

1. MAJOR ADVANTAGES OF CYPRUS AS AN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CENTER

We outline below the major advantages of using Cyprus as an International Business Centre.

Corporate tax rate

A uniform corporate tax rate of 12.5% for all companies. This is one of the lowest corporate tax rates in Europe.

A holding company jurisdiction

Any dividend income is exempt from tax, irrespective of its source. This exemption does not apply if the non-resident company paying the dividend carries on more than 50% investment activities which give rise to investment income and the overseas tax burden on its income is significantly lower than the Cyprus tax burden (less than 6,25%).

Trading in securities

Any profit from the disposal of securities, irrespective of whether this profit forms part of a company's trading activity or is of a capital nature, is exempt from Cyprus tax.

Permanent establishment abroad

Any profits from a permanent establishment maintained abroad are exempt from taxation in Cyprus. This, in conjunction with the use of Cyprus' extensive double taxation treaty, can result in such profits escaping taxation altogether.

Tax Residency for companies

A company is considered to be a resident of Cyprus for tax purposes if its management and control is exercised from Cyprus (management and control test).

Starting from 2023, Cyprus tax law introduces the incorporation test where a company which is incorporated or registered in Cyprus, and its management and control is exercised outside Cyprus, should be considered a resident of Cyprus for tax purposes unless it is a tax resident in another country. This test should be in addition to the management and control

test aiming to capture the so-called stateless companies.

No withholding taxes

Dividends paid to non-resident shareholders are not subject to any withholding tax in Cyprus, irrespective of the existence of a double tax treaty with their country of residence. Also, no withholding tax applies to interest derived from Cyprus as well as on royalties received from sources outside Cyprus. However, as from 31st December 2022, there will be withholding tax: 30% on interest, 17% on dividends and 10% on royalty payments to persons registered in an EU blacklisted jurisdiction that do not have a tax residency elsewhere, or to countries in the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions on tax matters as follows:

American Samoa, Anguilla, Bahamas, Fiji Islands, Guam, Palau, Panama, Samoa, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, US Virgin Islands, Vanuatu.,

Exemption of capital gains

No capital gains tax is payable, except on the disposal of immovable property, which is situated in Cyprus, or of shares in a company which owns immovable property situated in Cyprus. Therefore, Cyprus companies can be used to hold real estate outside Cyprus with no capital gains tax implications in Cyprus on their disposal.

Double taxation treaties

What distinguishes Cyprus from most other international business centers is its extensive network of double taxation treaties (currently with 65 countries). Generally, most treaties provide for reduced rates of withholding tax on dividends, interest and royalties paid out of the treaty country, or the avoidance of double taxation in the case where a resident in one of the treaty countries derives income from the other treaty country.

Non-residents working in Cyprus

Non-residents physically present in Cyprus for less than 183 days are taxable in Cyprus only on income derived from sources within the Republic of Cyprus.

Personal tax rates

The personal tax rates are progressive and reach a maximum of 35% on income more than Euro 60.000.

Relief for overseas employment

A Cypriot resident working abroad for an overseas employer is exempt from taxation on the salary attributed to overseas duties if these duties result in spending more than 90 days in any tax year abroad.

Relief for non-residents taking up employment in Cyprus

A non-resident taking up employment and becoming resident in Cyprus will be given a 20% exemption for emoluments below Euro 55,000 where first employment commenced after 26 July 2022 and until the year 2027 and which have provided that, prior to the commencement of their employment in Cyprus, were not resident of Cyprus for a period of at least 3 consecutive tax years and were employed outside of Cyprus by a non-resident employer. The exemption applies for a period of 7 years however individuals who meet the conditions for this exemption before its termination date (i.e. 26 July 2022) will continue to benefit for the relevant five-year period. The allowance cannot exceed Euro 8,550.

Moreover, as from 1 January 2022, for first employments commencing in Cyprus with remuneration exceeding Euro 55,000 p.a, 50% exemption applies, for individuals who were not a resident of Cyprus for a period of at least 10 consecutive tax years immediately prior to the commencement of their employment in Cyprus. The exemption applies for a period of 17 years (see details in section 2 below).

Cyprus Tax Resident

As from 1 January 2017, an individual can be a tax resident of the Republic even if he/she spends less than or equal to 183 days in the Republic if he/she satisfies all related conditions (60 days rule).

Cyprus non domiciled individuals

Individuals are subject to special defence contribution if they are both Cyprus tax resident and Cyprus domiciled. An individual is domiciled in Cyprus for the purposes of special contribution for defence if he/she has a domicile of origin in Cyprus as per the Wills and Succession Law (with certain exceptions) or if he/she has been a tax resident in Cyprus for at

least 17 out of the 20 tax years immediately prior to the tax year of assessment.

Risk-finance investment in an innovative small and medium-sized enterprise (SME)

According to the new provisions of the Article 9A of the Income Tax Law, a qualifying investor which makes a "risk-finance investment" in an "innovative small and medium-sized enterprise (SME)" may deduct the costs of the investment from his/her taxable income. The tax deduction is limited to 50% of the investor's taxable income in the year in which the investment is made and the total deductible amount may not exceed EUR 150,000 per year. The remaining investment cost not claimed as tax deductible may be carried forward and deducted from the taxable income of the subsequent five years, subject to the aforementioned restrictions.

Income / profits from intellectual property rights

80% of the net profits from exploitation of intellectual property rights, as well as the gain on sale of any intellectual property rights, are exempt from taxation (provided that they comply with the provisions/conditions of the relevant Law) (see details in section 3 below).

2. PERSONAL INCOME TAX

Imposition of tax

Where an individual is a tax resident in the Republic, tax is imposed on income accruing or arising from sources both within and outside the Republic.

Where an individual is not a tax resident in the Republic, tax is imposed on income accruing or arising only from sources within the Republic relating to

- a) profits or other benefits from permanent establishment in the Republic
- b) gains or other benefits from any office or employment exercised in the Republic

Cyprus Tax Resident

A tax resident in the Republic is an individual who is present in the Republic for a period exceeding 183 days in a tax year.

As from 1 January 2017, an individual can be a tax resident of the Republic even if he/she spends less than or equal to 183 days in the Republic, if he/she satisfies all of the following conditions within the same tax year:

- i. does not spend more than a total of 183 days in any other country within a tax year
- ii. is not a tax resident of another country within the same tax year
- iii. remains in Cyprus for at least 60 days in the tax year
- iv. carries on a business in Cyprus or be employed in Cyprus or holds an office in a Cyprus tax resident person at any time during the tax year
- v. maintains a permanent home in Cyprus that is either owned or rented.

It should be noted that, if the employment/business or holding of an office is terminated, the individual will cease to be considered a Cyprus tax resident for that tax year under the new rules.

In relation to Covid-19, in accordance with the Directives issued in 2020 and 2021, the Cyprus tax authorities will generally follow the OECD non-binding guidance in relation to tax residency of individuals, provided that restrictions related to Covid-19 are still in place globally. The application of the Directives remains optional on the taxpayer. Furthermore, the Directives also mention that each case will be assessed on its own merits.

Tax rates

<u>Taxable Income</u>	<u>Tax</u> <u>Rate</u>	<u>Tax</u> <u>amount</u>	<u>Cumulative</u> <u>Tax</u>
€	%	€	€
0 – 19.500	0	0	0
19.501 – 28.000	20	1.700	1.700
28.001 – 36.300	25	2.075	3.775
36.301 – 60.000	30	7.110	10.885
60.001 and over	35		

Exemptions

The following are exempt from income tax:

- Gratuity or lump sum received on retirement, or commutation of pension, or compensation for death or injuries
- Lump sum repayment from life insurance schemes or from approved funds, e.g., provident funds.
- Gains from disposal of securities
- Dividend income
- Interest income. Interest income arising in the ordinary course of business, including interest closely connected with the carrying on of the business, is not considered as interest but trading profit and therefore the exemption is not applicable.
- Remuneration from rendering of salaried services outside the Republic to a non-resident employer or to a permanent establishment outside the Republic of a resident employer for a total aggregate period in the year of assessment of more than 90 days
- Profits from a permanent establishment maintained outside the republic Subject to a rule that the PE activities abroad do not lead to more than 50% in investment income and the foreign tax burden is not substantially less than the Cyprus Tax (i.e., not less than 5%)
- Profits from the production of films, tv series and other related audiovisual programs. The amount is restricted to the lower of the 35% of

the eligible expenditure and 50% of the taxable income. Any restriction may be carried forward for 5 years.

- An allowance of 20% or Euro 8,550 (whichever is the lower) is given for remuneration below Euro 55,000 from any office or employment exercised in the Republic by an individual commenced after 26 July 2022 and who was not a tax resident in Cyprus before the commencement of the employment. The exemption is granted for seven years, starting from the tax year following the tax year of commencement of the first employment. For employments exercised in the Republic commenced between the year 2012 and 26 July 2022 by an individual who was resident outside the Republic before the commencement of his/her employment in the Republic, is exempt from income tax for five years, starting from the tax year following the year of employment. Individuals who meet the conditions for this exemption before its termination date (i.e. 26 July 2022) will continue to benefit for the relevant five-year period. This exemption may not be claimed in addition to the below 50% exemption for employment income.

- An allowance of 50% is given for remuneration of a non-resident who is employed in Cyprus and who was not a resident of the Republic for at least ten consecutive years immediately before the commencement of his/her employment in the Republic, provided that the remuneration from such employment exceeds Euro 55,000. The exemption is granted for 17 years, starting from the month of employment in the Republic and it is also available to the following individuals:

- individuals whose employment commenced before 1 January 2022, provided that the date of commencement of their first employment was between 2016-2021, their salary was in excess of €55,000 per annum or if not, it exceeds €55,000 per annum within six months from 26 July 2022.

- existing employees who benefited from the 50% exemption and have continuous employment in Cyprus up to and including 2021.

Individuals who meet the conditions for this exemption before its termination date (i.e. 26 July 2022) will continue to benefit for the relevant ten year period, unless the individual also qualifies for the new 50% exemption of Article 8(23A).

Tax Deductions

The following are deducted from income:

- Interest relating to the acquisition of fixed assets used in the business
- Interest in respect to the acquisition of a building for rental purposes
- Subscriptions to trade unions or professional bodies
- Donations to approved charitable organization (with receipts)
- Expenses for letting of buildings (20% of the rental income)
- Expenditure for the maintenance of buildings under preservation order
Up to €700, €1.100 or €1.200 per sq. m. (depending on the size of the building)
- Business entertainment expenses including hospitality expenses of any kind which are incurred for the purpose of the business. (The lower of €17.086 or 1% of the gross income)
- Tax allowable deduction for an individual investing in an innovative small/medium sized business is available up to 30 June 2024. This amount is restricted up to 50% of the taxable income prior to this deduction (max €150.000 per year). Any unused deduction can be carried forward and claimed in the following 5 years, subject to certain restrictions. The investment must be held for at least three years
- 20% of eligible infrastructure and technological equipment expenditure in the audio-visual industry.

