

**SYNTHESISED TEXT  
OF THE MLI  
AND  
THE CONVENTION BETWEEN REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA AND THE REPUBLIC  
OF SERBIA FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION WITH RESPECT  
TO TAXES ON INCOME AND ON CAPITAL**

**General disclaimer on the Synthesised text document**

This document presents the synthesised text for the application of the Convention between the Republic of Austria and the Republic of Serbia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital signed on 7 May 2010 (the „Convention”), as modified by the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting signed by the Republic of Austria and the Republic of Serbia on 7 June 2017 (the „MLI”).

This document was prepared jointly by the competent authorities of the Republic of Austria and the Republic of Serbia and represents their shared understanding of the modifications made to the Convention by the MLI.

The document was prepared on the basis of the MLI position of the Republic of Austria submitted to the Depository upon ratification on 22 September 2017 and the MLI position of the Republic of Serbia submitted to the Depository upon ratification on 5 June 2018. These MLI positions are subject to modifications as provided in the MLI. Modifications made to MLI positions could modify the effects of the MLI on the Convention.

The authentic legal texts of the Convention and the MLI take precedence and remain the legal texts applicable.

The provisions of the MLI that are applicable with respect to the provisions of the Convention are included in boxes throughout the text of this document in the context of the relevant provisions of the Convention. The boxes containing the provisions of the MLI have generally been inserted in accordance with the ordering of the provisions of the OECD Model Tax Convention.

Changes to the text of the provisions of the MLI have been made to conform the terminology used in the MLI to the terminology used in the Convention (such as „Covered Tax Agreement” and „Convention”, „Contracting Jurisdictions” and „Contracting States”), to ease the comprehension of the provisions of the MLI. The changes in terminology are intended to increase the readability of the document and are not intended to change the substance of the provisions of the MLI. Similarly, changes have been made to parts of provisions of the MLI that describe existing provisions of the Convention: descriptive language has been replaced by legal references of the existing provisions to ease the readability.

In all cases, references made to the provisions of the Convention or to the Convention must be understood as referring to the Convention as modified by the provisions of the MLI, provided such provisions of the MLI have taken effect.

References

The authentic legal texts of the MLI and the Convention can be found on the webpage of the Federal Ministry of Finance (<https://www.bmf.gv.at/>).

The MLI position of the Republic of Austria submitted to the Depositary upon ratification on 22 September 2017 and of the MLI position of the Republic of Serbia submitted to the Depositary upon ratification on 5 June 2018 can be found on the MLI Depositary (OECD) webpage (<http://www.oecd.org/tax/treaties/beps-ml-signatories-and-parties.pdf>).

### **Disclaimer on the entry into effect of the provisions of the MLI**

#### Entry into Effect of the MLI provisions

The provisions of the MLI applicable to the Convention do not take effect on the same dates as the original provisions of the Convention. Each of provisions of the MLI could take effect on different dates, depending on the types of taxes involved (taxes withheld at source or other taxes levied) and on the choices made by the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Austria in their MLI positions.

Dates of the deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval: 22 September 2017 for the Republic of Austria and 5 June 2018 for the Republic of Serbia.

Entry into force of the MLI: 1 July 2018 for the Republic of Austria and 1 October 2018 for the Republic of Serbia.

This document provides specific information on the dates on or after which each of the provisions of the MLI has effect with respect to the Convention throughout this document.

CONVENTION  
BETWEEN  
THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA  
AND  
THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA  
FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION  
WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME AND ON CAPITAL

The Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Austria,

**[REPLACED by paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the MLI]** [desiring to conclude a Convention for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and on capital, with the view to establish stable conditions for comprehensive development of economic and other cooperation and investment between the two countries,]

*The following paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the MLI replaces the text referring to an intent to eliminate double taxation in the preamble of this Convention:<sup>1</sup>*

ARTICLE 6 OF THE MLI - PURPOSE OF A COVERED TAX  
AGREEMENT

Intending to eliminate double taxation with respect to the taxes covered by this Convention without creating opportunities for non-taxation or reduced taxation through tax evasion or avoidance (including through treaty-shopping arrangements aimed at obtaining reliefs provided in this Convention for the indirect benefit of residents of third jurisdictions),

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with paragraphs 1 and 3 of Article 35 of the MLI, paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the MLI has effect with respect to the application of this Convention by the Republic of Austria:

