



NEWSLETTER

October-December 2016

Highlights

- *FTC Launches No Easy Task: Quantifying Illicit Financial Flows*
- *Costa Rican Congress Approves Law Requiring Beneficial Owner Information*
- *Uganda Revenue Authority Backs Campaign to End Illicit Financial Flows*
- *Switzerland Signs AEOI Declarations with Uruguay, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, and India*

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LuxLeaks Whistleblower Trial Continues

On 12 December, former PWC employees Antoine Deltour and Raphaël Halet and journalist Edouard Perrin returned to court in Luxembourg after the verdicts of their initial trial earlier this year were appealed. More than 150 campaigners from 20 countries across Europe gathered in Luxembourg to call for the protection of whistleblowers. Read more [here](#).

FATF Slams US on Anonymous Shell Companies

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF)—the international body that sets anti-money laundering and counter-terror financing (AML/CFT) standards—released its first review of the United States' efforts to combat dirty money since 2006. While the FATF report finds that the U.S. generally has a decent AML/CFT framework, it notes that the problem of anonymous shell companies remains a serious deficiency. Read the full FATF report [here](#) and click [here](#) for more information.

Dubai to Expose Kenyans' Hidden Wealth in Fight Against Tax Evasion

A decision has been made to lift the veil of secrecy on undeclared wealth in the UAE, which includes the emirates of Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah, as part of a global push to fight tax evasion. "These local laws will mean that from the beginning of January 2017, governments will start requiring all banks and other financial institutions to ask customers for information with a view to determining where they are resident for tax purposes," HSBC told customers. HSBC is among the biggest banks in the world to offer private banking services, which assure clients of secrecy and protection from investigating authorities. Read more [here](#).

Uganda Revenue Authority Backs Campaign to End Illicit Financial Flows

The Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) has pledged to support the campaign to end the illicit financial flows draining the country's economy. Stop The Bleeding, a pan-African campaign to advocate for policy reforms to empower institutions such as URA to mobilize more taxes

from multinationals, was launched November 2016 in Kampala. Read more [here](#).

Global Forum Completes 1st Round of Peer Reviews

The Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes held its annual meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia on November 2-4, marking the completion of the first round of the Forum's peer review process, with the release of 17 new reports assessing the level of compliance with the international standard for exchange of information on request (EOIR). Click [here](#) to read the details of the reports. For analysis of the Forum's structure and review process from a developing country perspective, download CBGA's report [here](#).

Switzerland Signs Joint Declarations on Introduction of AEOI with Uruguay, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, and India

Throughout the month of November, Switzerland signed five joint declarations on the introduction of the automatic exchange of information (AEOI) in tax matters on a reciprocal basis. In each of the bilateral agreements, both countries agreed to start collecting data in accordance with the global AEOI standard in 2018 and to exchange it from 2019 onwards. Switzerland has in the past declined to sign automatic exchange treaties with countries not deemed of strategic importance. Read more [here](#) and find a response from FTC Coordinating Committee member Tax Justice Network [here](#).

Costa Rican Congress Approves Law Requiring Beneficial Owner Information

On 12 December 2016, the Costa Rican Congress approved the *Law Against Tax Fraud* (the Bill) in its second and final vote. The Bill would modify the existing tax code to create a registry of

ultimate beneficiary owners for any legal entity operating within the country, though the information will not be made publicly available. The law would also allow the Tax Administration to preemptively freeze a taxpayer's assets if it finds they might be transferred to avoid paying taxes and crack down on enablers by holding third parties responsible for information reported by taxpayers to reduce or avoid taxes. Read more [here](#).

Philippines Think Tank National Tax Research Center Backs Lifting Bank Secrecy Law

Government think tank National Tax Research Center (NTRC) has said it is time to end the Law on Secrecy of Bank Deposits to give mandated agencies a fighting chance in going after persons involved in tax evasion, money laundering and other financial crimes. Read more [here](#).

Indonesia Tax Amnesty hits 90% of target

Indonesia's tax amnesty scheme has achieved 90 per cent of its 4,000 trillion rupiah target in just three months. Taxpayers had declared more than 3,600 trillion rupiah (approx. USD \$277 billion) in assets, kept both at home and overseas, when the first phase of the nine-month scheme ended September 30th. Read more [here](#).

