

MAPPING NATIONAL FTT CAMPAIGNS

ITALY

Zerozerocinque

Who's behind it?

The campaign represents a growing list of over 35 organisations that includes international development, green and faith groups, trade unions and media outlets. Over 130 Italian economists have signed a statement supporting a financial transaction tax.

What are they saying?

The campaign supports a FTT to raise money to help the poorest at home and abroad and tackle climate change. It proposes that any revenue should be split with 50% going to domestic expenditure, 25% to global development (in particular towards the achievement of MDGs) and 25% to tackle climate change. The campaign also believes an FTT could play a crucial role in discouraging speculation. The campaign believes that ideally a FTT should be implemented globally however it promotes an FTT at European level or at least in the Eurozone.

What's the situation?

The Italian Government believe an FTT is a noble idea but not possible unless it is implemented globally. In October 2010 a bipartisan group of MPs submitted a bill on the introduction of the FTT, (only the minority political group Northern League did not sign up). The bill supports the campaign asks, although it sets the condition that Italy should apply the tax only if at least 6 EU countries introduce such a tax.

Read more >> www.zerozerocinque.it.

BELGIUM

Hetgrotegeld / Les Grossessesfortunes

Who's behind it?

The 'Don't let the big fortunes escape' launched in September 2010. In Belgium there are two coalitions, one for each language community, but they work in close collaboration.

What are they saying?

The FTT coalitions form part of a wider national campaign for fiscal justice. The national campaign is asking for a reform of the Belgian and European fiscal system and the introduction of an adequate international tax system. As such, the coalitions plead for a fair, democratic and progressive tax system. The proposed reforms include: introduction of an FTT, abolition of tax havens, transparency in the financial sector dealings and the introduction of a property tax.

What's the background?

Good news: the Belgium government supports the introduction of an FTT. It is promoting the tax at the European and international level, placing it as a priority during the Belgian presidency of the EU Council and through its active involvement in the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development. Belgium will introduce an FTT tax as soon as there is an agreement between the countries of the Eurozone.

Read more >> www.hetgrotegeld.be (NL) www.lesgrossessesfortunes.be (FR)

THE NETHERLANDS

Who's behind it?

Don't let the lack of a big public campaign fool you. The spirit of Robin Hood is alive and well in the Netherlands. Trade Unions including FVN, which represents 1.4 million people, are coming together with other civil society organisations such as Oxfam-Novib, ENDS, Both Ends, PDSE Alliance, FNV and Jubilee Netherlands to lobby government for an FTT.

What are they saying?

The campaign is asking the Government to consider introducing an FTT, as part of the Eurozone in 2011.

What's the situation?

We'll be honest – getting a tax on banks on the political agenda in the Netherlands will be a challenge. And we're more than able for it. From January 2011 the campaign will start making some serious noise to ensure the Netherlands move from being a blocker to at least a swinger, if not a supporter of an EU majority position led by the French.

CANADA

Robin Hood Tax Canada

Who's behind it?

The Canadian campaign launched in April 2010. The folk behind the masks come from ten national organizations including international development agencies such as Oxfam Canada and Oxfam Quebec, Labour Unions such as the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the National Union of Provincial Government Employees, the Public Service Alliance and the Canadian Labour Congress as well as others such as Results Canada, the Halifax Initiative, KAIROS and Make Poverty History. The campaign has also collaborated with several environmental groups including the Canadian Climate Action Network and WWF. The Canadian Robin Hood Tax campaign is being coordinated by Make Poverty History Canada which also hosts the campaign website.

What are they saying?

The key message is that the Canadian government should commit to a Financial Transaction Tax – a 0.05% tax on speculative trading and financial transactions that would raise hundreds of billions of dollars a year to fight poverty at home and abroad, and tackle climate change.

What's the situation?

In the lead up to the Toronto G20 in 2010 the Canadian Government was a strong blocker of any tax on banks. The good news: things are changing. Thanks to some strong lobbying the campaign has made some headway in softening Government opposition to an FTT with the Finance Minister promising: "Well I'll have to take another look at it."

The opposition New Democratic Party has announced publicly that they are in support of a FTT. The Liberal Party does not have a position on it. Liberal Leader Michael has said he would be more supportive if there was international agreement that all of the funds raised would go to poverty reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation. The Bloc Quebecoise is generally supportive.

Read more >> www.robinhoodtax.ca

UNITED STATES

Who's behind it?