Disallowable expenses

The following expenses are not deducted from income:

- Private motor vehicle expenses
- Professional tax
- Interest payable or deemed to be payable in relation to the acquisition of a private motor vehicle, irrespective of whether it is used in the business or

not, or other asset not used in the business. This restriction is lifted after 7 years from the date of purchase of the relevant asset.

- Wages and salaries relating to services offered within the tax year on which contributions to the Social Insurance Fund, Redundancy Fund, Human Resource Development Fund and Provident Fund have not been paid in the year in which they were due, will not be tax deductible for the calculation of taxable income

In case the above contributions (including any penalties and interest) are paid in full within two years following the due date, such wages and salaries will be tax deductible in the tax year in which they are paid.

Tax Losses

Losses carried forward

Individuals who have an obligation to prepare audited financial statements (i.e., those with turnover more than €70.000) may carry forward tax losses incurred during a tax year over the next five years, to be offset against taxable income.

Tax loss incurred during a year can be carried forward for the next five years from the end of the tax year in which it was incurred, to be offset against taxable income.

Where a person, including a partnership, converts his business into a limited liability company, any unrelieved losses can be transferred to the new company.

Loss from a permanent establishment abroad

Losses arising from a permanent establishment maintained outside the Republic can be offset against profits arising in the Republic. However, when a profit arises from such a permanent establishment, an amount equal to the losses that have been utilised in the past against profits arising in the Republic, will be included in the taxable income.

Personal allowances

The following are deducted from income:

Social insurance contributions, contributions to approved provident and pension funds, the General Health Plan, contributions to medical or other approved

The whole amount up to 1/5 of the taxable income

funds, insurance premiums in respect of the life of the claimant

(before this allowance)

- the total deduction for medical funds and medical insurance is restricted to 1,5% of gross income
- the annual life insurance premium is restricted to 7% of the insured amount
- life insurance policies, in respect to the life of the claimant's spouse, which were in existence up to the 31 December 2002 and for which the claimant was receiving a tax allowance, will continue to be deductible by the claimant
- in the event of cancellation of a life insurance contract within six years from the date it was created, part of the life insurance premiums already given as an allowance will be taxable as follows:
 - cancellation within 3 years
30%
 - cancellation between 4 to 6 years
20%

Notional income on drawings

In case of granting a loan or financial facility including cash withdrawals from a company to physical persons, directors or shareholders or their spouses, or relatives up to second degree, it is deemed that the person has a monthly benefit equal to nine percent (9%) annually over the balance of the loan or any other financial facility at the end of each month.

The amount of tax of the monthly benefit of the person must be withheld from salary and paid to the Tax Department monthly under PAYE system.

3. CORPORATION TAX

Imposition of tax

Where a company is resident in the Republic, tax is imposed on income accruing or arising both from sources in and outside the Republic.

Where a company is not a resident in the Republic, tax is imposed on income accruing or arising only from sources in the Republic.

Resident in the Republic is a company that is managed and controlled in the Republic.

Foreign taxes paid can be credited against the Cyprus corporation tax liability.

With effect as from 1st January 2019, Controlled Foreign Company (CFC) rules apply, i.e., non-distributed profit of CFCs directly or indirectly controlled by a Cyprus tax resident company, may become subject to tax in Cyprus (certain exceptions may apply).

In relation to Covid-19, in accordance with the Directives issued in 2020 and 2021, the Cyprus tax authorities will generally follow the OECD non-binding guidance in relation to tax residency of corporations and the existence of permanent establishments. The application of the Directives remains optional for the taxpayer. The Directives also state that each case will be assessed on its own merits.

Starting from 2023, a Cyprus incorporated company will by default be considered a tax resident of Cyprus, provided that it is not a tax resident in any other jurisdiction.

Tax rates

Companies	12.5%
Public corporate bodies	25%

Exemptions

The following are exempt from corporation tax:

- Dividend income (excluding, as from 1 January 2016, dividends which are tax deductible by the paying company)

- Profit from the disposal of securities

- Profits from a permanent establishment maintained outside the Republic subject to a rule that the activities abroad do not lead to more than 50% in investment income and the foreign tax burden is not substantially less than the Cyprus Tax, i.e., not less than 5%

- Interest income. Interest income arising in the ordinary course of business, including interest closely connected with the carrying on of the business, is not considered as interest but trading profit and therefore the exemption is not applicable.

- Income / profits from intellectual property rights

80% of the net profits from exploitation of intellectual property rights of qualifying assets, as calculated using the nexus approach, as well as the gain on sale of any intellectual property rights, are exempt from taxation (if they comply with the provisions/conditions of the relevant Law).

Under the new IP regime, a qualifying asset is:

1. an asset that was acquired, developed, or exploited in the course of carrying out a business, which is the result of research and development and includes intangible assets for which only economic ownership exists
2. any other IP asset that can be legally non-obvious, useful, and novel, which was exploited by a person (natural or legal) in the course of a business not earning more than €7.5 million per year in gross revenue or €50 million in case of a group of companies which are certified as such by an Appropriate Authority in Cyprus or abroad.
3. utility models, intellectual property assets which provide protection to plants and genetic material, orphan drug designations and extensions of protections for patents.

Business names (including brands), trademarks, image rights and other intellectual property rights used to market products and services are not considered as qualifying intangible assets anymore.

In case the IP activities are loss making for tax purposes, only 20% of the resulting net loss can be set off and carried forward as per the relevant provisions of the law.

As of 1 January 2015, corporate entities (including permanent establishment of foreign companies) are entitled to a Notional Interest Deduction (NID) on equity. It should be noted that in case the NID relates to the acquisition / financing of an IP falling within the scope of the new IP

Box regime, the NID on equity should be regarded as a direct expense for the purpose of calculating the 80% deemed deduction mentioned above.

- Profits from the production of films, tv series and other audiovisual programs. The exemption is restricted to the lower of 35% of the eligible expenditure and 50% of the taxable income. Any restriction may be carried forward for 5 years.

- Exchange differences

As from the year 2015 any realized or unrealized foreign exchange difference, losses or gains will be tax neutral. In other words, FX gains will not be taxable and FX losses will not be tax deductible.

Exception to the amended Law applies for persons trading in foreign currencies (including trading in foreign currency derivatives). For persons trading in FX, the Law introduces an option to make an irrevocable election to be taxed only on realized FX differences provided that the 2015 Income Tax return is submitted within the statutory deadline. In case such election is made, any unrealized FX differences will be treated as taxable/tax deductible in the year they are realized.

Tax Deductions

All expenses of a company incurred wholly and exclusively to produce income, are tax deductible. Such expenses are the following:

- Interest incurred for the acquisition of a fixed asset used in the business

- Donations to approved charities

- Expenditure for the maintenance of buildings under preservation order
Up to €700, €1100 or €1200 per sq. m (depending on the size of the building)

- Business entertainment including hospitality expenses of any kind which are incurred for the business (the lower of €17.086 or 1% of the gross income)

- New equity introduced to a company as from 1 January 2015 in the form of paid-up share capital or share premium, is eligible for an annual Notional Interest Deduction (NID). The annual NID is calculated using an interest

rate on the new equity. The relevant interest rate is the yield on 10-year government bonds (as at December 31 of the prior tax year) of the country where the funds are employed in the business of the company, plus a 5% premium. A taxpayer may elect not to claim all or part of the available NID for a particular year. Certain anti-avoidance provisions apply.

The NID cannot exceed 80% of the taxable profit derived from assets financed by new equity (as calculated prior to the NID).

- Interest expense incurred for the direct or indirect acquisition of 100% share capital of a subsidiary company, to the extent that the company does not own any assets not used for business purposes. As from 2019, an interest limitation rule also applies, in accordance with the EU Anti-tax Avoidance Directive.
- Eligible infrastructure and technological equipment expenditure in the audiovisual industry (20% for small and 10% for medium enterprises).
- Expenditure for scientific Research & Development (R&D) incurred during the years 2022, 2023 and 2024 (including expenses of a capital nature) for which a deduction is granted in accordance with Article 9(1)(l), an additional tax deduction is granted, equal to 20% of the relevant expenses. This additional deduction cannot be claimed alongside the deduction provided under the Cyprus IP regime.
- The tax allowable deduction for a company investing in an innovative small/medium sized business is available up to 30 June 2024. It is limited to 30% of the invested amount and the total deductible amount may not exceed €150.000 per year.

Disallowable expenses

The following expenses are not deducted from income:

- Private motor vehicle expenses
- Professional tax
- Interest payable or deemed to be payable in relation to the acquisition of a private motor vehicle, irrespective of whether it is used in the business or

not, or other asset not used in the business. This restriction is lifted after 7 years from the date of purchase of the relevant asset.

- Wages and salaries relating to services offered within the tax year on which contributions to the Social Insurance Fund, Redundancy Fund, Human Resource Development Fund and Provident Fund have not been paid in the year in which they were due, will not be tax deductible for the calculation of taxable income.

In case the above contributions (including any penalties and interest) are paid in full within two years following the due date, such wages and salaries will be tax deductible in the tax year in which they are paid.

Tax Losses

Carry forward of losses

Tax loss incurred during a year can be carried forward for the next five years from the end of the tax year in which it was incurred, to be offset against taxable income.

Group loss relief

Losses for the current year only can be surrendered by a group company to another group company. Group relief will be given provided that both companies are members of the same group for the whole of a tax year. Two companies are considered to be part of a group for group relief purposes, if:

- one is a 75% subsidiary of the other, or
- both are 75% subsidiaries of a third company.

From 1 January 2012, where a company has been incorporated by its parent company during the tax year, this company will be deemed to be a member of this group for group relief purposes for that tax year.

As from 1 January 2015 interposition of a non-Cyprus tax resident company will not affect the eligibility for group relief, if such company is tax resident of either an EU country or, in a country with which Cyprus has a double tax treaty, or an exchange of information agreement (bilateral or multilateral).

Loss of a permanent establishment abroad

Losses arising from a permanent establishment outside the Republic can be offset against profits arising in the Republic. However, when a profit arises from such a permanent establishment, an amount equal to the losses that have been utilised in the past against profits arising in the Republic will be included in the taxable income.

Losses for Insurance companies

- losses of the life business can be offset against profits of the general business
- losses of the life business can be offset against profits from other sources
- losses of the life business can be carried forward indefinitely.

Company Re-organisations

In the event of a company re-organisation, unused losses brought forward will be transferred to the new company and the provisions dealing with the set off or transfer of losses will apply accordingly.

The term re-organisation includes

- merger /demerger
- dissolution
- transfer of activities
- exchange of shares
- transfer of registered office of a European company or a European cooperative company

4. CAPITAL ALLOWANCES

Annual capital allowances are calculated as a percentage on the cost of acquisition of the asset used in the business and are deductible from the taxable income. Capital allowances for companies and individuals who prepare accounts are as follows:

Plant and machinery (Note 1)

Forklifts, excavators, loading vehicles, bulldozers and oil barrels	25%
Motor vehicles of all types except from private saloon cars	20%
Personal computers (hardware) and operating software	20%
Operating software up to €1.709	100%
above €1.709	33,1/3%
Plant and machinery used in agriculture	15%
Water drillings, industrial carpets, video recorders, televisions	10%
Any other plant and machinery	10%
Armored cars (used by companies which provide security services)	20%
Specialised machinery for the laying of railroads (e.g. Locomotive engines, Ballast wagon, Container wagon and container sleeper wagon)	20%
Wind power generators	10%
Photovoltaic systems	10%
Buildings	
Metallic frame of greenhouses	10%

Wooden frame of greenhouses	33,3%
Industrial, agricultural and hotel buildings (Note 2)	4%
Commercial	3%

Ships

Steamships, tugboats, and ships used in the fishing industry	6%
Sailing vessels	4,5%
Ship launching machinery	12,5%
Used ships	in accordance with special agreements
New commercial ships	8%
New passenger ships	6%
Used commercial and passenger ships and capital additions	remaining useful economic life in accordance with the class certificate

Airplanes

New airplanes and helicopters	8%
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Tools (All tools in general)	33,3%
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Intangible assets

Intangible assets with some exemptions (Note 3)	5%-100%
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Notes

1. Plant and machinery acquired during the tax years 2012 - 2018 are eligible to accelerated tax depreciation at the rate of 20% (excluding

such assets which are already eligible for a higher annual tax rate of tax depreciation).

2. In the case of industrial and hotel buildings which were acquired during the tax years 2012 - 2018, accelerated tax depreciation at the rate of 7% per annum may be claimed.
3. The capital cost of any intangible asset, excluding goodwill, is tax deductible as a capital allowance over the useful economic life of the asset, as determined by acceptable accounting principles (with a maximum useful life of 20 years).

5. TRANSFER PRICING

Introduction

On 30 June 2022, the Cyprus parliament has voted into law the long anticipated documentation requirements on transfer pricing (law and regulations) effective from 2022 year onwards. Loan transactions between related parties are subject to Transfer Pricing Guidelines in order to confirm whether these are market compliant.

Therefore, all intra-group back to back financing arrangements are required to follow the arm's length principle under the transfer pricing framework. The intra-group back to back financing arrangements apply where loans are granted by a financing company to related parties, and which are financed by financial means and instruments, such as private loans, cash advances, bank loans and debentures.

Arm's length principle for intra group financing transactions

The related party transactions, should be priced similarly as it would have been accepted by independent entities in comparable circumstances, taking into account the economic nature of the transaction. The Cypriot tax legislation allows adjusting the reported profits of a Cypriot tax resident company in case the transfer prices differ from prices that would have been agreed between independent entities.

Transfer Pricing (TP) Documentation File obligation

As from the tax year 2022 onwards, Cyprus tax resident persons and permanent establishments of non-Cyprus tax resident persons situated in Cyprus that engage in domestic and/or cross-border Controlled Transactions, are required to prepare a TP Documentation File which consists of the "Master File" and the "Cyprus Local File."

- **Master File:** Only Cyprus tax resident entities that are the ultimate parent or surrogate parent entity of an MNE group falling under the scope of Country-by-Country reporting have an obligation to prepare and maintain a Master File.
- **Local File:** Persons that engage in Controlled Transactions with arm's-length value less than EUR 750,000 p.a. in aggregate per transaction category (e.g., sale/purchase of goods, provision/receipt of services,

financing transactions, receipt/payment of IP licensing/royalties, others).

The Summary Table disclosure requirement

A Summary Table must be prepared by all taxpayers that engage in Controlled Transactions on an annual basis, disclosing details regarding such transactions, including the names and tax identification codes of the related counterparties, and the respective values per transaction category (sale/purchase of goods, provision/receipt of services, financing transactions, receipt/payment of IP licenses/royalties, others).

The Summary Table must be submitted electronically together with the Income Tax return for the relevant tax year.

Transfer Pricing Documentation Reporting Deadlines

The Local File (and Master File, if relevant) for a particular year should be prepared no later than the due date for submitting the taxpayer's Corporate Income Tax Return for that year. Upon request by the Cyprus Tax Department, the Local File (and Master File, if applicable) should be made available within 60 days from the receipt of the relevant request by the taxpayer or by a person authorised to act as a representative of the taxpayer.

The Summary Table should be prepared for each separate tax year and be submitted to the Cyprus Tax Department, along with the taxpayer's Corporate Income Tax Return for that year.

Transfer Pricing Documentation Penalties

Where a taxpayer has received a notice from the Cyprus Tax Department to provide the Local file and/or Master File and fails to do so within the required timeframe of 60 days, penalties ranging from €5.000 to €20.000 will apply depending on the length of the delay. In the cases where a taxpayer fails to submit a Summary Table, a penalty of €500 will be imposed.

6. SPECIAL MODES OF TAXATION

Pension income from services rendered abroad

The pension income of any individual resident in the Republic, which arises from services rendered abroad, is taxed at a rate of 5% for amounts exceeding Euros 3.420 per annum. The taxpayer has the right to choose to be taxed either under the special mode of taxation as stated above, or under the personal income tax rates.

Widow's pension

The widow's pension is taxed at a fixed rate of 20% for amounts exceeding Euros 19,500. The taxpayer can, however, on an annual basis, elect to be taxed at the normal tax rates.

Taxation of collective and horse racing bets

Every recipient of collective bets as well as the Horse Racing Authority pay bet taxes to the Republic in relation to the bets that they undertake.

The amount of tax, in every accounting period, amounts to 10% on the net receipts from bets in the corresponding period.

Net receipts from bets means the balance of the total amounts paid or payable, in the corresponding accounting period, in relation to the bets undertaken, after the deduction of the total winnings paid out.

Each calendar month represents an accounting period.

In the event of non-payment of the tax due an additional tax of 10% is imposed on the amount due.

Intellectual property rights and other similar income

The gross income arising from intellectual property rights, other exploitation rights, compensations or other similar income arising from sources within the Republic, of a person who is not resident in the Republic, is subject to withholding tax at a rate of 10%.

Royalties received by a connected company registered in a European Union member State are exempt from tax (subject to conditions).

Rights granted for use outside the Republic are not subject to any withholding tax.

Film royalties

The gross income derived by non-resident person in respect of royalties arising from film projection in the Republic is subject to withholding tax at a rate of 5%. Royalties received by a connected company registered in a European Union member State are exempt from tax (subject to conditions).

Profits of professionals, entertainers, etc.

The gross income derived by a non-resident individual from the exercise in the Republic of any profession, vocation or public entertainment services including football teams and other athletic missions, is subject to a 10% withholding tax.

Profits from betting's of OPAP and Government lottery

Profits exceeding €5.000 from lucky ticket/lottery are taxed at the rate of 20%

Income from Oil & Gas related activities

The gross amount or other income derived from sources within the Republic by any person who is not resident in the Republic, which does not arise from a permanent establishment in the Republic, as consideration for services carried out in the Republic with respect to the extraction, exploration or exploitation of the continental shelf, subsoil or natural resources, as well as the installation and exploitation of pipelines and other installations on the ground, the seabed or above the surface of the sea, is subject to tax at the rate of 5%.

Technical assistance

The gross income arising from sources within the Republic, as consideration for technical assistance provided by any person who is not resident in the Republic, is subject to a 10% withholding tax. Such income is exempt from withholding tax if the services are provided by a permanent establishment in Cyprus.

Bank Levy Payable by Financial Institutions

The special tax rate is 0.15%.

Fines and penalties

Tax withheld on payments to non-Cyprus residents in relation to the below categories of income, should be paid to Tax Department by the end of the following month. In the case where the tax is not paid within the deadline, an additional penalty of 5% will be imposed on the tax withheld in addition to any interest that may be imposed.

- Copyrights for use within Cyprus
- Rights for cinematographic films
- Income of an individual for professional services, artists, and athletes' fees

7. PROFITS FROM SHIPPING ACTIVITIES

The following are exempt from taxation in accordance with the provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Fees and Taxing Provisions) Law:

- The income of a ship-owner of a Cyprus ship from the operation of such ship in any shipping activity between Cyprus and ports abroad or between ports abroad.
- The income of a person from the provisions of ship management services.
- Dividends paid to the shareholders of a company if these are paid out of profits earned from the operation of a Cyprus ship in shipping activities or from the provision of ship management services.
- Salaries and other benefits paid to the master, the officers, and the crew of a Cyprus ship.

For the purpose of the above-mentioned act, the term "ship owner" includes bareboat chartered, while the term "operation of ship" includes chartering of any form.

8. SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR DEFENCE

All residents of the Republic are subject to defence contribution on the sources of income indicated below. Non-residents are not subject to the defence contribution (note 2).

Rates

Dividends (note 1)	17%
Interest income (from "passive" activities)	30%
Interest received by an individual from Government Savings Certificates and from Government Bonds	3%
Interest earned by an approved provident fund	3%
Rental income less 25%	3%
Profits earned by public corporate bodies	3%

Notes

1. Dividends – Exemptions:

- dividends paid by a company resident in the Republic to another company resident in the Republic, but excluding dividends paid indirectly after four years from the end of the year in which such dividends are derived.
- dividends received by a company resident in the Republic or a company not resident in the Republic which maintains a permanent establishment in the Republic from a company which is non-resident in the Republic. The exemption does not apply if the company paying the dividends engages more than 50%, in activities which lead to investment income and the foreign tax burden on the income of the company paying the dividends is substantially lower than the tax burden of the company in Cyprus. (i.e., 6,25%)
- dividends paid out of dividend income which has suffered income tax at source and are paid within a period of six years from the date of receiving such dividend income.

- dividends derived directly or indirectly from profits arising from operating a Cyprus flag ship, in the course of shipping activities, or from ship management services

2. Individuals Cyprus tax residents and Cyprus domiciled

As from 16 July 2015 individuals are subject to Special Contribution for defence if they are both Cyprus tax resident and Cyprus domiciled. An individual is domiciled in Cyprus for the purposes of Special Contribution for Defence if he/she has a domicile of origin in Cyprus per the Wills and Succession Law (with certain exceptions) or if he/she has been a tax resident in Cyprus for at least 17 out of the 20 tax years immediately prior to the tax year of assessment. Anti-avoidance provisions apply.

Deemed distribution

A company resident in the Republic is deemed to have made a distribution of 70% of its profits in the form of dividends after deducting corporation tax, special defence contribution, capital gains tax and any tax paid abroad that has not been credited against any tax payable for the relevant year, at the end of the two years from the end of the tax year in which the profits relate. This deemed distribution is subject to 17% defence contribution to the extent the company's shareholders are Cyprus tax residents, companies or physical persons, as well as 2.65% General Healthcare (GHS) Contribution in the case where the shareholders are physical persons which are also Cyprus tax residents.

In arriving at the amount of the deemed distribution, any actual dividend which is distributed during the two-year period from the end of the tax year in which the profits relate is deducted.

In cases where an actual dividend is paid after the two-year period, any deemed distribution reduces the actual dividend on which the defence contribution is withheld.

For calculating the amount of the deemed distribution, "profits" mean the accounting profits arrived at using generally acceptable accounting principles, but after the deduction of any transfers to reserves, as required by any law. Any offset of group losses, as well as any amounts, including any additional depreciation, which emanate or are the result of revaluation of movable and immovable property, are ignored.

