Facebook agrees to pay France €106m in back taxes

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Facebook has agreed to pay the French government €106m (£95.7m) in <u>back taxes</u> to <u>settle a dispute</u> over revenues earned in the country.

5   The payment covers the last decade of its French operations from 2009.

The social networking giant has also agreed to pay €8.46m in taxes on revenues in France for 2020 - 50% more than in 2019.

"We pay the taxes we owe in every market we operate," said a Facebook spokeswoman.

"We take our tax obligations seriously and work closely with tax authorities around the world to
10   **<u>ensure compliance with</u>** all applicable tax laws and to resolve any disputes, as we have done with the French tax authorities."

The social networking giant did not share details of the tax dispute, but France has been pushing tech companies to pay more tax inside the country where it is generated.

Other tech giants like Google, Apple and Amazon have **<u>reached similar agreements</u>** with the
15   French tax authorities.

Facebook said that since 2018, it had changed its sales structure so that "income from advertisers supported by our teams in France is registered in this country".

The BBC understands that Facebook paid a tax rate in France of 38% in 2019, which is above the statutory income tax rate of 33.3%.

20   In February, Facebook boss Mark Zuckerberg said he recognised the public's frustration over the amount of tax paid by tech giants.

He added that Facebook accepted the fact it might have to pay more tax in Europe "in different places under a new framework" going forward, and **<u>backed</u>** plans by think tank the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to find a global solution to how to tax tech
25   companies.

<u>Back taxes</u> = arriérés d'impôts (impôts non payés)

<u>to settle a dispute</u> = régler un conflit

<u>to ensure compliance with</u> = s'assurer de la conformité avec

<u>to reach an agreement</u> = arriver à un accord – **<u>to back</u>** = soutenir