## Global Tax Alert

**News from Transfer Pricing** 

# Poland publishes draft bill introducing simplified APA procedure

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The Polish Government recently published, on the website of the Governmental Legislative Center, a draft bill regarding resolution of double taxation disputes and Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs). The draft bill also covers a simplified APA procedure. The draft bill follows the introduction of rules in 2018, limiting tax deductibility of several intragroup costs. The Ministry of Finance indicated that it would introduce a simplified APA procedure as a remedy.

According to the draft bill, the simplified APA may be used to secure tax deductibility of the following intragroup settlements:

- ▶ Low value-adding services
- ► License fees for use of trademark or knowledge (information) related to the experience gained, suitable for the use in industrial, commercial, scientific or organizational activities (know-how)

Key assumptions for the simplified APA procedure are:

- ▶ Limitation of the scope of information required in the application, while emphasizing the justification of the arm's-length character of settlement
- Allowance for management statements/confirmations instead of requiring specific documentation
- ▶ Introduction a flat fee application process (PLN20,000), independent of the value of the transaction



- ► Introduction of a three-month deadline for the conclusion of the simplified APA procedure
- Allowance for a change from the standard APA procedure to a simplified one, including for already-submitted applications (in the event of the fulfillment of the conditions for the simplified procedure)
- Allowance for the change from a simplified APA procedure into a standard APA procedure if there are circumstances preventing the issuance of a simplified APA
- Issuance of a decision securing deductibility of costs for a 3-year period with the possibility of its renewal
- ▶ The possibility to secure deductibility of 2018 costs

In contrast to the standard APA procedure, the submission of an application for a simplified pricing APA will not be affected by pending tax proceedings, tax inspections, customs and tax controls and proceedings before an administrative court. The draft bill also contains provisions on the settlement of disputes regarding double taxation, including:

- Dispute resolution regarding double taxation in the European Union
- Procedures for eliminating double taxation in the event of a correction of affiliates' profit
- Procedures for mutual communication conducted based on double tax treaties
- Local adjustments

The draft bill is now subject to tax consultation.

Taxpayers who want to secure the deductibility of their intragroup costs for 2018 should consider preparing for the simplified APA procedure. Also, taxpayers who have obtained an unfavorable individual tax ruling regarding the right to treat costs as tax deductible, may try to use simplified APA as a remedy.

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