Séverine Picard is a lawyer with close to two decades of experience in European and global policies. From 2007 to 2021, she provided senior legal and policy advice to the labour movement. She previously worked at the European Parliament and in the NGO sector in a research role related to the European Union. Her main areas of expertise include: labour law and social policies, corporate tax, corporate governance, company law, competition, international trade & investment.



PANEL

Pierre Bachas | Economist - World Bank

Pierre Bachas is an Economist in the Macroeconomics and Growth Team in the Development Research Group. His research focuses on public finance. His work uses mainly administrative data, in collaboration with tax administrations, to evaluate the design of taxes and transfers and their impact on equity and efficiency. He also studies international taxation and how digital technology is changing public finance and accelerating financial inclusion. He holds a Bachelor and master's in economics from the LSE, and a PhD in Economics from UC Berkeley. He previously was an Assistant Professor of Economics at ESSEC Business School in Paris.



Reinhard Biebel | President of the European Association of Tax Law Professors (EATLP)

As President of the European Association of Tax Law Professors (EATLP), Reinhard Biebel focuses on advancing research, education, and dialogue in the field of European tax law. He works to foster collaboration among academic experts, tax professionals, and policymakers to shape effective and just tax systems across Europe. With a strong background in both academia and practical legal applications, he is committed to bridging the gap between tax theory and its real-world implementation. He regularly contributes to shaping the future of tax law education and reforms at the EU level, advocating for the development of clearer and more coherent tax regulations. His work includes organizing conferences, publishing academic papers, and engaging with institutions to ensure that the principles of fairness, transparency, and legal certainty are upheld in European tax legislation. Reinhard Biebel is dedicated to promoting the role of academia in tax policy discussions and enhancing the understanding of complex tax issues across Europe.



SPEAKERS

Michael Schick | President of the European Tax Adviser Federation



As President of the European Tax Adviser Federation (ETAF), Michael Schick focuses on European tax policy, professional regulation, and the representation of tax advisers at the EU level. He advocates for a fair, transparent, and balanced tax environment across the European Union. He combines legal expertise with deep knowledge of the tax advisory profession, working to ensure that tax legislation is both technically sound and practically implementable.

He engages with EU institutions to represent the interests of over 250,000 tax professionals, promoting ethical standards, simplification of tax rules, and proportional regulation. His work involves close cooperation with national tax bodies, policymakers, and stakeholders to strengthen the voice of tax advisers in legislative debates. He is committed to fostering trust in the profession and contributing to a tax system that supports economic growth, legal certainty, and taxpayer rights.

FIRESIDE CHAT 16.30 - 17.00 TAX WARS: WHAT ROLE FOR THE EU?

Gabriel Zucman | Director of the EU Tax Observatory



Gabriel Zucman is a professor of economics at the Paris School of Economics, Ecole Normale Supérieure – PSL, and the University of California, Berkeley. He is also the founding director of the EU Tax Observatory, headquartered in Paris, France. His research focuses on the accumulation, distribution, and taxation of global income and wealth. The EU Tax Observatory is an independent research organization working on tax evasion and tax progressivity to foster dialogues between academia, policymakers and civil society. In 2023, Professor Zucman received the John Bates Clark Medal of the American Economic Association, awarded to an economist under forty who is judged to have made the most significant contribution to economic thought and knowledge.

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For more information about the EU Tax Observatory:

