

Invitation

European Workshop on the Financial Transaction Tax (FTT)

Cologne, 9th December, 11:00 h – 17:30 h,

Jugendherberge Köln-Deutz, Siegesstr. 5

The concept of taxing financial transactions has made a breakthrough in the recent months. Sarkozy, Merkel, Barroso, the head of the British supervisory authority, Obama and other politicians have in one way or another declared their support for the idea.

The G20 has mandated the IMF to prepare until the next summit in June 2010 a report on how the financial industry could make "*a fair and substantial contribution toward paying for any burdens associated with government interventions to repair the banking system.*"

There is enormous momentum and a window of opportunity to organise pressure from below has opened. Many civil society organisations and networks have already started to mobilise.

However, there is a need to deepen knowledge on how the FTT works, its effect and to be informed on the pros and cons. Although there is lot of expertise on a currency transaction tax (Tobin Tax), the FTT is different.

The purpose of the workshop is to build capacity and to discuss civil society strategies.

With Stephan Schulmeister from the Vienna Institute for Economic Research, WIFO, we have the most prominent expert on the FTT as main speaker.

The Workshop is a joint venture of WEED – World Economy, Ecology & Development Assoc. Berlin and ENOFAD – European Network on Finance for Development

Programme:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 11:00 h | Welcome, introduction: Peter Wahl (WEED) |
| 11:15 h | The Financial Transaction Tax – Functioning, Effects and FAQs:
Stephan Schulmeister, Austrian Institute for Economic Research, Vienna |
| 12:00 h | Questions and discussion |
| 13:00 h | Lunch Break |
| 14:00 h | The experience with the British Stamp Duty: NN (UK, London) |
| 14:20 h | Questions and discussion |
| 14:45 h | A North American civil society perspective: Fraser Reilly-King (Halifax Initiative) t.b.c. |
| 15:15 h | Key elements of a civil society strategy. Alexandra Strickner (European Cross Networking Space on the Global Crisis)
General debate |
| 17:15 h | Conclusions: David Hillman (Stamp Out Poverty, London) |
| 17:30 h | End |

How to get there.

Practical Hints

Meeting place:

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

Address: Jugendherberge Köln-Deutz
Siegesstr. 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 *Siegesstraße* 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 *Siegesstraße*.

by plane:

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 *Siegesstraße*.

Accommodation:

For those who want to stay overnight, the hostel offers quite cheap rooms.

You can book via their homepage: www.koeln-deutz.jugendherberge.de