



Press release

From 25 to 26 June 2012, the 141st Meeting of the Presiding Board of UFE took place in Luxembourg. The European union representatives of the tax and customs administrations were received by the Minister of Finance Luc Frieden and by Tax Director Guy Heintz for a brief exchange of views. The lack of personnel and the fight against tax fraud were discussed, but also the lower tax revenues due to tax optimisation, a fact recently criticised in television programmes in France and Great Britain.

The problem of tax niches in Europe and worldwide also formed the centre of the discussions during the workday of the Presiding Board. During its entire existence, UFE, founded in 1963, repeatedly supported the idea of correct and uniform taxation of earnings, particularly of profits and capital, in order to feed the public budgets of the European states.

Although the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is not on the OECD list of tax havens, over the past years, it has become a centre of attraction, among other things, for tax optimisation in Europe and the world. Even though the company configurations and the subsequent money transfers are actually legal, they still contradict the assumption of just taxation for all other taxpayers, who in the affected countries are subject to taxation at the normal rate. In order to ensure taxation of the profits of companies, which are active across borders, and in order to prevent speculative investments, UFE is strongly campaigning for a financial transaction tax, respectively for investments into real economic activities at the European level.

Since the financial crisis was triggered in the United States in 2008, gapless collection of tax revenues has been of highest importance to reduce the budgetary deficits and the indebtedness of the European countries. In order to achieve this objective, it is the opinion of UFE, that it is necessary to have sufficient personnel and the respective equipment available at the tax and customs administrations. As a union organisation, registered in the transparency register of the European Union, UFE is fighting for greater tax justice with a wide range of contacts at the national and European level.

Exceeding the actual tax evasion, the areas of tax fraud and the injustices resulting therefrom provide subjects for discussion and fields of activity for the national unions affiliated with UFE.

The Meeting of the Presiding Board in Luxembourg also served the preparation of the biennial Congress of UFE, which will take place in Copenhagen mid September. This big meeting will be attended by the representatives of the Tax and Customs Commissions of UFE.

Serge Colin, President of UFE

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