



Brussels, 11 April 2018

For the attention of: **Mr Emmanuel Macron, President of France**

Cc: Mr. Bruno Le Maire, Minister of Finance

Ms. Nathalie Loiseau, Minister in charge of European Affairs

Subject: Tax justice and transparency for the Future of Europe

Dear Mr. President,

Next Tuesday, you will join us in the European Parliament for a debate on the future of the European Union.

As we enter the last phase of this legislative term, swift and decisive action on the part of the European institutions is needed if we are to win the hearts of citizens in support of the European project.

With recent scandals such as the Panama and Paradise Papers, citizens have seen how unjust and full of double standards our tax system is. The existing legislation is stacked in favour of multinational companies and the super-rich, while the majority of EU citizens lose out. Citizens are calling on the European Union to deliver on tax justice and transparency.

There are already a number of ambitious proposals on the table but EU Member States continue to block these key reforms. Two years on from the Panama Papers, it is a shame that legislative proposals to fight tax evasion and improve transparency are being stalled or watered down by the Council. This is why we urge you to take action to help ensure the adoption of these proposals, in particular those for Public Country-by-Country Reporting and a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base.

Public Country-by-Country Reporting is a vital tool for improving the transparency of multinational companies and curbing tax avoidance. The proposal was made two years ago. However, while the European Parliament adopted its position nine months ago, there has been no progress in the Council. Several Member States are hiding behind a false argument concerning the legal basis in order to block progress towards greater transparency. Sweden, Germany, Ireland, Finland, Luxembourg and Austria are among those relying on this weak argument and the Bulgarian Presidency remains vague as to how to overcome the blockade. It seems that no country is keen to put this file on the agenda for discussion. We urge you to do so.

We ask you to do the same for the proposal for a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base. This is the fairest and most efficient way to put an end to tax evasion by multinationals in

Europe, including digital companies. The European Parliament adopted its opinion a month ago, but the Council has not shown willingness to advance.

If there is no progress on such crucial legislation, there is a real danger that the European Union will fail to deliver in the eyes of its citizens. This is why we call upon you, as the President of France, to take leadership on these reforms and push the Council to make progress.

We are convinced that the future of Europe and the future of tax justice are intertwined. In the coming months, we have a great opportunity to make a vital contribution to ensure taxation in the European Union is made more transparent and works in the interests of our citizens.

We hope we can rely on your support to help achieve this and look forward to the debate next week on the Future of Europe.

Yours sincerely,

Philippe Lamberts

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