UNASUR Hosts Citizen Participation Forum

From 17-18 November, FTC Coordinating Committee member Latindadd and other CSOs participated in the second Citizen Participation Forum organized by the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR). The Secretary General of the organization, Ernesto Samper, stated that the organization intends for the forum to be the interlocutor between the agency and South American civil society, bringing UNASUR's political project "to the people." Read more [here](#). (In Spanish)

EU Re-launches CCCTB in A Move Toward Unitary Taxation

Earlier this fall, we saw the re-launch of the European Union's Common Corporate Consolidated Tax Base (CCCTB). The purpose of the CCCTB is to harmonize the rules around how multinational corporations are taxed across the European Union, and to switch from OECD tax rules to a unitary approach with formulary apportionment. Originally launched in 2011, the proposals were abandoned after they proved "too ambitious" for member states (in the EU's own words). Read more [here](#).

Global Magnitsky Act Passes US Congress

In the U.S., a bipartisan bill targeting human rights abusers around the world (known as the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act) has successfully passed through both Houses of Congress as part of a larger bill, and was signed into law by President Obama on 23 December 2016. FTC Coordinating Committee member Global Witness first blogged about it [here](#), where they welcomed proposals for the bill and pushed hard for the U.K. to follow suit. The law will allow the President to impose visa sanctions and asset freezes on human rights abusers and government officials responsible for acts of significant corruption. Read more [here](#).

Ireland Appeals USD \$14.3 Billion Tax Charge Against Apple

The Irish government has filed an appeal to stop efforts by European authorities to force Apple to pay USD \$14.3 billion in unpaid taxes. Opponents of the decision claim any restrictions on how Ireland can use its tax code could threaten the country's growth. According to the New York Times, it will take up to 18 months for the General Court to rule on the matter and any

decision may be appealed to the European Court of Justice. Read more [here](#).

Former IMF Chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn Ordered by Luxembourg Court to Pay €75,000 Euro in Back Taxes

Former International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn was ordered in November to pay €74,792 in back taxes and interest in a Luxembourg court ruling over his role at a bankrupt hedge fund he co-founded. According to the court's statement, Strauss-Kahn's role as director meant he was responsible for Leyne Strauss-Kahn & Partners' tax obligations dating back to 2014 and that he had to "watch over the execution of fiscal obligations" of the firm. Read more [here](#).

UNODC Confirmed as Custodian Agency for SDG Illicit Financial Flows Indicator

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has been confirmed as the custodian agency for the SDG indicator 16.4.1 on total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows. UNODC will be leading efforts to establish a Task Force to develop methodology to estimate Illicit Financial Flows (TF-IFFs) to review and discuss existing methodologies, develop an operational definition of IFFs for statistical purposes, explore methodological approaches on IFF and identify ways to test them. Read more [here](#) (page 215).

Trump Administration Announces Rex Tillerson for US Secretary of State

US advocates reported that US President-elect Donald Trump's nomination of ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson as Secretary of State could pose a threat to transparency measures. With Tillerson at its helm, ExxonMobil attempted to undermine global efforts aimed at reducing corruption in the extractives sector, including the landmark

Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). The appointment has potential direct implications for financial transparency work, especially as relates to the US's role in engaging other governments on international agreements on anti-corruption efforts and financial transparency. Click [here](#) for a statement on the announcement by FTC Coordinating Committee member Global Witness and [here](#) for the FACT Coalition's policy memo to the Trump-Pence transition team.

Germany's G20 Presidency begins

Chancellor Angela Merkel cited the stability of the global economy as the "top issue" of the recently inaugurated German G20 Presidency, which will run from 1 December 2016 to 30 November 2017. According to the official website, the G20 finance ministers will focus on achieving progress on the stricter regulation of financial markets, especially in the field of shadow banking. Ahead of the summit in Hamburg 7-8 July, numerous line minister meetings will be held in order to explore individual G20 issues in greater depth. For more information and announcements, click [here](#).

UNASUR Seeks Greater South-South Monetary and Financial Cooperation

From 29-30 November in Quito, Ecuador, Latindadd participated in a dialogue on monetary and financial cooperation in the region. The agenda addressed the need to strengthen monetary and financial cooperation on the basis of lessons learned, and in conditions of recession, outflow of capital and the existence of tax havens. Read more in Spanish [here](#) and information in English can be found [here](#).

EU Tax Authorities Will Have Better Access to Beneficial Ownership Information

The beneficial ownership information held by anti-money laundering authorities across the EU will be accessible to all tax authorities in the bloc, as part of an initiative to prevent money laundering following the [Panama Papers](#) revelations. A [statement](#) from the Council of the EU said "The directive will enable [tax authorities] to access that information in monitoring the proper application of rules on the automatic exchange of tax information." The improvement of exchange of information between authorities was agreed during a meeting of EU finance ministers in Brussels, and will take effect on January 1, 2018.

Second Committee of the UN General Assembly Adopts Resolution on Promotion of International Cooperation to Curb Illicit Financial Flows

The second committee of the UNGA adopted a resolution proposed by the G77 and China on "Promotion of international cooperation to curb and recover illicit financial flows." The resolution urges member states to reaffirm their commitment to deter, detect and prevent illicit financial flows as well as strengthen measures for recovery of proceeds of IFFs. The Secretary General has been requested to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session on the implementation of this resolution. Read more [here](#).

UN Tax Committee Hosts End-of-year Meeting in New York

One of the decisions of the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development in 2015 was to strengthen the work of the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (UNTC) through enhanced resources and increasing the frequency of its meetings to two sessions per year. The second meeting of the Committee this year was

held 5-8 December in New York. Details of the meeting can be found [here](#). This meeting was complemented by an [ECOSOC Special Event on international cooperation in tax matters](#) where members of the UNTC reported on the committee's work to member states. FTC Policy Coordinator Pooja Rangaprasad intervened on behalf of civil society reiterating the support for G77 and China's proposal to establish a UN intergovernmental tax body.

NETWORK NEWS

New FTC Graphic Takes on 'No Easy Task'

In December 2016, the FTC launched *No Easy Task: Quantifying Illicit Financial Flows*, a new infographic that presents the most compelling efforts to measure illicit flows in one easy to follow visual. While activists, academics, researchers, and journalists will continue to study the problem and strengthen methodologies, only a transparent financial system can conclusively answer the question "just how big are illicit financial flows?" In the meantime, this [graphic](#) is a great new resource to help understand existing efforts. Read more [here](#).

FTC Co-sponsors Washington Event with Ecuadorian Minister of Foreign Affairs on UN Tax Body

On January 12, a day before Ecuador was officially named Chair of the G77 in New York, Ecuador's Minister of Foreign Affairs Guillaume Long discussed tax avoidance, tax havens and development at an event in Washington co-sponsored by the FTC and allies. The Minister and panelists discussed prospects for establishing a United Nations global tax body. Ecuador will hold a referendum to bar public servants from holding

office if they hide money or assets in tax havens on February 2017, concurrent with its presidential elections. FTC allies Eric LeCompte of Jubilee USA, Elise Bean, Former Staff Director and Chief Counsel of the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Aldo Caliaro of Center of Concern, and Clark Gascoigne of the FACT Coalition joined the panel. Read more about the event [here](#), and stay tuned for video.

TJN Advocacy Leads to New Recommendations from CEDAW

Together with human rights lawyers and partners at the Centre of Economic Justice and Social Rights and others, FTC Coordinating Committee member Tax Justice Network successfully requested that Switzerland and its tax secrecy behavior be scrutinized as part of the four-year review of human rights commitments conducted by the United Nations. The groups' argument that Switzerland's secrecy laws undermine the ability of other countries to meet their human rights commitments, especially in respect of women, was accepted. For the first time ever, a country was reviewed on the basis that its tax laws undermine the ability of other countries to meet basic human needs. This remarkable victory was highlighted by *International Tax Review*, which named the organization part of 2016's [Global Tax 50](#). Read more about the CEDAW actions [here](#).

Transparency International Joins TJN on Global Tax 50 List

A new entry for the 2016 Global Tax 50, FTC Coordinating Committee member Transparency International was recognized by the *International Tax Review* for their "importance in pushing policymakers in the European Union to increase global tax transparency by lobbying for beneficial ownership registers and public country-by-country reporting (CbCR), among other issues."

The magazine notes that TI was the first organization to “potentially disprove” the argument that public country by country reporting would damage corporate competitiveness in their July [report](#) which analyzed the performance of 28 European and Indian companies over a three-year period. Read more [here](#).

Pan African Conference on Illicit Financial Flows and Tax

FTC Coordinating Committee member Tax Justice Network-Africa and UNECA held their fifth Pan African Conference (PAC) themed “*Curbing IFFs to promote Africa’s Structural Transformation*” this fall in Abuja, Nigeria. The annual conference provides a platform for the articulation of tax issues from an African perspective within the context of Africa’s structural transformation. It also serves as space to strategizing and mapping a way forward on implementing the recommendations of the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa. Key events that took place as part of the PAC Conference included the launch of TJN-A studies on the Africa Mining Vision, the launch of an advocacy toolkit for CSOs, and movement towards greater overall incorporation of gender analysis in tax justice matters. Additional details can be found in the [concept note](#) and [program](#).

