

Cyprus – Kuwait Tax Treaties

AGREEMENT OF 15TH DECEMBER, 1984

This is a Convention between the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the State of Kuwait for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the State of Kuwait desiring to conclude a Convention for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital, have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Personal Scope

This Convention shall apply to persons who are residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

Article 2

Tax Covered

1. This Convention shall apply to taxes on income and on capital imposed on behalf of each Contracting State or of its political subdivisions or local authorities, irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.
2. There shall be regarded as taxes on income and on capital all taxes imposed on total income, or on total capital, or on elements of income or of capital including taxes on gains from the alienation of movable or immovable property as well as taxes on the total amounts of wages or salaries paid by enterprises.
3. The existing taxes to which the Convention shall apply are, in particular:
 - a. in Cyprus:
 - i. the income tax,
 - ii. the special contribution, and
 - iii. the capital gains tax(hereinafter referred to as "Cyprus tax");
 - b. in Kuwait: corporate tax
(Hereinafter referred to as "Kuwait tax").
4. This Convention shall also apply to any identical or substantially similar taxes which are imposed after the date of signature of this Convention in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify to each other any significant changes which have been made in their respective taxation laws.

Article 3

General Definitions

1. In this Convention, unless the context otherwise requires:
 - a. the term "Cyprus" means the Republic of Cyprus, and includes any area adjacent to the territorial waters of Cyprus which in accordance with international law has been or may hereafter be designated, under the laws of Cyprus concerning the Continental Shelf, as an area within which the rights of Cyprus with respect to the sea bed and subsoil and their natural resources may be exercised;
 - b. the term "Kuwait" means the State of Kuwait;
 - c. the terms "a Contracting State" and "the other Contracting State" mean Cyprus and Kuwait as the context requires;
 - d. the term "person" comprises an individual, a company and any other body;
 - e. the term "company" means any body corporate or any entity which is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
 - f. the terms "enterprise of a Contracting State" and "enterprise of the other Contracting State" mean, respectively, an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting State and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting State;
 - g. the term "national" means:
 - i. any individual possessing the nationality of a Contracting State;
 - ii. any legal person, partnership and association deriving its status as such from the law in force in a Contracting State;
 - h. the term "international traffic" means any transport by a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise which has its place of effective management in a Contracting State, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State;
 - i. the term "competent authority" means:
 - i. in the case of Cyprus, the Minister of Finance or his authorised representative;
 - ii. In the case of Kuwait, the Minister of Finance or his authorised representative.
2. In the application of this Convention by a Contracting State, any term not otherwise defined shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning which it has under the laws of that Contracting State relating to the taxes which are the subject of this Convention.

Article 4

Fiscal Domicile

1. For the purposes of this Convention, the term "resident of a Contracting State" means any person who, under the law of that State, is liable to taxation therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature.
2. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then this case shall be determined in accordance with the following rules:
 - a. he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State in which he has a permanent home available to him; if he has a permanent home available to him in both States, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State with which his personal and economic relations are closest (centre of vital interests);
 - b. if the State in which he has his centre of vital interests cannot be determined, or if he has no permanent home available to him in either Contracting State, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the Contracting State in which he has a habitual abode;
 - c. if he has a habitual abode in both Contracting States or in neither of them, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the Contracting State of which he is a national;
 - d. If he is a national of both Contracting States or of neither of them, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.
3. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then it shall be deemed to be a resident of the Contracting State in which its place of effective management is situated.

Article 5

Permanent Establishment and Permanent Base

1. **Permanent establishment:**
 - a. For the purposes of this Convention the term "permanent establishment" means a fixed place of business through which the business of the enterprise is wholly or partly carried on.
 - b. The term "permanent establishment" shall include especially:
 - i. a place of management;
 - ii. a branch;
 - iii. an office;
 - iv. a factory;
 - v. a workshop;

