

**AGREEMENT**  
**BETWEEN**  
**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA**  
**AND**  
**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**  
**FOR THE ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE TAXATION WITH RESPECT TO**  
**TAXES ON INCOME AND THE PREVENTION OF**  
**TAX EVASION AND AVOIDANCE**

The Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China,

Desiring to further develop their economic relationship and to enhance their co-operation in tax matters,

Intending to conclude an Agreement for the elimination of double taxation with respect to taxes on income without creating opportunities for non-taxation or reduced taxation through tax evasion or avoidance (including through treaty-shopping arrangements aimed at obtaining reliefs provided in this Agreement for the indirect benefit of residents of third jurisdictions),

Have agreed as follows:

**Article 1**  
**Persons Covered**

This Agreement shall apply to persons who are residents of one or both of the Contracting Parties.

**Article 2**  
**Taxes Covered**

1. This Agreement shall apply to taxes on income imposed on behalf of a Contracting Party or of its local authorities, irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.
2. There shall be regarded as taxes on income all taxes imposed on total income, or on elements of income, including taxes on gains from the alienation of movable or immovable property.
3. The existing taxes to which the Agreement shall apply are in particular:
  - (a) in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region,
    - (i) profits tax;
    - (ii) salaries tax; and
    - (iii) property tax(hereinafter referred to as “Hong Kong Special Administrative Region tax”);
  - (b) in the case of Estonia, the income tax  
(hereinafter referred to as “Estonian tax”).
4. The Agreement shall apply also to any identical or substantially similar taxes that are imposed after the date of signature of the Agreement in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall notify each other of any significant changes that have been made in their respective taxation laws.

**Article 3**  
**General Definitions**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) the term “Hong Kong Special Administrative Region” means any place where the tax laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China apply;
- (b) the term “Estonia” means the Republic of Estonia and, when used in the geographical sense, the territory of Estonia and any other area adjacent to the territorial waters of Estonia within which, under the laws of Estonia and in accordance with international law, the rights of Estonia may be exercised with respect to the seabed and its subsoil and their natural resources;
- (c) the term “business” includes the performance of professional services and of other activities of an independent character;
- (d) the term “company” means any body corporate or any entity that is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
- (e) the term “competent authority” means:
  - (i) in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Commissioner of Inland Revenue or his authorised representative; and
  - (ii) in the case of Estonia, the Minister of Finance or his authorised representative;
- (f) the term “Contracting Party” or “Party” means the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or Estonia, as the context requires;
- (g) the term “enterprise” applies to the carrying on of any business;

- (h) the terms “enterprise of a Contracting Party” and “enterprise of the other Contracting Party” mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting Party and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting Party;
- (i) the term “international traffic” means any transport by a ship or aircraft except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in a Contracting Party and the enterprise that operates the ship or aircraft is not an enterprise of that Party;
- (j) the term “national”, in relation to Estonia means:
  - (i) any individual possessing the nationality of Estonia; and
  - (ii) any legal person, partnership or association deriving its status as such from the laws in force in Estonia;
- (k) the term “person” includes an individual, a company, a trust, a partnership and any other body of persons.

2. As regards the application of the Agreement at any time by a Contracting Party, any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires or the competent authorities agree to a different meaning pursuant to the provisions of Article 23, have the meaning that it has at that time under the law of that Party for the purposes of the taxes to which the Agreement applies, any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that Party prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that Party.

#### **Article 4**

#### **Resident**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “resident of a Contracting Party” means:

- (a) in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region,

- (i) any individual who ordinarily resides in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;
  - (ii) any individual who stays in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for more than 180 days during a year of assessment or for more than 300 days in two consecutive years of assessment one of which is the relevant year of assessment;
  - (iii) a company incorporated in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or, if incorporated outside the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, being normally managed or controlled in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;
  - (iv) any other person constituted under the laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or, if constituted outside the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, being normally managed or controlled in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;
  - (v) the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;
- (b) in the case of Estonia,
- (i) any individual whose place of residence is in Estonia;
  - (ii) an Estonian diplomat who is in foreign service;
  - (iii) any individual who stays in Estonia for at least 183 days over the course of a period of 12 consecutive calendar months;
  - (iv) a company incorporated in Estonia;
  - (v) any other person who is a resident of Estonia under the tax laws of Estonia;
  - (vi) the Government of Estonia and any local authority thereof;

- (c) in the case of either Contracting Party, an investment fund that is established and regulated according to the laws of a Contracting Party.

2. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 an individual is a resident of both Contracting Parties, then his status shall be determined as follows:

- (a) he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Party in which he has a permanent home available to him; if he has a permanent home available to him in both Parties, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Party with which his personal and economic relations are closer (centre of vital interests);
- (b) if the Party in which he has his centre of vital interests cannot be determined, or if he has not a permanent home available to him in either Party, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Party in which he has an habitual abode;
- (c) if he has an habitual abode in both Parties or in neither of them, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Party in which he has the right of abode (in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) or of which he is a national (in the case of Estonia);
- (d) if he has the right of abode in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and is also a national of Estonia, or if he does not have the right of abode in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region nor is he a national of Estonia, the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall settle the question by mutual agreement.

3. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting Parties, the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall settle the question by mutual agreement.

**Article 5**  
**Permanent Establishment**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “permanent establishment” means a fixed place of business through which the business of an enterprise is wholly or partly carried on.

2. The term “permanent establishment” includes especially:

- (a) a place of management;
- (b) a branch;
- (c) an office;
- (d) a factory;
- (e) a workshop; and
- (f) a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction of natural resources.

3. The term “permanent establishment” also encompasses:

- (a) a building site or a construction or installation project, but only if such site or project lasts more than twelve months;
- (b) the furnishing of services, including consultancy or managerial services, by an enterprise of a Contracting Party in the other Contracting Party, but only if such activities continue (for the same or a connected project) in that other Party for a period or periods aggregating more than 183 days in any twelve month period.

4. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, the term “permanent establishment” shall be deemed not to include:

- (a) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;
- (b) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery;
- (c) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;
- (d) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise or of collecting information, for the enterprise;
- (e) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of carrying on, for the enterprise, any other activity;
- (f) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in subparagraphs (a) to (e),

provided that such activity or, in the case of subparagraph (f), the overall activity of the fixed place of business, is of a preparatory or auxiliary character.

5. Paragraph 4 shall not apply to a fixed place of business that is used or maintained by an enterprise if the same enterprise or a closely related enterprise carries on business activities at the same place or at another place in the same Contracting Party and

- (a) that place or other place constitutes a permanent establishment for the enterprise or the closely related enterprise under the provisions of this Article, or
- (b) the overall activity resulting from the combination of the activities carried on by the two enterprises at the same place, or by the same enterprise or closely related enterprises at the two places, is not of a preparatory or auxiliary character,

provided that the business activities carried on by the two enterprises at the same place, or by the same enterprise or closely related enterprises at the two places, constitute complementary functions that are part of a cohesive business operation.

6. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 but subject to the provisions of paragraph 7, where a person is acting in a Contracting Party on behalf of an enterprise and, in doing so, habitually concludes contracts, or habitually plays the principal role leading to the conclusion of contracts that are routinely concluded without material modification by the enterprise, and these contracts are

- (a) in the name of the enterprise, or
- (b) for the transfer of the ownership of, or for the granting of the right to use, property owned by that enterprise or that the enterprise has the right to use, or
- (c) for the provision of services by that enterprise,

that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in that Party in respect of any activities which that person undertakes for the enterprise, unless the activities of such person are limited to those mentioned in paragraph 4 which, if exercised through a fixed place of business (other than a fixed place of business to which paragraph 5 would apply), would not make this fixed place of business a permanent establishment under the provisions of that paragraph.

7. Paragraph 6 shall not apply where the person acting in a Contracting Party on behalf of an enterprise of the other Contracting Party carries on business in the first mentioned Party as an independent agent and acts for the enterprise in the ordinary course of that business. Where, however, a person acts exclusively or almost exclusively on behalf of one or more enterprises to which it is closely related, that person shall not be considered to be an independent agent within the meaning of this paragraph with respect to any such enterprise.

8. The fact that a company which is a resident of a Contracting Party controls or is controlled by a company which is a resident of the other Contracting Party, or which carries on business

in that other Party (whether through a permanent establishment or otherwise), shall not of itself constitute either company a permanent establishment of the other.