The deemed distribution provisions for special defence contribution do not apply to profits which relate to non-resident or non-domiciled shareholders.

In case where an individual non-resident in the Republic who receives dividend from a company resident in the Republic arising from profits that have suffered deemed distribution, the defence contribution paid due to deemed distribution that relates to dividend received by such person, is refunded.

Deemed distribution from disposal of an asset

In the case where a company disposes an asset to its shareholder (individual) or to his or her relative of up to second degree relationship, or his or her spouse, without consideration, or for consideration which is below the market value of the asset disposed, it is deemed that the company has distributed dividends to its shareholder, equal to the difference between the market value of the asset and the amount of the consideration.

The above will not apply in case the asset was received by the company by way of gift from its shareholder (individual) or from his or her relative of up to second degree relationship or from his or her spouse.

The above is applicable for transactions made from 2011 onwards and whichever asset is disposed and not only for immovable property.

Company dissolution

The aggregate amount of profits in the five years prior to the company dissolution, which have not been distributed or be deemed to be distributed, will be considered as distributed on dissolution and will be subject to defence contribution at 17%.

Companies that are under voluntary dissolution or liquidation are obliged to submit within one month from the date of the approval of the resolution, a deemed dividend declaration and pay any special defence contribution in relation to the profits of the specific tax year and the two preceding years.

The deemed dividend distribution provisions do not apply on any accounting profits arising during the dissolution or liquidation, if the assets of the company are not sufficient for the repayment of its creditors and no amount is available to be distributed to its shareholders.

These provisions do not apply in the case of dissolution under re-organization, in accordance with certain prerequisites set out in Regulations and where the shareholders are non-residents in the Republic.

Reduction of capital

In the case of a reduction of capital of a company, any amounts due or paid to the shareholders up to the amount of the undistributed taxable income of any tax year calculated before the deduction of losses from prior years, will be considered as distributed dividends subject to special defence contribution at 17% (after deducting any amounts which have been deemed as distributable profits).

In the case of a company's capital reduction, any amounts paid to individual shareholders in excess of the amount of the share capital that was actually paid by the shareholder, will be treated as deemed dividend.

These provisions do not apply where the shareholders are non-residents in the Republic.

Interest income

Interest that is received as a result of the carrying on of a business activity, including interest closely connected to the ordinary activities of the business, is not considered interest for special defence contribution purposes.

A person whose total annual income, including interest, does not exceed €12.000, who receives interest which has been subject to defence contribution at 17%, has the right to a refund of the amount of defence contribution suffered in excess of 3%.

Rents

Companies, partnerships, the Government, and any local authority that pay rent, have the obligation to withhold special defence contribution on 75% of rental income and pay 3% special defence contribution which is payable by the end of the following month.

Tax credit for foreign tax paid

Any tax suffered abroad on income which is subject to special defence contribution will be credited against any defence contribution payable on such income irrespective of the existence of a double taxation treaty.

9. MAINTENANCE OF ACCOUNTING BOOKS AND RECORDS

Every person (individual, company, or partnership) deriving income (including dividends and interest) from commercial or industrial business, profession or vocation, or any other occupation or from property (such as leasing or rental) must:

- issue invoices in relation to transactions and receipts, as specified by Regulations issued by the Council of Ministers and published in the Cyprus Gazette and
- Issue invoices within 30 days from the date of the transaction
- Maintain accounting books and records and prepare accounts in accordance with acceptable accounting standards, that are audited in accordance with acceptable auditing standards, by a person that is eligible to act as an auditor of a company in accordance with the Companies Law.
- An individual is exempt from the obligation to prepare financial statements where the annual turnover does not exceed the amount of €70.000.
- Update books and records within four months from the date of the transaction
- Carry out a stock take during the year end and the results of the stock take should be made available to the commissioner if requested

Administrative penalties

1. For taxable person that do not meet the specific deadlines of the Law €100
2. For taxable person that do not meet the specific deadlines of the Law and the Director issues notice of assessment with due date €200.
3. If the assessment is not settled by the due date, then additional penalty is imposed without due date €200.
4. Representative person that does not meet the specific deadlines of the law and the Director issues notice of assessment with due date €200.
5. In the case of late payment of tax due, a 5% penalty will be imposed on the unpaid tax amount.

6. For corporation tax due, in the case the late payment is done beyond the deadline of the related tax return, then an additional 5% penalty is imposed on the unpaid tax amount.

10. MANDATORY DISCLOSURE RULES (DAC6)

General overview

The provisions of the EU Council Directive 2018/822, known as "DAC6", are effective since 1 January 2021 through the amending Law on Administrative Cooperation in the field of taxation of 2021. The Cyprus DAC6 Law is broadly aligned with the Directive, which is intended to increase transparency in the area of direct taxation, with a view of combating tax avoidance and tax evasion in the EU. The Cyprus Tax Authorities (CTA) have also issued guidance, in the form of a Decree, which provides clarifications on the main provisions of the Law and its practical application.

DAC6 relates to the mandatory automatic exchange of information of certain cross-border arrangements which is intended to increase transparency in the area of direct taxation, with a view of combating tax avoidance and tax evasion in the EU.

The provisions of DAC 6 apply to all kind of direct taxes. Indirect taxes such as VAT, customs, excise duties and social security contributions are excluded.

Cross border arrangement

It is an arrangement that concerns more than one EU Member State or an EU Member state and a third country. The 'cross border arrangements' that are considered reportable are those that meet certain criteria (i.e. Hallmarks) which indicate that aggressive tax planning may have taken place.

Disclosure requirement

The Cyprus DAC6 Law requires from intermediaries and relevant taxpayers to submit information to the CTA, in respect of cross border arrangements that meet at least one of the "hallmarks", as outlined in the Law.

Hallmarks

Represent the reporting triggers that indicate when information concerning a cross border arrangement must be submitted to the CTA.

EU Intermediary

An **“Intermediary”** is:

- Any person that designs, markets, organizes, makes available for implementation or manages the implementation of a “reportable cross-border arrangement” (a “primary intermediary”); or,
- Any person that knows or could be reasonably expected to know (based on facts, circumstances, available information and the relevant expertise/understanding that they have) that they have undertaken to provide, directly or by means of other persons, aid, assistance or advice with respect to designing, marketing, organizing, making available for implementation or managing the implementation of a “reportable cross-border arrangement” (a “secondary intermediary”).

EU Taxpayer

A **“Taxpayer”** is any person:

- To whom a “reportable cross-border arrangement” is made available for implementation; or,
- Who is ready to implement a “reportable cross-border arrangement”; or,
- Who has implemented the first step of a “reportable cross-border arrangement”. The taxpayer must be linked to an EU Member State (i.e. tax resident, permanent establishment, income/profits from EU Member State, activity in an EU Member State).

Obligation to report

The obligation to report lies with the Intermediary, unless any one of the following conditions is met:

- The EU Intermediary is protected by professional secrecy (i.e. legal professional privilege); or,
- The reportable cross-border arrangement was designed in-house; or,
- The Intermediary does not have a nexus with the EU. If an Intermediary does not have an obligation to report, the disclosure obligation is shifted to the relevant Taxpayer (or any other Intermediary that provided assistance for the implementation the arrangement). The deadline for reporting by primary intermediaries and taxpayers is within 30 days from:
 - The day after the reportable cross-border arrangement is made available for implementation; or,
 - The day after the reportable cross-border arrangement is ready for implementation; or,

- When the first step of implementation has been made; whichever occurs first.

Deadline for reporting

The deadline for reporting by secondary intermediaries is within 30 days of the day after they provided aid, assistance or advice with respect to a reportable arrangement.

Administrative fines

Penalties for non-compliance vary depending on the type of infringement; with a maximum of €20.000 per arrangement.

11. CAPITAL GAINS TAX

Capital Gains Tax is imposed on gains from disposal of immovable property situated in the Republic including shares of companies not listed on a recognized Stock Exchange which own immovable property situated in the Republic, at the rate of 20%.

In computing the capital gain the value of the immovable property as at 1 January 1980 (or cost if the date of acquisition is later), the cost of any additions after 1 January 1980 or the date of acquisition if later, any expenditure incurred for the production of the gain and the indexation allowance, are deducted from the sale proceeds.

Exemptions

The following disposals of immovable property are exempt from capital gains tax:

- Subject to conditions, land as well as land with buildings, acquired in the period from 16 July 2015 up to 31 December 2016 will be exempted from Capital Gains Tax upon its disposal
- transfer on death
- gifts between spouses, parents and children and relatives up to third degree
- gift to a company whose shareholders are members of the donor's family and continue to be members of the family for a period of five years from the date of the gift
- gift by a family company to its shareholders, if the company had also acquired the property in question via donation and provided the property remains in the possession of the shareholder for at least three years.
- gifts to charitable organisations or the Republic
- exchange or disposal under the Agricultural land (Consolidation) Laws
- exchange provided the gain is used for the acquisition of new property. The gain derived from the exchange reduces the cost of the new property and the tax is paid when the latter is disposed
- expropriations
- transfer of ownership or share transfers in the event of company re-organisations.
- principal residence (the exemption applies up to 31 December 2017 (subject to conditions))
- transfer under a qualifying loan «Restructuring»

Deductions

Individuals are entitled to deduct from gains the following lifetime deductions:	€
Disposal of principal private residence (subject to conditions)	85.430
Disposal of agricultural land by a farmer	25.629
Other disposals	17.086

The above deductions are given only once and not for every disposal. An individual claiming a combination of the above, is allowed to a maximum exemption up to €85.430.

From 1 July 2011 new administrative penalties amounting to €100 or €200 depending on the specific case will be imposed, for late submission of declarations or late submission of supporting documentation requested by the Commissioner.

In the case of late payment of the tax due, an additional 5% penalty will be imposed on the unpaid tax.

Levy of 0,4% on Immovable property disposals in Cyprus

For the purposes of providing financial support to the owners of immovable property that is inaccessible or its economic exploitation is practically or legally impossible as a result of the Turkish invasion, as of 22 February 2021 a levy of 0,4% is imposed as follows:

- (a) on the sale of immovable property, for which a general value has been determined by the Department of Lands and Surveys, the seller shall pay a levy equal to a percentage of 0,4% of the sale proceeds; and
- (b) on the sale of shares of a company, which is not listed on a recognized Stock Exchange, and which directly or indirectly owns immovable property for which a general value has been determined by the Department of Lands and Surveys, the seller shall pay a levy equal to a percentage of 0,4% on the latest valuation of the immovable property by the Department of Lands and Surveys, corresponding to the shares of the company that are being sold.

12. DOUBLE TAX TREATIES

The following tables show the rates of withholding tax deducted from income, with countries that have signed a double taxation treaty with Cyprus.

