

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COMPETENT  
AUTHORITIES OF SINGAPORE AND  
BELGIUM ON THE AUTOMATIC EXCHANGE  
OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNT INFORMATION TO IMPROVE  
INTERNATIONAL TAX COMPLIANCE**

**NOTE**

This Agreement was signed on 10 March 2017.  
However, the Agreement is not yet ratified and therefore **does not have the force of law.**

Whereas, the Government of Singapore and the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium have a longstanding and close relationship with respect to mutual assistance in tax matters and desire to improve international tax compliance by further building on that relationship;

Whereas, the laws of their 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 contained in the Common Reporting Standard;

Whereas, Article 6 of the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters (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 Singapore and Belgium (the "Competent Authorities") to agree the scope and modalities of such automatic exchanges;

Whereas, Singapore and Belgium have in 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 desire to conclude an agreement to improve international tax compliance based on reciprocal automatic exchange pursuant to the Convention, and subject to the confidentiality and other protections provided for therein, including the provisions limiting the use of the information exchanged under the Convention;

Now, therefore, the Competent Authorities have agreed as follows:

## **SECTION 1**

### ***Definitions***

1. For the purposes of this agreement (“Agreement”), the following terms have the following meanings:

- a) the term “Singapore” means the Republic of Singapore.
- b) the term “Belgium” means the Kingdom of Belgium.
- c) the term “Competent Authority” means:
  - 1) in the case of Singapore, the Minister for Finance or his authorised representative; and
  - 2) in the case of Belgium, the Minister of Finance or his authorised representative.
- d) the term “Singaporean Financial Institution” means (i) any Financial Institution that is resident in Singapore, but excludes any branch of that Financial Institution that is located outside Singapore, and (ii) any branch of a Financial Institution that is not resident in Singapore, if that branch is located in Singapore.
- e) the term “Belgian Financial Institution” means (i) any Financial Institution that is resident in Belgium, but excludes any branch of that Financial Institution that is located outside Belgium, and (ii) any branch of a Financial Institution that is not resident in Belgium, if that branch is located in Belgium.
- f) the term “Reporting Financial Institution” means any Singaporean Financial Institution or Belgian Financial Institution, as the context requires, that is not a Non-Reporting Financial Institution.
- g) the term “Reportable Account” means a Singaporean Reportable Account or a Belgian Reportable Account, as the context requires, provided it has been identified as such pursuant to due diligence procedures, consistent with the Common Reporting Standard, in place in Singapore or Belgium.
- h) the term “Singaporean Reportable Account” means a Financial Account that is maintained by a Belgian Reporting Financial Institution and held by one or more Singaporean Persons that are Reportable Persons or by a Passive Non-Financial Entity with one or more Controlling Persons that is a Singaporean Reportable Person.
- i) the term “Belgian Reportable Account” means a Financial Account that is maintained by a Singaporean Reporting Financial Institution and held by one or more Belgian Persons that are Reportable Persons or by a Passive Non-Financial Entity with one or more Controlling Persons that is a Belgian Reportable Person.

- j) the term “Singaporean Person” means an individual or Entity that is identified by a Belgian Reporting Financial Institution as resident in Singapore pursuant to due diligence procedures consistent with the Common Reporting Standard, or an estate of a decedent that was a resident of Singapore.
- k) the term “Belgian Person” means an individual or Entity that is identified by a Singaporean Reporting Financial Institution as resident in Belgium pursuant to due diligence procedures consistent with the Common Reporting Standard, or an estate of a decedent that was a resident of Belgium.
- l) the term “TIN” means a Singaporean TIN or a Belgian TIN, as the context requires.
- m) the term “Singaporean TIN” means a Singaporean Tax Reference Number.
- n) the term “Belgian TIN” means a Belgian Taxpayer identifying number.

2. Any 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. Pursuant to the provisions of Article 6 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 Authority on an automatic basis the information obtained pursuant to such rules and specified in paragraph 2.