9. For the purposes of this Article, a person or enterprise is closely related to an enterprise if, based on all the relevant facts and circumstances, one has control of the other or both are under the control of the same persons or enterprises. In any case, a person or enterprise shall be considered to be closely related to an enterprise if one possesses directly or indirectly more than 50 per cent of the beneficial interest in the other (or, in the case of a company, more than 50 per cent of the aggregate vote and value of the company's shares or of the beneficial equity interest in the company) or if another person or enterprise possesses directly or indirectly more than 50 per cent of the beneficial interest (or, in the case of a company, more than 50 per cent of the aggregate vote and value of the company's shares or of the beneficial equity interest in the company) in the person and the enterprise or in the two enterprises.

## **Article 6**

### **Income from Immovable Property**

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting Party from immovable property (including income from agriculture or forestry) situated in the other Contracting Party may be taxed in that other Party.

2. The term "immovable property" shall have the meaning which it has under the law of the Contracting Party in which the property in question is situated. The term shall in any case include property accessory to immovable property, livestock and equipment used in agriculture and forestry, rights to which the provisions of general law respecting landed property apply, any rights in connection with immovable property, usufruct of immovable property and rights to variable or fixed payments as consideration for the working of, or the right to work, mineral deposits, sources and other natural resources. Ships and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall apply to income derived from the direct use, letting, or use in any other form of immovable property.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 shall also apply to the income from immovable property of an enterprise.

## **Article 7**

### **Business Profits**

1. Profits of an enterprise of a Contracting Party shall be taxable only in that Party unless the enterprise carries on business in the other Contracting Party through a permanent establishment situated therein. If the enterprise carries on business as aforesaid, the profits that are attributable to the permanent establishment in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 may be taxed in that other Party.

2. For the purposes of this Article and Article 21, the profits that are attributable in each Contracting Party to the permanent establishment referred to in paragraph 1 are the profits it might be expected to make, in particular in its dealings with other parts of the enterprise, if it were a separate and independent enterprise engaged in the same or similar activities under the same or similar conditions, taking into account the functions performed, assets used and risks assumed by the enterprise through the permanent establishment and through the other parts of the enterprise.

3. Where, in accordance with paragraph 2, a Contracting Party adjusts the profits that are attributable to a permanent establishment of an enterprise of one of the Contracting Parties and taxes accordingly profits of the enterprise that have been charged to tax in the other Party, the other Party shall, to the extent necessary to eliminate double taxation on these profits, make an appropriate adjustment to the amount of the tax charged on those profits. In determining such adjustment, the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall if necessary consult each other.

4. Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other Articles of this Agreement, then the provisions of those Articles shall not be affected by the provisions of this Article.

**Article 8**  
**International Shipping and Air Transport**

1. Profits of an enterprise of a Contracting Party from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in that Party.
  
2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall also apply to profits from the participation in a pool, a joint business or an international operating agency.

**Article 9**  
**Associated Enterprises**

1. Where

- (a) an enterprise of a Contracting Party participates directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of the other Contracting Party, or
  
- (b) the same persons participate directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of a Contracting Party and an enterprise of the other Contracting Party,

and in either case conditions are made or imposed between the two enterprises in their commercial or financial relations which differ from those which would be made between independent enterprises, then any profits which would, but for those conditions, have accrued to one of the enterprises, but, by reason of those conditions, have not so accrued, may be included in the profits of that enterprise and taxed accordingly.

2. Where a Contracting Party includes in the profits of an enterprise of that Party - and taxes accordingly - profits on which an enterprise of the other Contracting Party has been charged to tax in that other Party and the profits so included are profits which would have accrued to the enterprise of the first-mentioned Party if the conditions made between the two enterprises had been those which would have been made between independent enterprises, then that other Party shall make an appropriate adjustment to the amount of the tax charged therein on those profits.

In determining such adjustment, due regard shall be had to the other provisions of this Agreement and the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall if necessary consult each other.

## **Article 10**

### **Dividends**

1. Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting Party to a resident of the other Contracting Party may be taxed in that other Party.

2. However, such dividends may also be taxed in the Contracting Party of which the company paying the dividends is a resident and according to the laws of that Party, but if the beneficial owner of the dividends is a resident of the other Contracting Party, the tax so charged shall not exceed:

- (a) 0 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owner is a company;
- (b) 10 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases.

