



EFFAT PRESS STATEMENT

EFFAT joins world-wide workers protests and S&D to say no McDO's junk jobs and Yes to Tax Fairness

Brussels, 15 April 2015 - Thousands of fast food workers around the world demonstrate today to defend their right to living wages and decent working conditions. The European Parliament's center left forces joined the protests to call for better jobs in the sector. This comes amidst a recent debate about aggressive corporate tax practices in the EU.

Mr. Harald Wiedenhofer, General Secretary of the European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT), stated:

“Companies like McDonald's are amongst the largest employers of the world. But their business practices often include an unholy alliance of very low wages and very low tax. This drags down global standards for corporate responsibility.”

In February 2015, a coalition of European and American trade unions joined by the anti-poverty campaign group War on Want, unveiled a study showing that McDonald's maintains corporate structures in Switzerland and Luxemburg which helped reduce its tax obligations in Europe by EUR 1 billion over five years.

Mr. Wiedenhofer added:

“Today in European Parliament, centre left parties said ‘no’ to McDO's junk jobs and ‘yes’ to tax fairness. The Commission has instruments to investigate bad corporate conduct. It is high time to use them.”

EFFAT fully supports the actions of its affiliates in many European countries and worldwide who are mobilizing for the International Fast Food Worker's Day, to raise the profile of fast food workers and their struggles and to highlight the urgent need for change.

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About EFFAT:

EFFAT is the European Federation of Trade Unions in the Food, Agriculture and Tourism sectors. As a European Trade Union Federation representing 120 national trade unions from 35 European countries, EFFAT defends the interests of more than 2.6 million members towards the European Institutions, European employers' associations and transnational companies.