CIAT, Latindadd, and Costa Rica Host LAC Regional Meeting on International Taxation

FTC Coordinating Committee member Latindadd, the Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations (CIAT), and the Costa Rican Tax Administration organized the 5th Regional Roundtable Meeting on International Taxation October 18th -19th San José, Costa Rica. The meeting was attended by tax authorities from Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala,

Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay, and representatives of regional bodies such as UNASUR. The attendees and representatives of civil society and academia issued a joint declaration, which can be found [here](#).

FTC Co-Organizes Side Event with Civil Society Allies During the UN Tax Committee Meetings

The side event was organized by Global Policy Forum and FES along with FTC, Global Alliance for Tax Justice, ICRICT, South Centre, and FTC Coordinating Committee member Eurodad among others on 8 December, 2016 during the UN Tax Committee meetings in New York. The event provided an opportunity to learn and discuss where the reform of the work of the UN Tax Committee currently stands more than one year after the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and how best to strengthen domestic resource mobilization through international cooperation in tax matters. FTC’s Policy Coordinator Pooja Rangaprasad was one of the panelists along with Liselott Kana (member, UNCTC), Alex Trepelkov (UNDESA), Stephan Ohme (Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development, Germany). More details [here](#).

Latindadd Continues Push for Corporations to “Pay Their Fair Share”

Following the CIAT meeting, FTC Coordinating Committee member Latindadd organized a workshop on the relationship between [Tax Justice and MNCs](#), in partnership with the government of Costa Rica from 20 to 21 October. The two-day event was designed to raise awareness about tax evasion and avoidance, and to highlight the practices most frequently used by multinational corporations to avoid paying taxes. Video of the panels, in Spanish, can be accessed at the following links:

Panel 1 - [How to Stop the Erosion of the Tax Base as a Result of Tax Evasion & Avoidance](#)

Panel 2: [The Panama Papers and Bahamas Leaks](#)

Panel 3: [Central America and the Caribbean: Tax Evasion and Exemption](#)

Latindadd Hosts 2nd Network Strategy and Development Meeting

The behavior of multinational corporations to undermine national governments remained a major theme going into the organization's second network meeting hosted in Porto Alegre, Brazil a few weeks later. The meeting featured intense strategic discussions on their ongoing campaign, "*Paguen lo Justo*," aimed at getting transnational corporations to pay their fair share of taxes. In the presence of campaign partners and allies in Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Honduras, Argentina and Colombia, those assembled discussed the challenges presented by a critical juncture of economic crisis, conservative political shift and increasing inequality in Latin America. Read more [here](#). (In Spanish)

GFI Launches GFTrade Database to help Developing Countries Identify Trade Misinvoicing Risks

FTC Coordinating Committee member Global Financial Integrity (GFI) launched a new database tool, "[GFTrade](#)," which features real-time price analyses to measure trade misinvoicing risks for 80,000 goods categories. Trade misinvoicing accounts for hundreds of billions in illicit financial flows from developing countries, and in curtailing these outflows, GFTrade could generate millions of dollars in additional domestic revenue. Read more [here](#).

TJN-A Inter-University Debate

FTC Coordinating Committee member Tax Justice Network – Africa (TJN-A) organized the first inter-university debate of its kind, as an opportunity for

students in economics and law schools in universities across the East African region to learn about tax justice. The debate introduced the students to the concept of tax justice and the role they play in pushing their governments to effect progressive taxation measures as well as mechanisms to curb the outflow of resources. Strathmore University (Kenya) won the competition, followed by University of Burundi and University of Nairobi as 1st and 2nd runners-up respectively. The debate was held 14-15 November and is slated to become an annual event, growing both in scope and number of participants to eventually cover the continent.

Tax Justice Together: Fundación SES Attends Campaigners Conference in Warsaw, Poland

FTC Coordinating Committee member Fundación SES and other South American, European, and African organizations converged in Warsaw from 22-25 November for a summit whose motto "Tax Justice Together" summarized the organizational and political spirit of the event. This conference is one of the flagship joint actions of the EC-funded Tax Justice Together project and the Institute of Global Responsibility, a space for civil society organizations campaigning for tax justice to get together, learn and inspire each other by exchanging experiences, strengthen their campaigning skills, look forward and explore common strategies to achieve tax justice. Read more [here](#).