This paragraph shall not affect the taxation of the company in respect of the profits out of which the dividends are paid.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article, dividends arising in a Contracting Party are exempt from tax in that Party, if they are paid to:

- (a) in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region:
  - (i) the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;
  - (ii) the Hong Kong Monetary Authority;
  - (iii) the Exchange Fund;

- (iv) any institution wholly or mainly owned by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region as may be agreed from time to time between the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties;
- (b) in the case of Estonia:
  - (i) the Government of Estonia or a local authority thereof;
  - (ii) the Bank of Estonia;
  - (iii) the Rural Development Foundation;
  - (iv) the Estonian Credit and Export Guarantee Agency;
  - (v) the Enterprise Estonia Foundation;
  - (vi) any institution wholly or mainly owned by the Government of Estonia as may be agreed from time to time between the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties;
- (c) in the case of either Contracting Party, an investment fund as referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 4.

4. The term “dividends” as used in this Article means income from shares or other rights, not being debt-claims, participating in profits, as well as income from other rights which is subjected to the same taxation treatment as income from shares by the laws of the Contracting Party of which the company making the distribution is a resident.

5. The provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting Party, carries on business in the other Contracting Party of which the company paying the dividends is a resident through a permanent establishment situated therein and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.

6. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting Party derives profits or income from the other Contracting Party, that other Party may not impose any tax on the dividends paid by the company, except insofar as such dividends are paid to a resident of that other Party or insofar as the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with a permanent establishment situated in that other Party, nor subject the company's undistributed profits to a tax on the company's undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in such other Party.

## **Article 11**

### **Interest**

1. Interest arising in a Contracting Party and paid to a resident of the other Contracting Party may be taxed in that other Party.

2. However, such interest may also be taxed in the Contracting Party in which it arises and according to the laws of that Party, but if the beneficial owner of the interest is a resident of the other Contracting Party, the tax so charged shall not exceed:

- (a) 0 per cent of the gross amount of the interest, if the beneficial owner is a company;
- (b) 10 per cent of the gross amount of the interest in all other cases.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article, interest arising in a Contracting Party is exempt from tax in that Party, if it is paid to:

- (a) in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region:
  - (i) the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;
  - (ii) the Hong Kong Monetary Authority;
  - (iii) the Exchange Fund;
  - (iv) any institution wholly or mainly owned by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region as may be agreed from time to time between the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties;

- (b) in the case of Estonia:
  - (i) the Government of Estonia or a local authority thereof;
  - (ii) the Bank of Estonia;
  - (iii) the Rural Development Foundation;
  - (iv) the Estonian Credit and Export Guarantee Agency;
  - (v) the Enterprise Estonia Foundation;
  - (vi) any institution wholly or mainly owned by the Government of Estonia as may be agreed from time to time between the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties;
  
- (c) in the case of either Contracting Party, an investment fund as referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 4.

4. The term “interest” as used in this Article means income from debt-claims of every kind, whether or not secured by mortgage and whether or not carrying a right to participate in the debtor’s profits, and in particular, income from government securities and income from bonds or debentures, including premiums and prizes attaching to such securities, bonds or debentures. The term “interest” shall not include any income, which is treated as a dividend under the provisions of Article 10. Penalty charges for late payment shall not be regarded as interest for the purpose of this Article.

5. The provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the interest, being a resident of a Contracting Party, carries on business in the other Contracting Party in which the interest arises through a permanent establishment situated therein and the debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.

6. Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting Party when the payer is a resident of that Party. Where, however, the person paying the interest, whether he is a resident of a Contracting

Party or not, has in a Contracting Party a permanent establishment in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the Party in which the permanent establishment is situated.

7. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the interest, having regard to the debt-claim for which it is paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting Party, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

## **Article 12**

### **Royalties**

1. Royalties arising in a Contracting Party and paid to a resident of the other Contracting Party may be taxed in that other Contracting Party.

2. However, royalties arising in a Contracting Party may also be taxed in that Contracting Party according to the laws of that Contracting Party, but if the beneficial owner of the royalties is a resident of the other Contracting Party, the tax so charged shall not exceed 5 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties.

3. The term “royalties” as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the royalties, being a resident of a Contracting Party, carries on business in the other Contracting Party in which the royalties arise through a permanent establishment situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.

5. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting Party when the payer is a resident of that Party. Where, however, the person paying the royalties, whether he is a resident of a Contracting Party or not, has in a Contracting Party a permanent establishment in connection with which the liability to pay the royalties was incurred, and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment, then such royalties shall be deemed to arise in the Party in which the permanent establishment is situated.

6. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the royalties, having regard to the use, right or information for which they are paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting Party, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

### **Article 13**

#### **Capital Gains**

1. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting Party from the alienation of immovable property referred to in Article 6 and situated in the other Contracting Party may be taxed in that other Party.

2. Gains from the alienation of movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting Party has in the other Contracting Party, including such gains from the alienation of such a permanent establishment (alone or with the whole enterprise), may be taxed in that other Party.

3. Gains that an enterprise of a Contracting Party that operates ships or aircraft in international traffic derives from the alienation of such ships or aircraft, or of movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships or aircraft, shall be taxable only in that Party.

4. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting Party from the alienation of shares or comparable interests, such as interests in a partnership, trust or investment fund, may be taxed in the other

Contracting Party if, at any time during the 365 days preceding the alienation, these shares or comparable interests derived more than 50 per cent of their value directly or indirectly from immovable property, as defined in Article 6, situated in that other Contracting Party. However, this paragraph does not apply to gains derived from the alienation of shares quoted on a stock exchange of:

- (a) a member state of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development;
- (b) a member state of the European Economic Area;
- (c) the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;
- (d) any other jurisdiction as may be agreed between the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties.

5. Gains from the alienation of any property, other than that referred to in the preceding paragraphs, shall be taxable only in the Contracting Party of which the alienator is a resident.

#### **Article 14**

#### **Income from Employment**

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 15, 17 and 18, salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting Party in respect of an employment shall be taxable only in that Party unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting Party. If the employment is so exercised, such remuneration as is derived therefrom may be taxed in that other Party.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting Party in respect of an employment exercised in the other Contracting Party shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned Party if all the following conditions are met:

- (a) the recipient is present in the other Party for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any twelve month period commencing or ending in the taxable period concerned;
- (b) the remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not a resident of the other Party;
- (c) the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment which the employer has in the other Party.

3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration derived in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft operated in international traffic by an enterprise of a Contracting Party may be taxed in that Party.

#### **Article 15** **Directors' Fees**

Directors' fees and other similar payments derived by a resident of a Contracting Party in his capacity as a member of the board of directors or any other similar organ of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting Party may be taxed in that other Party.

#### **Article 16** **Entertainers and Sportspersons**

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7 and 14, income derived by a resident of a Contracting Party as an entertainer, such as a theatre, motion picture, radio or television artiste, or a musician, or as a sportsperson, from that resident's personal activities as such exercised in the other Contracting Party, may be taxed in that other Party.

2. Where income in respect of personal activities exercised by an entertainer or a sportsperson acting as such accrues not to the entertainer or sportsperson but to another person, that income may, notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7 and 14, be taxed in the Contracting Party in which the activities of the entertainer or sportsperson are exercised.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply to income derived from activities exercised in a Contracting Party by an entertainer or a sportsperson if the visit to that Party is mainly financed by one or both of the Contracting Parties or local authorities thereof. In such case, the income shall be taxable only in the Contracting Party of which the entertainer or sportsperson is a resident.

## **Article 17**

### **Pensions**

1. Pensions and other similar remuneration, including a lump sum payment, arising in a Contracting Party and paid to a resident of the other Contracting Party shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned Party.

2. For the purposes of this Article, the term “pensions and other similar remuneration” includes payments resulting from contributions made to a pension or retirement scheme by a self-employed person.

## **Article 18**

### **Government Service**

1. (a) Salaries, wages and other similar remuneration, paid by a Contracting Party or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that Party or authority shall be taxable only in that Party.

(b) However, such salaries, wages and other similar remuneration shall be taxable only in the other Contracting Party if the services are rendered in that Party and the individual is a resident of that Party who has fulfilled one of the following conditions:

(i) the individual, in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, has the right of abode therein and in the case of Estonia, is a national thereof; or

- (ii) the individual did not become a resident of that Party solely for the purpose of rendering the services.

2. The provisions of Articles 14, 15 and 16 shall apply to salaries, wages and other similar remuneration in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting Party or a local authority thereof.

## **Article 19**

### **Students**

Payments which a student or trainee who is or was immediately before visiting a Contracting Party a resident of the other Contracting Party and who is present in the first-mentioned Party solely for the purpose of his education or training receives for the purpose of his maintenance, education or training shall not be taxed in that Party, provided that such payments arise from sources outside that Party.

