

PROTOCOL

AMENDING THE CONVENTION

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION WITH RESPECT TO

TAXES ON INCOME AND ON PROPERTY SIGNED AT MINSK

ON 16 MAY 2001

The Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Republic of Belarus, desiring to conclude a Protocol amending the Convention between the Government of the Republic of Austria and the Government of the Republic of Belarus for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and on property, signed at Minsk on 16 May 2001 (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention"),

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Subparagraph g) ii) of paragraph 1 of Article 3 of the Convention shall be replaced by the following:

"ii) in Belarus: the Ministry of Taxes and Duties of the Republic of Belarus or its authorised representative;".

Article 2

Article 26 of the Convention shall be replaced by the following:

"ARTICLE 26

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. Notwithstanding the foregoing, information received by a Contracting State may be used for other purposes when such information may be used for such other purposes under the laws of both States and the competent authority of the supplying State authorises such use.
3. In no case shall the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 be construed so as to impose on a Contracting State the obligation:
 - a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;
 - b) 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;
 - c) 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 3

In respect of Article 26 of the Convention the Contracting States agreed on the following:

"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:

- (a) the identity of the person under examination or investigation;
- (b) the nature of the information sought and the form in which the applicant State wishes to receive the information from the requested State;
- (c) the tax purpose for which the information is sought;
- (d) 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;
- (e) to the extent known, the name and address of any person believed to be in possession of the requested information;
- (f) 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 the exchange of information provided in Article 26 of the Convention does not include speculative requests that have no apparent nexus to an open inquiry or investigation.

3. It is understood that paragraph 5 of Article 26 of the Convention does not require the Contracting States to exchange information on a spontaneous or automatic basis."

Article 4

The Contracting States shall notify each other through diplomatic channels that all legal procedures for the entry into force of this Protocol have been completed. The Protocol, which shall form an integral part of the Convention, shall enter into force on the first day of the third month next following the date of the receipt of the latter of the notifications referred to above. The provisions of this Protocol shall have effect with regard to taxable periods beginning on or after 1 January of the calendar year next following the year of the entry into force of this Protocol.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Plenipotentiaries of the two Contracting States, duly authorised thereto, have signed this Protocol.

DONE in duplicate at Vienna, on 24 November 2014, in the German, Belarusian and English languages, all the texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of
the Republic of Austria:

Sebastian Kurz

For the Government of
the Republic of Belarus:

Vladimir Makei