

**AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND  
FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION RELATING TO TAX MATTERS**

The Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Government of the Republic of Finland, hereinafter referred to as “the Contracting Parties”, –

whereas the Contracting Parties recognise that the well-developed economic ties between the parties call for further cooperation;

whereas the Contracting Parties wish to strengthen the ability of both parties to enforce their respective tax laws; and

whereas the Contracting Parties wish to establish the terms and conditions governing the exchange of information relating to tax matters –

have agreed as follows:

## **Article 1**

### **Object and scope of the agreement**

The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall provide assistance through exchange of information that is foreseeably relevant to the administration and enforcement of the domestic laws of the Contracting Parties concerning taxes covered by this Agreement. Such information shall include information that is foreseeably relevant to the determination, assessment and collection of such taxes, the recovery and enforcement of tax claims, or the investigation or prosecution of tax matters. Information shall be exchanged in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and shall be treated as confidential in the manner provided in Article 8. The rights and safeguards secured to persons by the laws or administrative practice of the requested Party remain applicable to the extent that they do not unduly prevent or delay effective exchange of information.

## **Article 2**

### **Jurisdiction**

A requested Party is not obligated to provide information which is neither held by its authorities nor in the possession or control of persons who are within its territorial jurisdiction.

## **Article 3**

### **Taxes covered**

1. This Agreement shall apply to taxes of every kind and description imposed in the Contracting Parties.
2. This Agreement shall also apply to any identical or substantially similar taxes imposed after the date of signature of the Agreement in addition to or in place of the existing taxes. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall notify each other of any substantial changes to the taxation and related information gathering measures covered by the Agreement.

## **Article 4**

### **Definitions**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, unless otherwise defined:
  - a) the term “Contracting Party” means Finland or Liechtenstein as the context requires;
  - b) the term “Liechtenstein” means the Principality of Liechtenstein, and, when used in a geographical sense, the area in which the tax laws of the Principality of Liechtenstein apply;
  - c) the term "Finland" means the Republic of Finland and, when used in a geographical sense, means the territory of the Republic of Finland, and any area adjacent to the territorial waters of the Republic of Finland within which, under the laws of Finland and in accordance with international law, the rights of Finland with

respect to the exploration for and exploitation of the natural resources of the sea bed and its sub-soil and of the superjacent waters may be exercised;

- d) the term "competent authority" means:
  - (i) in Liechtenstein, the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein or its authorised representative;
  - (ii) in Finland, the Ministry of Finance, its authorised representative or the authority which, by the Ministry of Finance, is designated as competent authority;
- e) the term "person" includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons;
- f) the term "company" means any body corporate or any entity that is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
- g) the term "publicly traded company" means any company whose principal class of shares is listed on a recognised stock exchange provided its listed shares can be readily purchased or sold by the public. Shares can be purchased or sold "by the public" if the purchase or sale of shares is not implicitly or explicitly restricted to a limited group of investors;
- h) the term "principal class of shares" means the class or classes of shares representing a majority of the voting power and value of the company;
- i) the term "recognised stock exchange" means any stock exchange agreed upon by the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties;
- j) the term "collective investment fund or scheme" means any pooled investment vehicle, irrespective of legal form. The term "public collective investment fund or scheme" means any collective investment fund or scheme provided the units, shares or other interests in the fund or scheme can be readily purchased, sold or redeemed by the public. Units, shares or other interests in the fund or scheme can be readily purchased, sold or redeemed "by the public" if the purchase, sale or redemption is not implicitly or explicitly restricted to a limited group of investors;
- k) the term "tax" means any tax to which the Agreement applies;
- l) the term "applicant Party" means the Contracting Party requesting information;
- m) the term "requested Party" means the Contracting Party requested to provide information;
- n) the term "information gathering measures" means laws and administrative or judicial procedures that enable a Contracting Party to obtain and provide the requested information;
- o) the term "information" means any fact, statement or record in any form whatever.

2. As regards the application of this Agreement at any time by a Contracting Party, 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 Party, any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that Party prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that Party.

## **Article 5**

### **Exchange of Information Upon Request**

1. The competent authority of the requested Party shall provide upon request of the applicant Party information for the purposes referred to in Article 1. Such information shall be exchanged without regard to whether the conduct being investigated would constitute a crime under the laws of the requested Party if such conduct occurred in the requested Party.

2. If the information in the possession of the competent authority of the requested Party is not sufficient to enable it to comply with the request for information, that Party shall use all relevant information gathering measures to provide the applicant Party with the information requested, notwithstanding that the requested Party may not need such information for its own tax purposes.

3. If specifically requested by the competent authority of the applicant Party, the competent authority of the requested Party shall provide information under this Article, to the extent allowable under its domestic laws, in the form of depositions of witnesses and authenticated copies of original records.

4. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that its competent authorities for the purposes specified in Article 1 of the Agreement, have the authority to obtain and provide upon request:

- a) information held by banks, other financial institutions, and any person acting in an agency or fiduciary capacity including nominees and trustees;
- b) information regarding the ownership of companies, partnerships and other persons, including,
  - (i) within the constraints of Article 2, ownership information on all such persons in an ownership chain;
  - (ii) in the case of trusts, information on settlors, trustees and beneficiaries; and in the case of foundations, information on founders, members of the foundation council and beneficiaries.

Further, this Agreement does not create an obligation on the Contracting Parties to obtain or provide ownership information with respect to publicly traded companies or public collective investment funds or schemes unless such information can be obtained without giving rise to disproportionate difficulties.

5. The competent authority of the applicant Party shall formulate the request with the greatest detail possible and shall provide the following information to the competent authority of the requested Party when making a request for information under the Agreement to demonstrate the foreseeable relevance of the information to the request:

- a) the identity of the person under examination or investigation;
- b) the taxable period for which the information is sought;
- c) a statement of the information sought including its nature and the form in which the applicant Party wishes to receive the information from the requested Party;
- d) the matter with respect to which the information is sought;
- e) grounds for believing that the information requested is held in the requested Party or is in the possession or control of a person within the jurisdiction of the requested Party;
- f) to the extent known, the name and address of any person believed to be in possession of the requested information;
- g) a statement that the request is in conformity with the law and administrative practices of the applicant Party, that if the requested information was within the jurisdiction of the applicant Party then the competent authority of the applicant Party would be able to obtain the information under the laws of the applicant Party or in the normal course of administrative practice and that it is in conformity with this Agreement; and
- h) a statement that the applicant Party has pursued all means available in its own territory to obtain the information, except those that would give rise to disproportionate difficulties.

6. The competent authority of the requested Party shall forward the requested information as promptly as possible to the applicant Party. To ensure a prompt response, the competent authority of the requested Party shall:

- a) Confirm receipt of a request in writing to the competent authority of the applicant Party and shall notify the competent authority of the applicant Party of deficiencies in the request, if any, within 60 days of the receipt of the request.
- b) If the competent authority of the requested Party has been unable to obtain and provide the information within 90 days of receipt of the request, including if it encounters obstacles in furnishing the information or it refuses to furnish the information, it shall immediately inform the applicant Party, explaining the reason for its inability, the nature of the obstacles or the reasons for its refusal.

## **Article 6**

### **Tax Examinations Abroad**

1. By reasonable notice given in advance, the applicant Party may request that the requested Party allows representatives of the competent authority of the applicant Party to enter the territory of the requested Party, to the extent permitted under the law of the last-mentioned Party, to interview individuals and examine records with the written consent of the persons concerned. The competent authority of the second-mentioned Party shall notify the competent authority of the first-mentioned Party of the time and place of the meeting with the individuals concerned.

2. At the request of the competent authority of one Contracting Party, the competent authority of the other Contracting Party may allow representatives of the competent authority of the first-mentioned Party to be present at the appropriate part of a tax examination in the second-mentioned Party.

3. If the request referred to in paragraph 2 is acceded to, the competent authority of the Contracting Party conducting the examination shall, as soon as possible, notify the competent authority of the other Party about the time and place of the examination, the authority or official designated to carry out the examination and the procedures and conditions required by the first-mentioned Party for the conduct of the examination. All decisions with respect to the conduct of the tax examination shall be made by the Party conducting the examination.

### **Article 7** **Possibility of Declining a Request**

1. The requested Party shall not be required to obtain or provide information that the applicant Party would not be able to obtain under its own laws or in the normal course of its administrative practice for purposes of the administration or enforcement of its own tax laws or in response to a valid request made in similar circumstances from the requested Party under this Agreement. The competent authority of the requested Party may decline to assist where the request is not made in conformity with this Agreement.

2. The provisions of this Agreement shall not impose on a Contracting Party the obligation to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process. Notwithstanding the foregoing, information of the type referred to in paragraph 4 of Article 5 shall not be treated as such a secret or trade process merely because it meets the criteria in that paragraph.

3. The provisions of this Agreement shall not impose on a Contracting Party the obligation to obtain or provide information, which would reveal confidential communications between a client and an attorney, solicitor or other admitted legal representative where such communications are:

- a) produced for the purposes of seeking or providing legal advice or
- b) produced for the purposes of use in existing or contemplated legal proceedings.

