

Tax Agenda Greece

March 2023



No.	Fact	Action
-----	------	--------

Tax incentives to facilitate corporate reorganizations targeted to Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs)

1

A set of tax incentives, primarily target to SMEs, is introduced aiming to aid and facilitate corporate reorganizations and the “collaboration” of enterprises (i.e., establishment of a new venture of two or more unrelated parties). The tax incentives offered include, inter alia, an exemption from corporate income tax for 30% of the eligible income, exemption from certain indirect taxes and expanded deduction rights for expenses related to the acquisition of corporate participations. Most of the incentives are applicable for reorganizations starting from 26 May 2022 onwards.

Review your local group presence in order to assess whether the local entities may benefit from the new tax incentives granted, in case that your group opts to proceed with a reorganization. Analyze whether there is potential for “collaborations” with other local entities that may fall within the scope of the new incentive rules. Assess the thresholds set to be eligible for the new incentives.



Amendment to thin capitalization rules

A taxpayer - member of a consolidated group for accounting purposes, may either:

- ▶ Fully deduct its exceeding borrowing costs if it can demonstrate that the ratio of its share capital over its total assets is equal to or higher or less (max. 2%) than the equivalent ratio of the group, provided that all assets and liabilities are valued using the same method as in the consolidated financial statements or
- ▶ Deduct exceeding borrowing costs at an amount in excess of what it would be entitled to deduct under general rules. This higher limit refers to the consolidated group in which the taxpayer is member and is calculated in two steps : (i) the group ratio is determined by dividing the exceeding borrowing costs of the group vis-à-vis third-parties over the group’s EBITDA; and (ii) the group ratio is multiplied by the EBITDA of the taxpayer

The above provision is applicable from 28 March 2022 onwards.

Assess how the amendments may affect the capacity of your local group entities to fully or partially deduct exceeding borrowing costs.



2



Mar

Apr

May




Jun

Use text boxes above the timeline to plan your actions for coming months

● Compliance ● Risk management ● Cash-flow / ETR impact

No.	Fact	Action	
3	<p>Changes to the rules regarding hybrid mismatches</p> <p>Rules applicable from 01 January 2022 are targeted to one or more foreign connected enterprises, which have an interest that on aggregate exceeds 50% of the voting rights or interest from capital or profit participation of a hybrid entity in Greece. In case said enterprises are located in a jurisdiction that considers the hybrid entity as subject to Greek tax, then the latter is considered as Greek tax resident and taxed on its income to the extent that said income is not taxed differently based on the Greek or any other jurisdiction's legislation.</p>	<p>Analyze the proper qualification and treatment of the relevant entities under the Greek and foreign rules applicable to hybrid entities. Should such analysis lead to the hybrid entity being considered as Greek tax resident, safeguard proper compliance with related obligations.</p>	
4	<p>Guidelines for the application of CFC rules</p> <p>Detailed guidelines have been issued offering useful clarifications as to the various notions and practical aspects of the new Greek CFC rules application (enacted in 2019), as well as indicative examples for the computation of participation percentages. The guidance spreads over issues such as the underlying income and foreign tax paid, the definition of connected parties for the purposes of Greek CFC rules, as well as the fundamentals for determining the CFC income taxable in Greece and the potential for credit or exemption, under conditions.</p>	<p>Review and assess the potential application of the new Greek CFC rules in view of the recent interpretative guidance in your group legal structure, especially in case of presence in jurisdictions outside the EU/EEA.</p>	
5	<p>Explicit extension of participation exemption to EU or EEA permanent establishments</p> <p>Administrative guidance clarified that the exemption from corporate income tax on capital gains (subject to conditions) under EU participation exemption, is also extended to Greek permanent establishments of EU/EEA legal persons.</p>	<p>Assess whether, in view of your means of establishment in Greece (e.g., in case established through a branch), the new guidance may impact your exit strategies or holding arrangements.</p>	
6	<p>Tax incentives for the relocation of investors, employees and freelancers</p> <p>Foreign investors changing their tax residency to Greece may enjoy one-off annual taxation (€100k) exhausting all other tax liability for their worldwide income. Conditions apply, such as proceeding with certain investments of at least €500k in value. The incentive is offered for 15 years and may be extended to specific close relatives of the investor. Tax incentives are also offered to relocating employees and freelancers. Subject to conditions, exemption from income tax and special solidarity tax is offered for 50% of the income arising in Greece from private employment or from business activity. The incentive is offered for seven years.</p>	<p>Consider eligibility for these exemptions if relocation is under consideration and assess compliance with the requirements set out in the relevant rules and procedural formalities.</p>	
7	<p>Guidance relating to family offices and permissible activities</p> <p>The services that may be offered by Greek family offices, as well as certain other practical aspects relating to their operation were clarified. Broadly speaking, services connected to the private and social life of the relevant family members, administrative support, as well as other financial management, strategic planning and consulting services may be offered.</p>	<p>To the extent that setting up a family office in Greece is under consideration, assess and define the perimeter of eligible services to be offered in such context.</p>	