- There is not a formal national campaign, but the unofficial launch of a coalition happened in November 2009
- About 50 groups, including unions; think tanks; and environmental, international health, consumer protection, and financial reform groups. Some of the groups are coalitions themselves, such as Americans for Financial Reform, which is a coalition of more than 250 organizations.
- Legislative branch: 3 FTT/ CTL bills have been introduced in Congress over the past years, 2 in the House of Representatives and 1 in the Senate. However, none gained enough support to be brought to a vote, in part because many of the key coalition partners were devoting most of their time and resources to the fight over the financial reform bill, which did not include FTT. Executive branch: Administration officials, especially Treasury Secretary Geithner, have not been supportive of the FTT.

What are they saying?

There remains a lot of anger at Wall Street, so a key message is to make the big banks pay for wrecking the economy. There will also be quite a bit of attention paid to reducing the federal budget deficit, so there may be an opening for introducing the FTT as a way for Wall Street to contribute to reducing the deficit, especially after receiving a taxpayer bailout 2 years ago.

What's the situation?

After the elections on Nov. 2nd turned the House to the Republican party and narrowed the Democrats' majority in the Senate, the prospects for passing an FTT in the U.S. Congress have grown slimmer. Many of the new Republican members of Congress ran on platforms in opposition to taxes and in support of "capitalism," and many of them do not believe in climate change. While several members of the Administration's economic team have resigned over the past few months, Geithner remains, and it appears his influence has risen as a result. A key focus of the coalition in the wake of the election will be education with the public, media, and members of Congress and the administration about the technical feasibility and revenue potential of FTT.

GERMANY

Steuer gegen Armut (Tax against poverty)

Who's behind it?

Initiated by the Jesuit priest J. Alt in November 2009, now 65 organisations, among them the umbrella organisation of the German trade unions, DGB, and several trade unions, the big development agencies of the churches, Attac Germany, environmental and development NGOs, parties (social democrats, Left party, Greens). The campaign has 5000 'friends' on Facebook and achieved 60,000 signatures in November 2009 to obtain an official hearing on the FTT in the German parliament.

What are they saying?

The campaign is calling for an FTT. For its regulatory potential to reduce speculation and for revenue generation for global public goods. The revenues should go into

social expenditure, development and environment. The FTT should be implemented globally if possible. If not, at European level or at least in the Euro zone.

What's the situation?

In May 2010 the government takes the FTT on board. Continuous pressure to make the government maintain its position through lobbying, street actions, media work etc.

FRANCE

Who's behind it?

At the moment there is no formal coalition campaign in France but lots happening:
Lobbying: Coalition PLUS, Oxfam France, Coordination Sud, ATTAC, CCFD, Climate Action Network, CARE-France
Media work: mostly Oxfam, ATTAC, Coalition PLUS, CCFD
Coordination/alliance building: includes non-campaigning anti-poverty orgs, trade unions.
Online European Petition to G20: around 10-15 signatory French orgs.

What are they saying?

Diverse messages, no unitary message. Emergent message from the fray: deliver an international FTT for justice, people and planet.

What's the situation?

- France supports either a G20 or an EU FTT for Development. The government also supports an EU CTT.
- The government says FTT will be key deliverable for 2011 G20 summit.
- No significant French public campaign on FTT. No public awareness of French NGOs on the issue.

Coming Up:

Elections May 2012. G20 will be during campaign. Fragile support from President. Dubious support from Finance Minister ("global or bust").

SPAIN

que no paguen los de siempre

Who's behind it?

On 14th October Intermon Oxfam launched their Robin Hood Tax and they will continue until September 2011. So far the campaign has:

- i) A new website (including online resources) - www.quenopaguenlosdesiempre.org - which means something like 'don't pay who ever pay' (it's a very well known Spanish saying).
- ii) A press release including national report;
- iii) An e-mail blast to all our supporters (see <http://www.intermonoxfam.org/mailweb/20101021/es/index.html>), and
- iv) A media and celebrities strategy (we sent a wood made pen to many MP, media and opinion leaders).

What are they saying?

The aim of campaign is two-fold (and both parts are included in the sense of general claim). On one hand, we want 'Don't make pay the crisis who has less'. We want Spanish ODA doesn't decrease one euro more (taking into account the general

situation of spending cut). This aim will be the main public focus from Sept. to Dec., 2010

On the other hand, we want that 'Crisis be paid by who has more' (and also by guilty). We want the Spanish Government to promote the FTT and our citizens support it. This aim will be the main public focus from Jan to Sept 2011

So, public facing campaign about FTT will be the priority from January 2011, BUT we are working pretty much on this. In fact, we already have:

- a comprehensive website including basic information about FTT
- active online petition for FTT - from the beginning of campaign - and link to robinhoodtax.org
- a strategy for working with other potential public allies (and this is on Susana's hands).i.e., trade unions, NGO's, Think Tanks, ...
- incipient strategy for working with journalists, professors, to ask them for supporting FTT publicly
- some resources available (like Kingsley's video, including a link to our website)

What's the situation?