4. The requested Party may decline a request for information if the disclosure of the information would be contrary to public policy (ordre public).

5. A request for information shall not be refused on the ground that the tax claim giving rise to the request is disputed.

6. The requested Party may decline a request for information if the information is requested by the applicant Party to administer or enforce a provision of the tax law of the applicant Party, or any requirement connected therewith, which discriminates against a national of the requested Party as compared with a national of the applicant Party in the same circumstances.

## **Article 8**

### **Confidentiality**

Any information provided and received by a Contracting Party under this Agreement shall be treated as confidential and may be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) in the jurisdiction of the Contracting Party concerned with the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals in relation to, the taxes covered by this Agreement. Such persons or authorities shall use such information only for such purposes. They may disclose the information in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions. The information may not be disclosed to any other person or entity or authority or any other jurisdiction, State or sovereign territory not party to this Agreement without the express written consent of the competent authority of the requested Party.

## **Article 9**

### **Costs**

1. Unless the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties otherwise agree, ordinary costs incurred in providing assistance under this Agreement shall be borne by the requested Party.
2. Unless the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties otherwise agree, extraordinary costs incurred in providing assistance or implementing procedures related to this Agreement shall be borne by the applicant Party, as applicable. Such extraordinary costs shall include, for example, any costs incurred in providing assistance to the extent that such assistance requires engaging external advisers in connection with litigation or otherwise.
3. Where the requested Party considers that extraordinary costs will be incurred, the competent authority of the requested Party shall consult with the competent authority of the applicant Party before taking further steps to provide the assistance sought.

## **Article 10**

### **Mutual agreement procedure**

1. Where difficulties or doubts arise between the Contracting Parties regarding the implementation or interpretation of this Agreement, the respective competent authorities shall endeavour to resolve the matter by mutual agreement.
2. In addition to the agreements referred to in paragraph 1, the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties may mutually agree on the procedures to be used under this Agreement.
3. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties may communicate with each other directly for purposes of reaching agreement under this Article.

### **Article 11 Protocol**

The attached Protocol shall form an integral part of this Agreement.

### **Article 12 Implementation Legislation**

The Contracting Parties shall enact any legislation necessary to comply with, and give effect to, the terms of this Agreement.

### **Article 13 Entry into Force**

1. Each of the Contracting Parties shall notify the other in writing of the completion of the procedures required by its law for the entry into force of this Agreement. The Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the receipt of the later of these notifications.
2. Upon the date of entry into force, this Agreement shall have effect for all requests made but only in respect of taxable periods beginning on or after January 1, 2011.

### **Article 14 Termination**

1. This Agreement shall remain in force until terminated by a Contracting Party. Either Contracting Party may terminate the Agreement, through diplomatic channels, by giving written notice of termination to the other Contracting Party. In such case, the Agreement shall cease to have effect on the first day of the month following the end of the period of six months after the date of receipt of notice of termination by the other Contracting Party.
2. In the event of termination, both Contracting Parties shall remain bound by the provisions of Article 8 with respect to any information obtained under this Agreement.

In witness whereof the undersigned being duly authorised thereto have signed the Agreement.

Done at Paris, this 17 day of December 2010, in duplicate in the English language.

For the Government of the  
Principality of Liechtenstein

For the Government of  
the Republic of Finland



## Protocol

*to the Agreement between the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Government of the Republic of Finland for the exchange of information relating to tax matters*

On the occasion of the signing of the Agreement between the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Government of the Republic of Finland (the "Contracting Parties") for the exchange of information relating to tax matters (hereinafter referred to as "the Agreement"), the Contracting Parties have agreed upon the following provisions, which shall form an integral part of the Agreement:

1. With respect to subparagraph (a) of paragraph 5 of Article 5, it is understood that it is not necessary to provide the name of the taxpayer in order to define its identity, if this identity can be determined from equivalent elements.
2. Formal communications, including requests for information, made in connection with or pursuant to the provisions of the Agreement will be in writing directly between the competent authorities.
3. With respect to subparagraph (e) of paragraph 1 of Article 4, it is understood that the term "person" includes a dormant inheritance.
4. With respect to subparagraph (f) of paragraph 1 of Article 4, it is understood that the term "company" includes also foundations, establishments ("Anstalten"), trusts and special asset endowments.

In witness whereof the undersigned being duly authorised thereto have signed the Protocol.

Done at Paris, this 17 day of December 2010, in duplicate in the English language.

For the Government of the  
Principality of Liechtenstein

For the Government of the  
Republic of Finland