Eurodad, TJN-A, and Latindadd Partner with Oxfam IBIS on Responsible Taxation in Development Finance Conference

This one-day public conference held 10 November concluded a three-year project on establishing responsible tax standards for development finance institutions, run by Oxfam IBIS in collaboration with FTC Coordinating

Committee members Eurodad, Latindadd and Tax Justice Network Africa. Speakers included the FTC's Alvin Mosioma (TJNA-A), Tove Maria Ryding (Eurodad), Matti Kohonen (Christian Aid). Audio of the presentations can be found [here](#) for streaming or download.

FTC and Allies Attend 17th International Anti-Corruption Conference in Panama

The International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) is the premier global forum for bringing together heads of state, civil society, the private sector and more to tackle the increasingly sophisticated challenges posed by corruption. This year, FTC Coordinating Committee member Transparency International and the Panamanian Government hosted the 17th IACC December 1-4 in Panama City. Many FTC members and allies were present in Panama City: FTC Director Porter McConnell joined Andres Knobel and Nicholas Shaxson of Tax Justice Network for a panel on [how tax havens fuel corruption](#). Eryn Schornick of Global Witness spoke on [“Enablers of Corruption”](#) and [“Using Big Bad Open Data to Fight Systemic Corruption: Does the UK Beneficial Ownership Data Help?”](#) Read more about the IACC [here](#).

UN Expert backs the Tax Justice Network's Financial Secrecy Index in the Battle to Protect Human Rights

United Nations Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order Alfred de Zayas has called for incoming secretary-general Alfred Guterres to hold a world conference on phasing out tax havens and secrecy jurisdictions. In a recent press conference, which you can watch [here](#), de Zayas cites the Tax Justice Network's [Financial Secrecy Index](#) (FSI), which ranks jurisdictions according to

their secrecy levels and the scale of their offshore financial activities. Read more [here](#).

Coming Soon: Tax Justice Network Japan

Following extensive discussion among scholars, researchers and activists, Japanese civil society has given the greenlight for preparations to be made for the launch of Tax Justice Network Japan by FTC Coordinating Committee member Tax Justice Network. This new member of the global tax justice movement will bring together existing activist groups such as the Citizens' Network for Tax Justice in Japan and the NGO Forum for International Solidarity Levies, with the aim of launching TJN-Japan in early 2017.

Tax Justice Network: A Transition

After 13 years in service as “the first among equals” at FTC Coordinating Committee member Tax Justice Network, John Christensen is stepping down as founding executive director. The FTC welcomes the new chief executive, longtime FTC expert Alex Cobham, and wishes John all the best in his upcoming tenure as board chair. Find out more about the history and founding of the Tax Justice Network [here](#) and click [here](#) for Alex's reflections on the organization's past, present and future.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2nd Annual Aid & Development Africa Summit

28 February-1 March

Nairobi, Kenya

Gathering 300+ senior representatives and advisors from regional governments, UN agencies, international and regional NGOs, CBOs, investors and donors, research institutes and the private sector, Aid & Development Africa Summit looks at how technological innovations and best practice can improve aid delivery and development strategy in East Africa. The agenda has been developed in consultation with key organizations, such as WFP, IRFC, World Vision, USAID, UNICEF, World Bank, Save the Children, UN Habitat, CRS, FHI360, Oxfam, Habitat for Humanity International, IRD and will include case studies, panel discussions, workshops, and interactive roundtable sessions. For more information, click [here](#).

8th Alternative Mining Indaba: Making Natural Resources Work for the People

6-8 February

Cape Town, South Africa

The main objective of the 8th Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) is to provide an international platform for civil society organizations (including National Christian Councils and inter-faith groups) to share experiences, mobilize as well as motivate mining communities to strengthen their work on advocacy and the development of strategic tools which empower them. The agenda will be divided into substantive sessions and working groups, providing participants the opportunity to focus on specific areas from their own perspective and national experiences. The main conclusions of the AMI will be reflected and incorporated into the Communiqué to be considered; adopted by the participants and handed over to government officials and members of the business sector. The concept note and draft agenda are posted on the official AMI website, which can be found [here](#).

Offshore Investment Conference Panama

8-9 March

Panama City, Panama

Panama is hosting a two-day offshore investment conference aimed at wealth managers that organizers say will “discuss the challenges of operating in the era of transparency and reveal the opportunities and advantages that Panama offers as a first-rate, modern, international financial center.” Sessions include “Panama Papers: Truth vs. Reality,” and “An Industry at War.” For more information, click [here](#).

