

Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information

Whereas, the jurisdictions of the signatories to the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information (the „Agreement”) are Parties of, or territories covered by, the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters or the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters as amended by the Protocol amending the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters (the „Convention”) or have signed or expressed their intention to sign the Convention and acknowledge that the Convention must be in force and in effect in relation to them before the first exchange of financial account information takes place;

Whereas, the jurisdictions intend to improve international tax compliance by further building on their relationship with respect to mutual assistance in tax matters;

Whereas, the Common Reporting Standard was developed by the OECD, with G20 countries, to tackle tax avoidance and evasion and improve tax compliance;

Whereas, a country that has signed or expressed its intention to sign the Convention will only become a Jurisdiction as defined in Section 1 of this Agreement once it has become a Party to the Convention;

Whereas, the laws of the respective Jurisdictions require or are expected to require financial institutions to report information regarding certain accounts and follow related due diligence procedures, consistent with the scope of exchange contemplated by Section 2 of this Agreement and the reporting and due diligence procedures set out in the Common Reporting Standard;

Whereas, it is expected that the laws of the Jurisdictions would be amended from time to time to reflect updates to the Common Reporting Standard and once such changes are enacted by a Jurisdiction the definition of Common Reporting Standard would be deemed to refer to the updated version in respect of that Jurisdiction;

Whereas, Chapter III of the Convention authorises the exchange of information for tax purposes, including the exchange of information on an automatic basis, and allows the competent authorities of the Jurisdictions to agree the scope and modalities of such automatic exchanges;

Whereas, Article 6 of the Convention provides that two or more Parties can mutually agree to exchange information automatically, the exchange of the information will be on a bilateral basis between the Competent Authorities; Whereas, the Jurisdictions have, or are expected to have, in place by the time the first exchange takes place (i) appropriate safeguards to ensure that the information received pursuant to this Agreement remains confidential and is used solely for the purposes set out in the Convention, and (ii) the infrastructure for an effective exchange relationship (including established processes for ensuring timely, accurate, and confidential information exchanges, effective and reliable communications, and capabilities to promptly resolve questions and concerns about exchanges or requests for exchanges and to administer the provisions of Section 4 of this Agreement);

Whereas, the Competent Authorities of the jurisdictions intend to conclude an agreement to improve international tax compliance based on automatic exchange pursuant to the Convention, without prejudice to national legislative procedures (if any), respecting EU law (if applicable), and subject to the confidentiality and other protections provided for in the Convention, including the provisions limiting the use of the information exchanged thereunder; Now, therefore, the Competent Authorities have agreed as follows:

SECTION 1**Definitions**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the following terms have the following meanings:

a) the term „Jurisdiction” means a country or a territory in respect of which the Convention is in force and is in effect, either through signature and ratification in accordance with Article 28, or through territorial extension in accordance with Article 29, and which is a signatory to this Agreement.

b) the term „Competent Authority” means, for each respective Jurisdiction, the persons and authorities listed in Annex B of the Convention.

c) the term „Jurisdiction Financial Institution” means, for each respective Jurisdiction, (i) any Financial Institution that is resident in the Jurisdiction, but excludes any branch of that Financial Institution that is located outside the Jurisdiction, and (ii) any branch of a Financial Institution that is not resident in the Jurisdiction, if that branch is located in the Jurisdiction.

d) the term „Reporting Financial Institution” means any Jurisdiction Financial Institution that is not a Non-Reporting Financial Institution.

e) the term „Reportable Account” means a Financial Account that is maintained by a Reporting Financial Institution and that, pursuant to due diligence procedures consistent with the Common Reporting Standard, has been identified as an account that is held by one or more persons that are Reportable Persons with respect to another Jurisdiction or by a Passive Non-Financial Entity with one or more Controlling Persons that are Reportable Persons with respect to another Jurisdiction.

f) the term „Common Reporting Standard” means the standard for automatic exchange of financial account information in tax matters (which includes the Commentaries), developed by the OECD, with G20 countries.

g) the term „Co-ordinating Body Secretariat” means the OECD Secretariat that, pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 24 of the Convention, provides support to the co-ordinating body that is composed of representatives of the competent authorities of the Parties to the Convention.

h) the term „Agreement in effect” means, in respect of any two Competent Authorities, that both Competent Authorities have indicated their intention to automatically exchange information with each other and have satisfied the other conditions set out in subparagraph 2.1. of Section 7. The Competent Authorities for which this Agreement is in effect are listed in Annex E.

