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## No. S 344

### INCOME TAX ACT (CHAPTER 134)

#### INCOME TAX (SINGAPORE — CYPRUS) (AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AGREEMENT) (MODIFICATIONS TO IMPLEMENT MULTILATERAL INSTRUMENT) ORDER 2020

##### ARRANGEMENT OF PARAGRAPHS

###### Paragraph

1. Citation and commencement
  2. Purpose
  3. Amendment of Agreement
  4. Entry into effect  
The Schedule
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In exercise of the powers conferred by section 49(7) of the Income Tax Act, the Minister for Finance makes the following Order:

#### **Citation and commencement**

1. This Order is the Income Tax (Singapore — Cyprus) (Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement) (Modifications to Implement Multilateral Instrument) Order 2020 and comes into operation on 1 May 2020.

#### **Purpose**

2.—(1) This Order amends the arrangements made between the Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus as specified in the Schedule to the Income Tax (Singapore — Cyprus) (Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement) Order 2001 (O 9Z) (called in this Order the Agreement).

(2) The purpose of this Order is to amend the Agreement to give effect to Singapore's obligations under the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting done at Paris on 24 November 2016 (as amended from time to time).

### **Amendment of Agreement**

3. The provisions of the Agreement are amended in the manner set out in the Schedule.

### **Entry into effect**

4.—(1) Paragraph 3 of the Schedule has effect for a case presented on or after 1 May 2020 without regard to the basis period to which the case relates.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) does not apply to a case that was not eligible to be presented immediately before 1 May 2020.

(3) All other paragraphs of the Schedule have effect —

(a) with respect to taxes withheld at source, in respect of amounts paid, deemed paid or liable to be paid (whichever is the earliest), on or after 1 January 2021; and

(b) with respect to taxes other than those withheld at source, where the income is derived or received in a basis period beginning on or after 1 November 2020.

## **THE SCHEDULE**

Paragraphs 3 and 4

### **Deletion and replacement of Preamble**

1. The preamble of the Agreement is deleted and replaced by the following Preamble:

“The Government of the Republic of Singapore and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus,

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

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THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

Intending to eliminate double taxation with respect to the taxes covered by this Agreement 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:”.

**Amendment of Article 9**

2. Paragraph 2 of Article 9 (Associated Enterprises) of the Agreement is deleted and replaced by the following paragraph:

“2. Where a Contracting State includes in the profits of an enterprise of that Contracting State — and taxes accordingly — profits on which an enterprise of the other Contracting State has been charged to tax in that other Contracting State and the profits so included are profits which would have accrued to the enterprise of the first-mentioned Contracting State if the conditions made between the two enterprises had been those which would have been made between independent enterprises, then that other Contracting State 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 States shall if necessary consult each other.”.

**Amendment of Article 24**

3. Article 24 (Mutual Agreement Procedure) of the Agreement is amended by inserting, immediately after the words “not in accordance with the Agreement.” in paragraph 2, the words “Any agreement reached shall be implemented notwithstanding any time limits in the domestic law of the Contracting States.”.

**New Article 26A**

4. The Agreement is amended by inserting, immediately after Article 26 (Diplomatic Agents and Consular Officers), the following Article:

“ARTICLE 26A

PREVENTION OF TREATY ABUSE

1. Notwithstanding any provisions of this Agreement, a benefit under this Agreement shall not be granted in respect of an item of income or capital 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

THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

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 this Agreement.

2. Where a benefit under this Agreement is denied to a person under provisions of this Agreement that deny all or part of the benefits that would otherwise be provided under this Agreement where the principal purpose or one of the principal purposes of any arrangement or transaction, or of any person concerned with an arrangement or transaction, was to obtain those benefits, the competent authority of the Contracting State that would otherwise have granted this benefit shall nevertheless treat that person as being entitled to this benefit, or to different benefits with respect to a specific item of income or capital, if such competent authority, upon request from that person and after consideration of the relevant facts and circumstances, determines that such benefits would have been granted to that person in the absence of the transaction or arrangement. The competent authority of the Contracting State to which a request has been made under this paragraph by a resident of the other Contracting State shall consult with the competent authority of that other Contracting State before rejecting the request.”.

Made on 21 April 2020.

TAN CHING YEE  
*Permanent Secretary,  
Ministry of Finance,  
Singapore.*

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