

Report on recent US international tax developments - 14 August 2020

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The United States (US) Senate adjourned on 13 August for the August recess and will formally reconvene on 8 September. The House has also adjourned and will return to Washington on 14 September. Both Senators and House members will be given at least 24 hours' notice to reconvene if the Trump Administration and congressional Democrats are able to negotiate a coronavirus aid deal.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) on 7 August completed its review of final rules on the limitation on the dividends received deduction (DRD) for dividends received from certain foreign corporations and amounts eligible for the Internal Revenue Code¹ Section 954 look-through exception.

In June 2019, the Government released proposed and temporary regulations under Sections 245A and 954(c)(6). Those regulations deny, in whole or in part, the Section 245A DRD to dividends (or gain treated as dividends under Section 1248(a)) sourced from earnings and profits (E&P) generated from certain transactions occurring after 31 December 2017, but before the close of a tax year to which the provisions of Section 951A do not apply (the GILTI² gap period). They also deny, in whole or in part, the Section 245A DRD to dividends sourced from E&P generated from tested income or subpart F income that would have been included in a US shareholder's income under Sections 951(a) or 951A(a), but for the transfer or dilution of that shareholder's direct or indirect interest in a controlled foreign corporation (CFC). The regulations apply retroactively

to dividends paid after 31 December 2017. The regulations provide rules that would also, in similar circumstances, deny the application of the Section 954(c)(6) deduction, in whole or in part, for dividends paid to CFCs.

OIRA also completed its review of proposed regulations coordinating the application of certain regulations under Section 245A and Section 951A. The OMB website describes the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act*-related proposed rules as coordinating the disqualified basis rules of Reg. Section 1.951A-2(b) and the extraordinary disposition rules of Reg. Section 1.245A-5(c) and (d), generally to prevent excess taxation that could otherwise occur when the rules are applied to the same transaction.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) officials this week reiterated that the recently released draft Schedules K-2 and K-3 for the 2021 tax year IRS Form 1065, *U.S. Return of Partnership Income* were guided by the need to standardize format, rather than to request additional information. One official was quoted as saying that the information was already being reported to partners in various formats and added that the changes were necessitated by amendments to the international tax regime by the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act*.

Endnotes

1. All "Section" references are to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the regulations promulgated thereunder.
2. Global Intangible Low-Taxed Income.

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