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Special Committee Taxe
Tax Rulings and Other Measures Similar in Nature or Effect
The Chair

D(2015) 42230

314786 16.09.2015

Mr Martin Schulz
President of the European Parliament

Dear President,

**Subject: Sanctions against Multinational corporations who did not cooperate with the
TAXE special committee**

I am writing to you concerning possible sanctions to be considered toward various multinational corporations (MNCs) which have declined the invitations of the TAXE Committee to attend its public hearings and/or meetings. In total 18 MNCs (see the attached list) were invited, but only four of them have agreed to participate to the meetings of the TAXE Committee. The TAXE Coordinators consider that this non-cooperative attitude has hindered the work of the Special Committee to fulfil its mandate.

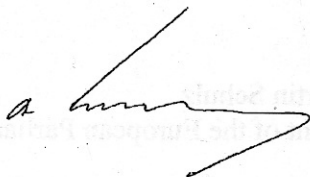
As a result, in paragraph 75 of the TAXE draft Report, to be voted in plenary in November II, it is stated that the Parliament "regrets the fact that, despite repeated invitations, several MNCs did not take the opportunity to discuss international tax planning matters with the committee; recommends, therefore, that serious consideration be given to banning these firms from the Transparency register".

Following an exchange of letters with the Vice-President Sylvie Guillaume, (see copies attached), TAXE Coordinators have decided to explore the possibilities offered by the Transparency Register due to a potential non-compliance with the Code of Conduct (notably article f) that stipulates *'in general, respect, and void any obstruction to the implementation and application of, all rules, codes and good governance practices established by EU institutions)* but it appears that this option would not be satisfactory.

Hence, during their meeting of 14 September, a broad majority of TAXE Coordinators has decided to request directly to the relevant EP political authorities the suspension/restriction of the access to European Parliament premises of all representatives of the concerned MNCs.

Therefore, I would be very grateful if you could consider this suggestion.

Yours faithfully,



Alain Lamassoure

Copy: Ms Sylvie GUILLAUME, Vice-President of EP in charge of Transparency Register for groups and organisations representing specific interests at EU level
Mr Jerzy BUZEK, Chair of ITRE, Chair of CCC
Mr Elmar BROK, Chair of AFET
Ms Elena VALENCIANO, Chair of DROI
Ms Anna Elzbieta FOTYGA, Chair of SEDE
Ms Linda MCAVAN, Chair of DEVE
Mr Bernd LANGE, Chair of INTA
Mr Jean ARTHUIS, Chair of BUDG
Mr Ingeborg GRÄSSLE, Chair of CONT
Mr Roberto GUALTIERI, Chair of ECON
Mr Thomas HÄNDEL, Chair of EMPL
Mr Giovanni LA VIA, Chair of ENVI
Ms Vicky FORD, Chair of IMCO
Mr Michael CRAMER, Chair of TRAN
Ms Iska MIHAYOVA, Chair of REGI
Mr Czesław Adam SIEKIERSKI, Chair of AGRI
Mr Alain CADEC, Chair of PECH
Ms Silvia COSTA, Chair of CULT
Mr Pavel SVOBODA, Chair of JURI
Mr Claude MORAES, Chair of LIBE
Ms Danuta Maria HÜBNER, Chair of AFCE
Ms Iratxe GARCÍA PÉREZ, Chair of FEMM
Ms Cecilia WIKSTRÖM, Chair of PETI

Annexes: A list multinational corporations invited to TAXE hearings and/or meetings
Letter of Sylvie Guillaume, Vice-President of EP of 16 July 2015
A background document

**Multinational corporations invited to TAXE Special Committee's
hearings/meetings**

Name	Invited/Representatives	Situation (02/09/2015)
Airbus	Guillaume de La Villeguerin, Vice President Tax & Customs	Participated - 02.07.2015
BNP Paribas	Christian Comolet-Tirman, Director, Fiscal Affairs	Participated - 23.06.2015
SSE plc	Martin McEwen, Head of Tax	Participated - 23.06.2015
Total S.A.	Nathalie Mognetti, Chief Tax Officer	Participated - 23.06.2015
Amazon.co.uk Ltd	Christopher Corson North, Managing Director	Declined, due to ongoing investigation
Amazon EU S.à r.l.	Xavier Garambois, General Director	Declined, due to ongoing investigation
Anheuser-Busch InBev	Stuart MacFarlane, President, Europe Zone	Declined, due to ongoing investigation
Barclays Bank Group	Antony Jenkins, Group Chief Executive	Declined, but remains open to reply to any specific written questions
Coca-Cola Company	James Quincey, President, Coca-Cola Europe Group	Declined, but met Co-Rapporteurs
Facebook	Marc Zuckerberg, Chief Executive Officer	Declined
Fiat Chrysler Automobiles	Sergio Marchionne, Chief Executive Officer	Declined, due to ongoing investigation
Google	Eric E. Schmidt, Executive Chairman	Declined, but ready to send "position on the tax issues"
HSBC Bank plc	Alan M Keir, Chief Executive, EMEA	Declined, due to ongoing investigation
IKEA Services BV	Peter Agnefjäll, Chief Executive Officer	Declined, but invited Members for a discussion and sent Ikea Group Yearly Summary report (2014)
McDonald's Europe	Douglas Goare, President Europe	Declined, due to coinciding with major company initiative and a possible Commission enquiry
Philip Morris International	Kristof Doms, Vice President, European Affairs	Declined
Walmart	Shelley Broader, President and Chief Executive Officer, EMEA region	Declined
The Walt Disney Company	Robert A. Iger, Chief Executive Officer	Declined, but offered to meet with representatives of the Committee to hear their views