

## *Create a real Financial Transactions Tax*

If such a tax had been created in 2008, even at a very low rate, it would have already brought in between 250 and 600 billion. The Greek crisis could have been settled quickly without calling for a particular effort from European populations. Why do we continue to hold off in creating such a tax when it would reassure both Germans and other European members that this is the last time they will be asked to make an unfair effort? From now on, it is the financial markets that will be called upon to replenish the European Stability Fund.

**If London refuses the creation of a tax on transactions**, we must calmly put our foot down and have the courage to trigger off a clarifying crisis:

1- The riots during the summer of 2010 showed that the British people will no longer put up with austerity policies.

**2- Private debt in the UK exceeds 230% GDP** compared to 130% in France. If we include public debt, and especially the huge debt of the financial sector, the total debt of Great Britain exceeds 900% of GDP. This is revelatory of the extreme fragility of the "English model". In two months or two years, the British will be begging Europe to help them save their banks. We must put the deal on the table and tell them they must now decide whether or not they consider themselves in the same boat as the rest of Europe.

3-They cannot ask us for solidarity tomorrow if they refuse to show solidarity today. If the British can be brought to understand that, in fact, we all benefit from being united, we can quickly implement a Tobin tax at a relatively high rate. If not, we will have to create this tax within the euro area but at a lower rate.

The implementation of a tax on financial transactions is altogether realistic even if at the Eurozone level alone (even Mr. Barroso admits that today), but it would be far more efficient and would have a much higher yield if it were set up simultaneously over the whole of Europe, or in all the world financial centres. Since all our States require new resources, all the G20 leaders should implement this tax on financial transitions without delay.