RESOURCES

No Easy Task: Quantifying Illicit Financial Flows

The FTC has launched a project synthesizing various estimates of the scale of illicit flows under one roof, and outlining the strengths and weaknesses of each in an easy to follow format. Click [here](#) to download *No Easy Task: Quantifying Illicit Financial Flows*.

Virtual Briefing: Country by Country Reporting

The FTC held a [virtual briefing](#) on country by country reporting in December exploring the intricacies of public country by country reporting and how this information can be useful to different stakeholders to monitor corruption, corporate governance, illicit flows of money and the extractive industry. Click [here](#) for the audio and materials used during the briefing, including presentations by Alex Cobham and Henri Makkonen.

BO legal frameworks in BVI, Montserrat and Cayman

A new technical assessment of the beneficial ownership transparency provisions in a sample of the UK's Overseas Territories, by Transparency International, can be downloaded [here](#).

Assessing Developing Countries' Experience and Views on Global Forum

This [paper](#) examines the Global Forum's organizational structure, decision-making process and initiatives, along with implications for developing countries. Responses received from tax officials and government authorities were incorporated this assessment of the Global Forum and an attempt has been made to find out if the body needs reform. This paper was published by the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability, with support from the Financial Transparency Coalition.

Fiscal Transparency and Cooperation Against Transnational Fraud

This November 2016 briefing, "*Transparencia Fiscal y Cooperación Frente al Fraude Transnacional*," by FTC Coordinating Committee member Latindadd studies the impact of tax competition and transnational tax fraud in Latin America and includes proposals to tackle these problems in the area of cooperation between countries. Click [here](#) to download (in Spanish).

A TJN How-To Guide on Solving Secrecy Risks Around Trusts

FTC Coordinating Committee member The Tax Justice Network has presented the definitive case for registering trusts – and a step-by-step guide on how to do it in a newly released report, available on online [here](#).

Taxcast

Taxcast is monthly podcast by FTC Coordinating Committee member Tax Justice Network featuring up to 30 minutes of the latest global news, scandal and analysis on tax havens and corruption – which you won't hear anywhere else. Listen to past editions of the show (via RSS feed) [here](#). Click [here](#) to listen to *JusticialmPositiva*, a Spanish language podcast and radio program produced for TJN by Marcelo Justo and Marta Nunez.

Survival of the Richest: Europe's Role in Supporting an Unjust Global Tax System 2016

This end-of-year report by FTC Coordinating Committee member Eurodad argues that the vast majority of decision makers in Europe remain strongly opposed to the idea of giving the poorest countries a seat at the table when global tax standards are decided. Read more [here](#).

From Diamond to Deceit: We Did Nothing Wrong

This paper, published by Open Society Initiative of Southern Africa, explains how the Panama Papers have opened the debate on lawful and illicit financial flows as they describe billions of dollars sheltered in tax havens by the world's economic and political elite. The paper also notes that hundreds of offshore-registered companies are linked to investment in extractive industry in Africa and many of these are registered in tax havens such as the Cayman Islands, the British Virgin Islands and Bermuda. The full paper is available [here](#).

A-Z of Financial Crimes in Africa: The What, Why and How to Tackling Financial Crime in Africa

This report, prepared by Temenos and NetGuardians, explores illicit financial flows focusing on the size of the issue, who moves illicit funds and, most importantly, what can be done to mitigate the problem. The report reveals that financial crimes, including fraud, are most likely found in the banking sector and are one of the biggest causes of bank failure and distress in Africa. The report further highlights that Africa is the most vulnerable and currently the most affected by financial crime in comparison with other continents. The full report is available [here](#).

Political Economy of Corruption and the Battle for Accountability in Zimbabwe: 2015 Annual State of Corruption Report

This report, published by Transparency International Zimbabwe, presents a body of knowledge that points to the role that the state and its institutions play in creating the conditions for corrupt practices and nurturing them while at the same time protecting the perpetrators. The report reveals that Zimbabwe is losing \$1 billion a year to corruption, with the police, local government officials, vehicle inspection department and the education department among the worst offenders. The full report is available [here](#).

Bankrupting Kleptocracy: Financial Tools to Counter Kleptocracy in Africa's Deadliest War Zones

This report from the US-based Enough Project describes how the state in several conflict-affected countries in East and Central Africa has been hijacked and transformed from an institution that should provide social services and safeguard the rule of law into a predatory criminal enterprise that does the opposite. The report highlights the potential of three types of tools to build leverage in the fight against violent kleptocracy. These are targeted sanctions, anti-money laundering provisions, and anti-bribery laws. The full report is available [here](#).

