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EU regulators query Luxembourg on McDonald's tax deals: source

BRUSSELS | BY FOO YUN CHEE






A McDonald's sign is seen outside one of its restaurants in Joliet, Illinois, March 26, 2015.
REUTERS/JIM YOUNG

(Reuters) - European Union antitrust regulators have asked Luxembourg for information on its tax rulings for McDonald's after labor unions accused the U.S. fast food chain of avoiding taxes, a person involved in the issue said on Tuesday.

The move, which neither the EU nor Luxembourg would immediately confirm, falls well short of the proceedings the EU has instigated against other U.S. multinationals in Luxembourg and elsewhere, where Brussels believes unfairly low taxation may have

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BUSINESS

EU Seeks Information on Luxembourg's Tax Dealings With McDonald's

Move falls short of the formal investigations that have been opened in recent months

By **TOM FAIRLESS**

March 31, 2015 5:41 p.m. ET

 0 COMMENTS

BRUSSELS—European Union authorities are seeking information from Luxembourg over its tax dealings with **McDonald's Corp.**, in the latest phase of a widening investigation into illegal tax sweeteners for multinational companies.

Regulators in Brussels have sent a letter to Luxembourg's government asking it to explain its tax arrangements with the U.S.-based fast-food chain, two people familiar with the matter said Tuesday.

The inquiry follows a report last month by U.S. and European trade unions claiming that McDonald's had avoided about €1 billion in taxes between 2009 and 2013 by funneling royalties to Luxembourg.




McDonald's and EU regulators didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

The EU's letter was first reported by Reuters.

While the move falls short of the formal investigations that have been opened in recent months into tax deals struck by four other multinationals—**Apple Inc.** in Ireland, **Amazon.com Inc.** and **Fiat SpA** in Luxembourg and **Starbucks Corp.** in the Netherlands—the letter demonstrates the political momentum behind the EU tax probes.

At a time of deep national austerity, governments across the continent are desperate to shore up their finances and demonstrate to taxpayers that wealthy multinationals are paying their fair share of tax.

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McDonald's under EU scrutiny for tax rulings in Luxembourg

The Guardian, 31/03/2015 [\[link\]](#)

McDonald's under EU scrutiny for tax rulings in Luxembourg

- Unions charge US fast food chain with avoiding about €1bn in taxes
- EU investigating other US multinationals' tax arrangements



📷 A woman leaves a McDonald's restaurant in Prague, Czech Republic, one of the 28 members of the European Union. Photograph: Sean Gallup/Getty Images

McDonald's tax affairs in Europe are under scrutiny by European Union officials after labour unions accused the US fast food chain of failing to pay its dues, a person involved in the issue said on Tuesday.

EU antitrust regulators have asked Luxembourg for information on its tax rulings, according to sources. Neither the EU nor Luxembourg would immediately confirm the enquiries.

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Von Tom Fairless

BRÜSSEL (Dow Jones)--Die EU-Steuerprüfer nehmen ein weiteres weltweit tätiges Unternehmen unter die Lupe: die Fastfoodkette McDonald's. Sie haben von der Luxemburger Regierung Informationen über die Steuerabkommen mit dem US-Konzern angefordert, wie zwei mit dem Vorgang vertraute Unternehmen sagten.

Sie reagieren damit offensichtlich auf eine Beschwerde amerikanischer und europäischer Handelsverbände. McDonald's habe durch entsprechende Deals mit Luxemburg in der Zeit von 2009 bis 2013 rund 1 Milliarde Euro Steuern gespart, hatten sie vorgebracht.

Weder vom Unternehmen noch von den EU-Aufsehern war zunächst eine Stellungnahme erhältlich. Über die Aufforderung der EU hatte zuvor bereits die Nachrichtenagentur Reuters berichtet.

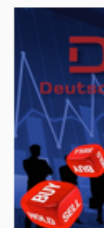
Zwar handele es sich im Fall von McDonald's nicht um eine offizielle Untersuchung wie sie bei Apple in Irland, Amazon.com und Fiat in Luxemburg und Starbucks in den Niederlanden eingeleitet worden sei, hieß es. Doch belege der Brief an Luxemburgs Regierung, wie ernst es der EU mit der Untersuchung von "Steuersparmodellen" sei.

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McDonald's: Brussels questions Luxembourg over McDonald's – Source

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MCDONALD'S : Bruxelles interroge le Luxembourg sur McDonald's-source

31/03/15 à 20:20 - Reuters [0](#) [Commentaire\(s\)](#)

BRUXELLES, 31 mars (Reuters) - La **Commission européenne** a demandé davantage d'informations au Luxembourg sur sa réglementation fiscale après des accusations d'évasion fiscale formulées à l'encontre de McDonald's, a-t-on appris mardi auprès d'une personne impliquée dans le dossier.

Des **syndicats** et une organisation caritative accusent le géant américain de la restauration rapide d'avoir échappé à environ un milliard d'euros d'impôts entre 2009 et 2013 en faisant transiter une partie de son chiffre d'affaires par une société luxembourgeoise, ce qui justifie selon eux une enquête de la **Commission européenne**.

Luxembourg questioned over McDonald's tax deals

Luxemburger Wort, 02/04/2015 [\[link\]](#)

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European Commission

Luxembourg questioned over McDonald's tax deals



Photo: AFP



Published on Wednesday, 1 April, 2015 at 17:37

The European Commission has requested further information on Luxembourg tax regulations after tax evasion charges were filed against McDonald's, Reuters reports.

Unions and a charity have accused the US fast food giant of avoiding paying around one billion euros in taxes between 2009 and 2013 by passing a portion of its revenues through a Luxembourg company.

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