



Letter from the Chairman, no 15  
Stockholm November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Dear members and friends of the World Taxpayers Associations!

Terror against freedom. The Islamic State (IS) has demonstrated that they have the will and resources to take their terror and aggression around the world. The confirmed blow up of the Russian plane with 244 tourists, the attack in Beirut which killed 34 and now the coordinated attacks in Paris which in the end may have killed more than 130 innocent people. In total, last year over 30,000 people were killed in terrorist attacks, most in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. Police – and military - around Europe are given special resources and permissions to search and question suspects.

Politicians in Europe and President Obama do not understand the religiously based drive. What is the road ahead? Many want more control – will it threaten the freedom we cherish? Europe has been slow to react to the threats, but now borders are closing and the EU is threatening to again become more divided between states. The attitude towards the continuing stream of migrants is vastly differing. Sweden is still getting over 10,000 per week. Plus many just going underground without registering, though this flow has slowed with increased control. Other countries – including the US – are offering to take per year what Sweden is getting per week! Germany is looking at over 1 million new migrants this year alone.

The world is quickly changing. The UN is trying to create more of a worldwide regime with international taxation and amassing big funds for “climate investments” in the so called third world. The climate issue has been strongly and cleverly used for political and economic purposes. It is not so much about science – where experts differ – but about money and power.

The road ahead must mean a defence of freedom – down to the school yard. A spirit of suspicion and fear should not prevail. A recent report in Britain says that over half of 11 year-olds have problems sleeping because of fear of climate change. They should be rejoicing in the fantastic possibilities they have ahead – and in how our world has been able to adapt with more freedom, greater wealth and resources, more food and higher possibilities for all. Each generation has to find and defend their own freedom, ask their own question about the future and set their own goals. There lies the road ahead. And doing it across any borders of race, religion, social class, wealth or politics. In the long run freedom will win. It always has. In the mean time our national resources must join in a fair and open way to work for peace and isolate those who think they have a right to destroy the lives of others.

### **World Taxpayers Conference 2016**

Now is the time to plan and book your participation at the **WTA Conference in Berlin**  
**March 17-20<sup>th</sup> next year!**

Key stakeholders and globally acclaimed experts will discuss a wide range of important aspects of economic growth and growth of freedom and democracy. You will have a unique chance to meet with likeminded persons from all parts of the world, to learn and be inspired and build relations of future importance for your organization.

We promise you an exciting and very useful program. Our German hosts are doing their best to add also points of social and general interest. The welcome reception in a unique location a dinner combined with a Berlin-style variety show and a gala dinner with a special speaker.

The conference will combine with three other events on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March 2016:

- **The Taxpayers Leaders Forum**, initiated by Americans for Tax Reform, and it will be a chance to share and learn from others experiences. This will take place in the afternoon of Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup> and in the morning of March 17<sup>th</sup>.

-**The Free Market Road Show** – a high-level discussion of economic issues and how enterprises and economic growth can be stimulated. Time: The morning of March 17<sup>th</sup>.

- **The European Resource Bank meeting**. This is a meeting of more business oriented think tanks across Europe and we will share the main meetings on Friday and they will add other seminars and workshops on Saturday.

**These combinations means a large and varied conference with an expected 250 participants, so write us about your interest soon.**

WTA and National Taxpayers Union in the US will be offering some scholarships for those with special needs, so write us of your interest even if you are uncertain about the expense.

**And if you need a visa to Germany, it is urgent that you contact us about that immediately, so it can be arranged. It may take some time considering the pressure on these authorities.**

I am adding as a pdf more information in a short pdf version of the program with practical details. A special web page will be active soon also with payment routines for the conference fee. On the WTA website you will find information under <http://worldtaxpayers.org/conferences-events/news-and-details-of-upcoming-events/>.

### **Member activities**

Our network keeps growing. We now have seven active organizations in Africa. Some of them are working under difficult circumstances. We also have new groups starting up in Asia and South America. We want to give them all the encouragement, advice and support we can.

We are very encouraged by the National Taxpayers Association (NTA) in Kenya. They are a well established group since ten years. Visit their web page describing their many activities under [www.nta.or.ke](http://www.nta.or.ke) It is in English.

### **Content marketing**

Content marketing is a popular term these days. In its simplest sense it means that we have to know our stuff – to stand on our know-how of taxes, how they hit different groups, create difficulties for start up businesses or whatever the issue is. In Sweden the Taxpayers Organization has published a small pocketbook with *Facts for Taxpayers* for 49 years! In 36 overviews on 48 pages they give all the key facts about not only taxes, but other economic facts like international comparisons. You might find interesting ideas here – even if it is in Swedish! You can download the report here: <http://www.skattebetalarna.se/nyheter/fakta-skattebetalare-2015>

We will be happy to translate details for you!

In Ghana the Taxpayers' Alliance has made an extensive comment to the national budget for 2016. You find comments on the news page Modern Ghana here:

<https://www.modernghana.com/news/655609/1/tax-payers-alliance-on-2016-budget.html>

In Britain, the TaxPayers' Alliance made a "telephone catalogue" size report detailing what might be needed to balance the budget in connection with the latest election. Even the summary was book size!

They are currently getting great media coverage and political reaction based on their "Public Sector Rich List" listing public employees earning more than £100,000 per year. Many reactions on this. Here is an example from one newspaper:

<http://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/news/debate/columnists/jonathan-isaby-freedom-of-information-is-a-weapon-against-town-hall-waste-1-7568559>

### **Suggested reading**

In my readings, I often find interesting comments from John Mauldin. In his latest letter he adds a long analysis by George Friedman - of Europe, migration and the terrorist threat. I am adding it as a pdf at the end of the letter for those of you who want to get more in depth comments on the current situation and where we are heading. You can also find newsletter and previous ones directly on this link:

<http://www.mauldineconomics.com/outsidethebox/archive>

Do write to me or Sarah with any questions on the conference or with questions how we might help you in your efforts. We want you to benefit from our exciting network and its wealth of experience and connections!

Best wishes,

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