

Deutsche Post DHL



## Press release

### Do I need to file a tax return or not?

#### Free “tax check” helps pensioners

**Bonn, October 19, 2009:** Since the start of October, fiscal authorities have been increasingly approaching pensioners who have not yet filed a tax return. Not everyone, however, is automatically required to file. As a lobbying organization for seniors, the *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Senioren-Organisationen e. V.* (BAGSO—German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organization) is working together with the Deutsche Post Pension Service to offer a “tax check” online to all seniors interested in finding out if they have a filing obligation.

The tax check is free and not only provides individual answers to the question of who is required to file a tax return and who isn't. Seniors can also find out, for example, what effect the flat tax will have on their personal finances, which tax allowances can be used or what statutory changes in life insurance taxation mean. For expert tax advice, BAGSO and the Pension Service are working together with tax experts from *Vereinigte Lohnsteuerhilfe e. V.*, Germany's largest income tax assistance society.

The *Alterseinkünftegesetz* (German retirement income act) requires approximately 3.5 million pension recipients to file an income tax return. Many of those affected are unclear about the legal position - and hence also about the tax relief options that are often available to them. “The tax check allows us to throw some light on the subject, provide valuable information and clarity,” emphasized Walter Link, Chairman of BAGSO.

According to Uwe Ringling, Head of the Pension Service at Deutsche Post, “The collaboration between operation BAGSO and Deutsche Post's Pension Service is a good foundation for more joint projects in the future.”

The tax check can found on the BAGSO website at [www.bagso.de/steuern.html](http://www.bagso.de/steuern.html) as well as on the website of Pension Service at [www.rentenservice.de/steuern](http://www.rentenservice.de/steuern).

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**Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Senioren-Organisationen e.V (BAGSO—German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organization)** represents approximately 13 million seniors through 101 affiliated associations. Additional information can be found at [www.bagso.de](http://www.bagso.de) or can be obtained from the press officer.

**Pension Service of Deutsche Post AG**

The Pension Service ensures that around 25 million pensions are paid to 19 million pension recipients on time each month. In addition, pension recipients can obtain useful online information about pensions as well as a wide range of issues that affect the lives of senior citizens. The Pension Service is guided here by the needs of pensioners.

For further online information, please visit [www.rentenservice.de](http://www.rentenservice.de).