2. The information to be exchanged is, in the case of Singapore with respect to each Belgian Reportable Account, and in the case of Belgium with respect to each Singaporean Reportable Account:

- a) the name, address, TIN(s) and date 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 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 characterisation 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, information is to be exchanged with respect to 2017 and all subsequent years and will be exchanged 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 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. Notwithstanding paragraph 3, the information to be exchanged with respect to 2017 is the information described in paragraph 2 of Section 2, except for gross proceeds described in subparagraph 2(e)(2) of Section 2. With respect to gross proceeds described in subparagraph 2(e)(2) of Section 2, information is to be exchanged with respect to 2018 and all subsequent years and will be exchanged within nine months after the end of the calendar year to which the information relates.

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

6. The Competent Authorities will agree on one or more methods for data transmission including encryption standards.

#### **SECTION 4** ***Collaboration on Compliance and Enforcement***

A Competent Authority will notify the other Competent Authority when the first-mentioned Competent Authority has reason to believe that an error may have led to incorrect or incomplete information reporting or there is non-compliance by a Reporting Financial Institution with the applicable reporting requirements and due diligence procedures consistent with the Common Reporting Standard. The notified Competent Authority will take all appropriate measures available under its domestic law to address the errors or non-compliance described in the notice.

#### **SECTION 5** ***Confidentiality and Data Safeguards***

1. All information exchanged is subject to the confidentiality rules and other safeguards provided for in the Convention, including the provisions limiting the use of the information exchanged and, to the extent needed to ensure the necessary level of protection of personal data, in accordance with the safeguards required under the domestic law of the supplying Competent Authority, as specified in the notification pursuant to paragraph 1(c) of Section 7.

2. Each Competent Authority will notify the other Competent Authority immediately regarding any breach of confidentiality or failure of safeguards and any sanctions and remedial actions consequently imposed.

## **SECTION 6**

### ***Consultations and Amendments***

1. If any difficulties in the implementation or interpretation of this Agreement arise, either Competent Authority may request consultations to develop appropriate measures to ensure that this Agreement is fulfilled.
2. This Agreement may be amended by written agreement of the Competent Authorities. Unless otherwise agreed upon, such an amendment is effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of one month after the date of the later of the signatures of such written agreement or the date of the later of the notifications exchanged for purposes of such written agreement.

## **SECTION 7**

### ***Term of Agreement***

1. This Agreement will come into effect on the date of the later of the notifications provided by each Competent Authority to the other Competent Authority confirming:
  - a) that its jurisdiction has the necessary laws in place to implement the Common Reporting Standard and specifying the relevant effective dates with respect to Preexisting Accounts, New Accounts, and the application or completion of the reporting and due diligence procedures;
  - b) the method(s) for data transmission including encryption;
  - c) the safeguards, if any, for the protection of personal data required under the domestic law of the supplying Competent Authority and to be complied with by the receiving Competent Authority;
  - d) that it has in place adequate measures to ensure the required confidentiality and data safeguards are met and attaching the completed confidentiality and data safeguard questionnaire; and
  - e) that the jurisdiction is in a position to comply with the data protection safeguards specified by the other Competent Authority in its notification pursuant to paragraph 1(c) of Section 7.

Each Competent Authority must notify the other Competent Authority promptly, of any subsequent change to be made to the above-mentioned notifications.

2. A Competent Authority may suspend the exchange of information under this Agreement by giving notice in writing to the other Competent Authority that it has determined that there is or has been significant non-compliance by the other Competent Authority with this Agreement. Such suspension will have immediate effect. For the purposes of this paragraph, significant non-compliance includes, but is not limited to, non-compliance with the confidentiality and data safeguard provisions of this Agreement and the Convention, a failure by the Competent Authority to provide

timely or adequate information as required under this Agreement or defining the status of Entities or accounts as Non-Reporting Financial Institutions and Excluded Accounts in a manner that frustrates the purposes of the Common Reporting Standard.

3. Either Competent Authority may terminate this Agreement by giving notice of termination in writing to the other Competent Authority. Such termination will become effective on the first day of the month following the expiration of a period of 12 months after the date of the notice of termination. In the event of termination, all information previously received under this Agreement will remain confidential and subject to the terms of the Convention.

Signed in duplicate in Singapore and Belgium on 10 March 2017.

Chia-Tern Huey Min  
Deputy Commissioner (International,  
Investigation and Indirect Taxes Group)  
Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore  
Competent Authority for  
Singapore

Piet De Vos  
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