- a) with respect to taxes withheld at source on amounts paid or credited to non-residents, where the event giving rise to such taxes occurs on or after 1 January 2019; and
- b) with respect to all other taxes levied by the Republic of Austria, for taxes levied with respect to taxable periods beginning on or after 1 January 2020;

and,

In accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 35 of the MLI, paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the MLI has effect with respect to the application of this Convention by the Republic of Serbia:

- a) with respect to taxes withheld at source on amounts paid or credited to non-residents, where the event giving rise to such taxes occurs on or after 1 January 2019; and
- b) with respect to all other taxes levied by the Republic of Serbia, for taxes levied with respect to taxable periods beginning on or after 1 April 2019.

## PERSONS COVERED

This Convention shall apply to persons who are residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

### Article 2 TAXES COVERED

(1) This Convention shall apply to taxes on income and on capital imposed on behalf of a Contracting State or of its political subdivisions or local authorities, irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.

(2) There shall be regarded as taxes on income and on capital all taxes imposed on total income, on total capital, or on elements of income or of capital, including taxes on gains from the alienation of movable or immovable property, taxes on the total amounts of wages or salaries paid by enterprises, as well as taxes on capital appreciation.

(3) The existing taxes to which the Convention shall apply are in particular:

in Austria:

1. the income tax;
2. the corporation tax;
- 3 the land tax;
4. the tax on agricultural and forestry enterprises;
5. the tax on the value of vacant plots;

in Serbia:

1. the corporate income tax;
2. the personal income tax;
- 3 the tax on capital

(4) The Convention shall apply also to any identical or substantially similar taxes that are imposed after the date of signature of the Convention in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other of any significant changes that have been made in their taxation laws.

### Article 3 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

(1) For the purposes of this Convention, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. the terms "a Contracting State" and "the other Contracting State" mean Austria or Serbia, as the context requires;
2. the term "Austria" means the Republic of Austria;
3. the term "Serbia" means the Republic of Serbia, and when used in a geographical sense it means the territory of the Republic of Serbia;

4. the term "person" includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons;
5. the term "company" means any body corporate or any entity that is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
6. the terms "enterprise of a Contracting State" and "enterprise of the other Contracting State" mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting State and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting State;
7. the term "international traffic" means any transport by a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise that has its place of effective management in a Contracting State, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State;
8. the term "competent authority" means:
  - in Austria: the Federal Minister of Finance or his authorized representative;
  - in Serbia: the Ministry of Finance or its authorized representative;
9. the term "national" means:
  - any individual possessing the nationality of a Contracting State;
  - any legal person, partnership or association deriving its status as such from the laws in force in a Contracting State;

(2) As regards the application of the Convention at any time by a Contracting State, any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning that it has at that time under the law of that State for the purposes of the taxes to which the Convention applies, any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that State prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that State.

#### Article 4 RESIDENT

(1) For the purposes of this Convention, the term "resident of a Contracting State" means any person who, under the laws of that State, is liable to tax therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature, and also includes that State and any political subdivision or local authority thereof. This term, however, does not include any person who is liable to tax in that State in respect only of income from sources in that State or capital situated therein.

(2) Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph (1) an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then his status shall be determined as follows:

1. he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State in which he has a permanent home available to him; if he has a permanent home available to him in both States, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State with which his personal and economic relations are closer (centre of vital interests);

2. if the State in which he has his centre of vital interests cannot be determined, or if he has not a permanent home available to him in either State, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State in which he has an habitual abode;
3. if he has an habitual abode in both States or in neither of them, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State of which he is a national;
4. if he is a national of both States or of neither of them, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.

(3) Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph (1) a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then it shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State in which its place of effective management is situated.

#### Article 5 PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT

(1) For the purposes of this Convention, the term "permanent establishment" means a fixed place of business through which the business of an enterprise is wholly or partly carried on.

(2) The term "permanent establishment" includes especially:

1. a place of management;
2. a branch;
3. an office;
4. a factory;
5. a workshop, and
6. a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction of natural resources.

(3) A building site or construction or installation project constitutes a permanent establishment only if it lasts more than twelve months.