FACTsheet: Questions & Answers about Territorial Corporate Tax Systems

The FACT Coalition in the US released a FACTsheet explaining how implementing a territorial tax system is an invitation to even greater levels of tax avoidance. The sheet argues that the purpose of corporate tax reform should be to increase integrity and fairness, and territorial systems take the US in the wrong direction. Click [here](#) to download as PDF file.

OECD Tax Talks

The OECD's Centre for Tax Policy and Administration (CTPA) regularly provides public updates through monthly "[Tax Talks](#)" in addition to a dedicated [webcast series on BEPS](#).

RESOURCES

Assessing the Impact of Open Government

The Impact of Open Government: Assessing the Evidence, published by the Brookings Institution, reviews the empirical and theoretical literature examining the international impact of open government and offers recommendations for policymakers considering open government initiatives. The full report can be read [here](#).

Illicit Flows and Trade Misinvoicing: Are we Looking Under the Wrong Lamppost?

This report by Maya Forstater published by the Chr. Michelson Institute in Norway identifies problems with estimates for trade misinvoicing and argues that continuing to use them to shape our understanding could impede, rather than support targeting of effective action in combating corruption, organized crime, illegal exploitation of natural resources and tax evasion. The full report is available [here](#), and a rebuttal from Matthew Salomon of Global Financial Integrity is available [here](#).

Watch: Can Africa Overcome Its Corruption Problem?

This video, centered on identifying some of the solutions to corruption in Africa, reveals that some of the worst affected countries are among the poorest in the world. Based on a study by Dr. Kweku Opoku-Agyemang, the report argues that one of the key solutions to corruption is education and increased awareness on the dangers of corruption. Click [here](#) to watch the video.

Overcoming the Shadow Economy

The report published by Friedrich Elbert Stiftung argues that ending the kinds of offshore abuses revealed by the Panama papers scandal requires a global solution led by the world's leading economies, the United States and Europe. While the Panama papers describe what was going on behind the secrecy, this report asks what can (and must) be done, both by the international community and by the secrecy havens in order to end the scourge. Read more [here](#).

Legal Instruments for Combating Financing of Terrorism Through Financial Crimes for Countries

A statement by Tarek Sharif, head of the African Union's Defense and Security Division, was made at a November workshop to brief the member states on regional and international policy frameworks on money laundering and financial crimes related to the financing of terrorism. The full address is available [here](#). For more information on the workshop, contact Kodjot@africa-union.org.

Report: Corruption in Large-Scale Land Deals

At the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights this fall, FTC Coordinating Committee member Global Witness launched a new report titled *Tainted Lands: Corruption in large-scale land deals*. The report - authored by Olivier De Schutter, the former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Global Witness and the International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR) - takes the most comprehensive look to date at how corruption is fueling the global land grabbing crisis, calling on companies and governments to ensure that land deals are transparent, corruption-free, and protect the rights of local communities. Read the full report [here](#).

RESOURCES

Global Fiscal Justice Track Record

Oxfam virtually launched the [Global Fiscal Justice Track Record](#) on the Policy & Practice website. This track record holds case studies from 22 countries showcasing the different ways as a confederation and with our partners we have been advancing peoples' rights through our tax and budget work. Each case study includes lessons learned in order to form the foundation for the new fiscal justice program's theory of change.

Gender and Tax in Africa

Tax specialists, practitioners and researchers from fourteen different countries were brought together in Accra from 9-11 November 2016 to participate in the first workshop on Gender and Tax in Africa by the International Center for Tax and Development, hosted in partnership with the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA). The workshop was organized to facilitate discussion of the issues surrounding the theme, and to develop a research agenda on gender and taxation in Africa. All of the presentations can be found online [here](#).

Dissecting the Cayman Islands Offshore Financial Centre: small place, big money

In a recently published [paper](#) in the *Review of International Political Economy*, Jan Fichtner offers the first “anatomy” of the Cayman offshore financial center (OFC), utilizing all sources of publicly available data about the Island’s three main financial segments: banking, direct investment, and portfolio investment. The full paper can be found [here](#).

Illicit Financial Flows out of Africa (IFFoA)

The IFFoA Database is a knowledge hub of selected documents and research work on the subject of illicit financial flows out of Africa. Supported by TrustAfrica and run by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), the database provides a central platform where research initiatives and materials are collected and pooled into a knowledge hub that is accessible to a wider audience/community of researchers, policy advocates and policy makers. Database is available [here](#).