## **Article 20**

### **Other Income**

1. Items of income of a resident of a Contracting Party, wherever arising, not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Agreement shall be taxable only in that Party.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply to income, other than income from immovable property as defined in paragraph 2 of Article 6, if the recipient of such income, being a resident of a Contracting Party, carries on business in the other Contracting Party through a permanent establishment situated therein and the right or property in respect of which the income is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case the provisions of Article 7 shall apply.

## **Article 21**

### **Methods for Elimination of Double Taxation**

1. In the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, subject to the provisions of the laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region relating to the allowance of a credit

against Hong Kong Special Administrative Region tax of tax paid in a jurisdiction outside the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (which shall not affect the general principle of this Article), double taxation shall be avoided as follows:

Estonian tax paid under the laws of Estonia and in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement (except to the extent that these provisions allow taxation by Estonia solely because the income is also income derived by a resident of Estonia), whether directly or by deduction, in respect of income derived by a person who is a resident of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region from sources in Estonia, shall be allowed as a credit against Hong Kong Special Administrative Region tax payable in respect of that income, provided that the credit so allowed does not exceed the amount of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region tax computed in respect of that income in accordance with the tax laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

2. In the case of Estonia, double taxation shall be avoided in accordance with the provisions and subject to the limitations of the laws of Estonia (as it may be amended from time to time without changing the general principle hereof), as follows:

- (a) where a resident of Estonia derives income which, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, has been taxed in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Estonia shall, subject to the provisions of subparagraphs (b) and (c), exempt such income from tax;
- (b) where a resident of Estonia derives income which in accordance with paragraph 2 of Articles 10, 11 and 12, paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 16 may be taxed in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Estonia shall allow as a deduction from the tax on the income of that resident an amount equal to the tax paid in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Such deduction shall not, however, exceed that part of the income tax, as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable to the income which may be taxed in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region;
- (c) where in accordance with any provision of the Agreement income derived by a resident of Estonia is exempt from tax in Estonia, Estonia may nevertheless, in

calculating the amount of tax on the remaining income of such resident, take into account the exempted income.

## **Article 22**

### **Non-Discrimination**

1. Persons who, in the case of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, have the right of abode or are incorporated or otherwise constituted therein, and, in the case of Estonia, are Estonian nationals, shall not be subjected in the other Contracting Party to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith, which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which persons who have the right of abode or are incorporated or otherwise constituted in that other Party (where that other Party is the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region) or nationals of that other Party (where that other Party is Estonia) in the same circumstances, in particular with respect to residence, are or may be subjected. This provision shall, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1, also apply to persons who are not residents of one or both of the Contracting Parties.

2. The taxation on a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting Party has in the other Contracting Party shall not be less favourably levied in that other Party than the taxation levied on enterprises of that other Party carrying on the same activities.

3. Except where the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 9, paragraph 7 of Article 11, or paragraph 6 of Article 12, apply, interest, royalties and other disbursements paid by an enterprise of a Contracting Party to a resident of the other Contracting Party shall, for the purpose of determining the taxable profits of such enterprise, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been paid to a resident of the first-mentioned Party.

4. Enterprises of a Contracting Party, the capital of which is wholly or partly owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by one or more residents of the other Contracting Party, shall not be subjected in the first-mentioned Party to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which other similar enterprises of the first-mentioned Party are or may be subjected.

5. The provisions of this Article shall not be construed as obliging a Contracting Party to grant to residents of the other Contracting Party any personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for taxation purposes on account of civil status or family responsibilities which it grants to its own residents.

### **Article 23**

#### **Mutual Agreement Procedure**

1. Where a person considers that the actions of one or both of the Contracting Parties result or will result for him in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, he may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the internal laws of those Parties, present his case to the competent authority of either Contracting Party. The case must be presented within three years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement.

2. The competent authority shall endeavour, if the objection appears to it to be justified and if it is not itself able to arrive at a satisfactory solution, to resolve the case by mutual agreement with the competent authority of the other Contracting Party within a period of two years after the question was formally raised, with a view to the avoidance of taxation which is not in accordance with the Agreement. Any agreement reached shall be implemented notwithstanding any time limits in the internal laws of the Contracting Parties.

3. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any difficulties or doubts arising as to the interpretation or application of the Agreement. They may also consult together for the elimination of double taxation in cases not provided for in the Agreement.

4. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties may communicate with each other directly, including through a joint commission consisting of themselves or their representatives, for the purpose of reaching an agreement in the sense of the preceding paragraphs.

