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Tax Flash 17/2023 August 10, 2023 New Protocol of the Agreement to Avoid Double Taxation and of Tax Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital between the Government of Mexico and the Federal Republic of Germany

On August 4, 2023, a decree was published in the Official Gazette of the Federation approving the Protocol that amends the **July 9, 2008**, **Agreement** between the United Mexican States, and the Federal Republic of Germany to **Avoid Double Taxation and of Tax Evasion** with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital.

On October 8, 2021, in Mexico City, the Protocol amending the Agreement between the Government of Mexico and the Federal Republic of Germany for the Avoidance of Double Taxation was signed. It should be recalled that the Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty between Mexico and Germany is not a Covered Treaty for purposes of the Multilateral Instrument that entered into force on July 1, 2021.

The purpose of the Amending Protocol is to adopt the measures to prevent tax base erosion and profit shifting embodied in the Multilateral Instrument. Thus, the main changes included in the Amending Protocol are:

Preamble.

The preamble is amended by stating that the purpose of the Convention is to prevent double taxation, without creating opportunities for non-taxation or reduced taxation through tax evasion or tax avoidance, including the abuse of treaties for the indirect benefit of third states.

Permanent establishment.

It is expressly established as a requirement that all exceptions for "permanent establishment"

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must be considered as preparatory or auxiliary activities.

Dividends.

The requirement of ownership of shares within the previous 365 days is incorporated in order to be entitled to apply the reduced rate of 5% on dividends if the beneficial owner is a company (excluding partnerships) that directly owns at least 10% of the capital of the company.

Capital Gains.

In order to address indirect sales that will not be taxed under the Double Tax Treaty, the Amending Protocol includes that the value of comparable shares or rights may be subject to taxation in the source jurisdiction if, at any time within 365 days preceding the disposition, the shares or participation rights derive more than 50% of their value, directly or indirectly, from real estate located in that other jurisdiction.

Mutual Agreement Procedure.

In relation to the procedure and in order to provide legal certainty with respect to the dispute resolution mechanism, it is specified that any agreement reached within the same shall be applicable regardless of the time limits provided by the domestic legislation of the Contracting States. The limitation of 10 years to implement the agreements reached by the competent authorities is eliminated regardless of the limitations that may apply in terms of the respective domestic legislation.

Application of the Agreement in special cases.

Among the modifications contained in the Amending Protocol is the implementation of anti-abuse treaty measures in the case of income attributable to permanent establishments in third jurisdictions.

In this sense, the Protocol adopts a measure whereby the benefits of the treaty are denied in those cases in which the State of Residence considers exempt the income attributable to permanent establishments located in third jurisdictions, provided that the tax in the third jurisdiction is less than 60% of the tax that would apply if it were resident in the State of Residence. An exception to such limitation of benefits is provided for, to the extent that it exercises an effective economic activity in the third jurisdiction.

It should also be noted that the Amending Protocol includes the Principal Purpose Test ("PPT") Rule, which addresses the misuse of treaties.

This rule is a key element of the Multilateral Instrument, therefore, although the Agreement between Mexico and Germany is not a Convention covered by said Instrument, the Amending Protocol follows the same objectives and purposes.

Effective date.

The Protocol shall enter into force 30 days after the date on which the Contracting States notify Tax Flash 17/2023 | August 10, 2023

each other that the domestic requirements have been satisfied and shall be applicable:

For taxes withheld in the source country, January 1, 2024.

For other taxes, January 1, 2024.

At Deloitte we keep track of the measures promoted to address the constant changes in the international tax paradigm, so we invite you to contact our specialists to advise you on your international operations, which are constantly evolving.

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