(4) **[MODIFIED by paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the MLI.]** [Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, the term "permanent establishment" shall be deemed not to include:

1. the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;
2. the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery;
3. the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;
4. the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise or of collecting information, for the enterprise;
5. the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of carrying on, for the enterprise, any other activity of a preparatory or auxiliary character;

6. the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in subparagraphs 1 to 5, provided that the overall activity of the fixed place of business resulting from this combination is of a preparatory or auxiliary character.]

*The following paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the MLI modifies paragraph 4 of Article 5 of this Convention:<sup>2</sup>*

**ARTICLE 13 OF THE MLI - ARTIFICIAL AVOIDANCE OF PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT STATUS THROUGH THE SPECIFIC ACTIVITY EXEMPTIONS (*Option A*)**

Notwithstanding provisions of Article 5 of the Convention, the term “permanent establishment” shall be deemed not to include:

- a) the activities specifically listed in paragraph 4 of Article 5 of this Convention as activities deemed not to constitute a permanent establishment, whether or not that exception from permanent establishment status is contingent on the activity being of a preparatory or auxiliary character;
- b) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of carrying on, for the enterprise, any activity not described in subparagraph a);
- c) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in subparagraphs a) and b),

provided that such activity or, in the case of subparagraph c), the overall activity of the fixed place of business, is of a preparatory or auxiliary character.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2), where a person - other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph (6) applies - is acting on behalf of an enterprise and has, and habitually exercises, in a Contracting State an authority to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise, that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in that State in respect of any activities which that person undertakes for the enterprise, unless the activities of such person are limited to those mentioned in paragraph (4) which, if exercised through a fixed place of business, would not make this fixed place of business a permanent establishment under the provisions of that paragraph.

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<sup>2</sup> In accordance with paragraphs 1 and 3 of Article 35 of the MLI, paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the MLI has effect with respect to the application of this Convention by the Republic of Austria:

- a) with respect to taxes withheld at source on amounts paid or credited to non-residents, where the event giving rise to such taxes occurs on or after 1 January 2019; and
- b) with respect to all other taxes levied by the Republic of Austria, for taxes levied with respect to taxable periods beginning on or after 1 January 2020;

and,

In accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 35 of the MLI, paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the MLI has effect with respect to the application of this Convention by the Republic of Serbia:

- a) with respect to taxes withheld at source on amounts paid or credited to non-residents, where the event giving rise to such taxes occurs on or after 1 January 2019; and
- b) with respect to all other taxes levied by the Republic of Serbia, for taxes levied with respect to taxable periods beginning on or after 1 April 2019.

(6) An enterprise shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in a Contracting State merely because it carries on business in that State through a broker, general commission agent or any other agent of an independent status, provided that such persons are acting in the ordinary course of their business.

(7) The fact that a company which is a resident of a Contracting State controls or is controlled by a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State, or which carries on business in that other State (whether through a permanent establishment or otherwise), shall not of itself constitute either company a permanent establishment of the other.

#### Article 6 INCOME FROM IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

(1) Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from immovable property (including income from agriculture or forestry) situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

(2) The term "immovable property" shall have the meaning which it has under the law of the Contracting State in which the property in question is situated. The term shall in any case include property accessory to immovable property, livestock and equipment used in agriculture and forestry, rights to which the provisions of general law respecting landed property apply, usufruct of immovable property and rights to variable or fixed payments as consideration for the working of, or the right to work, mineral deposits, sources and other natural resources; ships, boats and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.

(3) The provisions of paragraph (1) shall apply to income derived from the direct use, letting, or use in any other form of immovable property.

(4) The provisions of paragraphs (1) and (3) shall also apply to the income from immovable property of an enterprise and to income from immovable property used for the performance of independent personal services.

#### Article 7 BUSINESS PROFITS

(1) The profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State unless the enterprise carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein. If the enterprise carries on business as aforesaid, the profits of the enterprise may be taxed in the other State but only so much of them as is attributable to that permanent establishment.

(2) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (3), where an enterprise of a Contracting State carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, there shall in each Contracting State be attributed to that permanent establishment the profits which it might be expected to make if it were a distinct and separate enterprise engaged in the same or similar activities under the same or similar conditions and dealing wholly independently with the enterprise of which it is a permanent establishment.

(3) In determining the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the permanent establishment, including executive and general administrative expenses so incurred, whether in the State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere.

(4) Insofar as it has been customary in a Contracting State to determine the profits to be attributed to a permanent establishment on the basis of an apportionment of the total profits of the enterprise to its various parts, nothing in paragraph (2) shall preclude that Contracting State from determining the profits to be taxed by such an apportionment as may be customary; the method of apportionment adopted shall, however, be such that the result shall be in accordance with the principles contained in this Article.

(5) No profits shall be attributed to a permanent establishment by reason of the mere purchase by that permanent establishment of goods or merchandise for the enterprise.

(6) For the purposes of the preceding paragraphs, the profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment shall be determined by the same method year by year unless there is good and sufficient reason to the contrary.

(7) Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other Articles of this Convention, then the provisions of those Articles shall not be affected by the provisions of this Article.

## Article 8 INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT

(1) Profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

(2) Profits from the operation of boats engaged in inland waterways transport shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

(3) If the place of effective management of a shipping enterprise or of an inland waterways transport enterprise is aboard a ship or boat, then it shall be deemed to be situated in the Contracting State in which the home harbour of the ship or boat is situated, or, if there is no such home harbour, in the Contracting State of which the operator of the ship or boat is a resident.

(4) The provisions of paragraph (1) shall also apply to profits from the participation in a pool, a joint business or an international operating agency.

## Article 9 ASSOCIATED ENTERPRISES

(1) Where

1. an enterprise of a Contracting State participates directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, or
2. the same persons participate directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of a Contracting State and an enterprise of the other Contracting State,

and in either case conditions are made or imposed between the two enterprises in their commercial or financial relations which differ from those which would be made between

independent enterprises, then any profits which would, but for those conditions, have accrued to one of the enterprises, but, by reason of those conditions, have not so accrued, may be included in the profits of that enterprise and taxed accordingly.

- (2) Where a Contracting State includes in the profits of an enterprise of that State - and taxes accordingly - profits on which an enterprise of the other Contracting State has been charged to tax in that other State and the profits so included are profits which would have accrued to the enterprise of the first-mentioned State if the conditions made between the two enterprises had been those which would have been made between independent enterprises, then that other State shall make an appropriate adjustment to the amount of the tax charged therein on those profits. In determining such adjustment, due regard shall be had to the other provisions of this Convention and the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall if necessary consult each other.

## Article 10 DIVIDENDS

- (1) Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

- (2) However, such dividends may also be taxed in the Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident and according to the laws of that State, but if the beneficial owner of the dividends is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed:

1. 5 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owner is a company (other than a partnership) which holds directly at least 25 per cent of the capital of the company paying the dividends;
2. 15 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases.

This paragraph shall not affect the taxation of the company in respect of the profits out of which the dividends are paid.

- (3) The term "dividends" as used in this Article means income from shares or other rights, not being debt-claims, participating in profits, as well as income from other corporate rights which is subjected to the same taxation treatment as income from shares by the laws of the State of which the company making the distribution is a resident.

- (4) The provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

- (5) Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives profits or income from the other Contracting State, that other State may not impose any tax on the dividends paid by the company, except insofar as such dividends are paid to a resident of that other State or insofar as the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with a permanent establishment or a fixed base situated in that other State, nor subject the company's undistributed profits to a tax on the company's undistributed profits, even if the

dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in such other State.

## Article 11 INTEREST

(1) Interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

(2) However, such interest may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which it arises and according to the laws of that State, but if the beneficial owner of the interest is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the interest.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (2), interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in that other State if the recipient is the beneficial owner of such interest and such interest is derived by:

1. the Government of the other Contracting State or political subdivisions or local authorities thereof;
2. the Central or National Bank of the other Contracting State;
3. a financial institution controlled or mainly owned by the Government of the other Contracting State or political subdivisions or local authorities thereof.

(4) The term "interest" as used in this Article means income from debt-claims of every kind, whether or not secured by mortgage and whether or not carrying a right to participate in the debtor's profits, and in particular, income from government securities and income from bonds or debentures, including premiums and prizes attaching to such securities, bonds or debentures. Penalty charges for late payment shall not be regarded as interest for the purpose of this Article.

(5) The provisions of paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the interest, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the interest arises, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

(6) Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the interest, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.

(7) Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the interest, having regard to the debt-claim for which it is paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of

this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.

## Article 12 ROYALTIES

(1) Royalties arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

(2) However, such royalties may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise and according to the laws of that State, but if the beneficial owner of the royalties is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed:

1. 5 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties within the meaning of subparagraph 1 of paragraph (3) of this Article;
2. 10 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties within the meaning of subparagraph 2 of paragraph (3) of this Article.

