

In collaboration with



Capital and Wealth Taxation in the EU: Ways Forward on the Path for Social Justice Policy Seminar

4 February 2025, 14:00-16:00 (CET)
European Parliament, Room SPAAK 4B1,
Brussels and online

Context

The issue of capital taxation is getting more pressing both for political and economic reasons. The current **tax mix in most countries is highly unfair**. While large multinational companies and ultra-rich find ways to avoid paying their fair share, the main burden of taxation falls on workers and the middle class. This further **exacerbates income and wealth inequality**, leading to economic dysfunction, desperation and anger of people across the EU and globally. The additional urgency for the EU comes from **the need to finance its industrial upgrade, the twin transitions and the growing demand for public services**, for which new resources are needed. Moreover, a fairer international tax regime and more public resources are needed for development aid **to ensure that no one is left behind**.

Over the past years, progressives in the EU have secured many legislative breakthroughs that bolstered tax justice, for example, the global deal on minimum effective tax for multinationals and new rules to ensure better cooperation among tax authorities. However, exemptions embedded in the global deal and remaining differences in member states' tax laws still leave ample room for tax avoidance. In this context, it is key to adopt legislative reforms to establish fair taxation, fight tax avoidance and provide new fiscal resources for the EU. **We need to rebalance the tax mix to ease the burden on the workers and middle class and make sure corporates and ultra-rich pay their fair share.**

As the new EU legislature is getting pace, the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and the Kalevi Sorsa Foundation, in collaboration with the S&D Group in the European Parliament, organise this seminar to **bring momentum to the need to reform wealth and capital income taxation**. In this event, we will present and discuss different approaches to the taxation of capital gains in the EU and debate different options for the taxation of wealth at the international level, following up on the G20 Rio de Janeiro Leaders' Declaration of November 2024. This will be followed by a discussion on policies and laws that the EU should adopt in the new legislature.

The seminar is intended for up to 100 participants from the policy community and broader public; media will also be invited. It will be live-streamed and accompanied by a social media campaign.

Questions for discussion:

- What forms of capital taxation are more suitable in the EU? How could a degree of harmonisation be beneficial?
- Do we also need a minimum tax rate for capital income taxation? And should we harmonise the capital income tax base to avoid double non-taxation?
- Which challenges we can foresee for the adoption of legislation on capital/wealth?
- What needs to be done further on harmonisation of taxation and to fight tax avoidance?
- Can capital and wealth taxes be a new resource for the EU budget?
- In view of previous mixed experience with wealth tax legislative proposals, what can we learn and what political strategy can be recommended?

Agenda

- 13:00 Accreditation & Registrations
- 14:00 Welcome speech by Member of the European Parliament and Vice-Chair of the FISC Committee **Matthias Ecke** (online)
- 14:10 **Session 1: Capital income taxation in EU: Should we harmonise tax base and agree on a minimum tax rate?**

Presentation of the policy study “*How capital income tax base erosion should be addressed in the EU*” by

- **Lauri Finer**, Director, Kalevi Sorsa Foundation
- **Niko Pankka**, Head of Public Affairs and Tax Specialist, Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions (SAK)

Comments by:

- **Chiara Putaturo**, Tax & Inequality Policy Advisor and Deputy Head of Oxfam EU Office
- **Jonás Fernández**, Member of the European Parliament and S&D ECON Coordinator

Discussion with questions from the audience

Moderated by: **Elodie Lamer**, Journalist, Tax Notes



15:00 **Session 2: Taxing the super-rich in the EU and globally: The outcomes of G20 and next steps**

Panel discussion with:

- **Paul Mquette**, President, Parti Socialiste (PS) Belgium
- **Aurore Lalucq**, Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the ECON Committee
- **Esther Lynch**, General Secretary, ETUC
- **Quentin Parrinello**, Policy Director, EU Tax Observatory (online)

Discussion with questions from the audience

Moderated by: **Elodie Lamer**, Journalist, Tax Notes

15:50 Closing remarks by Member of the European Parliament and S&D FISC Coordinator **Bruno Gonçalves**



This event is organised with the financial support of the European Parliament. It does not represent the view of the European Parliament.