

Mutual Agreement regarding the interpretation of subparagraph c) of paragraph 6 of the Protocol to the Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the Republic of Singapore for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with Respect to Taxes on Income, signed at Singapore on 24 February 2011

The competent authorities of the Swiss Confederation and of the Republic of Singapore have entered into the following Mutual Agreement regarding the interpretation of subparagraph c) of paragraph 6 of the Protocol (hereinafter “Protocol”) to the Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the Republic of Singapore for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with Respect to Taxes on Income (hereinafter “the Agreement”), signed at Singapore on 24 February 2011:

Subparagraph c) of paragraph 6 of the Protocol sets forth the information that the competent authority of the requesting State shall provide to the competent authority of the requested State when making a request for information under Article 26 of the Agreement. According to this provision, it is required that the requesting State provides among other information, (i) the name and address of the person(s) under examination or investigation and, if available, other particulars facilitating that person’s identification, such as date of birth, marital status or tax identification number; and (vi) the name and address of any person believed to be in possession of the requested information. Subparagraph c) further clarifies that whilst the requirements in (i) to (viii) are important procedural requirements that are intended to ensure that fishing expeditions do not occur, these requirements nevertheless need to be interpreted in order not to frustrate effective exchange of information.

Therefore, such requirements are to be interpreted in a manner that an administrative assistance request made under Article 26 of the Agreement is to be complied with if the requesting State, further to the information as required by (ii) to (v) and by (vii) and (viii) of subparagraph c) of paragraph 6 of the Protocol, provides

- a) the identity of the person under examination or investigation; such identification may be provided by other means than by indicating the name and address of the person concerned; and
- b) to the extent known, the name and address of any person believed to be in possession of the requested information,

provided the request is not a fishing expedition.

Upon signature by both competent authorities, this Mutual Agreement is effective as from the date of the entry into force of the Agreement.

Done at Berne on 29 May 2012

Done at Singapore on 25 May 2012

For the Swiss Competent Authority:

For the Singapore Competent Authority:

Jürg Giraudi
State Secretariat for
International Financial Matters SIF

Chai Sui Fun
Assistant Commissioner
Tax Policy and International Tax Division
Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore