

Convention of April 5, 1993 between the Kingdom of Sweden and the Republic of Latvia for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital.

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#### AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE

According to articles 26 and 27 of the Convention for avoidance of double taxation between Sweden and Latvia the competent authorities shall exchange information as is necessary for carrying out the provisions of the Convention or of the domestic laws of the Contracting States concerning taxes covered by this Convention insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Convention and lend assistance to each other in collection of taxes.

#### EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

The competent authorities agree to establish procedures to exchange information

- a. on request as is necessary for carrying out the provisions of the Convention or of the domestic laws of the contracting states concerning taxes covered by the Convention,
- b. automatically as regards specific categories of income, or
- c. spontaneously as regards information which is obtained in the ordinary course of administration.

Information will be automatically exchanged regarding the following items

- Dividends paid by companies resident in one of the Contracting States to residents in the other State.
- Interest on accounts in banks and similar institutions, resident in one of the Contracting States, paid to residents in the other State.
- Royalties as defined in article 12 of the Convention, paid by residents in one of the Contracting States to residents in the other State.

- Salaries, wages, fees, pensions and annuities paid by residents in one of the Contracting States to residents in the other State.

To achieve more efficiency in the exchange of information and to deal more effectively with cases of tax avoidance or tax evasion, the competent authorities have decided to establish a working agreement to conduct simultaneous tax examinations of selected taxpayers, or groups of taxpayers, carrying on activities in both Latvia and Sweden. The procedures for case selection and examination procedures that the competent authorities have agreed upon are further described in Appendix A.

At the request of the competent authority of one of the Contracting States, the competent authority in the other Contracting State may allow representatives of the first-mentioned competent authority to be present at the appropriate part of a tax examination in the requested state. All decisions with respect to the conduct of the tax examination shall be made by the requested state. The competent authority in the requested state shall notify the other competent authority regarding the particulars of each examination.

#### ASSISTANCE IN COLLECTION

At the request of one of the Contracting States the other Contracting State shall, subject to the provisions of article 27 take all the necessary steps to assist in the collection of tax claims of the first-mentioned state.

In cases when the necessary information has not been maintained and is not accesible, the Contracting States have to confirm that the specific information does not exist.

#### CONSULTATIONS

The competent authorities shall consult each other whenever necessary for facilitating the carrying out of the obligations under this agreement.

#### MODIFICATIONS

This agreement may be modified at any time by agreement between the competent authorities.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS


The tax administration of the Republic of Latvia can start the automatic exchange of information as envisaged in this article:

- regarding payment of dividends, starting providing information on assessment of dividends for the year 1995;
- the competent authorities bear in mind that the existing legislation of the Republic of Latvia provides the storage of summarized information about interest payments only if the payer and the beneficiary are associated enterprises or persons. This means that adequate exchange of information will be possible only after the adoption of corresponding Latvian legislation.

Prior to this the State Revenue Service can deliver information about interest payments on separate requests.

On behalf of the  
National Tax Board,  
Sweden

On behalf of the  
Latvian State  
Revenue Service

  
.....  
Mats Sjöstrand

  
.....  
**J. Ostaškova**

## Appendix A

### SIMULTANEOUS TAX EXAMINATIONS

#### **CASE SELECTION AND EXAMINATION PROCEDURES**

The selection procedures will be the following:

1. Taxpayers will be independently identified for simultaneous examinations by the tax administration of each country.
2. Each country will inform the other of its choice of potential cases using the selection criteria described below.
3. Each country will determine whether it wishes to participate in a particular simultaneous examination. Neither country, however, is obliged to co-operate in an examination proposed by the other country.
4. If a competent authority accepts a counterpart's proposal to conduct a simultaneous examination, that competent authority will confirm, in writing, the selection of the case and will indicate a designated representative who will have functional responsibility for directing the examination. After receiving the confirmation, the proposing competent authority also will indicate, in writing, a designated representative. In those cases where there is an agreement to conduct a simultaneous examination, the competent authority of each country will formally request the other competent authority to exchange specific information pursuant to the Income Tax Convention.
5. The designated representative of the competent authorities will decide areas and periods to be examined in the particular case selected, the timetable for the examination, and approaches to be taken. They will initiate exchange of specific information in accordance with formal written requests.
6. The information which may be requested under this arrangement must be obtainable under the Income Tax Convention and the respective taxation laws of the two countries.
7. The competent authority of each country may, by a declaration addressed to its counterpart in the other country, indicate that, according to its internal legislation, it will inform its resident

before transmitting information concerned in conformity with the exchange of information article of the Income Tax Convention.

### **Criteria for case selection**

Any case selected for simultaneous examination will involve a taxpayer(s) with activities in both countries. The factors considered in determining whether a case is selected will primarily be, but will not be limited to:

- Indication of tax avoidance and evasion.
- Indication of substantial noncompliance of the tax laws in both countries.
- Existence of transactions involving a "tax haven".
- Situations where the competent authorities consider it is in the interest of the tax administrations concerned in order to promote international tax compliance.

### **Personnel**

Examinations will be conducted separately within the framework of national law and practice solely by tax administration officials of each country in a way which maximizes the advantages obtainable from treaty exchanges of information.

### **Planning the examination**

Before the start of the examination, the tax administration personnel in charge of the case will consider with their counterparts from the other country, the audit plans of each country, possible issues to be developed, and target dates. However, there will be no exchange of formal examination plans between the countries.

### **Conducting an examination**

This procedure requires co-operation of personnel located in each country who will simultaneously but independently examine the taxpayer(s) within its jurisdiction. The primary responsibility for co-ordinating the examination and exchanges of information on a selected taxpayer will rest with the country agreed upon by the competent authorities. All exchanges of information must be made within the terms of the Income Tax

Convention.

**Discontinuing a simultaneous examination**

If either country concludes that a simultaneous examination is no longer beneficial, it may withdraw by notifying the other country of its withdrawal.

**Concluding an examination**

An examination will be concluded after coordination and consulting between the two countries, in accordance with the existing procedures of each country. Issues pertaining to double taxation raised by the examination are reserved to the mutual agreement procedure.

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