2. Any capitalised term not otherwise defined in this Agreement will have the meaning that it has at that time under the law of the Jurisdiction applying the Agreement, such meaning being consistent with the meaning set forth in the Common Reporting Standard. Any term not otherwise defined in this Agreement or in the Common Reporting Standard will, unless the context otherwise requires or the Competent Authorities agree to a common meaning (as permitted by domestic law), have the meaning that it has at that time under the law of the Jurisdiction applying this Agreement, any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that Jurisdiction prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that Jurisdiction.

SECTION 2**Exchange of Information with Respect to Reportable Accounts**

1.1. Pursuant to the provisions of Articles 6 and 22 of the Convention and subject to the applicable reporting and due diligence rules consistent with the Common Reporting Standard, each Competent Authority will annually exchange with the other Competent Authorities, with respect to which it has this Agreement in effect, on an automatic basis the information obtained pursuant to such rules and specified in paragraph 2.

1.2. Notwithstanding the previous paragraph, the Competent Authorities of the Jurisdictions listed in Annex A will send, but not receive, the information specified in paragraph 2. Competent Authorities of Jurisdictions not listed in Annex A will always receive the information specified in paragraph 2. Competent Authorities will not send such information to Competent Authorities of the Jurisdictions listed in Annex A.

2. The information to be exchanged is, with respect to each Reportable Account of another Jurisdiction:

a) the name, address, TIN(s) and date and place of birth (in the case of an individual) of each Reportable Person that is an Account Holder of the account and, in the case of any Entity that is an Account Holder and that, after application of due diligence procedures consistent with the Common Reporting Standard, is identified as having one or more Controlling Persons that is a Reportable Person, the name, address, and TIN(s) of the Entity and the name, address, TIN(s) and date and place of birth of each Reportable Person;

b) the account number (or functional equivalent in the absence of an account number);

c) the name and identifying number (if any) of the Reporting Financial Institution;

d) the account balance or value (including, in the case of a Cash Value Insurance Contract or Annuity Contract, the Cash Value or surrender value) as of the end of the relevant calendar year or other appropriate reporting period or, if the account was closed during such year or period, the closure of the account;

e) in the case of any Custodial Account:

(1) the total gross amount of interest, the total gross amount of dividends, and the total gross amount of other income generated with respect to the assets held in the account, in each case paid or credited to the account (or with respect to the account) during the calendar year or other appropriate reporting period; and

(2) the total gross proceeds from the sale or redemption of Financial Assets paid or credited to the account during the calendar year or other appropriate reporting period with respect to which the Reporting Financial Institution acted as a custodian, broker, nominee, or otherwise as an agent for the Account Holder;

f) in the case of any Depository Account, the total gross amount of interest paid or credited

to the account during the calendar year or other appropriate reporting period; and

g) in the case of any account not described in subparagraph 2(e) or (f), the total gross amount paid or credited to the Account Holder with respect to the account during the calendar year or other appropriate reporting period with respect to which the Reporting Financial Institution is the

obligor or debtor, including the aggregate amount of any redemption payments made to the Account Holder during the calendar year or other appropriate reporting period.

SECTION 3

Time and Manner of Exchange of Information

1. For the purposes of the exchange of information in Section 2, the amount and characterization of payments made with respect to a Reportable Account may be determined in accordance with the principles of the tax laws of the Jurisdiction exchanging the information.

2. For the purposes of the exchange of information in Section 2, the information exchanged will identify the currency in which each relevant amount is denominated.

3. With respect to paragraph 2 of Section 2, and subject to the notification procedure set out in Section 7, including the dates specified therein, information is to be exchanged commencing from the years specified in Annex F² within nine months after the end of the calendar year to which the information relates. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, information is only required to be exchanged with respect to a calendar year if both

Competent Authorities have this Agreement in effect and their respective Jurisdictions have in effect legislation that requires reporting with respect to such calendar year that is consistent with the scope of exchange provided for in Section 2 and the reporting and due diligence procedures contained in the Common Reporting Standard.

4. [deleted]

5. The Competent Authorities will automatically exchange the information described in Section 2 in the common reporting standard schema in Extensible Markup Language.

6. The Competent Authorities will work towards and agree on one or more methods for data transmission including encryption standards with a view to maximising standardisation and minimising complexities and costs and will specify those in Annex B.