(3) The term "royalties" as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration:

1. for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work including cinematograph films or films or tapes used for radio or television broadcasting; and
2. for the use of, or the right to use, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for the use of or the right to use, industrial, commercial, or scientific equipment, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience.

(4) The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the royalties, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the royalties arise through a permanent establishment or a fixed base situated therein and the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

(5) Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the royalties, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the liability to pay the royalties was incurred, and such royalties are effectively borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then the royalties shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.

(6) Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the royalties, having regard to the use, right or information for which they are paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the

excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.

### Article 13 CAPITAL GAINS

(1) Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of immovable property referred to in Article 6 and situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

(2) Gains from the alienation of movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State or of movable property pertaining to a fixed base available to a resident of a Contracting State in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing independent personal services including such gains from the alienation of such a permanent establishment (alone or with the whole enterprise) or of such fixed base, may be taxed in that other State.

(3) Gains from the alienation of ships or aircraft operated in international traffic, boats engaged in inland waterways transport or movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships, aircraft or boats, shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

(4) Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of shares or comparable interests deriving more than 50 per cent of their value directly or indirectly from immovable property situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

(5) Gains from the alienation of any property other than that referred to in paragraphs (1), (2), (3) and (4), shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the alienator is a resident.

### Article 14 INDEPENDENT PERSONAL SERVICES

(1) Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of professional services or other activities of an independent character shall be taxable only in that State unless:

1. he has a fixed base regularly available to him in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing his activities; in this case only so much of the income as is attributable to that fixed base may be taxed in that other Contracting State;
2. his stay in the other Contracting State is for a period or periods amounting to or exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any twelve month period commencing or ending in the fiscal year concerned; in that case only so much of the income as is derived from his activities performed in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

(2) The term "professional services" includes especially independent scientific, literary, artistic, educational or teaching activities as well as the independent activities of physicians, lawyers, engineers, architects, dentists and accountants.

### Article 15 INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT

(1) Subject to the provisions of Articles 16, 18, 19, 20 and 21, salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment shall be taxable only in that State unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting State. If the employment is so exercised, such remuneration as is derived therefrom may be taxed in that other State.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1), remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment exercised in the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned State if:

1. the recipient is present in the other State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any twelve month period commencing or ending in the fiscal year concerned, and
2. the remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not a resident of the other State, and
3. the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment [or a fixed base] which the employer has in the other State.

(3) Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration derived in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft operated in international traffic, or aboard a boat engaged in inland waterways transport, may be taxed in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

(4) Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State if the remuneration is paid in respect of an employment exercised in the other Contracting State in connection with a building site, a construction or installation project in connection therewith, for the period of twelve months during which such site or project do not constitute a permanent establishment in that other State.

#### Article 16 DIRECTORS' FEES

Directors' fees and other similar payments derived by a resident of a Contracting State in his capacity as a member of the board of directors or any other similar organ of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

#### Article 17 ARTISTES AND SPORTSMEN

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7, 14 and 15, income derived by a resident of a Contracting State as an entertainer, such as a theatre, motion picture, radio or television artiste, or a musician, or as a sportsman, from his personal activities as such exercised in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other State.

(2) Where income in respect of personal activities exercised by an entertainer or a sportsman in his capacity as such accrues not to the entertainer or sportsman himself but to another person, that income may, notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7, 14, and 15, be taxed in the Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or sportsman are exercised.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2), income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from his personal activities as an entertainer or as a sportsman shall be taxable only in that State if the activities are exercised in the other Contracting State within the framework of a cultural or sports exchange programme approved by both Contracting States.

(4) The provisions of paragraph (3) shall also apply to legal entities which carry on orchestras, theatres, ballet groups as well as to members of such cultural entities if such legal entities substantially are non-profit entities and if this is certified by the competent authority of the State of residence.

#### Article 18 PENSIONS

(1) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) of Article 19, pensions and other similar remuneration paid to a resident of a Contracting State in consideration of past employment shall be taxable only in that State.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) and subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) of Article 19, pensions and other similar remuneration received by an individual being a resident of a Contracting State under the social security legislation of the other Contracting State may also be taxed in that other State.

