



April 21st 2016
Vancouver, Canada

WTA members, observers and friends,

This is my first update as chairman of World Taxpayers Associations. It's a tremendous honour to serve in this capacity and specifically to follow in the footsteps of my friend Staffan Wennberg who has done significant work at the board level over the past two years. Let me acknowledge too our founders Bjorn Tarras-Wahlberg, Rolf von Hohenhau and the late David Stanley for making the vision of an umbrella organization to support and grow the worldwide taxpayers movement possible.

My newsletter will be sent out periodically when there are WTA-related activities that need to be reported or updated. For best practices, tips and news items please visit our [website](#) and our [Facebook group](#). Our community is only as strong and as beneficial as we choose to make it. So please, work with our Secretary General [Sarah Elliott](#) to feed good content into our network! By staying in close communication with us, we can keep the global community of taxpayer advocates closely knitted and informed.

The Road Forward

Over the past two years we've worked to hire a new secretary general, update our lists, create a new website and social media presence, help organize an international conference and generally improve communication. Importantly, none of this work would have been possible without annual member fees and support from the Kriebel Foundation, so thank you! The goal going forward is to build on this momentum, and specifically I'd like to offer three broad directions:

1. WTA currently has around 70 member and observer organizations. Let's set a goal of 100 taxpayer groups worldwide! Specifically, India, Mexico, Central and South America are – for reasons I don't understand – areas where taxpayer groups have not taken hold. Let's work to change that.
2. Any new or emerging group that wishes to work with an existing/more established group in a mentorship relationship please make a request to [Sarah Elliott](#) and we'll work to find a beneficial arrangement.
3. The think tank community is comparatively well-organized and well-financed. I'm a big advocate of "wholesalers" of ideas (think-tanks) working with "retailers" of ideas (advocacy groups). We complement each other in

important ways. To the extent taxpayer groups can network and participate in think tank events and related opportunities we should be doing that.

Relatedly, if you're not participating in (or organizing) a Coalition Leaders Forum, I encourage you to reach out to Americans for Tax Reform's initiative [here](#).

Before the end of this calendar year, when our current strategic plan ends, a new strategic plan taking us to the end of 2019 will be put before the WTA board for approval.

World Taxpayers Conference and WTA General Meeting

Many thanks to our German and Bavarian friends – especially Michael Jaeger – who hosted the 16th World Taxpayers Conference in Berlin this past month. Thank you also to Barbara Kolm and [European Resource Bank](#) for sharing the event! I know there were challenges in putting everything together, but I also know many new and important connections were made amongst fellow travelers. In all, we managed over 200 participants from over 40 countries (including six delegates from Africa and one each from Nepal and Mongolia) which is to my knowledge the broadest participation we've ever had at one of these events.

Pictures from the event can be found [here](#) (The copyrights of these pictures belong to TAE. All Participants of the conference can use or publish these pictures for free for non-commercial use, but please entitle these pictures as following: "Picture TAE, Johannes Maruschzik and Prof Rudolf G Maier.")

Thank you also to the two American taxpayer groups: [National Taxpayers Union](#) and [Americans for Tax Reform](#) who provided funding for people to attend!

Both the WTA Board and Members held meetings in Berlin where some small changes to the bylaws were approved and a new board was elected. Thank you Benoîte Taffin (and Eudes Baufreton) of the [French Taxpayers Association](#) and Pete Sepp of National Taxpayers Union in the United States for agreeing to participate on the Executive Committee that will meet monthly to manage WTA's affairs. Please find the current list of WTA board, officers and advisory members, [here](#).

African Liberty Forum

[Atlas Network](#) is hosting a [Liberty Forum](#) and training school June 9-13 in Accra Ghana. Atlas has kindly agreed to provide some space for our some of our WTA taxpayer leaders on the African continent. Since application deadline is past, I encourage those in the region to sign up to the [Africa Liberty Forum in Accra, Ghana](#), which is open to all.

Atlas Network works primarily with think tanks around the world, but welcomes our network of taxpayer leaders. If you're interested in training (management, communications, fundraising) I encourage you register in their [Leadership Academy](#). Atlas does tremendous work!

I very much look forward to working with all of you over the next three years before we gather again in Melbourne Australia. Please never hesitate to drop me an e-mail!

Troy Lanigan

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