- vi. a mine, oil well, quarry or other place of extraction of natural resources;
 - vii. A building site or construction or installation or assembly project, which exists for more than twelve months. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may, however, by mutual agreement extend the twelve-month period in cases where they deem necessary;
 - viii. A farm or plantation.
- c. The term "permanent establishment" shall not be deemed to include:
- i. the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;
 - ii. the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery;
 - iii. the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;
 - iv. the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise, or for collecting information, for the enterprise;
 - v. The maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of advertising, for the supply of information, for scientific research or for similar activities which have a preparatory or auxiliary character for the enterprise.
- d. An enterprise of one of the Contracting States shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State if:
- i. it carries on supervisory activities in that other Contracting State for more than twelve months in connection with a construction, installation or assembly project which is being undertaken in that other Contracting State;
 - ii. It carries on a business which consists of providing the services of public entertainers of the kind referred to in Article 17 in that other Contracting State.
- e. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 6 of this Article, a person acting in one of the Contracting States on behalf of an enterprise of the other Contracting State shall be deemed to be a permanent establishment in the first-mentioned Contracting State if:
- i. he has, and habitually exercises in that first-mentioned Contracting State, an authority to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise, unless his activities are limited to the purchase of goods or merchandise for the enterprise; or
 - ii. He maintains in the first-mentioned Contracting State a stock of goods or

merchandise belonging to the enterprise from which he regularly fills orders on behalf of the enterprise.

- f. An enterprise of a Contracting State shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the Contracting State merely because it carries on business in that State through a broker, general commission agent or any other agent of an independent status, provided such persons are acting in the ordinary course of their business.
- g. The fact that a company which is a resident of a Contracting State controls or is controlled by a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State, or which carries on business in that other State (whether through a permanent establishment or otherwise), shall not of itself make either company a permanent establishment of the other.

2. Permanent base:

- a. For the purpose of this Convention the term "fixed base" means a fixed place through which the activities of a person rendering independent personal services are wholly or partly carried on.

Article 6

Income From Immovable Property

1. Income from immovable property including income from agriculture or forestry may be taxed in the Contracting State in which such property is situated.
2.
 - a. the term "immovable property" shall, subject to the provisions of subparagraphs (b) and (c), be defined in accordance with the law of the Contracting State in which the property in question is situated;
 - b. the term "immovable property" shall in any case include property accessory to immovable property, livestock and equipment used in agriculture and forestry, rights to which the provisions of general law respecting immovable property apply, usufruct of immovable property and rights to variable or fixed payments as consideration for the working of, or the right to work, mineral deposits, sources and other natural resources;
 - c. Ships and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.
3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall apply to income derived from the direct use, letting or use in any other form of immovable property.
4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 shall also apply to the income from immovable property of an enterprise and to income from immovable property used for the performance of

professional services.

Article 7

Business Profits

1. The profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State unless the enterprise carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein. If the enterprise carries on business as aforesaid, the profits of the enterprise may be taxed in the other State but only so much of them as are attributable to that permanent establishment.
2. Where an enterprise of a Contracting State carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, there shall in each Contracting State be attributed to that permanent establishment the profits which it might be expected to make if it were a distinct and separate enterprise engaged in the same or similar activities under the same or similar conditions and dealing wholly independently with the enterprise of which it is a permanent establishment.
3. In the determination of the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the permanent establishment including executive and general administrative expenses so incurred, whether in the State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere.
4. In so far as it has been customary in a Contracting State to determine the profits to be attributed to a permanent establishment on the basis of an apportionment of the total profits of the enterprise to its various parts, nothing in paragraph 2 shall preclude that Contracting State from determining the profits to be taxed by such an apportionment as may be customary. The method of apportionment adopted shall, however, be such that the result shall be in accordance with the principles laid down in this Article.
5. No profits shall be attributed to a permanent establishment by reason of the mere purchase by that permanent establishment of goods or merchandise for the enterprise.
6. For the purposes of the preceding paragraphs, the profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment shall be determined by the same method year by year unless there is good and sufficient reason to the contrary.
7. Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other Articles of this Convention, then the provisions of those Articles shall not be affected by the provisions of this Article.

Article 8

Shipping & Air Transport

1. Profit from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in

the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated, irrespective of the assistance of a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State.

2. If the place of effective management of a shipping enterprise is aboard a ship, then it shall be deemed to be situated in the Contracting State in which the home harbour of the ship is situated, or if there is no such home harbour, in the Contracting State of which the operator of the ship is a resident.
3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall also apply to profits derived from the participation in a pool, in a joint business or in an international operations agency.

Article 9

Associated Enterprises

Where –

- a. an enterprise of a Contracting State participates directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, or
- b. the same persons participate directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of a Contracting State and an enterprise of the other Contracting State,

and in either case conditions are made or imposed between the two enterprises in their commercial or financial relations which differ from those which would be made between independent enterprises, then any profits which would, but for those conditions, have accrued to one of the enterprises, but, by reason of those conditions, have not so accrued, may be included in the profits of that enterprise and taxed accordingly.

Article 10

Dividends

1. Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. However, such dividends may be taxed in the Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident, and according to the law of that State, but the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2, as long as Cyprus does not impose a tax on dividends in addition to the tax chargeable on the profits or income of a company, dividends paid by a company which is a resident of Cyprus to a resident of Kuwait shall be exempt from any tax in Cyprus which may be chargeable on dividends in addition to the tax chargeable on the profits or income of the company.
4. The competent authorities of the Contracting State shall by mutual agreement settle the

mode of application of paragraphs 2 and 3.

5. The provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 shall not affect the taxation of the company in respect of the profits out of which the dividends are paid.
6. The term "dividends" as used in this Article means income from shares, as well as income from other corporate rights which is subject to the same taxation treatment as income from shares by the taxation law of the State of which the company making the distribution is a resident.
7. The provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall not apply if the recipient of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State professional services from a fixed base situated therein and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such a case, the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.
8. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives profits or income from the other Contracting State, that other State may not impose any tax on the dividends paid by the company to residents of the first-mentioned State, or subject the company's undistributed profits to a tax on undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid, or the undistributed profits, consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in that other State.

Article 11

Interest

1. Interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. However, interest derived from one of the Contracting States by a resident of the other Contracting State who is the beneficial owner thereof, may also be taxed in the first-mentioned Contracting State at a rate not exceeding 10 per cent of the gross amount thereof.
3. Notwithstanding the provision of paragraph 2 of this Article interest arising from credits or loans accorded by the Government of a Contracting State or by a Bank or other institution in the name or on behalf of that Government shall be taxable only in that State.
4. The term "interest" as used in this Article means income from debt-claims of every kind, whether or not secured by mortgage, and whether or not carrying a right to participate in the debtor's profits, and in particular, income from government securities and income from bonds or debentures, including premiums and prizes attaching to bonds or debentures.
5. Interest shall be deemed to be derived from a Contracting State when the payer is that State itself, a political subdivision or a local authority thereof or a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the interest, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or

not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment, then such interest shall be deemed to be derived from the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated.

6. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply if the recipient of the interest, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on in the other Contracting State, in which the interest arises, a business through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State professional services from a fixed base situated therein, and the debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such a case, the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.
7. Where, owing to a special relationship between the payer and the recipient or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the interest paid, having regard to the debt-claim for which it is paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the recipient in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In that case the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the law of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.

Article 12

Royalties

1. Royalties arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. However, royalties of the kind referred to in subparagraph (a) of paragraph 3 may be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise, and according to the law of that State, but the tax so charged shall not exceed 5 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of this limitation.
3. The term "royalties" as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use,
 - a. any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or any industrial, commercial or scientific equipment, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience;
 - b. Any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work including cinematograph films, and films or tapes for television or radio broadcasting.
4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the recipient of the royalties, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on in the other Contracting State in which the royalties arise a business through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that

other State professional services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such a case, the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

5. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that Contracting State itself, a political subdivision, a local authority or a resident of that Contracting State. Where, however, the person paying the royalties, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment in connection with which the liability to pay the royalties was incurred, and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment, then such royalties shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated.
6. Where, owing to a special relationship between the payer and recipient or both of them and some other person, the amount of the royalties paid, having regard to the use right or information for which they are paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the recipient in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In that case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the law of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.

