

# CONVENTION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME AND ON CAPITAL

*Prom. SG. 113/28 Dec 1999*

The Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Albania,

Desiring to conclude a Convention for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and on capital in confirming their endeavour to the development and deepening of mutual economic relations,

Have agreed as follows:

## **Personal Scope**

Art. 1

This Convention shall apply to persons who are residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

## **Taxes Covered**

Art. 2

1. This Convention shall apply to taxes on income and on capital imposed on behalf of a Contracting State or of its local authorities, irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.

2. There shall be regarded as taxes on income and on capital all taxes imposed on total income, on total capital, or on elements of income or of capital, including taxes on gains from the alienation of movable or immovable property and taxes on total amounts of wages and salaries paid by enterprises.

3. The existing taxes to which the Convention shall apply are in particular:

a) In Bulgaria:

(i) the individual income tax;

(ii) the corporate income tax;

(iii) the real property tax.

(hereinafter referred to as "Bulgarian tax").

b) In Albania:

(i) the tax on the profits of juridical persons;

(ii) the tax on small business activities;

(iii) the individual income tax;

(iv) the tax on property;

(hereinafter referred to as "Albanian tax").

4. The Convention shall also apply to any identical or substantially similar taxes which are imposed after the date of signature of the Convention in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other of any significant changes which have been made in their respective taxation laws.

## **General Definitions**

Art. 3

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

a) the term "Bulgaria" means the Republic of Bulgaria and when used in a geographical sense

means the territory and the territorial sea over which it exercises its State sovereignty, as well as the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone over which it exercises sovereign rights and jurisdiction in conformity with international law;

b) the term "Albania" means the Republic of Albania, and when used in a geographical sense means the territory of the Republic of Albania including territorial waters and air space over them as well as any area beyond the territorial seas of the Republic of Albania which, in accordance with international law and the laws of the Republic of Albania, is an area, within which the Republic of Albania may exercise its rights with respect to the seabed and subsoil and their natural resources;

c) the terms "a Contracting State" and "the other Contracting State" mean Bulgaria or Albania as the context requires;

d) the term "person" includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons;

e) the term "company" means a juridical person or any entity which is treated as a juridical person for tax purposes;

f) the terms "enterprise of a Contracting State" and "enterprise of the other Contracting State" mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting State and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting State;

g) the term "national" means:

(i) any individual possessing the nationality of a Contracting State;

(ii) any juridical person, partnership or association deriving its status as such from the laws in force in a Contracting State;

h) the term "international transport" means any transport by a ship, aircraft, railway or road transport vehicle operated by an enterprise of a Contracting State, except when the ship, aircraft, railway or road transport vehicle is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State;

i) the term "competent authority" means:

(i) in the case of Bulgaria, the Minister of Finance or his authorized representative;

(ii) in the case of Albania, the Minister of Finance or his authorized representative.

2. As regards the application of the Convention by a Contracting State, any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning which it has at the time of that application under the law of that State for the purposes of the taxes to which the Convention applies. Any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that State, will be prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that State.

## **Resident**

### **Art. 4**

1. For the purposes of this Convention, the term "resident of a Contracting State" means any person who, under the laws of that State, is liable to tax therein by reason of his domicile, residence, nationality, place of incorporation, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature. But this term does not include any person who is liable to tax in that State in respect only of income from sources in that State or capital situated therein.

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

a) he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State in which he has a permanent home available to him; if he has a permanent home available to him in both States, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State with which his personal and economic relations are closer (centre of vital interests);

b) if the State in which he has his centre of vital interests cannot be determined, or if he does not have a permanent home available to him in either State, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State in which he has an habitual abode;

c) if he has an habitual abode in both States or in neither of them, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State of which he is a national;

d) if he is a national of both States or of neither of them the competent authorities of the Contracting States 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 States, it shall be deemed to be a resident of the State under the laws of which it has been created.

## **Permanent Establishment**

### **Art. 5**

1. For the purposes of this Convention, 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;

f) a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction of natural resources.

3. A building site, a construction, assembly or installation project constitutes a permanent establishment only if it lasts more than 9 months.

4. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Art., the term "permanent establishment" shall be deemed not to include:

a) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage or display 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 or display;

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 of a preparatory or auxiliary character; and

f) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in subparagraphs, (a) to (e), provided that the overall activity of the fixed place of business resulting from this combination is of a preparatory or auxiliary character.

5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, where a person -- other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 6 applies -- is acting in a Contracting State on behalf of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the first mentioned State in respect of any activities which that person undertakes for the enterprise, if such a person:

a) has and habitually exercises in the first-mentioned State an authority to conclude contracts in the name of 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, would not make this fixed place of business a permanent establishment under the provisions of that paragraph; or

b) has no such authority, but habitually maintains in the first-mentioned State a stock of goods or merchandise from which he regularly delivers goods or merchandise on behalf of the enterprise.

6. An enterprise shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in a Contracting State

merely because it carries on business in that State through a broker, general commission agent or any other agent of an independent status, provided that such persons are acting in the ordinary course of their business. However, when the activities of such a person are devoted wholly or almost wholly on behalf of that enterprise, he shall not be considered to be an agent of an independent status within the meaning of this paragraph.

7. The fact that a company which is a resident of a Contracting State controls or is controlled by a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State, or which carries on business in that other State (whether through a permanent establishment or otherwise), shall not of itself constitute either company a permanent establishment of the other.

### **Income From Immovable Property**

#### **Art. 6**

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

2. The term "immovable property" shall have the meaning which it has under the law of the Contracting State 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, 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, aircraft, railway and road transport vehicles 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 and to income from immovable property used for the performance of independent personal services.

### **Business Profits**

#### **Art. 7**

1. Profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State unless the enterprise carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein. If the enterprise carries on business as aforesaid, the profits of the enterprise may be taxed in the other State but only so much of them as is attributable to that permanent establishment.

2. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3, where an enterprise of a Contracting State carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, there shall in each Contracting State be attributed to that permanent establishment the profits which it might be expected to make if it were a distinct and separate enterprise engaged in the same or similar activities under the same or similar conditions and dealing wholly independently with the enterprise of which it is a permanent establishment.

3. In determining the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the permanent establishment, including executive and general administrative expenses so incurred, whether in the State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere.

4. Insofar as it has been customary in a Contracting State to determine the profits to be attributed to a permanent establishment on the basis of an apportionment of the total profits of the

enterprise to its various parts, nothing in paragraph 2 shall preclude that Contracting State from determining the profits to be taxed by such an apportionment as may be customary; the method of apportionment adopted shall, however, be such that the result shall be in accordance with the principles contained in this Art..

5. No profits shall be attributed to a permanent establishment by reason of the mere purchase by that permanent establishment of goods or merchandise for the enterprise.

6. For the purpose of the preceding paragraphs, the profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment shall be determined by the same method year by year unless there is good and sufficient reason to the contrary.

7. Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other Art.s of this Convention, then the provisions of those Art.s shall not be affected by the provisions of this Art..

### **International Transport**

#### **Art. 8**

1. Profits derived by an enterprise of a Contracting State from the operation of ships, aircraft, railway or road transport vehicles in international transport shall be taxable only in that State.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall also apply to profits from participation in a pool, a joint business or an international operating agency.

### **Associated Enterprises**

#### **Art. 9**

1. Where

a) an enterprise of a Contracting State participates directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, or

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

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

### **Dividends**

#### **Art. 10**

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

2. However, such dividends may also be taxed in the Contracting State of which the company

paying the dividends is a resident, and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of dividends the tax so charged shall not exceed:

- a) 5 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owner is a company, which holds directly at least 25 per cent of the capital of the company paying the dividends;
- b) 15 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases.

The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of these limitations.

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

3. The term "dividends" as used in this Art. means income from shares of any kind or other rights, not being debt-claims, participating in profits, as well as income from other corporate rights which is subjected to the same taxation treatment as income from shares by the laws of the State of which the company making the distribution is a resident.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Art. 7 or Art. 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

5. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives profits or income from the other Contracting State, that other State 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 State or insofar as the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with a permanent establishment or a fixed base situated in that other State, nor subject the company's undistributed profits to a tax on undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in such other State.

## **Interest**

### **Art. 11**

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

2. However, such interest may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which it arises and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the interest, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the interest.

The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of this limitation.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2, interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to the Government of the other Contracting State or to the National Bank of that other State, shall be exempt from tax in the first-mentioned Contracting State.

4. The term "interest" as used in this Art. 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 debtors' profits and in particular, income from government securities and income from bonds or debentures, including premium and prizes attaching to such securities, bonds or debentures. Penalty charges for late payment shall not be regarded as interest for the purpose of this Art..

5. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the interest, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the interest arises, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State

independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Art.s 7 or 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

6. Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that State itself, a local authority or a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the interest, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base 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 Art. shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.

### **Royalties**

#### **Art. 12**

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

2. However, such royalties may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the royalties, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties.

The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of this limitation.

### **Capital Gains**

#### **Art. 13**

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

2. Gains from the alienation of movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State or of movable property pertaining to a fixed base available to a resident of a Contracting State in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing independent personal services, including such gains from the alienation of such permanent establishment (alone or with the whole enterprise) or of such fixed base, may be taxed in that other State.

3. Gains from the alienation of ships, aircraft, railway or road transport vehicles operated in international transport by an enterprise of a Contracting State or of movable property pertaining to the operation of the mentioned means of transport shall be taxable only in that State.

4. Gains from the alienation of shares of a company the property of which consists directly or indirectly principally of immovable property situated in a Contracting State may be taxed in that State.

5. Gains from the alienation of any property other than that referred to 1, 2, 3 and 4 shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the alienator is a resident.

### **Income From Independent Professional and Other Personal Services**

#### Art. 14

1. Income derived by an individual who is a resident of a Contracting State in respect of professional services or other, activities of an independent character shall be taxable only in that State except in the following circumstances, when such income may also be taxed in the other Contracting State:

a) if he has a fixed base regularly available to him in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing his activities; in that case, only so much of the income as is attributable to that fixed base may be taxed in that other State; or

b) if his stay in the other Contracting State is for a period or periods amounting to or exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any twelve-month period commencing or ending in the calendar year concerned; in that case, only so much of the income as is derived from his activities performed in that other State may be taxed in that other State.

2. The term "professional services" includes especially independent scientific, literary, artistic, educational or teaching activities as well as the independent activities of physicians, dentists, lawyers, engineers, architects and accountants.

### **Income From Employment**

#### Art. 15

1. Subject to the provisions of Art.s 16, 18, 19, 20 and 21, salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment shall be taxable only in that State unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting State. If the employment is so exercised, such remuneration as is derived therefrom may be taxed in that other State.

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

a) the recipient is present in the other State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any twelve-month period commencing or ending in the fiscal year concerned,

b) the remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not a resident of the other State, and

c) the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment or a fixed base which the employer has in the other State.

3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Art., remuneration derived in respect of an employment exercised aboard ships, aircraft, railway or road transport vehicles operated in international transport by an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State.

### **Directors' Fees**

#### Art. 16

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

### **Artistes and Sportsmen**

#### Art. 17

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Art.s 14 and 15, income derived by a resident of a Contracting State as an entertainer, such as a theatre, motion picture, radio or television artiste, or a



musician, or as a sportsman from his personal activities as such exercised in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other State.

2. Where income in respect of personal activities exercised by an entertainer or a sportsman in his capacity as such accrues not to the entertainer or sportsman himself but to another person, that income may notwithstanding the provisions of Art.s 7, 14 and 15 be taxed in the Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or the sportsman are exercised.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, income mentioned in this Art. shall be exempt from tax in the Contracting State in which the activity of the entertainer or sportsman is exercised provided that this activity is supported wholly by public funds of either Contracting State or a local authority thereof and the activity is exercised within the framework of cultural or sport cooperation agreement between the Contracting States.

### **Pensions**

#### **Art. 18**

Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Art. 19, pensions and other similar remuneration paid to a resident of a Contracting State in consideration of past employment shall be taxable only in that State.

