

**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A WORKSHOP ON  
TAX COMPETITION AND TAX AVOIDANCE:  
IMPLICATIONS FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Essex University, 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2004**

The greater mobility of capital that has arisen from the combination of relaxed exchange control regimes and technological change has given rise to increased tax competition, forcing sovereign states to lower their tax rates on income earned within their borders by foreign investors in order to attract direct and portfolio investment. Tax competition and tax avoidance is undermining personal and corporate income taxes, which in the majority of sovereign states remains the principal source of government revenue.

The response to these competitive pressures has typically involved a first stage of shifting the tax burden from (mobile) capital to (less mobile) labour and onto consumption, and, secondly, when further taxation of labour becomes politically and economically untenable, cuts to the level and quality of publicly provided services. This process is leading to fiscal crises in many developed and developing countries, threatening economic growth prospects, social stability and undermining the ability of democratic states to determine the desirable level of public service provision.

The purpose of this Workshop – the second in a series organised by the **Association for Accountancy & Business Affairs** in association with the global **Tax Justice Network** - is to:

- take stock of the recent developments and of current research into international tax policy;
- evaluate the current position of recent multilateral initiatives to counter harmful tax practices;
- consider new forms of taxes that might be both more socially just and economically efficient.

This Workshop will bring together researchers, academics, journalists, policy staff of civil society organisations, consultants and professionals, elected politicians and/or their researchers, and government or international organisation officials. The purpose of the workshop will be to facilitate research through open-minded debate and discussion, and to generate ideas and proposals to inform and shape the political initiatives and campaigns already under way.

There will be a small charge for attendance at the Workshop, and participants are expected to finance their travel and accommodation costs (which can be arranged by the conference organisers). However, some financial assistance is available for invited participants who are unable to meet all their own expenses. Anyone interested in participating should provide details of the nature of their interest, affiliations and any relevant research or publications, to:

**Richard Murphy,  
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Phone 01353 645041;  
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Offers of papers are welcome and will be actively considered by the **organising committee** which comprises:

**John Christensen** (Tax Justice Network), **Richard Murphy** (Tax Justice Network), **Ronen Palan** (Sussex University), **Sol Picciotto** (Lancaster University), **Prem Sikka** (Essex University)