



tax justice network

**SWITZERLAND - ASYLUM AND BENEFITS  
FOR FISCAL REFUGEES**

**Dr Andreas Missbach  
Berne Declaration**

**Westminster, 24 March 2003**

- ⌘ If you are wealthy, not a Swiss citizen, and . . .**
- ⌘ you do not earn your income in Switzerland . . .**
- ⌘ . . . then the rental value of your property is the  
only basis for taxation**

⌘ unlikely propositions . . .

⌘ . . a medieval town + no port + no oil = fourth largest oil market in the world

⌘ . . part-time prosecutor + board member for tax evader

⌘ unlikely propositions (part 2) . . .

⌘ . . Switzerland has 0.1 per cent of the global population + 1 per cent of world income

⌘ . . but attracts 33 per cent of global private foreign deposits

- ⌘ **unique distinction between tax evasion and tax fraud**
- ⌘ **tax evasion is not a crime**
- ⌘ **banking secrecy can only be lifted for criminal activities**

- ⌘ **EU wanted information exchange on capital income**
- ⌘ **Switzerland successfully offered a withholding tax**
- ⌘ **US negotiators succeeded in obtaining information exchange on behalf of IRS**

- ⌘ **Tax evasion is a development issue**
- ⌘ **Losses through tax evasion by individuals using Swiss bank accounts equate to five times global development aid**
- ⌘ **Wealth of high-net-worth-individuals (7.1 million people) impact most seriously on Latin America**

**With a little help from our friends in the Tax Justice Network, we can change the terms of debate in Switzerland and ultimately end the impunity of tax evaders**