

Última hora: Apple tem em dívida 13 mil milhões em impostos

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De acordo com as informações vindas de Bruxelas, a Apple terá de pagar 13 mil milhões em impostos devido aos "acordos ilegais" que existem entre a empresa de Cupertino e a Irlanda.

Este valor corresponde aos impostos em atraso entre 2003 e 2014.



O esquema usado pela empresa da maçã para fugir aos impostos não é propriamente novidade. Recentemente o nobel da economia referiu mesmo que o facto da Apple declarar parte dos lucros no exterior dos [EUA constitui uma fraude!](#)

Esta terça-feira Bruxelas anunciou que a Irlanda terá de recuperar os impostos que não foram pagos pela Apple, um valor total que ronda os 13 mil milhões de euros (mais juros). De acordo com as informações, a Comissão Europeia considere ilegal este "esquema" e refere que a Apple teve benefícios fiscais "indevidos".

Segundo a comissária europeia Margrethe Vestager, "os Estados-membros não podem dar benefícios fiscais a empresas seleccionadas – isto é ilegal de acordo com as regras da UE relativas aos auxílios estatais".

Ireland granted illegal tax benefits to Apple, which enabled it to pay substantially less tax than other businesses over many years



REUTERS/Suzanne Plunkett/File Photo

De acordo com o jornaldenegocios, a taxa de imposto paga pela empresa sobre os lucros da Apple Sales International desceu de 1% em 2003 para 0,005% em 2014.

O Governo irlandês, através do ministro das Finanças Michael Noonan em declarações à Reuters, já comunicou a sua discordância relativamente a este processo, referindo que a Apple não teve qualquer benefício estatal.

I disagree profoundly with the Commission. The decision leaves me with no choice but to seek cabinet approval to appeal. This is necessary to defend the integrity of our tax system; to provide tax certainty to business; and to challenge the encroachment of EU state aid rules into the sovereign member state competence of taxation.

A Apple também já se pronunciou sobre este caso e referiu que cumpriu a lei e já anunciou que vai recorrer da decisão. Esta é uma multa sem precedentes e que, segundo a Apple «terá um impacto profundo e prejudicial sobre o investimento e a criação de emprego».

[Carta de Tim Cook à Europa](#)

A Message to the Apple Community in Europe

Thirty-six years ago, long before introducing iPhone, iPod or even the Mac, Steve Jobs established Apple's first operations in Europe. At the time, the company knew that in order to serve customers in Europe, it would need a base there. So, in October 1980, Apple opened a factory in Cork, Ireland with 60 employees.

At the time, Cork was suffering from high unemployment and extremely low economic investment. But Apple's leaders saw a community rich with talent, and one they believed could accommodate growth if the company was fortunate enough to succeed.

We have operated continuously in Cork ever since, even through periods of uncertainty about our own business, and today we employ nearly 6,000 people across Ireland. The vast majority are still in Cork — including some of the very first employees — now performing a wide variety of functions as part of Apple's global footprint. Countless multinational companies followed Apple by investing in Cork, and today the local economy is stronger than ever.

The success which has propelled Apple's growth in Cork comes from innovative products that delight our customers. It has helped create and sustain more than 1.5 million jobs across Europe — jobs at Apple, jobs for hundreds of thousands of creative app developers who thrive on the App Store, and jobs with manufacturers and other suppliers. Countless small and medium-size companies depend on Apple, and we are proud to support them.

As responsible corporate citizens, we are also proud of our contributions to local economies across Europe, and to communities everywhere. As our business has grown over the years, we have become the largest taxpayer in Ireland, the largest taxpayer in the United States, and the largest taxpayer in the world.

Over the years, we received guidance from Irish tax authorities on how to comply correctly with Irish tax law — the same kind of guidance available to any company doing business there. In Ireland and in every country where we operate, Apple follows the law and we pay all the taxes we owe.

The European Commission has launched an effort to rewrite Apple's history in Europe, ignore Ireland's tax laws and upend the international tax system in the process. The opinion issued on August 30th alleges that Ireland gave Apple a special deal on our taxes. This claim has no basis in fact or in law. We never asked for, nor did we receive, any special deals. We now find ourselves in the unusual position of being ordered to retroactively pay additional taxes to a government that says we don't owe them any more than we've already paid.

The Commission's move is unprecedented and it has serious, wide-reaching implications. It is effectively proposing to replace Irish tax laws with a view of what the Commission thinks the law should have been. This would strike a devastating blow to the sovereignty of EU member states over their own tax matters, and to the principle of certainty of law in Europe. Ireland has said

they plan to appeal the Commission's ruling and Apple will do the same. We are confident that the Commission's order will be reversed.

At its root, the Commission's case is not about how much Apple pays in taxes. It is about which government collects the money.

Taxes for multinational companies are complex, yet a fundamental principle is recognized around the world: A company's profits should be taxed in the country where the value is created. Apple, Ireland and the United States all agree on this principle.

In Apple's case, nearly all of our research and development takes place in California, so the vast majority of our profits are taxed in the United States. European companies doing business in the U.S. are taxed according to the same principle. But the Commission is now calling to retroactively change those rules.

Beyond the obvious targeting of Apple, the most profound and harmful effect of this ruling will be on investment and job creation in Europe. Using the Commission's theory, every company in Ireland and across Europe is suddenly at risk of being subjected to taxes under laws that never existed.

Apple has long supported international tax reform with the objectives of simplicity and clarity. We believe these changes should come about through the proper legislative process, in which proposals are discussed among the leaders and citizens of the affected countries. And as with any new laws, they should be applied going forward — not retroactively.

We are committed to Ireland and we plan to continue investing there, growing and serving our customers with the same level of passion and commitment. We firmly believe that the facts and the established legal principles upon which the EU was founded will ultimately prevail.

Tim Cook

De lembrar que esta não é a primeira vez que grandes empresas são condenadas a pagar impostos. O ano passado a Amazon e a McDonalds tiveram de pagar impostos em atraso no Luxemburgo e a Starbucks teve de pagar 30 milhões de euros à Holanda.

[Reuters](#)