

Strasbourg Lunch with Commissioner Algirdas Semeta

The challenge of the Financial Transaction: New wine in old bottles or more innovative taxation and tax justice?



Karl von Wogau, Speaker: Algirdas Semeta, Chair: Michael Gahler, Introduction: Christa Randzio-Plath, Statements: Anni Podimata, Othmar Karas
Photo : Kangaroo Group - from left to right

As a result of the financial crisis the European Commission and some Member States of the EU are looking for new possibilities to tax the financial sector to slow down erratic movements in the financial markets. Therefore the European Commission already tabled in September 2011 a first proposal for a Council Directive on a common system of financial transaction tax (FTT). This led after several discussions in ECOFIN to a new proposal for a Council directive in February 2013 implementing enhanced cooperation. For the European Parliament Anni Podimata was Rapporteur on this issue.

Professor Christa Randzio Plath, chair of our Working Group "Taxation" had taken the initiative to invite Commissioner Semeta for a meeting about this subject. He reported about the state of the project at a lunch meeting of the Kangaroo Group in Strasbourg. The Commission and a majority in the European Parliament are in principle in favor as well as eleven Member States. Options of compromise concerning percentage and scope of the tax were discussed as well as the opinion of

the legal services of Council. Arguments were exchanged concerning the influence of the tax on high velocity trading, distortion of competition and the level of taxation of Financial Services in comparison with industry. The Kangaroo Group will follow up the development of this discussion.

Social dimensions of EU Financial Services Legislative Agenda

Member of the Committee for Economic and Monetary Affairs of the European Parliament, Sven Giegold, and Benoit Lallemand, Senior Policy Analyst of Finance Watch, were speakers at the Working Group "Financial Services" discussing "Social Dimensions of the EU Financial Services Legislative Agenda".



Sven Giegold - MEP (left), Karl von Wogau - Secretary of the Kangaroo Group, (standing), Benoit Lallemand (middle), Senior Policy Analyst of Finance Watch, David P. Doyle - Member of the Board of the Kangaroo Group
Photo: Kangaroo Group

At this meeting we had an interesting exchange of views about the notion of a highly competitive Social Market Economy as defined in the treaty and if the recipes of the Freiburg School could offer adequate tools for the solution of the present crisis.



Long-Standing Board Member of the Kangaroo Group, Dr. David P. Doyle, has been nominated by the Government of St. Christopher (St. Kitts) and Nevis as its Ambassador to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), based in Paris. The Photo shows David with Karl von Wogau, Secretary of the Kangaroo Group, at a recent lunchtime debate on the EU Financial Services Agenda. Photo: Kangaroo Group