

Premier Guy Verhofstadt 's talk on the "2006 Manager of the year" price reception, Brussels on 10 January 2007

(...) The Belgian National Bank, OCDE and FMI reports clearly show the main reasons of our superior economical growth, i.e a consistent policy carried on for eight years, based on four pillars: **(i)** charge reductions; **(ii)** increases of purchase power; and **(iii)** focused reforms; sustained by **(iv)** healthy public finances.

(...) Taxes are decreasing, especially on labour.

(...) The more taxes are reduced, the more jobs are created and the more public incomes increase.

(...) However we must all look beyond the years 2007 and 2008. The world is mutating. We are moving fast toward a "**horizontal economy**". We are currently living in a transition period which leads from a vertical industrial economy to a horizontal information economy. This evolution will collapse most subdivisions and hierarchies that we are used to know.

(...) The public power should eliminate the **vertical hurdles**, the first of them being the **labour taxes**. This burden in our country is one of the **heaviest in the world**. Although we have reduced it in the last years, these efforts look like droplets in the sea. This is because the public incomes mostly arise from the labour, which is not fair. **Labour is indeed the main source of wealth.**

Therefore we are exporting jobs instead of goods.

This is why I am asking for a **radical slip of charges**, from the labour to **products or pollution**.

This would make imported products efficiently contribute to our social security, and in the same time, improve our locally-produced goods competitiveness.

The slip of taxes from labour to pollution, economically justified, would preserve our ecological heritage to the future generations.