

% Making the Euro a Tobin Tax Currency %
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European Strategy Meeting

Cologne

1st of March – 2nd of March 2005

Invitation

Berlin, 23/02/2005

Dear friends,

our strategy meeting will take place in Cologne the 1st and 2nd of March.

The purpose of the meeting is an in depth discussion of the situation and perspectives of European campaigning in favour of new instruments for financing development, in particular a currency transaction tax (CTT) and perhaps other taxes.

The developments of the recent year from the “technical report” of Lula, Chirac, Annan and others up to Davos and the recent ECOFIN meeting open a unique window of opportunity for civil society. If we want to use this momentum, we have to strengthen and improve our common work. The Cologne meeting therefore should be a milestone on the way to a breakthrough in international taxation.

We shall start on Tuesday 1st of March at 9:30 h. We therefore ask everybody, who lives not near Cologne to arrive the evening before. The meeting is scheduled to end on Wednesday at 14:00 h.

Attached you find the programme and the practical details on the venue etc.

For technical details, contact Max Arlt at the WEED office in Berlin:

phone +49-30-2804 1812

mail: max.arlt@weed-online.org

Max will be at the meeting place in Cologne from Monday 28th of February, 18:00 h.

Looking forward to see you I remain
with kind regards

Signed: Peter Wahl

WEED – World Economy, Ecology & Development

Programme

DAY 1, Tuesday 1 March, 9.30 - 18.15:

Part I 9.30 - 10.45

Setting the scene referring a European campaign

1. Introduction: Peter Wahl

2. Round-up from each country campaign of their particular situations:

- a) Discourse on the CTT at the level of Government, the financial community, media etc.
- b) Situation in the civil society
- c) Positions, possibilities, potential of actors sitting at the table, plans and perspectives

Questions on points of information

Coffee break: 10.45 - 11.00

Part II 11.00 - 13.00

Setting the International context

1. Presentation from Jacques Cossart covering a panorama of the last year from Geneva to Davos (15 min)

2. The CTT from the perspective of

- a) EU
- b) Bretton Woods institutions
- c) UN;
- d) G8 (especially the factor of the International Finance Facility and the linked issue of global taxes).

45 minute discussion (to 12 noon) leading into:

12.00 - 13.00

3. Global Taxes discussion: CTT as one initiative amongst a number of potential financing initiatives

LUNCH: 13.00 - 14.00

Part III 14.00 - 16.00

CTT policy discussion

1. **Two-tier tax: Tobin or Spahn, including the issue of the 'Tobin' name**
2. **Rate of the CTT**
3. **Institutions: how CTT is**
 - a) technically levied and
 - b) disbursed
4. **Inter-relationships between the several purposes or functions of the tax: regulatory; fund-raising and strengthening political activities of governments versus market forces**

Part IV 16.30 - 18.00

Summary - defining areas of agreement, or acceptable ranges that we can agree on

Part V 18.00 - 18.15

Short planning session for Day 2

The following ideas can be added to depending on what arises during the first day.

DAY 2 - Wednesday 2 March, 9.00 - 14.00

Discussion of strategy for 2005 into 2006 and how best to campaign together towards our goals:

1. practical cooperation: re lobbying EU institutions, capacity in Brussels, an office?
2. occasions: launches of reports; calendar of events for 2005
3. practical communication: teleconferences, the website
4. coordinated workplan and how we would implement it.

Practical Hints

Meeting place:

The meeting takes place in the youth hostel Cologne-Deutz.
Conference Room "*Istanbul*".

Address: Jugendherberge Köln-Deutz
Siegestr. 5,
D-50679 Köln
Fon: +49-(0)221 - 814711
Fax: +49-(0)221 - 884425

The Youth hostel is 10 minutes walk from the Cologne central railway station.

How to get there by train:

If you go to Cologne by train, you will arrive at the main station.

From there you can take a 10 minutes walk across the railway bridge over the Rhine, admiring the Cologne Cathedral on your way.

From platform 1 at the station there is a direct footpath over the bridge. Follow the signs "*Deutz*". After having crossed the river, you continue for another 300 meters until you come to the *Ottoplatz*. At the left is another, smaller railway station "*Köln-Deutz*". At your right hand over the *Ottoplatz* you find the *Siegestraße* and directly at the beginning the youth hostel.

If you do not want to walk, take the suburban train (S-Bahn) S11 or S6 from the central station to *Köln-Deutz* railway station. Then cross the *Ottoplatz*, turn right and follow the signposted footpath to the left into *Siegestraße*.

by airplane:

If you arrive at the Köln-Bonn airport, take the airport bus no. 170 to *Köln-Deutz* railway station. Then cross the *Ottoplatz*, turn right and follow the signposted footpath to the left into *Siegestraße*.

Food/drink:

The hostel will provide us with lunch and drinks during the day. Furthermore, some coffee and cake has been ordered for the first day. For those of us who sleep in the hostel, there will also be breakfast. For the dinner and the drinks on the first night, there is a table reserved for us at a restaurant in the centre of Cologne.