Weltwirtschaft, Ökologie & Entwicklung

World Economy, Ecology & Development



Beyond Tobin

The Potential and Limits of International Environmental and Economic Taxes

International Expert Meeting Cologne, 31st of May 2006

There is an increasing dynamics in the debate on international taxation. The decision of France, Chile, Brazil and other countries to implement a levy on air tickets as contribution to fund the Millennium Development Goals is a considerable step forward. The controversy on the Currency Transaction Tax ("Tobin Tax"/CTT) is continuing, at present the Austrian parliament is discussing the CTT.

Civil society has been since many years advocating international taxation, be it as a means to finance development or as an instrument for a post-neoliberal regulation of globalisation - or both. The debate has concentrated on the CTT, and, recently on the air-ticket tax. In the light of the new dynamics, it is time to look more in detail into further proposals for international taxation. We want to discuss their Pros and Cons and identify those instruments, which have an interesting potential to be further worked out and promoted by future civil society campaigns. We want to find out, whether there is something beyond the CTT, without giving it up as the spearhead of our alternatives. The proposals range from taxes on CO2 via emissions of aircraft engines and hazardous sea transport to taxing TNCs, investment, the banking secret and Off Shore centres.

The working language of the meeting is English.

Programme:

10:30 h Introduction and overview on taxes to regulate economic actors and

processes such as Transnational Corporations (TNCs), investment etc.

Input: Jacques Cossart (Paris), economist, member of the Landau

Commission and the Scientific Council of Attac France.

First round of discussion

12:00 h Taxes with environmental dimension. Introduction and overview.

Input: Prof. Astrid Epiney (Fribourg, Switzerland), Member of the scientific

council on Global Environmental Goods of the German Government

First round of discussion

13:00 h Lunch Break

14:00 h Challenges of taxation of TNCs

<u>Input:</u> Astrid Kraus (Cologne) economist, co-author of the concept for an "Equitable and Simple Tax System" elaborated by the German Trade Unions on

services (Ver.di), metal workers (IG Metall) and Attac Germany.

14:45	Discussion
16:00	Coffee Break
16:30	Continuation of discussion
18:00	Closing

The meeting is co-financed by the Commission of the European Union. The opinions articulated in the workshop are at the sole responsibility of the persons who express them.

Practical hints and registration

Expert Meeting "Beyond Tobin", 31st of May 2006

Venue: Youth Hostel Cologne-Deutz, City-Hostel (Jugendherberge)

Siegesstr. 5, D-50679 Köln

Room "Turku"

Tel: ++49 - 2 21 / 81 47 11; Fax: ++49 - 2 21 / 88 44 25

How to get there

By Train: From **Cologne Main Station**, you can walk 10 minutes across the railway bridge to the Eastern side of the Rhine, directly from platform 1 of the station. After having crossed the bridge you walk down to a major crossroad with traffic lights. At your right you can already see the building of the "Jugendherberge"

By S-Bahn **S11** or **S6** from Cologne main station to **Köln-Deutz station**; From there you walk across the traffic lights on Ottoplatz, then turn right and follow the footpath (signposted) to the left into **Siegesstraße** right next to the youth hostel.

Fom Cologne-Bonn Airport: From Airport Terminal 2 take the airport bus no. 170 to Köln-Deutz. Travelling time approx. 15 minutes. From there walk across the traffic lights on Ottoplatz, then turn right and follow the little footpath (signposted) to the left into Siegesstraße right next to the youth hostel. The airport bus stop is only 100 m from the hostel.

Registration form to be sent back by e-mail to: peter.wahl@weed-online.org					
I participate in the Exp	ert meeting 31 st of May	yes	no		
I need a room from	to				
Name:					
Organisation:					