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THANK YOU MR MOSCOVICI !

During the debate at the European Parliament (Strasbourg, 12 April 2016) on the "Panama papers", Commissioner Moscovici, accused by a parliamentarian (EFDD - UKIP) to be a "tax cheater" because, like his colleagues and EU staff, he would not pay taxes, responded vigorously :

(Interpreters' rendition)

Mr. Woolfe², with his customary elegance, raised a number of issues, for example, talking about specific tax heavens and he was talking about the 47.000 staff of the EU and Commissioners who did not pay the requisite amount of tax. Now, this is scandalous. Might I say, that we pay taxes ! **Of course we pay taxes !** The idea that a Commissioner or a Member of the EU Staff has a tax-free salary is completely, utterly wrong and this is true of every single Member of the EU Institutions staff. We all pay taxes, we pay them on a European Union basis, into the EU the budget. We will also be saving over 4bn in our expenditure and it is founded in some part by contributions from our salaries. We pay between 8 % and 45 % of tax contributions, which is considerably above tax thresholds in certain countries and I am not talking about tax havens. I would like to stop engaging in this sort of demagoguery; otherwise I am going to have to be even more forceful in the response to this sort of questions.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getVod.do?mode=chapter&language=EN&vodDateId=20160412-17:35:32-395#>

Union Syndicale Fédérale thanks Commissioner Moscovici to have vigorously defended the truth about the European Public Service. On the other hand, we regret that the legislator, after proposal by the Commission, considered it appropriate to undermine the Public Service with an austerity program cited by the Commissioner. To read our detailed comments on this program, you may consult Agora, especially numbers 66 to 70, available under <http://www.unionsyndicale.eu/index.php/en/publications/agora>

² Steven WOOLFE, EFDD Group (UKIP)