<u>Countries</u>	<u>Received in Cyprus</u>		
	<u>Dividends</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Royalties</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Andorra	0	0	0
Armenia	0 (32)	5 (33)	5
Austria	10	0	0
Azerbaijan (27)	0	0	0
Bahrain	0	0	0
Barbados	0	0	0
Belarus	5 (4)	5	5
Belgium	10 (1)	10 (16)	0
Bosnia (28)	10	10	10
Bulgaria	5 (19)	7 (25)	10 (20)
Canada	15	15 (8)	10 (11)
China	10	10	10
Czech Republic	0 (30)	0	10
Denmark	0 (34)	0	0
Egypt	10 (48)	10	10
Ethiopia	5	5	5
Estonia	0	0	0
Finland	5 (37)	0	0
France	10 (7)	10 (9)	0 (26)
Georgia	0	0	0
Germany	5 (2)	0	0
Greece	25	10	0 (12)
Guernsey	0	0	0
Hungary	5 (1)	10 (8)	0
Iceland	5 (39)	0	5
India	10	10 (8)	10
Iran	5 (19)	5	6
Ireland	0	0	0 (12)
Italy	15	10	0
Jersey	0	0	0
Kazakhstan	5 (46)	10 (47)	10
Kuwait	0	0	5 (14)
Kyrgyzstan (27)	0	0	0
Latvia	0 (42)	0 (42)	0 (43)
Lebanon	5	5 (16)	0

Received in Cyprus

<u>Countries</u>	<u>Dividends</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Royalties</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Lithuania	0 (40)	0	5
Luxembourg	0 (35)	0	0
Malta	0 (22)	10 (8)	10
Mauritius	0	0	0
Moldova	5 (19)	5	5
Montenegro (28)	10	10	10
Norway	0 (3)	0	0
Poland	0 (36)	5 (8)	5
Portugal	10	10	10
Qatar	0	0	5
Romania	10	10 (8)	5 (14)
Russia (31)	15 (49)	15 (50)	0
San Marino	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	0 (44)	0	5 (45)
Serbia (28)	10	10	10
Seychelles	0	0	5
Singapore	0	10 (23)	10
Slovakia (29)	10	10 (8)	5 (14)
Slovenia	5	5 (33)	5
South Africa	10 (41)	0	0
Spain	0 (35)	0	0
Sweden	5 (1)	10 (8)	0
Switzerland	0 (38)	0	0
Syria	0 (1)	10 (8)	15 (13)
Thailand	10	15 (17)	5 (18)
Ukraine	5 (21)	5	5 (15)
United Arab Emirates	0	0	0
United Kingdom(26)	0 (24)	0	0
USA	5 (5)	10 (10)	0
Uzbekistan (27)	0	0	0

<u>Countries</u>	<u>Paid from Cyprus*</u>		
	<u>Dividends</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Royalties</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Non-treaty countries	0	0	0 **
Andorra	0	0	0
Armenia	0 (32)	5 (33)	5
Austria	0	0	0
Azerbaijan (27)	0	0	0
Bahrain	0	0	0
Barbados	0	0	0
Belarus	5 (4)	5	5
Belgium	10 (1)	10	0
Bosnia (28)	10	10	10
Bulgaria	5 (19)	7 (25)	10
Canada	15	15 (8)	10 (11)
China	10	10	10
Czech Republic	0 (30)	0	10
Denmark	0 (34)	0	0
Egypt	15	15	10
Ethiopia	5	5	5
Estonia	0	0	0
Finland	5 (37)	0	0
France	10 (7)	10 (9)	0 (26)
Georgia	0	0	0
Germany	5 (2)	0	0
Greece	25	10	0 (12)
Guernsey	0	0	0
Hungary	0	10 (8)	0
Iceland	5 (39)	0	5
India	10	10 (8)	10
Iran	5 (19)	5	6
Ireland	0	0	0 (12)
Italy	0	10	0
Jersey	0	0	0
Kazakhstan	5 (46)	10 (47)	10
Kuwait	0	0	5 (14)
Kyrgyzstan (27)	0	0	0
Latvia	0 (42)	0 (42)	0 (43)
Lebanon	5	5 (16)	0
Lithuania	0 (40)	0	5
Luxembourg	0 (35)	0	0
Malta	15	10 (8)	10

<u>Countries</u>	<u>Paid from Cyprus*</u>		
	<u>Dividends</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Royalties</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Mauritius	0	0	0
Moldova	5 (19)	5	5
Montenegro (28)	10	10	10
Norway	0 (3)	0	0
Poland	0 (36)	5 (8)	5
Portugal	10	10	10
Qatar	0	0	5
Romania	10	10 (8)	5 (14)
Russia (31)	15 (49)	15 (50)	0
San Marino	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	0 (44)	0	5 (45)
Serbia (28)	10	10	10
Seychelles	0	0	5
Singapore	0	10 (23)	10
Slovakia (29)	10	10 (8)	5 (14)
Slovenia	5	5 (33)	5
South Africa	10 (41)	0	0
Spain	0	0	0
Sweden	5 (1)	10 (8)	0
Switzerland	0 (38)	0	0
Syria	0 (1)	10 (8)	15 (13)
Thailand	10	15 (17)	5 (18)
Ukraine	5 (21)	5	5 (15)
United Arab Emirates	0	0	0
United Kingdom(26)	0 (24)	0	0
USA	0	10 (10)	0
Uzbekistan (27)	0	0	0

Notes

* Payments of dividends and interest to non-residents are exempt from withholding tax in Cyprus. Royalties granted for use outside of Cyprus are also free of withholding tax in Cyprus.

** 10% in the case of royalties granted for use within the Republic. 5% on film and TV rights.

1. 15% if received by a company controlling less than 25% of the voting power.
2. 5% if received by a company controlling more than or equal to 10% of the capital. 15% in all other cases.

3. NIL if the beneficial owner is a company (other than a partnership) holding at least 10% of the capital of the company paying the dividend. 15% in all other cases.
4. 5% if the amount invested by the beneficial owner is over €200.000 irrespective of the % of voting power acquired. 10% is imposed if received by a holder of at least 25% of the share capital of the paying company. Otherwise, the rate is 15%.
5. 5% if received by a company controlling at least 10% of the voting power. 15% in all other cases.
6. 10% if received by company, which has invested less than €100.000.
7. 10% if received by a company controlling more than or equal to 10% of the capital. 15% in all other cases.
8. NIL if paid to the Government of the other State.
9. NIL if paid to the Government of the other State or in connection with the sale on credit of any industrial, commercial or scientific equipment or any merchandise by one enterprise to another or in relation to any form of loan granted by a bank or is guaranteed from government or other governmental organisation.
10. NIL if paid to the Government of the other State, to a bank or a financial institution or in respect to debt obligations arising in connection with sale of property or the provision of services.
11. NIL on literary, dramatic, musical or artistic work with the exception of films used for television programs.
12. 5% on film royalties (except films shown on TV).
13. 10% on literary, musical, artistic work, films and TV royalties.
14. NIL on literary, artistic or scientific work including films.
15. 5% on royalty payments in respect of any copyright of scientific work any patent, trademark, secret formula, process or information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience. 10% in all other cases.
16. NIL if paid to the Government of the other State, a political subdivision or a local authority, the National Bank or any institution the capital of which is wholly owned by the State or a political subdivision or a local authority or in the form of interest income from bank deposits.
17. 10% on interest received by financial institutions, on interest paid in connection with industrial, commercial, scientific equipment or the sale or merchandise between two companies.
18. 10% on right to use industrial, commercial or scientific equipment or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience and 15% for patents, trademarks, designs, models, plans, secret formulas or processes.
19. 5% if the dividend is received by a company owning directly at least 25% of the capital of the company paying the dividend. 10% in all other cases.
20. This rate does not apply, where 25% or more of the capital of the Cypriot resident is owned directly or indirectly by the Bulgarian resident paying the royalties and the Cyprus company pays less than the normal rate of tax.

21. 5% is applicable if the dividend is received by a company owning at least 20% of the capital of the dividend paying company or has invested in the acquisition of shares or other rights of the dividend paying company of at least €100.000. 15% in all other cases.
22. The treaty provides that the tax on the gross amount of the dividends shall not exceed that chargeable on the profits out of which the dividends are paid.
23. 7% if paid to a bank or similar financial institution. NIL if paid to the government.
24. 15% if dividends are paid out of income derived from immovable property or certain investment vehicles.
25. NIL if paid to or is guaranteed by the government, statutory body, the Central Bank.
26. A withholding rate of 5% on cinematographic film royalties, including films and video tapes for television.
27. The treaty between the Republic of Cyprus and the United Soviet Socialist Republic still applies.
28. The treaty between the Republic of Cyprus and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia still applies.
29. The treaty between the Republic of Cyprus and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic still applies.
30. Nil if the beneficial owner is a company (other than a partnership) which holds directly at least 10% of the capital of the company paying the dividends where such holding is being possessed for an uninterrupted period of not less than one year. 5% in all other cases.
31. The new treaty is effected on the 15 of January 2021.
32. 5% if the beneficial owner has invested in the capital of the company less than the equivalent of €150.000 at the time of the investment.
33. Nil if paid to the Government or to a local authority, or to the Central Bank.
34. Nil if the beneficial owner is a company (other than a partnership) which holds directly at least 10% of the capital of the company paying the dividends, where such holding is being possessed for an uninterrupted period of not less than 12 months.

Nil if the beneficial owner is the other Contracting State or the Central Bank of that other State, or any national agency or any other agency (including a financial institution) owned or controlled by the Government of that other State.

Nil if the beneficial owner is a pension fund or other similar institution providing pension schemes in which individuals may participate in order to secure retirement benefits, where such pension fund or other similar institution is established, recognized for tax purposes and controlled in accordance with the laws of that other State. 15% in all other cases.

35. Nil if the dividend is received by a company (other than a partnership) holding at least 10% of the capital of the dividend paying company. 5% in all other cases.
36. Nil if the beneficial owner is a company (other than a partnership) which holds directly at least 10% of the capital of the company paying the dividends, where such holding is being possessed for an uninterrupted period of no less than 24 months. 5% in all other cases.
37. 5% if the dividend is received by a company (other than a partnership) which controls directly at least 10% of the voting power in the company paying the dividend. 15% in all other cases.
38. NIL if the beneficial owner is:
 - a company (other than a partnership) the capital of which is wholly or partly divided into shares and which holds directly at least 10% of the capital of the company paying the dividend for an uninterrupted period of at least one year.
 - a pension fund or other similar institution recognized as such for tax purposes, or
 - the Government, a political subdivision, local Authority or Central Bank of one of the two contracting states. 15% in all other cases.
39. 5% if the beneficial owner is a company (other than a partnership) which holds directly at least 10% of the capital of the company paying the dividends. 10% at all other cases.
40. NIL if the beneficial owner is a company (other than a partnership) which holds directly at least 10% of the capital of the company paying the dividends. 5% at all other cases.
41. 5% if the dividend is received by a company which holds at least 10% of the capital of the company paying the dividend. 10% in all other cases.
42. NIL if the beneficial owner is a company (other than a partnership). 10% in all other cases.
43. NIL if the beneficial owner is a company (other than a partnership). 5% in all other cases.
44. NIL if the beneficial owner is a company which holds directly or indirectly at least 25% of the capital of the company paying the dividends. 5% in all other cases.
45. 5% on royalties for the use of, or the right to use, industrial, commercial or scientific equipment. 8% in all other cases.
46. 5% of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owner is a company (other than a partnership) which holds directly at least 10% of the capital of the company paying the dividends. 15% in all other cases.
47. NIL if the beneficial owner of the interest is the Government of the other contracting state or a political subdivision, a central or local authority, the Central Bank or any other financial institution wholly owned by the Government of the other contracting state.
48. A withholding rate of 5% if the beneficial owner is a company (other than a partnership) which holds directly at least 20% of the capital of the company

paying the dividends throughout a 365 day period that includes the day of the payment of the dividend. 10% in all other cases.

