

Legislation for non-military tax - how does it work?

An explanation in six easy steps

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1



Mrs Tax and Mr Payer pay income tax, because they both have jobs that take them over the tax threshold.



2



Their tax return forms contain a box they can tick: **“My taxes are not to be used for the military and armaments, but only for civilian purposes.”** This choice is offered because our constitution states: “The freedom of conscience is inviolate”, and: “Nobody must be forced to perform military service bearing a weapon” (Article 4.4). And military service with money is exactly the same as with a weapon.

3



In order not to mix expenses for the military and for armaments with civilian expenses, the state has instituted a federal military budget alongside the general federal budget.

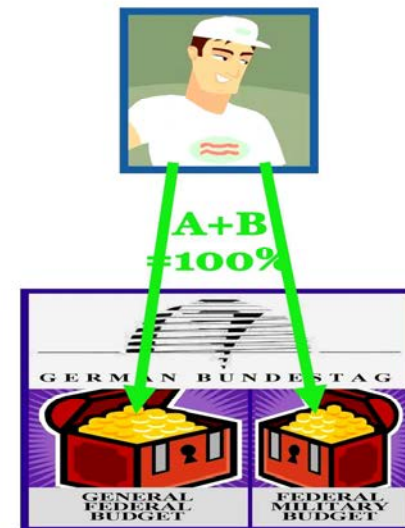
The general federal budget finances only civilian public expenses. Its money comes from taxes that get paid without people filling in a tax return, like VAT, as well as from the income tax paid by citizens who do not want their taxes used for military purposes.

The federal military budget finances the expenses for the military and for armaments. Its money comes from citizens who have no conscientious objections to this.

4



Mrs Tax, for example, has opted for civilian taxes. Therefore 100% of her income tax goes into the general federal budget.



Mr Payer, another example, did not opt for civilian taxes. Therefore Part A of his income tax ends up in the general federal budget, while Part B goes to the federal military budget. A+B add up to 100%.

5



Advantages of the legislation for non-military tax:
- Transparency during the raising of taxes.
- No more “compulsory” tax for the military and armaments.

Aren't there any disadvantages?

No - that's what two investigations by legal specialists say. Prof Fisahn, Bielefeld: Legislation for non-military tax would conform to the German constitution as well as to (as far as we can predict at the moment) the future EU constitution. Prof Löhner, Trier: Once the offices that collect taxes have adapted to the new system, there would be no increase in the administrative workload as a result.

6



Final conclusion:

The idea of **non-military tax** does not aim at cutting down on the amount of taxes paid. Our point is not that we might want to pay less taxes: **It is that we do not want to support the military with our taxes.**