

Call to personalities* to support Antoine Deltour, whistleblower in the LuxLeaks case

(creation of a public list of support)

I support Anthoine Deltour, LuxLeaks whistleblower charged by the Luxembourg courts for providing a journalist with confidential tax rulings signed by the tax authorities of the Grand Duchy.

While he was employed in Luxembourg by a large international auditing firm, Antoine Deltour, young French auditor, discovered an aggressive tax avoidance system approved by the Luxembourg authorities. Beneath a veneer of legality, loopholes in the current tax framework were exploited to subtract abyssal sums from some states' tax revenues, at the expense of citizens. Discreet and moderate person, efficient employee and appreciated by his superiors, Antoine Deltour didn't seek to stigmatize his former employer or the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, but he wanted to denounce a systemic injustice. He acted selflessly – and is now facing up to five years of prison and 1.25 million euros fine – for the sole purpose of informing public debate on these iniquitous tax practices.

The revelations to which Antoine Deltour contributed have triggered important initiatives related to multinational companies' taxation: Investigations are ongoing at European level following the creation in February 2015 by the European Parliament of a Special Commission to investigate tax arrangements that favor multinationals.

Furthermore, the European Commission has put forward an automatic exchange of information between tax administrations on tax rulings, and published in June 2015 and January 2016 two Action Plans on company taxation. These initiatives, even if not perfect, should contribute to improve fiscal transparency and reduce tax injustice that currently favors a few big companies.

The positive action of Antoine Deltour as whistleblower has been recognized on several occasions. His courage was praised during his hearing in early June by the Commission of the European Parliament in charge of investigating tax practices and tax rulings. Antoine also received the European Citizen's Award 2015, a strong symbolic distinction given his judicial situation in Luxembourg.

I congratulate Antoine Deltour for having the courage to raise selflessly the alarm. With my signature, I declare that the proceedings against Antoine Deltour are politically unfair and ethically unacceptable: He has acted as a responsible citizen, he made a great favour to the European peoples and thought only to serve the public interest.

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If you agree to have your name made public as a signatory of this call, please send an email to the Support Committee for Antoine Deltour (contact@support-antoine.org) stating your agreement and specifying the status, function or profession that will be indicated with your name on the list of supporters.

Let people know about your support to Antoine, through your usual contacts and on your social networks, and invite them to participate to the support (petition, donation, etc.) via the website https://support-antoine.org/

* A first version of this call was published as an article in French newspaper *Libération* of March 10, 2015: http://www.liberation.fr/economie/2015/03/09/soutien-a-antoine-deltour-lanceur-d-alerte-luxleaks 1217470