### **Government Service**

#### **Art. 19**

1. a) Remuneration, other than a pension, paid by a Contracting State or a local authority thereof, to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or authority shall be taxable only in that State.

b) However, such remuneration shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the services are rendered in that State and the individual is a resident of that State who:

(i) is a national of that State; or

(ii) did not become a resident of that State solely for the purpose of performing the services.

2. a) Any pension paid by, or out of funds created by, a Contracting State or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or local authority shall be taxable only in that State.

b) However, such pension shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the individual is a resident of, and a national of, that other State.

3. The provisions of Art.s 15, 16 and 18 shall apply to remuneration and pensions in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting State or a local authority thereof.

### **Students**

#### **Art. 20**

1. Payments which a student or apprentice who is or was immediately before visiting a Contracting State a resident of the other Contracting State and who is present in the first-mentioned State 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 State, provided that such payments arise from sources outside that State.

2. In respect of grants, scholarships and remuneration from employment not covered by paragraph 1, a student or apprentice referred to in paragraph 1 shall, in addition be entitled during such

education or training to the same exemptions, reliefs or reductions in respect of taxes available to residents of the Contracting State which he is visiting.

### **Teachers and Researchers**

#### **Art. 21**

1. An individual who visits a Contracting State for the purpose of teaching or carrying out research at a university, college, school or other recognized educational institution in that State and who is or was immediately before that visit a resident of the other Contracting State, shall be exempt from tax in the first-mentioned State on any remuneration for such teaching or research for a period not exceeding two years from the date of his first visit to that State for that purpose, provided that such remuneration is derived by him from outside that State.

2. This Art. shall only apply to income from research if such research is undertaken by the individual only in the public interest and not primarily for the benefit of some other private person or persons.

### **Other Income**

#### **Art. 22**

1. Items of income of a resident of a Contracting State wherever arising, not dealt with in the foregoing Art.s of this Convention shall be taxable only in that State.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply to income other than income from immovable property as defined in paragraph 2 of Art. 6, if the recipient of such income, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the income is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Art. 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

### **Capital**

#### **Art. 23**

1. Capital represented by immovable property referred to in Art. 6, owned by a resident of a Contracting State and situated in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other State.

2. Capital represented by movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State or by movable property pertaining to a fixed base available to a resident of a Contracting State in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing independent personal services, may be taxed in that other State.

3. Capital represented by ships, aircraft, railway and road transport vehicles, operated by a resident of a Contracting State in international traffic and by movable property pertaining to the operation of such means of transport, shall be taxable only in that State.

4. All other elements of capital of a resident of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State.

### **Elimination of Double Taxation**

#### **Art. 24**

1. In Bulgaria double taxation shall be eliminated as follows:

a) Where a resident of Bulgaria derives income or owns capital which, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, may be taxed in Albania, Bulgaria shall allow as a deduction from the tax on the income or on the capital of that resident an amount equal to the tax paid in Albania. Such deduction shall not, however, exceed that part of the Bulgarian income tax or capital tax, as computed before the deduction is given, which may be attributable to the income or capital which may be taxed in Albania.

b) Where in accordance with any provision of the Convention income derived or capital owned by a resident of Bulgaria is exempt from tax in Bulgaria, Bulgaria may nevertheless, in calculating the amount of tax on the remaining income or capital of such resident, take into account the exempted income or capital.

2. In Albania double taxation shall be eliminated as follows:

a) Where a resident of Albania derives income or owns capital which, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, may be taxed in Bulgaria, Albania shall allow:

i) as a deduction from Albanian tax on the income of that resident an amount equal to the income tax paid in Bulgaria;

ii) as a deduction from the Albanian tax on the capital of that resident an amount equal to the capital tax paid in Bulgaria.

Such deduction shall not, however, exceed that part of the Albanian tax as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable, as the case may be, to the income or capital which may be taxed in Bulgaria.

b) Where in accordance with any provision of the Convention income derived or capital owned by a resident of Albania is exempt from tax in Albania, Albania may nevertheless, in calculating the amount of tax on the remaining income or capital of such resident, take into account the exempted income or capital.