**Article 24**  
**Exchange of Information**

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting Parties shall exchange such information as is foreseeably relevant for carrying out the provisions of this Agreement or to the administration or enforcement of the internal laws of the Contracting Parties concerning taxes covered by Article 2 of the Agreement and the Protocol, insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Agreement. The exchange of information is not restricted by Article 1.

2. Any information received under paragraph 1 by a Contracting Party shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the internal laws of that Party 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, or 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. Notwithstanding the foregoing, information received by a Contracting Party may be used for other purposes when such information may be used for such other purposes under the laws of both Parties and the competent authority of the supplying Party authorises such use. Information shall not be disclosed to any third jurisdiction for any purpose without the consent of the Contracting Party originally furnishing the information.

3. In no case shall the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 be construed so as to impose on a Contracting Party the obligation:

- (a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting Party;
- (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 Party;
- (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 Party in accordance with this Article, the other Contracting Party shall use its information gathering measures to obtain the requested information, even though that other Party 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 but in no case shall such limitations be construed to permit a Contracting Party to decline to supply information solely because there is no tax interest in such information to that Party.

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

#### **Article 25**

#### **Members of Government Missions**

Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the fiscal privileges of members of government missions, including consular posts, under the general rules of international law or under the provisions of special agreements.

#### **Article 26**

#### **Entitlement to Benefits**

1. Notwithstanding the other provisions of the Agreement, a benefit under the Agreement shall not be granted in respect of an item of income if it is reasonable to conclude, having regard to all relevant facts and circumstances, that obtaining that benefit was one of the principal purposes of any arrangement or transaction that resulted directly or indirectly in that benefit, unless it is established that granting that benefit in these circumstances would be in accordance with the object and purpose of the relevant provisions of the Agreement.

2. Nothing in the Agreement shall prejudice the right of each Contracting Party to apply its internal laws and measures concerning tax avoidance, whether or not described as such.

**Article 27**  
**Entry into Force**

1. The Contracting Parties shall notify each other in writing of the completion of the procedures required by its law for the bringing into force of this Agreement. The Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the later of these notifications.

2. The provisions of the Agreement shall have effect:

(a) in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region:

in respect of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region tax, for any taxable period beginning on or after the first day of April next following the year in which the Agreement enters into force;

(b) in Estonia:

in respect of Estonian tax chargeable, for any taxable period beginning on or after the first day of January next following the year in which the Agreement enters into force.

**Article 28**  
**Termination**

This Agreement shall remain in force until terminated by a Contracting Party. Either Contracting Party may terminate the Agreement by giving the other Contracting Party written notice of termination not later than the 30 June of any calendar year from the fifth year following that in which the Agreement entered into force. In such event, the Agreement shall cease to have effect:

(a) in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region:

in respect of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region tax, for any taxable period beginning on or after the first day of April next following the year in which the notice is given;

(b) in Estonia:

in respect of Estonian tax chargeable, for any taxable period beginning on or after the first day of January next following the year in which the notice is given.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE in duplicate at Tallinn, on 25 September 2019, in the English language.

Martin Helme  
For the Government of  
the Republic of Estonia

James H. Lau Jr  
For the Government of  
the Hong Kong Special Administrative  
Region of the People's Republic of China

**PROTOCOL  
TO THE AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA AND THE  
GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF  
THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA FOR THE ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE  
TAXATION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME AND THE PREVENTION  
OF TAX EVASION AND AVOIDANCE**

At the time of signing of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance (hereinafter referred to as the “Agreement”), the two Governments have agreed upon the following provisions which shall form an integral part of the Agreement:

With reference to Article 24 (Exchange of Information)

It is understood that, in addition to the taxes covered by the Agreement, the provisions of this Article shall also apply to the value-added tax and excise duties that are chargeable in Estonia, for any taxable period beginning on or after the first day of January next following the year in which the Agreement enters into force. In case of termination under Article 28 of the Agreement, the provisions of this Article shall cease to apply to the above mentioned taxes for any taxable period beginning on or after the first day of January next following the year in which the notice of termination is given.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Protocol.

DONE in duplicate at Tallinn, on 25 September 2019, in the English language.

Martin Helme  
For the Government of  
the Republic of Estonia

James H. Lau Jr  
For the Government of  
the Hong Kong Special Administrative  
Region of the People’s Republic of China