49. A withholding rate of 5% applies if the beneficial owner of the company is an insurance undertaking or pension fund, or a company whose shares are listed in a registered stock exchange, provided no less than 15% of the voting shares of that company are in free float, and which holds directly at least 15% of the capital of the company paying the dividends throughout a 365 day period, including the day of the dividend payment, or if the beneficial owner is the government of the contracting state or a political subdivision or local authority.
50. A withholding rate of 0% applies on interest if the beneficial owner is an insurance undertaking or a pension fund, the Government of the contracting state, a political subdivision, a local authority, the Central Bank of the contracting site or a bank. A withholding rate of 0% also applies on interest paid in respect of securities that are listed on a recognized stock exchange (government bonds, corporate bonds, Eurobonds). 15% applies in all other cases.

13. TAX DIARY

Please note that the deadlines below might change due to the current economic circumstances. Taxpayers are recommended to monitor developments.

End of each month	P.A.Y.E. deducted from employees' salaries for the previous month
	Payment of tax withheld on payments made to non-Cyprus tax residents during the previous month
	Social Insurance and GHS contributions relating to salaries of the previous month.
	Payment of defence contribution and GHS contribution deducted from dividends, interest, and rent (Companies, partnerships, the Government, or any local authority that pay rent have an obligation to withhold special defence contribution on the amount of the rent paid) relating to previous month
	Submission of forms T.D.602 – Declaration of withheld Special Defence Contribution and GHS Contribution from interest, and T.D.603 – Declaration of withheld Special Defence Contribution and GHS Contribution from dividends, relating to previous month.
Within 30 days of the agreement	Payment of stamp duty
Within 60 days from the date of the change	Notification to the Tax Department of any changes to the information submitted upon tax registration
Within 30 days from the day after the assistance or advice with respect to a reportable arrangement	DAC6 Reporting deadline (through Ariadni portal) for Reportable Cross Border Arrangements (RCBAs)
31 January	Submission of the deemed distribution declaration TD 623 for the year ended 31 December 2020 and payment of related special defence and/or GHS amounts.
28 February	Submission of objections relating to tax assessments issued

during December 2022

31 March	<p>Electronic submission of 2021 income tax return for individuals (T.D.1) and companies (T.D.4) preparing audited financial statements</p> <p>TP Documentation File for Cypriot companies that engage in domestic and/or cross-border Controlled Transactions, starting from the tax year 2022 onwards (i.e deadline for the 2022 tax year is 31/3/2024)</p>
30 April	<p>Payment of the first installment of the premium tax for life insurance companies for 2023 (T.D.199)</p>
31 May	<p>Electronic submission of employer's return and employees' details for 2022 (T.D. 7)</p>
30 June	<p>Payment of special defence contribution in relation to rents, dividends and interest under self-assessment, for the first half of 2023</p> <p>Payment of the GHS contribution in relation to rents, dividends and interest under self-assessment, for the first half of 2023</p> <p>Payment of the Annual Levy of €350 for 2023</p>
31 July	<p>Electronic submission of personal tax return for 2022 (T.D.1) and payment of personal income tax under the self-assessment by employees, pensioners and self-employed people, who are not obliged to prepare audited financial statements</p> <p>Submission of provisional tax assessment for the current year and payment of the first installment, by both companies and individuals (T.D.5, T.D.6)</p>
1 August	<p>Payment of previous year's tax through self-assessment by individuals and companies preparing audited financial statements</p>
31 August	<p>Payment of the second instalment of the premium tax for life insurance companies for 2023</p>
31 December	<p>Payment of second and final installment of provisional tax for the current year 2022</p> <p>Submission of the 2023 revised provisional tax return (T.D.5, T.D.6)</p>

Payment of special defence contribution in relation to rents, dividends and interest under self-assessment for the second half of 2023

Payment of GHS contribution in relation to rents, dividends and interest under self-assessment, for the second half of 2023

Payment of the third and last instalment of the premium tax for life insurance companies for 2023

Electronic submission of tax returns and payments

Every person (individual or company) who has an obligation to submit a tax return in accordance with the provisions of the Assessment and Collection of Taxes law must do so electronically, except in cases of revised income tax returns.

Revised income tax returns must be submitted within three years from the submission deadline of the relevant tax return and only using the form T.D.001AN2020 for personal tax returns and T.D.004AN2020 for companies.

Tax payments can only be made electronically within the relevant deadline via the JCC Smart website or the Tax Portal. Tax payments made after the relevant deadline can be made only via the Tax Portal.

Administrative penalties

An administrative penalty of €100 or €200 (depending on the specific case), is imposed for the late submission of a tax return or late submission of supporting documentation requested by the Commissioner. In the case of late payment of the tax due, a penalty of 5% is imposed on the unpaid tax. An additional penalty of 5% is imposed if the tax remains unpaid 2 months after the payment deadline.

Public interest rate

The annual interest rate as from 1 January 2020 is 1,75%. This is applicable for year 2023, as well.

14. VALUE ADDED TAX

Value Added Tax is imposed on the provision of goods and services in Cyprus and on the importation of goods from third countries.

Rates

Standard rate	19%
Reduced rate	9%
Reduced rate	5%
Zero rate	0%

Standard rate 19%

The standard rate applies to the provision of goods and services in Cyprus not subject to the zero rate, the reduced rate or are not exempt.

Reduced rate 9%

- All restaurant catering services (including the supply of alcoholic drinks, beer and wine and soft drink).
- Accommodation in hotels, tourist lodgments and any other similar lodgments including the provision of holiday lodgments.
- Transportation of passengers and their accompanying luggage within the Republic using urban, intercity and rural taxis and by tourist and intercity buses.
- Movement of passengers in inland waters and their accompanying luggage.
- Provision of services and supply of goods by nursing homes, which are not exempt transactions.

Reduced rate 5%

- The supply of foodstuff
- The supply of prepared or unprepared foodstuff and/or beverages (excluding alcoholic drinks, beer, wine and soft drinks) or both, irrespective of whether the goods are delivered from the supplier to the customer or taken away by the customer
- The supply of pharmaceutical products and vaccines that are used for health care, prevention of illnesses and as treatment for medical or veterinary purposes
- The supply of animals used for the preparation of food
- Books, newspapers and magazines

- Entry fees to theaters, circus, festivals, luna parks, concerts, museums etc.
- Entry fees at sports events and fees for using athletic centers
- Hairdressing services
- Supply of catering services from school canteens
- Renovation and repair of private households after three years of first residence (see details below)
- Acquisition or construction of residence, subject to conditions (see details below)

Zero rate 0%

- Exportation of goods
- Supply, modification, repair, maintenance, chartering and hiring of sea-going vessels which are used for navigation on the high seas and carrying passengers for reward or used for the purpose of commercial, industrial or other activities
- Supply, modification, repair, maintenance, chartering and hiring of aircrafts, used by airlines operating for reward mainly on international routes
- Supply of services to meet the direct needs of sea going vessels and aircrafts
- Transportation of passengers from the Republic to a place outside the Republic and vice versa using a sea going vessel or aircraft
- Supplies of gold to the Central Bank of the Republic etc
- International passenger transportation to the extent it takes place within Cyprus territory

Exemptions

Exempt supplies include:

- Rental of immovable property for private residence
- Financial services
- Hospital and medical caring services
- Postal services
- Insurance services
- Disposal of immovable property where the application for building permission has been submitted prior to 1 May 2004.
- Education at all levels.

Irrecoverable input VAT

As an exception to the general rule, input VAT cannot be recovered in a number of cases which include the following:

- acquisitions used for making exempt supplies;
- purchase, import or hire of saloon cars;
- entertainment and hospitality expenses (except those relating to employees and directors).

Imposition of 19% VAT on leasing and / or letting of immovable property for business purposes

As from 13 November 2017, VAT at 19% is imposed on the leasing and/or letting of immovable property to a taxable person for the purposes of carrying on taxable activities, commencing on/or after 13 November 2017.

The leasing of buildings used as residences remains an exempt transaction for VAT purposes.

The lessor has the right to notify the Tax Commissioner by submitting a relevant form, to opt for the non-imposition of VAT to the lessee of the immovable property, subject to the terms and conditions specified in the relevant Notification of the Tax Commissioner.

The initial decision of the lessor, to opt for the non-imposition of VAT of the immovable property is irrevocable.

Repossession of immovable property by financial institutions

VAT must be accounted under the reverse charge provisions on transactions relating to transfers of immovable property during the process of loan restructuring and for compulsory transfer to the lender, as from 2 January 2018. As from 5 December 2019, the definition of the term 'lender' includes licensed credit and financial institutions, credit acquiring companies, including their subsidiaries, as well as a public body or any licensed company which acquired/received from a credit institution any non-performing/overdue loans. This provision is effective until 31 December 2020.

Leases of immovable property which effectively transfer the risks and rewards of ownership of immovable property

As from 1 January 2019 leases of immovable property which effectively transfer the risks and rewards of ownership of immovable property are considered to be supplies of goods. They also become subject to VAT at the standard rate.

Imposition of 19% VAT on non-developed building land

As from 2 January 2018, VAT at 19% is imposed on the transfer of non-developed building land. Specifically, VAT is imposed on the transfer of ownership, transfer of indivisible land portion, transfer of ownership under a sale agreement or an agreement which specifically provides that the ownership will be transferred on a future date or by virtue of a leasing agreement with the right to buy non-developed building land which is intended for the construction of one or more structures in the course of carrying out a business activity.

Non-developed building land includes all non-developed land plots that are intended for the construction of one or more structures. In the above definition is included non-developed building land that is either covered or not from the water supply and cover land plots of all sorts as listed below:

- Land plots under development
- Finished land plots
- Land plots with a final approval certificate or,
- Land plots with land title

Other types of land plots are also included in the list of non-developed building.

Reduced rate 5% for purchase / construction of permanent residence

From 1 October 2011 a new reduced VAT rate applies, of 5 percent (5%) for the purchase / construction of permanent residence.

Residences bought or constructed prior 1 October 2011 are still regulated by the Law of Sponsorships.

The follow conditions apply for the imposition of the reduced VAT rate:

- The application of Town Planning permission / building permit should be submitted to the relevant Authorities after 1.5.2004.
- The residence must be used as primary / permanent place of residence.
- Total area of the residence must not exceed 275 sq. m. The reduced 5% VAT rate is imposed only on the first 200 sq. m.