3. Where, under the laws of one of the Contracting States any tax to which this Convention applies has been exempted or reduced for a limited period of time to promote economic development in that State, for the purposes of subparagraph (a) of paragraph 1 and subparagraph (a) of paragraph 2 of this Art., such tax shall be deemed to have been paid.

## **Non-Discrimination**

### **Art. 25**

1. Nationals of a Contracting State shall not be subjected in the other Contracting State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith, which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which nationals of that other State in the same circumstances are or may be subjected. This provision shall, notwithstanding the provisions of Art. 1, also apply to persons who are not residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

2. The taxation on a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State shall not be less favourably levied in that other State than the taxation levied on enterprises of that other State carrying on the same activities. This provision shall not be construed as obliging a Contracting State to grant to residents of the other Contracting State any personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for taxation purposes on account of civil status or family responsibilities which it grants to its own residents.

3. Except where the provisions of paragraph 1 of Art. 9, paragraph 7 of Art. 11, or paragraph 6 of Art. 12, apply, interest, royalties and other disbursements paid by an enterprise of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State 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 State. Similarly, any debts of an enterprise of a Contracting State to a resident of the

other Contracting State shall, for the purpose of determining the taxable capital of such enterprise, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been contracted to a resident of the first-mentioned State.

4. Enterprises of a Contracting State, the capital of which is wholly or partly owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by one or more residents of the other Contracting State, shall not be subjected in the first-mentioned State 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 State are or may be subjected.

### **Mutual Agreement Procedure**

#### **Art. 26**

1. Where a person considers that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for him in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, he may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the domestic law of those States, present his case to the competent authority of the Contracting State of which he is a resident or, if his case comes under paragraph 1 of Art. 25, to that of the Contracting State of which he is a national. The case must be presented within 3 years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

2. The competent authority shall endeavour, if the objection appears to it to be justified and if it is not able to arrive at a satisfactory solution, to resolve the case by mutual agreement with the competent authority of the other Contracting State, with a view to the avoidance of taxation which is not in accordance with the Convention. Any agreement reached shall be implemented notwithstanding any time limits in the domestic law of the Contracting States.

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

4. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may communicate with each other directly for the purpose of reaching an agreement in the sense of the preceding paragraphs. When it seems advisable to have an oral exchange of opinions, such exchange may take place through a commission consisting of representatives of the competent authorities of the Contracting States.

### **Exchange of Information**

#### **Art. 27**

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Convention or of the domestic laws of the Contracting States concerning taxes covered by the Convention insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Convention. The exchange of information is not restricted by Art. 1. Any information received 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) involved in the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals in relation to, the taxes covered by the Convention. 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.

2. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 1 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).

3. For the purposes of this Art., the Convention shall apply, notwithstanding the provisions of Art. 2, to taxes of every kind imposed by a Contracting State.

### **Members of Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts**

Art. 28

Nothing in this Convention shall affect the fiscal privileges of members of diplomatic missions and consular posts under the general rules of international law or under the provisions of special agreements.

### **Entry Into Force**

Art. 29

1. This Convention shall be ratified and the Contracting States shall notify each other that their constitutional requirements for the entry into force of this Convention have been fulfilled.

2. The Convention shall enter into force on the date of the later of the notifications referred to in paragraph 1 and its provisions shall have effect in respect of income derived or of capital owned on or after the first day of January of the calendar year next following the year in which the Convention enters into force.

### **Termination**

Art. 30

1. This Convention shall remain in force until terminated by one of the Contracting States. Either Contracting State may terminate the Convention, through diplomatic channels, by giving the written notice of termination at least six months before the end of any calendar year following after the period of five years from which the Convention enters into force. In such event, the Convention shall cease to have effect in respect of income derived or of capital owned on or after the first day of January in the calendar year next following the year in which the notice of termination is given.

In witness whereof the undersigned, duly authorized thereto, have signed this Convention.

Done in duplicate at Sofia on 9 December 1998, in Bulgarian, Albanian, and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence in interpretation the English text shall prevail.