No.	Fact	Action
8	<p>Electronic books (myDATA)</p> <p>Amendments to the scope of application, the time and process of electronic data transmission to the myDATA digital platform were recently made. In particular, the following key takeaways are noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 01 January 2024, the transmission of transaction document summaries through business management software (commercial, accounting, ERP) will be performed in real-time. Entities that use Electronic Invoicing Service Providers are not allowed to transmit invoices' data through any of the other available ways, either for transactions with other entities (B2B), or with the State (B2G). The deadline for the transmission of omissions and discrepancies for the year 2021 by the recipients of the documents is extended until 31 March 2023. For 2022 transactions, revenues' data are transmitted until 28 February 2023, expenses' data until 31 March 2023, omissions and discrepancies until 30 April 2023 and adjusting entries until the filing of the 2022 income tax return. 	<p>Review your tax accounting and compliance processes in order to safeguard the timely transmission of all required data. Perform reconciliations between e-books, accounting books and tax returns to identify any gaps and divergencies to be resolved.</p>
9	<p>Extension of EU Parent and Subsidiary Directive (EU PSD) benefits to dividend payments to or from UK tax resident entities for tax year 2021</p> <p>Per L. 4965/2022 (amending article 72 of the Greek Income Tax Code), inbound dividends paid by UK entities to Greek entities are not subject to Greek corporate income tax, while also outbound dividends distributed by Greek entities to UK entities are not subject to Greek dividend withholding tax at source, insofar as the conditions of the EU PSD are met. The relevant provision applies for tax year 2021 and was entered into force as of 30 August 2022.</p>	<p>Assess the potential impact of the extension of EU PSD benefits for any inbound or outbound dividend payments from or to UK tax resident entities.</p>
10	<p>Transfer pricing adjustments following tax audits</p> <p>If, following a tax audit, profits from intragroup transactions that have been subject to tax in Greece are included in the profits of a legal entity, the related party that is subject to tax, may request a corresponding adjustment to its taxable profits. This is carried out by means of a filing of an amending corporate income tax return, accompanied by the audit report issued by the Tax Authorities within a deadline of three months from the notification of the act of the corrected tax assessment to the audited legal person. The new provision entered into force as of 23 September 2022.</p>	<p>Assess the impact of the new rules on your local group entities.</p>
11	<p>Stamp duty on corporate interest-bearing loans and financing acts</p> <p>Law 4972/2022 amended article 63 of the Greek VAT Code, so as to revive the imposition of stamp duty on interest-bearing loans and other financing, as well as the resulting contractual interest, regardless of whether the transactions in question also fall within the scope of VAT. This provision has retroactive effect from 01 January 2021. The deadline for the filing of the relevant stamp duty returns for the affected period and payment of the amounts due shall be 31 December 2022.</p>	<p>Review the loan or similar financing agreements in order to safeguard compliance with the stamp duty filing and payment obligations.</p>

No.	Fact	Action
12	<p>Changes to the double-tax treaty (DTT) framework of Greece</p> <p>On 25 October 2022, new Law 4984/2022 ratified the new DTT concluded between Greece and France. The new DTT fundamentally revises what was provided for in the previous DTT (in force since 1965). The new tax treaty has though not still entered into force, since ratification in France and exchange of mutual notifications is pending.</p> <p>Also, on 17 January 2022, Law 4879/2022 ratified the DTT concluded between Greece and Singapore. Entry into force is set for 01 January 2023.</p> <p>Greece also entered into negotiations with Japan for a new DTT.</p>	<p>Review your local group presence in order to assess whether there is any potential impact arising from the new DTT framework.</p> 
13	<p>Special Solidarity Tax (SST)</p> <p>The imposition of SST is abolished for any income acquired from 01 January 2023 onwards. For tax year 2022, all types of income are exempt from SST except for employment income earned by employees of the public sector and pension income.</p>	<p>Analyze the impact of the SST abolition especially for Greek tax resident individuals earning income from salaries and dividends. Safeguard that tax withholdings are made in accordance with the new rules.</p> 
14	<p>Guidance on the tax treatment of temporary differences in case of distribution.</p> <p>Circular E.2089/21.12.2022 provided guidelines regarding the tax treatment of temporary differences between the accounting and tax base in case of profits' distribution.</p> <p>It is clarified that the distribution of accounting profits, that differ from tax profits due to the existence of temporary differences between the accounting and tax base, on which income tax has been paid, does not lead to double taxation. The filing of amending income tax returns without penalties is possible until 30 June 2023, in case a company has paid income tax both at the time of distribution and at the time of recognition (reversal) of the temporary difference. Monitoring of the tax base is a prerequisite.</p>	<p>Assess the potential tax impact on profit distributions.</p> 

Contacts:

Stephanos Mitsios
Partner, Head of Tax
Ernst & Young Business Advisory Solutions S.A.
stefanos.mitsios@gr.ey.com

Stella Saritzoglou
Partner
Ernst & Young Business Advisory Solutions S.A.
stella.saritzoglou@gr.ey.com

EY | Building a better working world

EY exists to build a better working world, helping create long-term value for clients, people and society and build trust in the capital markets.

Enabled by data and technology, diverse EY teams in over 150 countries provide trust through assurance and help clients grow, transform and operate.

Working across assurance, consulting, law, strategy, tax and transactions, EY teams ask better questions to find new answers for the complex issues facing our world today.

EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. Information about how EY collects and uses personal data and a description of the rights individuals have under data protection legislation are available via ey.com/privacy. EY member firms do not practice law where prohibited by local laws.

For more information about our organization, please visit ey.com.

© 2023 EYGM Limited.

All Rights Reserved.

EYG no. 001754-23Gbl

ED None

This material has been prepared for general informational purposes only and is not intended to be relied upon as accounting, tax, legal, or other professional advice. Please refer to your advisors for specific advice.

ey.com