Article 13

Capital Gains

1. Gains from alienation of immovable property, as defined in paragraph 2 of Article 6, may be taxed in the Contracting State in which such immovable property is situated.
2. Gains from the alienation of movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State or of movable property pertaining to a fixed base available to a resident of a Contracting State in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing professional services, including such gains from the alienation of such a permanent establishment (alone or together with the whole enterprise) or of such a fixed base, may be taxed in the other State. However, gains from the alienation of movable property of the kind referred to in paragraph 3 of Article 22 shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which such movable property is taxable according to the said Article.
3. Gains from the alienation of any property other than those mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the alienator is a resident. Article 14

Article 14

Independent Personal Services

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of professional services or

other independent activities of a similar character shall be taxable only in that State unless he has a fixed base regularly available to him in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing his activities. If he has such a fixed base, the income may be taxed in the other Contracting State but only so much of it as is attributable to that fixed base.

2. The term "professional services" includes, especially, independent scientific, literary, artistic, educational or teaching activities as well as the independent activities of physicians, lawyers, engineers, architects, dentists and accountants.

Article 15

Dependent Personal Services

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 16, 18 and 19, salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment shall be taxable only in that State unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting State. If the employment is so exercised, such remuneration as is derived there from may be taxed in that other State.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment exercised in the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned State if:
 - a. the recipient is present in the other State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in the fiscal year concerned, and
 - b. the remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not a resident of the other State, and
 - c. The remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment or a fixed base which the employer has in the other State.
3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft in international traffic, may be taxed in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

Article 16

Directors Fees

Directors' fees and similar payments derived by a resident of a Contracting State in his capacity as a member of the board of directors or a similar organ of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

Article 17

Artistes And Athletes

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 14 and 15, income derived by public entertainers,

such as theatre, motion picture, radio or television artistes, and musicians, and by athletes from their personal activities as such, may be taxed in the Contracting State in which these activities are exercised.

2. Where the services mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article are provided in one of the Contracting States by an enterprise of the other Contracting State, then the income derived from providing those services by such enterprise shall be exempt from tax in the first-mentioned Contracting State, if the enterprise is directly or indirectly supported, wholly or substantially, from the public funds of the Government of that other Contracting State in connection with the provision of such services.

Article 18

Governmental Functions

1. Remuneration, other than a pension, paid by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that State.
2. However, remuneration referred to in paragraph 1 shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the services are rendered in that State and the individual is a resident of that State who:
 - a. is a national of that State; or
 - b. Did not become a resident of that State solely for the purpose of rendering the services.
3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply to remuneration in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof.

Article 19

Pensions

Pensions, annuities and other similar remuneration paid to a resident of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State.

Article 20

Students

1. Payments which a student or business apprentice who is present in a Contracting State solely for the purpose of his education or training and who is or was immediately before such visit a resident of the other Contracting State received for the purpose of his maintenance, education or training shall not be taxed in the first-mentioned Contracting State, provided that such payments are made to him from sources outside that State.

2. A student at a university or other institution for higher education in a Contracting State, or a business apprentice who is present in the other Contracting State and who is or was immediately before such visit a resident of the first-mentioned State, shall not be taxed in the other Contracting State in respect of remuneration for services rendered in that other State, provided that the services are in connection with his studies or training and the remuneration constitutes earnings necessary for his maintenance.

Article 21

Income Not Expressly Mentioned

Items of income of a resident of a Contracting State which are not expressly mentioned in the foregoing Articles of this Convention shall be taxable only in that State.

Article 22

Capital

1. Capital represented by immovable property, as defined in paragraph 2 of Article 6, may be taxed in the Contracting State in which such immovable property is situated.
2. Capital represented by movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment of an enterprise, or by movable property pertaining to a fixed base used for the performance of professional services, may be taxed in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.
3. Ships and aircraft operated in international traffic and movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships and aircraft, shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.
4. All other elements of capital of a resident of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State.

Article 23

Methods for the Elimination Of Double Taxation

1. The laws of each of the Contracting States shall continue to govern the taxation of income whether derived from the Contracting State or elsewhere except where express provisions to the contrary are made in this Convention. Where income derived from one of the Contracting States is subject to tax in both Contracting States, relief from tax chargeable on such income shall be given in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (2) and (3) of this Article.
2. In the case of Kuwait, tax payable in Cyprus on profits, income or gains arising in Cyprus shall be deducted from any Kuwait tax payable in respect of such profits, income or gains.
3. In the case of Cyprus, subject to the existing provisions of the law of Cyprus regarding the deduction from tax payable in Cyprus of tax paid in a territory outside Cyprus and to any

subsequent modification of those provisions--which shall not affect the general principle hereof--and unless a greater deduction or relief is provided under the laws of Cyprus, tax payable in Kuwait on profits, income or gains arising in Kuwait shall be deducted from any Cyprus tax payable in respect of such profits, income or gains.