As from 18 November 2016 the reduced rate of 5% applies for the first 200 square meters of the residence's buildable area as determined by the building coefficient and not on the first 200 square meters of a residence which does not exceed 275 square meters as was the case up until 17 November 2016.

In case of families with more than 3 children the allowable total covered area increases respectively.

Imposition of the reduced rate of 5% on the renovation and repair of private residential homes

The reduced rate of 5% on the renovation and repair of private residential homes applies to all the residential homes (and not only to the main and permanent place of residence applied as of 3/12/2015). The renovation and repair consist of plumbing, electrical, carpentry, painting, building, and construction work excluding the value of the materials exceeding the total value of the services provided.

As from 20 August 2020, the reduced rate of 5% also applies to such services provided for the purposes of making additions to private residences. It applies in cases where at least three years have passed since the first use of the private residence. In cases that the value of the materials exceeds the total value of the supply by more than 50%, the value of the materials is subject to the standard rate of VAT.

VAT treatment of vouchers

A voucher is an instrument (whether in physical or in electronic form) which contains an obligation to accept it as consideration, or partial consideration, for a supply of goods or services. It does not include discount vouchers, an instrument functioning as ticket or postage stamps. As per the legislative provisions, two types of vouchers exist, namely

"single-purpose" and "multi-purpose" vouchers and the timing at which VAT is accounted for differs.

"Single-purpose" vouchers

A "single-purpose" voucher is a voucher with respect to which the place of supply of the goods or services to which the voucher relates, and the VAT due on those goods or services, are known at the time of issue of the voucher. The VAT due on the underlying goods and services is due at the time of issue of the voucher, as well as at the point in time of any future transfer of the voucher if that transfer is effected for consideration.

"Multi-purpose" vouchers

A "multi-purpose" voucher is a "voucher other than a single-purpose voucher".

The VAT due on the underlying goods and services is accounted for at the time of redemption of the voucher while at the time of issue or during any subsequent transfer of the voucher prior to its redemption, there is no supply from a VAT perspective.

Registration to VAT

Every individual or company is obliged to register:

- (a) at the end of any month, if the value of taxable supplies recorded in the last 12 months exceeds €15.600 or
- (b) at any point in time the value of taxable supplies is expected to exceed €15.600 in the next 30 days or
- (c) provides services to a VAT registered person within European Union with nil registration threshold or
- (d) is involved in the acquisition of goods from other EU Member States (relates to persons who offer exempt supplies of goods and services or are not profitable organizations with registration threshold of €10.250) or
- (e) offers distant sales with registration threshold of €35.000 or
- (f) offers zero rated supplies of goods or services or
- (g) receives services for which applies the reverse charge by the recipient (registration threshold for services received €15.600)
- (h) acquires a business on a going concern basis
- (i) as from 1st August 2020, non-established in Cyprus persons (legal entities or individuals), who are engaged in taxable activities in Cyprus, are obliged to register for VAT purposes (no threshold exists)

Right for registration

Persons who trade outside the Republic, in goods and services which would have been taxable if they were provided within the Republic, groups of companies and divisions of companies.

VAT returns and payment of VAT

Any registered person must submit to the VAT Commissioner a VAT return within 40 days from the end of any tax period and pay the VAT due.

As from 2 May 2017 all taxable persons have to submit their quarterly VAT returns online, via the Taxisnet system.

Claim for a VAT refund is made electronically by completing form 4B via the Taxisnet system as from the 2nd of May 2017.

Every taxable person who makes a claim for VAT refund will be entitled to repayment of the VAT amount with interest in the event that the repayment is delayed for a period exceeding four months from the date of the submission of the claim.

In case a VAT audit regarding the claim is conducted by the Commissioner, the time period of four months is extended to eight months.

From 2018, VAT refunds are made via bank transfer.

Payment of the VAT due can be made through the till of any commercial bank, by bank transfer to the Central Bank, as well as via the «Internet Banking» platform of selected banking institutions.

The VAT liability for the periods ending 29 February 2023, 31 March 2023, 30 April 2023, 31 May 2023 and 30 June 2023, are payable not later than the 10th day from the end of the month following the end of each VAT period.

As from 20 August 2020, the following also apply regarding VAT refunds:

- Refunds will be suspended where income tax returns have not been submitted by the submission date of the VAT refund claim. In addition, no interest will be payable on a VAT refund for the period during which the refund is suspended.
- VAT refund applications cannot be submitted after six years from the end of the relevant tax period.

Obligation for customer to account for VAT for the acquisition of certain high value goods

As from October 2020, taxable persons who purchase the following goods for business purposes must account for VAT in Cyprus based on the reverse charge provisions, as per Article 11E of the VAT Law.

- Mobile phones
- Integrated circuit mechanisms, such as microprocessors and central processing units, prior to their integration into end-user products
- Game consoles, computer tablets and laptops

The supplier must, therefore, not charge the customer VAT on its invoice while also including the VAT number of the customer on the invoice.

Administration of intra-community trading

Business that undertakes intra-community trading i.e. purchases and sales of goods and provision of services from /to European Union member States need to complete the following forms:

Intra-Community Acquisitions (Imports)

1. Intrastat-Arrivals of goods
2. Inclusion in the VAT return (on a total basis)

Intra-Community Supplies (Exports)

1. Intrastat-Departures of goods
2. Recapitulative statement of supplies of goods and services (VIES form)
3. Inclusion in the VAT return (on a total basis)

Submissions of the forms

INTRASTAT forms are submitted to Tax Authorities no later than the 10th day which follows the end of the month stated on the INTRASTAT form.

The recapitulative statement is submitted to the Tax Authorities within 15 days from the end of the related month in an electronic form only.

Legal receipts

From 16 January 2012 all taxable persons making taxable supplies of goods or services to non-taxable persons are obliged to issue and deliver "legal receipts".

The legal receipts must contain the following information

- Issue date
- ID number
- Name, address and registration number of the taxable person

- Description of the goods or services offered
- Total amount payable, including VAT
- For each VAT rate, the total amount payable (including VAT) and the applicable rate.
- Indication of whether the transaction involves deposit payment, part payment, cash payment or otherwise.

Any person failing to comply with this regulation will be subject to a penalty equal to 20% of the value of the transaction for which the legal receipt relates to.

Any person failing to issue and deliver a legal receipt at the time of the transaction shall be subject to a fine of €1700 or imprisonment up to three years or both.

It should be noted that in case of cash invoice, the issue of legal receipt is not required as the cash invoice may also be used as a receipt.

VAT rules for Services in the EU

Introduction

As from 1 January 2010, new rules were introduced across the EU, affecting all businesses that trade internationally in services, whether as a supplier or a purchaser, and whether externally or on an intra-group basis.

Vat changes

VAT on almost all B2B (business-to-business) services will be chargeable in the Member State of the customer, and not in the country/Member State of the supplier. The customer will then account for the VAT due under the "reverse charge" procedure. Many more services will be subject to the reverse charge, including all management fees.

Cross-border VAT charges will be minimized but when VAT is still charged, there will be faster, more efficient refund procedures – the "Eighth Directive" VAT refund procedure is applied and electronic filing is introduced.

Exempt and partly exempt businesses, such as banks and insurance companies, currently receiving VAT-free services from abroad may face extra VAT costs on, for example, management fees, outsourced services, etc.

New “time of supply” rules governing when a reverse charge liability is accounted for and when a transaction is to be included on VIES (VAT Information Exchange System) forms.

Businesses will be required to file VIES forms for services.

Rules regarding the place of supply of services

General rule

The general rule with respect to the supply of services to a taxable person shall be the place where the taxable person (i.e. the recipient) has established its business and not the place where the supplier is established.

The place of supply of services to a non-taxable person shall be the place where the supplier is established.

Exception rules

Exception rules shall be applied to the following services:

- Services connected to immovable property – The place of supply shall be where the immovable property is located.
- Passenger transport – the place of supply shall be where the transport takes place.
- Cultural, artistic, sporting, scientific, educational and similar services – The place of supply shall be where those activities are physically performed.
- Restaurant and catering services – The place of supply shall be where the services are physically carried out.
- Restaurant and catering services for consumption on board ships, aircraft or trains during the section of a transport operation effected within the Community – The place of supply shall be at the point of departure of the passenger transportation.
- Short-term hiring of means of transport – The place of supply shall be the place where the means of transport is put at the disposal of the customer.

Refund of vat paid

The existing procedure for the refund of VAT paid by a taxable person in another Member State for business expenses incurred in that Member State, were replaced by a new electronic procedure as of 1 January 2010.

The purpose of the new electronic procedure is the equal treatment of the businesses within the EU and the faster refund of the VAT to the claimants.

As of 1 January 2010, when a taxable person who is established in one Member State (Member State of Establishment) pays VAT in another Member State of the EU (Member State of Refund), this person will be allowed to submit an electronic application for the refund of VAT in the Member State of Establishment.

The deadline for filing an application for VAT refund is newly set at 30 September of the following calendar year. The claimants will no longer be required to present the original copies of documents. The VAT authorities will be required to process claims within a stipulated time period.

Reporting requirements

As of 1 January 2010, businesses will be required to file VIES forms for services, similar to those already required for goods. Only taxable (not exempt) services subject to the reverse charge and supplied to a VAT-registered customer in another Member State will need to be reported. Businesses will not be required to report services supplied to the customers in the same Member State or to customers outside the EU. The VIES form must include the following information:

- The VAT number of the customer
- Total amount of services provided, or goods sold in each Member State (separate sections for each Member State)
- The Member State of the customer

In Cyprus, the VIES forms for goods / services are submitted monthly, on the 15th day of the month following the month to which the VIES form relates.

Harmonisation of VAT legislation with directive 2010/45/EU

As from 20 December 2013 the following changes have been implemented in order to comply with European directive:

- Maintenance of records with analytical data about goods transferring temporarily between Member States
- Chargeability of VAT on intra-community supplies of goods and intra-community acquisitions

- Introduction of optional cash accounting scheme for Member States
- Amendments about invoicing system
- Removal of special provisions regarding the time of service by lawyers and in construction industry Currency conversion for acquisitions from other Member States

New VAT rules for e-commerce

MOSS system extended to other business-to-consumer (B2C) services and intra-community distance sales of goods, thus resulting in a bigger One Stop Shop (OSS).

The VAT rules on cross-border B2C e-commerce activities have changed throughout the EU.

Online sellers (including online marketplaces/platforms) can register in one EU Member State for the declaration and payment of VAT on all distance sales of goods and cross-border supplies of services to customers within the EU, through the new One Stop Shop (OSS).

The existing thresholds for distance sales of goods within the EU are abolished and a new EU-wide threshold of EUR 10.000 has been introduced. Below this threshold, the supplies of TBEs and intra-community distance sales of goods may remain subject to VAT in the Member State of supplier of TBEs or where those goods are located at the time when their dispatch or transport begins.

The VAT exemption applicable so far on importation of small consignments of a value up to EUR 17 is abolished. All goods imported in Cyprus are now subject to VAT.

