



## PES European Day of Action: Financial Transaction Tax NOW! 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2010

### Report

The PES would like to congratulate all organizers and participants in the European Day Action 2010, together we made this combined effort a huge success across the European Union. With over [50 events across the continent](#), our message for an FTT reached thousands of people. Many of you reported to us that the response was overwhelmingly positive, with citizens agreeing that regulating global finance, introducing a Financial Transaction Tax and tackling greedy bankers is not only necessary, but that is necessary NOW! The European Day Action 2010 was reported during the whole day with twittering (#ftt) and by uploading pictures to [Flickr](#); both contributing to the success of the day.

It is important to underline that an event at the European Day of Action is the perfect way

- to show our unity and capacity to act as a European socialist and social democratic family.
- to give our citizens a concrete example of how the PES and PES member parties can offer progressive alternatives to conservative politics.
- to connect a European issue with the local dimension and show citizens that EU decisions influence their lives and their vote can make a difference
- to increase the cooperation between MEP's, local politicians and party members

To make this event a success, a two front approach to the media was adopted:

- Firstly, the photos, reports and twits supplied were integrated into our [live streaming](#) and into the PES press releases during the day. This demonstrated that the Day of Action was EU wide, coordinated and has growing support.
- The second front in this media attack was the coverage achieved in local media. Amongst others, there were reports in the following: [Le Figaro](#); [Radio Capital](#) (Italy), [Echo-Münster](#); [La Voix du Nord](#); [La Depeche](#) (France); Le Courier de l'Ouest (Angers), L'Echo Républicain Cinco Dias, Diario de Noticias

### Some events chosen at random to demonstrate the variety of actions

#### Hudiksvall, Sweden

"In Sweden **MP Roland Bäckman** was Robin Hood for a day with lovely Marion and a number of monks. Sunny day and sunny faces around us. We had to explain that our Robin Hood was not robbing from entrepreneurial people present at this business fair in a regional town, but from people who speculate widely and hysterically and get richer than most by sucking up resources from productive enterprises and endangering whole societies. For jobs, for climate adjustment, and for sufficient risk capital where it belongs: in productive workplaces – financial transaction tax NOW!"





### Berlin, Germany

At the SPD conference on the requirements for new economic policy after the crisis, **PES President Poul Nyrup Rasmussen** presented the EFR Campaign. During the conference, **Sigmar Gabriel**, leader of SPD and **Frank-Walter Steinmeier**, SPD-Group leader in the German Bundestag also spoke. There was an Info stand organised in Willy-Brandt-Haus (party HQ).

### Lille, France

PES activists organised an information stand on place Rihour in the city center of Lille together with **MEP Gilles Pargneaux**. There was also a press conference the day before on April 23. There was huge local interest with much support expressed by both local residents and the press. They also produced their own [flyer](#).



### London, UK

PES Activists from the Labour Movement for Europe and expatriates came together to do a leaflet action on Chrisp Street Market. Leaflets on the FTT were distributed to citizens at this very symbolic place near Canary Wharf. Also **Claude Moraes MEP**, **Jim Fitzpatrick MP** and **John Biggs AM (London Assembly Member)** interacted with local residents to make them aware of what was happening on their very doorstep.

### Coming up next !

This was Stage 1 in a unified action leading up to the G20 talks in Toronto on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June this year. **This gives us 8 weeks to build up pressure on the G20 leaders**, six of whom are European, to push for a global Financial Transaction Tax. The PES will call on EU decision makers, to take the lead on the issue, including drafting an EU position on FTT as already overwhelmingly called for by the European Parliament. For this reason, **we will be launching an automated system over the next few days where more material can be directly ordered online to continue your own days of action** on an ongoing basis up to the G20. We will also be shortly sending a questionnaire to the organisers, in order to know how we can make the next European day of action better.

**The cooperation between member party politicians, MEP's and activists has been a role model for future actions.** We can build on this as the campaign gathers pace; together we can achieve a new, better and more fair financial system.