#### Article 19 GOVERNMENT SERVICE

- (1)
  1. Salaries, wages and other similar remuneration, other than a pension, paid by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that State.
  2. However, such salaries, wages and other similar remuneration shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the services are rendered in that State and the individual is a resident of that State who:
    - is a national of that State; or
    - did not become a resident of that State solely for the purpose of rendering the services.
- (2)
  1. Any pension paid by, or out of funds created by, a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that State.
  2. However, such pension shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the individual is a resident of, and a national of, that State.

(3) The provisions of paragraph (1) of this Article shall likewise apply in respect of salaries, wages and other similar remuneration paid to the employees of representative offices of the Chambers of Commerce of the Contracting States in the other Contracting State.

(4) The provisions of Articles 15, 16, 17, and 18 shall apply to salaries, wages and other similar remuneration, and to pensions, in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof.

Article 20  
STUDENTS

(1) Payments which a student or business apprentice who is or was immediately before visiting a Contracting State a resident of the other Contracting State and who is present in the first-mentioned State solely for the purpose of his education or training receives for the purpose of his maintenance, education or training shall not be taxed in that State, provided that such payments arise from sources outside that State.

(2) In respect of grants, scholarships and remuneration from employment not covered by paragraph (1), a student or business apprentice referred to in paragraph (1) shall, in addition, be entitled during such education or training to the same exemptions, reliefs or reductions in respect of taxes available to residents of the Contracting State which he is visiting.

Article 21  
PROFESSORS AND RESEARCHERS

(1) An individual who visits a Contracting State for the purpose of teaching or carrying out research at a university college, school or other recognised educational institution in that State and who is or was immediately before that visit a resident of the other Contracting State, shall be exempt from taxation in the first-mentioned Contracting State on remuneration for such teaching or research for a period not exceeding two years from the date of his first visit for that purpose, provided that such remuneration arise from sources outside that State.

(2) The provisions of paragraph (1) of this Article shall not apply to income from research if such research is undertaken not in the public interest but primarily for the private benefit of a specific person or persons.

Article 22  
OTHER INCOME

(1) Items of income of a resident of a Contracting State, wherever arising, not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Convention shall be taxable only in that State.

(2) The provisions of paragraph (1) shall not apply to income, other than income from immovable property as defined in paragraph (2) of Article 6, if the recipient of such income, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the income is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

Article 23  
CAPITAL

(1) Capital represented by immovable property referred to in Article 6, owned by a resident of a Contracting State and situated in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other State.

(2) Capital represented by movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State or by movable property pertaining to a fixed base available to a resident of a Contracting State in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing independent personal services, may be taxed in that other State.

(3) Capital represented by ships and aircraft operated in international traffic and by boats engaged in inland waterways transport, and by movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships, aircraft and boats, shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

(4) All other elements of capital of a resident of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State.

Article 24  
ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE TAXATION

(1) In Austria, double taxation shall be eliminated as follows:

1. Where a resident of Austria derives income or owns capital which, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, may be taxed in Serbia, Austria shall, subject to the provisions of subparagraph 2 and paragraph (3), exempt such income or capital from tax.
2. Where a resident of Austria derives items of income which, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 10, 11, 12, paragraph (4) of Article 13 and paragraph (2) of Article 18, may be taxed in Serbia, Austria shall allow as a deduction from the tax on the income of that resident an amount equal to the tax paid in Serbia. Such deduction shall not, however, exceed that part of the tax, as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable to such items of income derived from Serbia.

(2) In Serbia, double taxation shall be eliminated as follows:

Where a resident of Serbia derives income or owns capital which, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, may be taxed in Austria, Serbia shall allow:

- as a deduction from the tax on the income of that resident, an amount equal to the income tax paid in Austria;
- as a deduction from the tax on the capital of that resident, an amount equal to the capital tax paid in Austria.

Such deduction in either case shall not, however, exceed that part of the income tax or capital tax, as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable, as the case may be, to the income or the capital which may be taxed in Austria.

(3) Where in accordance with any provision of the Convention income derived or capital owned by a resident of a Contracting State is exempt from tax in that State, such State may nevertheless, in calculating the amount of tax on the remaining income or capital of such resident, take into account the exempted income or capital.

