

PROTOCOL
AMENDING THE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF QATAR
FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION
AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION
WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME,
AND THE PROTOCOL,
SIGNED AT DOHA ON 6 NOVEMBER 2007

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**THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM,
THE FLEMISH COMMUNITY,
THE FRENCH COMMUNITY,
THE GERMAN-SPEAKING COMMUNITY,
THE FLEMISH REGION,
THE WALLOON REGION,
and THE BRUSSELS-CAPITAL REGION**

AND

THE STATE OF QATAR,

DESIRING to amend the Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium and the Government of the State of Qatar for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income, and the Protocol, signed at Doha on 6 November 2007 (hereinafter referred to as “the Agreement”),

HAVE AGREED as follows:

ARTICLE I

The text of Article 3, 1, e) of the Agreement is deleted and replaced by the following:

“e) *the term “competent authority” means:*

1. *in the case of the State of Qatar, the Minister of Finance or his authorized representative,*
2. *in the case of Belgium, as the case may be, the Minister of Finance of the federal Government and/or of the Government of a Region and/or of a Community, or his authorized representative;”*

ARTICLE II

The text of Article 26 of the Agreement is deleted and replaced by the following:

- “1. *The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as may be relevant for carrying out the provisions of this Agreement or to the administration or enforcement of the domestic laws concerning taxes of every kind and description imposed on behalf of the Contracting States, or of their political subdivisions or local authorities, insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Agreement. The exchange of information is not restricted by Articles 1 and 2.*
2. *Any information received under paragraph 1 by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic laws of that State and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) concerned with the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, the determination of appeals in relation to the taxes referred to in paragraph 1, and with respect to Belgium, the oversight of the above. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes. They may disclose the information in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions.*
3. *In no case shall the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 be construed so as to impose on a Contracting State the obligation:*
 - (a) *to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;*
 - (b) *to supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State;*
 - (c) *to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process, or information, the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy (ordre public).*

4. *If information is requested by a Contracting State in accordance with the provisions of this Article, the other Contracting State shall use its information gathering measures to obtain the requested information, even though that other State may not need such information for its own tax purposes. The obligation contained in the preceding sentence is subject to the limitations of paragraph 3 of this Article but in no case shall such limitations be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because it has no domestic interest in such information.*

5. *In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 3 of this Article be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because the information is held by a bank, other financial institution, trust, foundation, nominee or person acting in an agency or a fiduciary capacity or because it relates to ownership interests in a person."*

ARTICLE III

Each of the Contracting States shall notify the other Contracting State, through diplomatic channels, of the completion of the procedures required by its law for the bringing into force of this Protocol. The Protocol shall enter into force on the date of the later of these notifications and its provisions shall have effect:

- a) with respect to taxes due at source on income credited or payable on or after January 1 of the year immediately following the year in which the Protocol entered into force;

- b) with respect to other taxes charged on income of taxable periods beginning on or after January 1 of the year immediately following the year in which the Protocol entered into force;

- c) with respect to any other taxes due in respect of taxable events taking place on or after January 1 of the year immediately following the year in which the Protocol entered into force.

ARTICLE IV

This Protocol, which shall form an integral part of the Agreement, shall remain in force as long as the Agreement remains in force and shall apply as long as the Agreement itself is applicable.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned duly authorized thereto by their respective governments, have signed this Protocol.

DONE in duplicate at Doha, on the ...*22nd of March*..... 2015, in the French, Dutch, Arabic and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence, the English text shall prevail.

**FOR THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM:
FOR THE FLEMISH COMMUNITY:
FOR THE FRENCH COMMUNITY:
FOR THE GERMAN-SPEAKING
COMMUNITY:
FOR THE FLEMISH REGION:
FOR THE WALLOON REGION:
FOR THE BRUSSELS-CAPITAL REGION:**

FOR THE STATE OF QATAR:

