

Letter from the Chairman, no 10
Stockholm May 22th 2015

Dear members and friends of the World Taxpayers Associations!

First a quote from a brave public article by Frank Asiedu Bekoe of the Taxpayers Alliance, Ghana:

*“Corruption has become another Arm of Government in the Mahama administration (the current president). Mahama’s love for corruption is superb and amazing. These scams, are only a fraction of the numerous scams that Mahama and his apologists have engaged themselves in and I know most Ghanaians are aware of these. Just these three (major government programs with international support) give a loss to our nation which is more than the entire (IMF) bailout.”* Read more at <http://www.spyghana.com/sada-gyeeda-judgement-debts-monies-can-bail-us/>

We support Frank Asiedu Bekoe and his friends at TPA Gahna for their outspokenness on this and other issues.

**Poverty Cure…**On the same note at our meeting last week in Istanbul the program “Poverty Cure” from the Acton Institute showed how programs of supporting self-initiatives could be an effective alternative to hand outs in poorer countries. The longer title is “Poverty Cure: Building an international network for free enterprise solutions to poverty.” See more and watch clips from their very professional documentary movies under <http://www.povertycure.org/>

**Europe – slight positive trend continues…**The world economic growth continues and the European trend is a bit more solid but with the general growth rate for the EU countries for the year only at about 0.5%, trailing the UK and US, growing perhaps 1.5%.

**But… soon the end of the road for Greece?**
First survival to the end of June. Greece needs to scrape together 1.5 Billion Euros for paybacks during June. Loans from the EU are being withheld as the new, socialist government has cancelled the loan agreement and the savings clauses in it. The 20th of July is the final (?) show down when Greece should pay back 3.5 billion Euros to the European Bank (ECB). Money which they do not have or cannot scrape together internally. So far Greece has received 240 billion Euros in support and loans (of which Germany holds 93 Billion). Estimated is that another 50 billion is needed. The private banks in Europe have succeeded to unload 90% of their 260 billion Euros loans they had to Greece onto the state banks = the taxpayers in Europe. On top of this the people of Greece have withdrawn some 35 billion Euros from their bank accounts in case of a collapse. And the Greek economy has shrunk with almost 25% since the crises began. It can be a hot and difficult summer for Greece and Europe!

**Cameron’s tax pledge – contributed to an unexpected, large win!**
The Conservatives “tax lock” promise against hikes in income, VAT and national insurance taxes had a “significant cut through” the last weeks of the UK election. It was a concrete promise not to raise taxes on ordinary families in Britain. Cameron declared: “We know it is your money, not government money. You have worked for it, you have earned it, you should be able to keep it,” he told voters. The TaxPayers’ Alliance has consistently asked how the parties were planning to balance the budget as promised – and have launched the decisive “tax pledge.”

**Free Market Road show in 35 cities around Europe!**Initiated and lead by Dr. Barbara Kolm of the Austrian Economic Center a tour of experts to 35 countries have focused attention on how to achieve Economic growth and entrepreneurship. In many cities cooperating with taxpayers groups, in other with leading local think tanks. A unique effort to focus the best international and local minds on how to get Europe growing.

**Many good ideas from the Taxpayers Leaders Forum meeting**About 20 taxpayers groups met last week in Istanbul before a large conference under the name European Resource Bank. A lot of good ideas were shared and we will place and have references to specific presentations on the members’ section of our web page.

Grover Norquist presented a plan on how to build a “freedom coalition” saying that you do not need to agree on every detail and issue as long as you have a basic and common interest is in achieving more liberty and strengthening of individual rights. The rest can follow and grow.

Maria Vysniauskaite from the Lithuanian Free Market Institute presented a tax “calculator” in which you could see your taxes of various kinds depending on your income level and situation. They are offering others to use the system and we will let you know when an English version is available to test. See the idea at [www.mokumokescius.lt](http://www.mokumokescius.lt)

From Venezuela we had a report how a small group is working in an extremely hostile environment, having to move the meeting, every Tuesday morning, to an unannounced, new place every time!

In New Zealand people can call a 24 hour “tip line” with examples of government waste and over taxation. The tax rate and the total tax on personal homes have increased rapidly in the last years, as an example.

In Serbia, the active LIBEK group has organized marches against the high taxes and the high public debt, amounting to 2.900 Euros per person in Serbia.
See <https://libek.org.rs/sr/projekti/festival-poreskih-obveznika>

**Suggested reading**
I have previously suggested Bill Browder’s book *Red Notice* just based on briefs and hearing his interviews. After now having read it, I am eager to recommend it again. Reads like a thriller – and based on scary facts showing how Browder went from being the biggest investor in Russia to Putin’s no one enemy after the murder in prison of his young lawyers, who refused to sign false accusations.

For a bit more reading: Here is a link to Ben Case’s daily tip today. A bit longer and more general than usually and well worth reading. <http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?ca=fdf6e930-fed8-4525-9bfd-f2f4d548fc3c&c=241ae090-05dd-11e4-b09d-d4ae52844390&ch=24609c20-05dd-11e4-b0a2-d4ae52844390>

He is happy to send you his tips on Fundraising daily – just send an e-mail to arthur@caseconsultingservices.com and mention WTA.

**Quote of the month from Bono of U2**

*“Because you're good at philanthropy, I think, and because I'm an activist, people think you should be stupid in business. I don't run with that." ”It is our sovereign right to be tax competitive and U2 reflects just that.”* The group reportedly moved some of their business from Ireland to the Netherlands after Ireland decided to put a cap at 175,000 £ for artists tax free income in Ireland.

**The web page again…**
To log in to the Members Area, just use as both user and password: **wta2015**
We will soon give the members personal passwords.

And please post your organization’s activity on the member’s blog, which is only accessible with Members Access. To post your news on the, please go here:

<http://worldtaxpayers.org/members-update/>; Here the password is just: wta

Best wishes – looking forward to hearing from you!

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