#### Article 25 NON-DISCRIMINATION

(1) Nationals of a Contracting State shall not be subjected in the other Contracting State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith, which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which nationals of that other State in the same circumstances, in particular with respect to residence, are or may be subjected. This provision shall, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1, also apply to persons who are not residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

(2) The taxation on a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State shall not be less favourably levied in that other State than the taxation levied on enterprises of that other State carrying on the same activities. This provision shall not be construed as obliging a Contracting State to grant to residents of the other Contracting State any personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for taxation purposes on account of civil status or family responsibilities which it grants to its own residents.

(3) Except where the provisions of paragraph (1) of Article 9, paragraph (7) of Article 11, or paragraph (6) of Article 12, apply, interest, royalties and other disbursements paid by an enterprise of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall, for the purpose of determining the taxable profits of such enterprise, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been paid to a resident of the first-mentioned State. Similarly, any debts of an enterprise of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall, for the purpose of determining the taxable capital of such enterprise, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been contracted to a resident of the first-mentioned State.

(4) Enterprises of a Contracting State, the capital of which is wholly or partly owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by one or more residents of the other Contracting State, shall not be subjected in the first-mentioned State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which other similar enterprises of the first-mentioned State are or may be subjected.

(5) The provisions of this Article shall apply to taxes referred to in Article 2.

#### Article 26 MUTUAL AGREEMENT PROCEDURE

(1) Where a person considers that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for him in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, he may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the domestic law of those States, present his case to the competent authority of the Contracting State of which he is a resident or, if his case comes under paragraph (1) of Article 25, to that of the Contracting State of which he is a national. The case must be presented within three years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

(2) The competent authority shall endeavour, if the objection appears to it to be justified and if it is not itself able to arrive at a satisfactory solution, to resolve the case by mutual agreement with the competent authority of the other Contracting State, with a view to the avoidance of taxation which is not in accordance with the Convention. Any agreement reached shall be implemented notwithstanding any time limits in the domestic law of the Contracting States.

(3) The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any difficulties or doubts arising as to the interpretation or application of the Convention. They may also consult together for the elimination of double taxation in cases not provided for in the Convention.

(4) The competent authorities of the Contracting States may communicate with each other directly, including through a joint commission consisting of themselves or their representatives, for the purpose of reaching an agreement in the sense of the preceding paragraphs.

## Article 27 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

(1) The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is foreseeably relevant for carrying out the provisions of this Convention or to the administration or enforcement of the domestic laws concerning taxes of every kind and description imposed on behalf of the Contracting States, or of their political subdivisions or local authorities, insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Convention. The exchange of information is not restricted by Articles 1 and 2.

(2) Any information received under paragraph (1) by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic laws of that State and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) concerned with the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, the determination of appeals in relation to the taxes referred to in paragraph (1), or the oversight of the above. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes. They may disclose the information in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions.

(3) In no case shall the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) be construed so as to impose on a Contracting State the obligation:

1. to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;
2. to supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State;
3. to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process, or information, the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy (*ordre public*).

(4) If information is requested by a Contracting State in accordance with this Article, the other Contracting State shall use its information gathering measures to obtain the requested information, even though that other State may not need such information for its own tax purposes. The obligation contained in the preceding sentence is subject to the

limitations of paragraph (3) but in no case shall such limitations be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because it has no domestic interest in such information.

(5) In no case shall the provisions of paragraph (3) be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because the information is held by a bank, other financial institution, nominee or person acting in an agency or a fiduciary capacity or because it relates to ownership interests in a person.

## Article 28 MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND CONSULAR POSTS

Nothing in this Convention shall affect the fiscal privileges of members of diplomatic missions or consular posts under the general rules of international law or under the provisions of special agreements.

*The following paragraph 1 of Article 7 of the MLI applies and supersedes the provisions of this Convention.<sup>3</sup>*

### ARTICLE 7 OF THE MLI - PREVENTION OF TREATY ABUSE (Principal purposes test provision)

Notwithstanding any provisions of this Convention, a benefit under this Convention shall not be granted in respect of an item of income if it is reasonable to conclude, having regard to all relevant facts and circumstances, that obtaining that benefit was one of the principal purposes of any arrangement or transaction that resulted directly or indirectly in that benefit, unless it is established that granting that benefit in these circumstances would be in accordance with the object and purpose of the relevant provisions of this Convention.

## Article 29 ENTRY INTO FORCE

(1) The Contracting States shall notify to each other in writing, through the diplomatic channels, the completion of the procedures required by their domestic laws for the entry into force of the Convention.