The Spanish position on the FTT is quite ambiguous. The President has clearly shown he is in favour with an FTT, linking the resources raised to development. Not only during the MDG summit in NY, but also in some other events and intel from this cabinet.

But the position of the Ministry of Finance is completely different and clearly oppose to any kind of taxes, FTT or taxes to banks (there is already a strong bank regulation in Spain). That's what came out from the last ECOFIN.

Our G20 Sherpa has changed from Ministry of Finance to Presidency (initially, this sounds a more encouraging situation for our interests).

Read more>> www.quenopaguenlosdesiempre.org

AUSTRIA

www.steuergegenarmut.at

Who's behind it?

A broad range of organizations from trade unions, church based groups, development NGOs, environmental NGOs etc. in total some 20 organisations. The website has been launched in February 2010, when we started the global sign on campaign at www.makefinancework.org

What's the situation?

The Austrian government supports the introduction of an FTT since 2006 (or 2005), we had done mostly as Attac and a few other organizations a campaign already back then. The austrian government is also among the ones at the EU level, continuing to push for it. Since our government is already convinced and proactively pushing for the FTT, we are rather seeking to collaborate in pan European or global actions.

The Austrian government and a few groups more involved in lobbying are also continuously funding new research on the FTT to help build a better set of arguments for it.

NORWAY

Robin Hood-skatten

Who's behind it?

The campaign launched on Nov. 8, 2010 with 24 organisations signed up including development NGOs, environment NGOs, unions, and political [youth] parties. They are looking for more organisations to join in.

What are they saying?

The Norwegian government should start taxing all trades with Norwegian currency (suggested rate of 0.005%) and all trades on the Oslo stock market (suggested rate of 0.05%). At the same time the government should work internationally to establish agreement on global financial transaction taxes and ensure that the resources gathered from such taxes will be administered by a global fund under the auspices of the UN. The money should be spent for three purposes: Global redistribution/development, climate finance to developing countries, and to avoid cuts in welfare.

What's the situation?

The Norwegian government (a red-green coalition elected until Sept 2013) has given support internationally to the idea of a currency tax, and is, in the "leading group for innovative finance mechanisms", also behind the [declaration from Sept 2010](#) stating "*we explore a very small tax on international financial transactions appropriately applied on a large scale and to a wide range of transactions that could provide stable and substantial financing for development*". However, the government has not been in favor of introducing any national taxes on either currency trade nor other financial transactions, but wants to wait for international moves.

Read more >> www.robinhoodskatt.no

AUSTRALIA

Australian Robin Hood Tax campaign

Who's behind it?

Launched on 30 March 2010. The Robin Hood Tax coalition has grown to twenty-four partner organisations, including development groups, aid agencies, unions, environmental groups and public policy think tanks; approximately one-quarter of the coalition members have been active participants in either the policy or campaigns groups, or in both.

A regularly updated website has been developed, incorporating Australia-specific graphics and downloadable campaign material, along with social media sites including Facebook and Twitter and film and photographic resources.

In less than five months, the campaign has attracted over 3,750 Facebook fans and 2,500 email supporters; e-actions before the G20 meetings in April and June 2010 generated over 4,000 responses. The campaign has also attracted high profile support including the endorsement of public figures like Peter Singer, Professor John Langmore and Julian Morrow and finance experts such as former Treasurer Ralph Willis, and former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank Stephen Grenville.

What are they saying?

The Australian campaign has tried to highlight equally the benefits of the tax in making financial markets more efficient and stable as well as the revenues that would be raised. Also, because people in Australia associate 'banks' with retail rather than investment banks, and because our retail banks do relatively little trading, we have tended to try to avoid specifically using the term 'banks' in our message, instead preferring 'financial institutions'.

What's the situation?

Whilst the campaigning has been well received in Australia, the government has refused to publicly support a FTT. The Australian Government has been antithetical to taxing the banks in response to the GFC, largely due to the different experience of Australia during the crisis. It is likely the considerable pushback the government experienced in relation to the mining tax will further dampen the mood for a FTT in Australia.

Disappointingly, during the Toronto G20 in June 2010, the Australian Government supported hosts Canada in playing an actively obstructionist role towards a FTT and indeed any form of bank taxation. However, new opportunities will arise following the Federal Election. In particular, the closer relations between the Labor Party and the Greens creates opportunities. The Australian Government may prove more willing to consider a FTT should Europe move to implement its own FTT. The government may also be open to using a FTT as a source for innovative climate financing as all other options are likely to affect Australian industries.