A new special scheme, the Import One Stop Shop (IOSS) has been introduced, regarding distance sales of low value goods imported (<EUR 150) from third territories or third countries to simplify the declaration and payment of VAT.

Penalties and interest

Late registration	€85 for every month of delay
Late submission of VAT return	€100 for every return
Late payment of VAT	10% of amount due plus interest
Late de-registration	€85 once-off
Failure to comply with the reverse charge provisions for transactions falling under Articles 11, 11A-11E and 12A of the Cyprus VAT Law (applies from 1 July 2021)	€200 for each return. The total penalty may not exceed €4000.
Late submission of VIES form	€50 for each return
Correction of VIES form	€15 for each return
Late submission of Intrastat form	€15 for each return
Failure to issue a lawful receipt	20% of the value of the supply

15. INTERNATIONAL TRUSTS

An international trust may be described as a trust created by a non-resident settlor for the benefit of non-resident beneficiaries.

For a trust to be classified as an International Trust it must satisfy the following conditions:

- (a) The settlor is not permanent resident of the Republic.
- (b) The trust property does not include any immovable property situated in Cyprus.
- (c) At least one of the Trustees is resident in the Republic during the Trust period.
- (d) None of the beneficiaries are residents except when the Trust is charitable.

There are various types of trusts that can be set up in Cyprus. The choice depends on the circumstances of the settlor and the objectives of the trust. The most common types of trust are the following:

- Discretionary trusts
- Fixed trusts

International trusts enjoy the following tax advantages in Cyprus:

- the income of the trust is exempt from tax both in the hands of the trustees and the beneficiaries
- no capital gains tax is charged on the disposal of assets held by international trusts
- interest on foreign currency trust funds deposited with any bank in Cyprus is tax exempt

16. SOCIAL SECURITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions

	Social Insurance	Redundancy Fund	Industrial Training	Social Cohesion Fund
	%	%	%	%
Employer	8,3 (1)	1,2	0,5	2
Employee	8,3(1)	-	-	-
Self employed	15,6(1)	-	-	-

Note

(1) Social insurance contributions were increased by 1% for the years 2019 – 2022 (employer 0,5%, employee 0,5%). Specifically, the percentage contribution to the Social Insurance Fund by employers and employees increased from 7,8% to 8,3% and the contribution of self-employed from 14,6% to 15,6%. The rates will increase every five years until they reach 10,7% for employees/employers and 19,6% for self-employed, in January 2039.

Upper limits for employees for 2023

	<u>Per week</u>	<u>Per month</u>	<u>Per annum</u>
	€	€	€
Weekly employees	1.155	-	58.080
Monthly employees	-	5.005	60.060

Lower limits for self employed

Occupational Category	<u>Week</u>	<u>Annual</u>
	€	€
1. Medical Doctors, Pharmacists, Health professionals, Accountants, Economists, Lawyers and other professionals		
a. Persons with up to 10 years practice	405	21.045
b. Persons with more than 10 years practice	819	42.568

	<u>Week</u> €	<u>Annual</u> €
2. Managers (Businessmen), Estate Agents, Wholesalers	819	42.568
3. Teaching Professionals (University, Secondary education, Primary and pre-primary education, Teaching Associates, Special education teaching professionals)		
a. Persons with up to 10 years practice	396	20.567
b. Persons with more than 10 years practice	791	41.134
4. Builders and related occupations	497	25.828
5. Farmers, Dairy and Livestock producers, Poultry producers, Fishermen and related occupations	276	14.349
6. Drivers, Excavator operators and related occupations	396	20.567
7. Technicians, Mass Media Associates, Stationary – Plant (not related to building occupations) and Metal, Rubber, Plastic, Wood and related products assemblers	396	20.567
8. Clerks, Typists, Cashiers, Secretaries	396	20.567
9. Artisans not falling under any other occupational category	396	20.567
10. Shopkeepers	377	19.610
11. Butchers, Bakers, Pastry – Cooks, Meat, Milk, Fruit, Tobacco product makers/preservers and related occupations	303	15.784
12. Street vendors, mail carriers, garbage collectors, miners and quarry workers, riggers and cable splicers, sweepers, Service providers and salesmen	276	14.349

13. Cleaners, Messengers, Watchpersons, Dry Cleaning Owners	377	19.610
14. Designers, computer equipment operators, ships' engineers, Agents and related occupations, Musicians, Magicians	405	21.045
15. Persons not falling under any other occupational category	405	21.045

Notes

Employers are obliged to pay the monthly contributions by the end of the subsequent month.

Self-employed persons are obliged to pay the contributions within 40 days from the end of the quarter.

Late payment results in the imposition of a penalty of 3% for each month of delay, as long as the delay continues. The total amount of the penalty cannot exceed 27% of the amount due.

Social Cohesion Fund

Every employer has an obligation to contribute 2% of the amount of salaries paid to employees, to the social cohesion fund.

The amount contributed to the social cohesion fund, is calculated on the aggregate emoluments without restriction or any upper limit.

"Emoluments" do not include the emoluments of a non-Cypriot who is employed by an overseas government or an international organisation or a company that owns a Cyprus ship or ship management company.

17. GENERAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM (GHS)

The contributions to the GHS medical fund are calculated and paid as a percentage on the gross emoluments / pensions as follows:

<u>Contributors categories</u>	<u>Contributions from 01/03/2020</u>	<u>Explanations</u>
Employees	2,65%	On their salaries
Employers (including the state as an employer)	2,90%	On their employees' emoluments
State	4,70%	On the salaries of the employees, the remuneration of the self-employed and officials and on pensions
Self-employed	4,00%	On their income
Pensioners	2,65%	On their pension
Income earners (e.g. rent, interest, dividends)	2,65%	On their income
Government Officials	2,65%	On their remuneration
Persons responsible for the payment of remuneration to Government Officials	2,90%	On the remuneration of the Government Official

For every physical person, the total maximum annual amount on which contributions will be paid is €180,000.

In case that the physical person is not a tax resident of Cyprus, he/she will pay contributions only for the income, earnings and pensions that derive from the Republic of Cyprus, excluding dividends and interest.

18. STAMP DUTY

Type of document	Duty
Letters of guarantee	€4
Letters of credit	€2
Receipts for amounts over €4	€0.07
Customs documents	€18/€35
Bills of lading	€4
Bills of exchange (payable at sight on first demand or within 3 days from demand or sight)	€1
Charter hire document	€18
General power of attorney	€6
Special power of attorney	€2
Certified copies of contracts and documents	€2
Will	€18
Estate administration document	€9
Tax residence certificate	€ 80,00
Contracts	
- up to €5.000	Nil
- from €5.001 up to €170.000	1,5‰
- over €170.001	2‰ (maximum fee €20.000)
- without fixed amount	€35

Company reorganization

Transactions that take place in relation to company reorganization are exempt from stamp duty.

19. COMPANIES' REGISTRAR RIGHTS AND FEES

Registration of a limited company by shares or guarantee, with share capital	€105
Registration of a company without share capital	€175
Registration of an increase in the company's share capital	€40
Change of name of company	€40
Reduction of capital	€80
Application for registration of a general or a limited partnership	€120
Application for registration of a business name	€80
Filing with the Registrar of the following documents:	
Annual Report	€20
Annual Report which is overdue	€40
Notification of a registered mortgage on immovable property in the Republic of Cyprus irrespective of the sum of money	€20
Registration of a charge apart from a mortgage on immovable property within the Republic of Cyprus:	
- on the form of notification of the charge	€40
- on the charge document securing maximum amount	
• for a sum of money up to €17.086	€100
• for a sum of money exceeding €17.086 but not over €34.172	€200
• or a sum of money exceeding €34.172 but not over €85.430	€340
• for a sum of money exceeding €85.430 but not over €170.860	€500
• for a sum of money over €170.860 where no amount is mentioned	€600

For the delayed filing of certain applications at the Companies Registrar, additional charges and penalties are imposed, as follows:

FROM 18/12/2020	Company	Partnership	Trade Name	Foreign Companies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fifty euro (€50) lump sum and • one euro (€1) for every day of delay, up to the maximum amount of two hundred fifty euro (€250). 	Change of registered office address (HE2)	Change of work address (Σ2)	Change of the work address of a legal or natural person (EE2)	Change of work address (AE8)
	Change of directors or their information (HE4)			Appointment or withdrawal of an official or change in their information (AE5)
	Share concession report (HE12)	Appointment of a new partner, withdrawal of a partner or change in their information (Σ2)	Change in the information of the owner of the trade name (EE2), legal or natural person	Appointment or withdrawal of an authorized person or change in their information (AE6)
Transfer of private company shares (HE57)				
FROM 1/4/2021				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fifty euro (€50) lump sum and • one euro (€1) for every day of delay for the first six (6) months, and two euro (€2) for every additional day of delay, up to the maximum amount of five hundred euro (€500). 	Filing of the Annual Report (HE32)	Filing of the Annual Report (Σ5)		

Annual levy

The annual levy of three hundred fifty euro (€350) is imposed to all Cyprus companies. For a group of companies the total amount of fees cannot exceed the amount of twenty thousand euro (€20,000).

The payment of the fee for the year 2022 must be made by 30 June 2022. The annual fee is payable from the year of registration of the company.

In case of non-compliance with the obligation to pay the fee, the company is subject to a penalty of 10% if the fee is paid within two months from the due date and to a penalty of 30% if the fee is paid within a period of five months from the due date.

If the fee is not paid within five months, the Registrar will remove the company from the Registry. The company can return to the Registry within a period of two years from the removal with the payment of €500 and thereafter with the payment of €750.

20. IMMOVABLE PROPERTY TRANSFER FEES

These are paid on transfers of immovable property and are calculated on the market value of the property as estimated by the Land Registry Department.

Market Value €	Percentage %	Fees €	Cumulative Fees €
0 – 85.000	3	2.550	2.550
85.00 – 170.000	5	4.250	6.800
170.001 and over	8		

The following rates are applicable in the case of free transfers

From parents to children	0%
Between spouses and third-degree relatives	0,1%
To trustees	€50

Exemptions from transfer fees

- Transfers of immovable property by a company to another company for the purpose of a company re-organisation are exempt from transfer fees.
- under a qualifying loan restructuring (note 10)
- in the context of bankruptcy, liquidation, disposal of mortgaged immovable property by the lender
- transfers of immovable property on which VAT was paid

50% transfer fees

If no VAT was charged for the transfer of an immovable property, the transfer fees are reduced by 50%.

The reduced transfer fees are applicable only for contracts submitted to Land Registry after 2 December 2011.

21. STOCK EXCHANGE TRANSACTION FEES

A special fee is imposed in relation to transactions that take place in the Cyprus Stock Exchange or are announced to the Cyprus Stock Exchange at the following rates:

Individuals and legal entities	0.15%
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The fee is suffered by the seller or the person who announces the transaction.

Exempt transactions

The following transactions are exempt:

- share issue and share redemption by the issuer
- transactions in non-convertible company bonds
- transactions in non-convertible company promissory notes
- transactions in bonds, development bonds and government bills of exchange
- gifts of securities by parent to child, either single or married, between spouses or relatives up to third degree.