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<sup>3</sup> In accordance with paragraphs 1 and 3 of Article 35 of the MLI, paragraph 1 of Article 7 of the MLI has effect with respect to the application of this Convention by the Republic of Austria:

- a) with respect to taxes withheld at source on amounts paid or credited to non-residents, where the event giving rise to such taxes occurs on or after 1 January 2019; and
- b) with respect to all other taxes levied by the Republic of Austria, for taxes levied with respect to taxable periods beginning on or after 1 January 2020;

and,

In accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 35 of the MLI, paragraph 1 of Article 7 of the MLI has effect with respect to the application of this Convention by the Republic of Serbia:

- a) with respect to taxes withheld at source on amounts paid or credited to non-residents, where the event giving rise to such taxes occurs on or after 1 January 2019; and
- b) with respect to all other taxes levied by the Republic of Serbia, for taxes levied with respect to taxable periods beginning on or after 1 April 2019.

(2) This Convention shall enter into force on the date of the later of these notifications and its provisions shall have effect in respect of the taxes on income derived and the taxes on capital owned in each fiscal year beginning on or after the first day of January in the calendar year next following that in which the Convention enters into force.

Article 30  
TERMINATION

This Convention shall remain in force until terminated by a Contracting State. Either Contracting State may terminate the Convention, through the diplomatic channels, by giving written notice of termination at least six months before the end of any calendar year after the fifth year from the date of entry into force of the Convention. In such event, the Convention shall cease to have effect in respect of the taxes on income derived and the taxes on capital owned in each fiscal year beginning on or after the first day of January in the calendar year next following that in which the notice of termination has been given.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Convention.

DONE at Belgrade, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May 2010, in two originals, in the German, Serbian and English languages, both originals being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

FOR  
THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA

JOSEF PRÖLL

FOR  
THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

DIANA DRAGUTINOVIC

## PROTOCOL

At the moment of signing the Convention between the Republic of Austria and the Republic of Serbia for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and on capital, the undersigned have agreed that the following provisions shall form an integral part of the Convention.

I. Ad Article 7

In respect of paragraphs (1) and (2) of Article 7, where an enterprise of a Contracting State sells goods or merchandise or carries on business in the other State through a permanent establishment situated therein, the profits of that permanent establishment shall not be determined on the basis of the total amount received by the enterprise, but shall be determined only on the basis of that part of the total amount received which is attributable to the actual activity of the permanent establishment for such sales or business.

In the case of contracts for the survey, supply, installation or construction of industrial, commercial or scientific equipment or premises, or for public works, when the enterprise has a permanent establishment, it is understood that the profits of such permanent establishment shall not be determined on the basis of the total amount of the contract, but shall be determined only on the basis of that part of the total amount received by the enterprise which is attributable to the part of the contract effectively carried out by the permanent establishment in the State where the permanent establishment is situated.

The profits related to that part of the contract which is carried out by the head office of the enterprise shall be taxable only in the State of which the enterprise is a resident.

II. Ad Article 11

If after the signature of this Convention, Serbia signs a Convention for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and on capital with a third State which is a member of the European Union and that Convention contains lower rate, than the rate provided for in this Convention, Serbia will be prepared to start negotiations with Austria for the revision of the rate provided for in this Convention.

III. Ad Article 27:

(1) The competent authority of the applicant State shall provide the following information to the competent authority of the requested State when making a request for information under the Convention to demonstrate the foreseeable relevance of the information to the request:

1. the identity of the person under examination or investigation;
2. a statement of the information sought;
3. the tax purpose for which the information is sought;
4. grounds for believing that the information requested is held in the requested State or is in the possession or control of a person within the jurisdiction of the requested State;
5. the name and address of any person believed to be in possession of the requested information;
6. a statement that the applicant State has pursued all means available in its own territory to obtain the information, except those that would give rise to disproportionate difficulties.

(2) It is understood that paragraph (5) of Article 27 does not require the Contracting States to exchange information on a spontaneous or automatic basis.

(3) It is understood that, in addition to the above mentioned principles, for the interpretation of Article 27, the principles established in the OECD Commentaries (in particular, paragraph 5 of the Commentary on Article 26) shall be considered as well.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Protocol.

DONE at Belgrade, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May 2010, in two originals, in the German, Serbian and English languages, both originals being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

FOR  
THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA

JOSEF PRÖLL

FOR  
THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

DIANA DRAGUTINOVIC