

05-2020

11/05/2020 **France** - COVID-19 crisis: Reduced VAT rate

The French Tax Authorities announced the application of the reduced VAT rate of 5,5% to supplies, intracommunity acquisitions and importations of certain protective equipment used to limit the spread of the Covid-19 virus, such as masks, protective clothes and sanitizers. This measure is limited until 31 December 2021. Since measures concerning Covid-19 are rapidly changing, this article is for information purposes only. Any companies intending to act upon this article should first contact us for specific advice concerning these elements.

11/05/2020 **Portugal** - COVID-19 crisis: VAT exemption and Reduced VAT rates on certain health-related products

In order to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 crisis, the Portuguese Tax Authorities decided to reduce the VAT rates to 6% on importations, intra community supplies and acquisitions of certain health-related products from 8 May to 31 December 2020 and exempt from VAT the acquisitions made by the Portuguese State, other public entities or non-profit organizations from 30 January to 31 July 2020. Since measures concerning Covid-19 are rapidly changing, this article is for information purposes only. Any companies intending to act upon this article should first contact us for specific advice concerning these elements.

11/05/2020 **Ireland** - COVID-19 crisis: 0% VAT rate

The Irish Revenue has recently announced that, from 9 April until 31 July, the supply and intra-community acquisition of goods of certain medical equipment related with the combat of the Covid-19 pandemic is subject to a 0% VAT rate, when supplied or acquired by the Health Service Executive, hospitals and certain other health care providers.

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11/05/2020 **Romania** - Special VAT scheme for second-hand goods

As from 6 May 2020, the scope of the special VAT scheme for second-hand goods also covers semi-precious stones and second-hand goods that contain precious metals, precious stones or semi-precious stones.

11/05/2020 **Malta** - COVID-19 crisis: Decrease in VAT rate of protective face masks and visors

The VAT charged on protective face masks and visors, excluding diving equipment, is reduced to 5% (instead of 18%) since 4 May 2020.

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04/05/2020 **Cyprus** - COVID-19 Pandemic: COVID-19 crisis: VAT exemption on certain goods

In order to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 crisis, the Cypriot Tax Authorities announced that importation of certain goods required to combat the Covid-19 pandemic are exempt from VAT and from import duties.

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04/05/2020 - European Court of Justice, “Dong Yang Electronics”, Case C-547/18 - Fixed establishment

The ECJ has ruled that the Article 44 of the Council Directive 2006/112/EC and the articles 11 paragraph 1 and 22 paragraph 1 of the Implementing Regulation (EU) 282/2011 of 15 March 2011 should be interpreted as meaning that a service provider shall not assume that a company registered in a third country has a VAT permanent establishment in a Member State just on the basis of the simple fact that it has a subsidiary in this Member State.

04/05/2020 **Slovenia** - COVID-19 crisis: COVID-19 crisis: VAT exemption on certain goods

In order to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 crisis, the Slovenian Tax Authorities

announced that as from 1 May 2020 the supplies of certain medical equipment from within the European Union required to combat the Covid-19 pandemic are exempt from VAT.

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04/05/2020 **Italy** - Implementing Rules on electronic Invoicing

Under the recently issued Protocol No. 185115/2020 of 4 May 2020, the Italian Tax Authorities provided implementing rules regarding the issuance and reception of electronic invoices. These electronic invoices be issued and received through the tax authorities' Sdl system. In this context, it has been clarified that such electronic invoices may be consulted and downloaded by qualifying taxable persons, as well as by their representatives, through a specific online service available on the ITA website if they adhere to such service until 30 September 2020.

04/05/2020 **Belgium** - COVID-19: Reduced VAT rate on certain protective equipment

In order to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 crisis, the Belgium Tax Authorities announced that the reduced VAT rate of 6% will be applied as from 4 May 2020 until 31 December to the domestic supplies, intra community acquisitions and importations of certain protective equipment.

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04/05/2020 **United Kingdom** - COVID-19 crisis: 0% VAT rate on supplies of e-publications

In order to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 crisis, HMRC announced that the 0% VAT rate applies from 1 May 2020 to the supplies of e-publications.

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04/05/2020 **Italy** - COVID-19 Crisis: Amendments to Tax Measures

In order to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 crisis the following measures were announced by the Italian tax authorities:

- Qualifying enterprises may benefit from tax credits of 30%, 50% and 60% regarding some specific expenses (up to certain amounts), such as the ones related with sanitizing their workplace, or with advertisement.
- The deadlines for the payments of the VAT due on March have been suspended for qualifying enterprises having their tax domicile, legal seat or operational seat in Italy operating on specific sectors, such as on tourism. In such cases, the VAT payment shall be fulfilled in a single instalment until 31 May 2020 or in up to five equal monthly instalments starting from May 2020.
- Qualifying enterprises having their tax domicile, legal seat or operational seat in Italy have, under certain conditions, the deadlines which were due between 8 March 2020 and 31 May 2020, suspended until 30 June 2020.
- Qualifying enterprises having their tax domicile, legal seat or operational seat in Italy have, under certain conditions, the deadlines for the payment of self-assessed VAT suspended. In such cases the payment shall be fulfilled in a single instalment by 31 May 2020 or in up to five equal monthly instalments starting from May 2020. Since measures concerning Covid-19 are rapidly changing, this article is for information purposes only. Any companies intending to act upon this article should first contact us for specific advice concerning these elements.