Article 24

Limitation Of Relief

Where under any provision of this Convention income is relieved from tax in one of the Contracting States and, under the law in force in the other Contracting State, a person in respect of the said income, is subject to tax by reference to the amount thereof which is remitted to or received in that other Contracting State and not by reference to the full amount thereof then the relief to be allowed under this Convention in the first-mentioned Contracting State shall apply only to so much of the income as is remitted to or received in the other Contracting State.

Article 25

Non-Discrimination

1. The nationals of a Contracting State shall not be subjected in the other Contracting State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which nationals of that other State in the same circumstances are or may be subjected.
2. The taxation on a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State shall not be less favourably levied in that other State than the taxation levied on enterprises of that other State carrying on the same activities.

This provision shall not be construed as obliging a Contracting State to grant to residents of the other Contracting State any personal allowances, relieves and reductions for tax purposes on account of civil status or family responsibilities which it grants to its own residents.

3. Enterprises of a Contracting State, the capital of which is wholly or partly owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by one or more residents of the other Contracting State, shall not be subjected in the first-mentioned Contracting State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which other similar enterprises of that first-mentioned State are or may be subjected.
4. In this Article the term "taxation" means taxes of every kind and description.

Article 26

Mutual Agreement Procedure

1. Where a resident of a Contracting State considers that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for him in taxation not in accordance with this

Convention, he may present his case to the competent authority of the Contracting State of which he is a resident. The claim for case must be lodged within a period of six months from the date of the assessment. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall resolve the matter within one year from the date of a claim.

2. The competent authority shall endeavour, if the objection appears to it to be justified and if it is not itself able to arrive at an appropriate solution, to resolve the case by mutual agreement with the competent authority of the other Contracting State, with a view to the avoidance of taxation not in accordance with the Convention.
3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any difficulties or doubts arising as to the interpretation or application of the Convention. They may also consult together for the elimination of double taxation in cases not provided for in the Convention.
4. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may communicate with each other directly for the purpose of reaching an agreement in the sense of the preceding paragraphs. When it seems advisable in order to reach agreement to have an oral exchange of opinions, such exchange may take place through a Commission consisting of representatives of the competent authorities of the Contracting States.

Article 27

Exchange Of Information

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is necessary for the carrying out of this Convention and of the domestic laws of the Contracting States concerning taxes covered by this Convention in so far as the taxation there under is in accordance with this Convention. Any information so exchanged shall be treated as secret and shall not be disclosed to any persons or authorities, including courts, other than those concerned with the assessment, collection, enforcement or prosecution in respect of taxes which are the subject of the Convention.
2. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 1 be construed so as to impose on one of the Contracting States the obligation:
 - a. to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws or the administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;
 - b. to supply particulars which are 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*).

Article 28

Diplomatic Agents And Consular Officers

Nothing in this Convention shall affect the fiscal privileges of diplomatic or consular officials under the general rules of international law or under the provisions of special agreements.

Article 29

Entry Into Force

1. The Governments of the Contracting States shall notify to each other that the constitutional requirements for the entry into force of this Convention have been complied with.
2. The Convention shall enter into force on the date of the later of the notifications referred to in paragraph 1 and its provisions shall have effect, in respect of taxes which are levied for any taxable year beginning on or after 1st January in the calendar year in which the Convention enters into force.

Article 30

Termination And Amendment

This Convention shall remain in force until denounced by one of the Contracting States. Either Contracting State may denounce the Convention through diplomatic channels, by giving notice of termination at least six months before the end of any calendar year following after the period of five years from the date of which the Convention enters into force. In such event, the Convention shall cease to have effect in respect of taxes which are levied for any taxable year beginning on or after 1st January in the calendar year next following that in which the notice is given. This Convention may, however, be amended at any time by a subsequent agreement between the Contracting States.