**Lump-sum tax: a survey of the present position**

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Lump-sum taxation in Switzerland is at the heart of the debate, to such an extent that one sometimes has difficulty in gaining a clear idea of the status of the situation and the outlook. We thus essentially wanted to conduct an intermediate review of the position, recalling the current conditions and those likely to result from the new federal law recently adopted by our Parliament. However, this intermediate situation is characterized by considerable uncertainty owing to the referendum that might allow the people to decide to abolish outright this truly historic tax regulation, which is 150 years old!

This being the case, we do not hide the fact that the debate on its legitimacy and abolition has already largely achieved its objective owing to the tightening up of the applicable conditions, which are no longer necessarily competitive and advantageous if compared, for example, with those offered by other European countries, even though the latter are quick, in other contexts, to complain about unfair competition from our country. Thus it is an emotionally charged debate full of subjective psychological considerations that we will avoid in this newsletter, which focuses on the facts and the current objective technical data.

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_Thierry Barbier-Mueller_

Chief Executive Officer
The situation in Geneva is different. The canton has maintained the lump-sum taxation system. The average tax base per taxpayer in 2010 was CHF 668 million, not CHF 500 million as in the other cantons. This difference is due to the fact that Geneva has a higher number of lump-sum taxpayers. In 2010, there were 5,500 lump-sum taxpayers in Geneva, compared to 5,000 in Zurich.

The tax authorities in Geneva have been able to maintain this system because the canton has a higher number of residents and a higher number of businesses. The average income of the lump-sum taxpayers in Geneva is also higher than in other cantons. The canton has been able to maintain this system because the tax authorities have been able to collect more tax from these taxpayers.

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