Anti-Corruption Glossary

Transparency International’s easy-to-understand, animated definitions will have you speaking the language of anti-corruption in no time. Check out the glossary [here](#).

Oxfam report “Tax Battles: The Dangerous Global Race to the Bottom on Corporate Tax”

This report examines the world’s worst corporate tax havens as examples of a destructive race to the bottom on corporate tax which has seen governments across the globe slash corporate tax bills in an attempt to attract business. It calls on governments to work together to put a stop to this race to the bottom, and to tax havens that are driving inequality and poverty around the globe. Available [here](#).

SELECTED PRESS HITS

ICIJ- [Panama Papers Have Had Historic Global Effects — and the Impacts Keep Coming](#)

FTC Director Porter McConnell is quoted in this ICIJ follow-up piece on the consequences of the Panama Papers investigation, which has produced regulatory changes, follow-up stories and calls by politicians and activists for more action to combat offshore financial secrecy.

BBC Mundo- [Trump, Brexit, Elecciones Europeas y Otros Enigmas de la Economía para 2017](#)

Latindadd Executive Director Carlos Bedoya is quoted in this BBC Mundo article on “Trump, Brexit, the European Elections and other enigmas” for 2017. (In Spanish)

The Guardian- [Fears that EU Measures Against Financial Crime Will be Weakened](#)

Efforts to tackle tax abuse and financial crime are at risk of being weakened by new European council proposals that would restrict public access to key company information, civil society groups warn. EU Policy Advisor Henri Makkonen is quoted here, offering his insight into the proposed measures.

La Tribuna (Honduras)- [CSOs Call for a UN Tax Body](#)

This article covers the efforts of Latin American civil society, led by FTC Coordinating Committee member Latindadd, advocating for an international tax body to combat tax fraud. Read more here. (In Spanish)

The Monitor (Uganda)- [URA Backs Campaign to End Illicit Financial Flows](#)

This article cites TJN-A director Alvin Mosioma and covers TJN-A’s first university debate competition as an innovative way to engage youth on illicit flows and as part of a successful campaign to engage the Ugandan government.

Cameroon Voice- [After 20 years, Africa Loses 78 Billion Dollars a Year to the Rest of the World](#)

Citing research from FTC Coordinating Committee member Global Financial Integrity, this article highlights the volume of illicit outflows from Africa. (In French)

SELECTED BLOG POSTS

[Panama Papers Amnesia Causing Headaches in EU](#)

This post, jointly produced by the Secretariat and FTC Coordinating Committee member Eurodad, offers a sobering diagnosis of recent attempts by EU lawmakers to drop key provisions of the Commission’s proposal, most notably the proposal to make the registers fully public.

[Stiglitz and Pieth Panama Papers Report: A Roadmap for Global Transparency in the 21st Century](#)

After resigning from Panama’s official effort to clean up its financial sector, Nobel-prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz and transparency expert Mark Pieth have come out with their own independent report. And it’s a good one. Max Heywood explains why in this blog post.

[Switzerland and Information Exchange: Tweak, Tweak and Something Will Always Remain](#)

Even though Switzerland appears in the OECD webpage as promising to exchange information in 2018, at least with these developing countries, it has now said that it will only start collecting information in 2018, while exchanges will only start in 2019. FTC Coordinating Committee member Tax Justice Network shows how this unilateral change points to a larger problem regarding how decisions are made.

[What does the UK Beneficial Ownership Data Show Us?](#)

Earlier this fall, Sam Leon and Robert Palmer brought together thirty volunteer data scientists, including the head of software for a Formula 1 team, an astrophysicist and a former consultant to the UK tax authority, for the first systematic look at the beneficial ownership data information published by the U.K. Companies House earlier this year. In this post by FTC Coordinating Committee member Global Witness, they share the opportunities and challenges presented by the new register.

[Panama Papers: The Role of Western Secrecy Jurisdictions in Looting Africa](#)

This TJN post shares stories detailing the colorful mix of characters involved in looting Africa, coming from the Panama Papers by investigative journalists.

[“Welcome to My World” — My Trip to Panama](#)

On International Anti-Corruption Day, FACT’s Gary Kalman reflects on why U.S. citizens must better understand the extent to which corruption harms individual lives and entire communities.

[Crack Downs on Tax Havens, For Some](#)

This blog post, by Christian Freymeyer for the FTC, examines the upcoming implementation of the OECD’s Common Reporting Standard (CRS) for the automatic exchange of financial information. This new standard would allow countries to share information regularly on each other’s citizens who may be hiding money illegally abroad.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

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