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**EUROPEAN COUNCIL
TAXATION AND ENERGY ISSUES: MUCH MORE IS NECESSARY**

23/05/2013

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) welcomes the fact the fight against tax fraud and tax evasion was at the top of the yesterday European Summit agenda. However, automatic exchange of tax information will not be enough to stop the loss of €1 trillion per year.

On energy issues, the ETUC regrets that the European leaders have failed to provide a framework to ensure long term competitiveness for Europe.

After eight years of discussion, the European leaders have reached an agreement in principle on automatic exchange of tax information. This is one step forward; but concrete measures have not been taken to tackle tax fraud and tax evasion across Europe. Tax competition between companies has not been dealt either.

“The European Summit decisions still show the lack of a concrete and effective coordinated EU approach on taxation policy. The fight against tax fraud and tax evasion must be combined with the end of downward tax competition among member states” said Bernadette Ségol, ETUC General Secretary.

Poor results have also been achieved on energy policy. In particular, the ETUC stresses the need of binding targets for 2030 on energy efficiency, renewables and emissions reduction to direct investment, which are still missing.

“The Summit has not provided an energy framework to ensure long term competitiveness for Europe, while ongoing austerity and political indecision are a far greater danger for European industrial competitiveness. In this strategic policy, we need more Europe, and a positive Europe” added Bernadette Ségal.

The ETUC welcomes the European Council's determination to find concrete solutions to the urgent youth unemployment problem.

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) exists to speak with a single voice, on behalf of the common interests of workers, at European level. Founded in 1973, it now represents 85 trade union organisations in 36 European countries, plus 10 industry-based federations. The ETUC is also on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Flickr](#).

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More information:

Patricia Grillo
Head of Press and Communication
Tel: + 32 (0)2 224 04 30 – GSM: + 32 (0)477 77 01 64
@: Pgrillo@etuc.org

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