

No. 24686

**SPAIN
and
TUNISIA**

Convention for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and on capital. Signed at Madrid on 2 July 1982

Authentic text: French.

Registered by Spain on 15 April 1987.

**ESPAGNE
et
TUNISIE**

Convention en vue d'éviter les doubles impositions en matière d'impôts sur le revenu et sur la fortune. Signée à Madrid le 2 juillet 1982

Texte authentique : français.

Enregistré par l'Espagne le 15 avril 1987.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

CONVENTION¹ BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA
FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION WITH RE-
SPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME AND ON CAPITAL

The Government of Spain and the Government of the Republic of Tunisia, desiring to conclude a Convention for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital, have agreed as follows:

Article 1. PERSONAL SCOPE

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

Article 2. TAXES COVERED

1. This Convention shall apply to taxes on income and on capital imposed on behalf of a Contracting State or of its political subdivisions or 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 capital, including taxes on gains from the alienation of movable or immovable property, taxes on the total amounts of wages or salaries paid by enterprises, as well as taxes on capital appreciation.

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

(a) In Spain:

- The tax on the income of individuals;
 - The company tax;
 - The property tax
- (hereinafter referred to as “Spanish tax”);

(b) In Tunisia:

- The tax on business income;
- The tax on income from non-commercial occupations;
- The tax on wages and salaries;
- The agricultural tax;
- The tax on income from movable capital;
- The tax on income from debt-claims, deposits and current accounts;
- The tax on capital appreciation of immovable property;
- The extraordinary tax for national solidarity;
- Local taxes;
- The State tax on personal income.

¹ Came into force on 14 February 1987 by the exchange of the instruments of ratification, which took place at Tunis, in accordance with article 28.

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

Article 3. GENERAL DEFINITIONS

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

(a) The term "Spain" means the Spanish State and the areas adjacent to the territorial waters of Spain where, in accordance with international law, Spain may exercise rights with respect to the sea-bed and the subsoil and their natural resources;

(b) The term "Tunisia" means the Republic of Tunisia and the areas adjacent to the territorial waters of Tunisia where, in accordance with international law, Tunisia may exercise rights with respect to the sea-bed and the subsoil and their natural resources;

(c) The terms "a Contracting State" and "the other Contracting State" mean Spain or Tunisia, as the context requires;

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

(e) The term "company" means any body corporate or any entity which is treated as a body corporate 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 either Contracting State;

(ii) Any body corporate, partnership or association set up in accordance with the laws in force in a Contracting State;

(h) The term "international traffic" means any transport by a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise which has its place of effective management in a Contracting State, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State;

(i) The term "competent authority" means:

(i) In Spain, the Minister of Finance, the Technical General Secretary or an authority duly authorized by the Minister;

(ii) In Tunisia, the Minister of Planning and Finance or an authority, duly authorized by the Minister.

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 under the law of that State concerning the taxes to which the Convention applies.

Article 4. RESIDENT

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, 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 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 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 has not a permanent home available to him in either State, he shall be deemed to be a resident 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, then it shall be deemed to be a resident of the State in which its place of effective management is situated.

Article 5. PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT

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;
- (g) A building site, or temporary installation operations or supervisory activities in connection therewith, where such building site, operations or activities exist for more than nine months or where such temporary installations operations or supervisory activities resulting from the sale of machinery or equipment by the same enterprise exist for more than three months and the installation or supervision costs exceed 10 per cent of the price of such machinery or equipment.

3. 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 advertising, for providing information, for scientific research or for similar activities of a preparatory or auxiliary character.

4. A person, other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 5 applies, acting in a Contracting State on behalf of an enterprise of the other Contracting State shall be deemed to be a "permanent establishment" in the first-mentioned State if that person has, and habitually exercises, in that State the authority to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise, unless the activities of such person are limited to those mentioned in paragraph 4.

5. An enterprise of a Contracting State shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State merely because it carries on business in that other State through a broker or commission agent of an independent status, provided that such persons are acting in the ordinary course of their business.

6. 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.

Article 6. INCOME FROM IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

1. Income from immovable property, including income from agriculture or forestry, may be taxed in the Contracting State in which such property is situated.

2. For the purposes of this Convention, the term "immovable property" shall be defined in accordance with 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 and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall apply to income arising from the direct use, letting, or use in any other form of immovable property and to the profits arising from the alienation of such 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 professional services.

Article 7. BUSINESS PROFITS

1. The 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 or has carried 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. 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 and independently with the enterprise of which it is a permanent establishment.

3. In the determination of the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the business 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. 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.

5. For the purposes 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.

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

7. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from a "joint venture", a "*société de fait*" or from holdings in another company operating in the other Contracting State, shall be taxable in that other State.

Article 8. SHIPPING AND AIR TRANSPORT

1. Profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

2. If the place of effective management of a shipping enterprise is aboard a ship, then it shall be deemed to be situated in the Contracting State in which the home harbour of the ship is situated, or, if there is no such home harbour, in the Contracting State of which the operator of the ship is a resident.

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

Article 9. ASSOCIATED ENTERPRISES

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.

Article 10. DIVIDENDS

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 the dividends, the tax so charged shall not exceed:

- (a) Five per cent of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owner is a company (other than a partnership) which holds directly at least 50 per cent of the capital of the company paying the dividends;
- (b) Fifteen per cent of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases.

3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of paragraph 2.

4. The provisions of paragraph 2 shall not affect the taxation of the company in respect of the profits out of which the dividends are paid.

5. The term "dividends" as used in this article means income from shares, *jouissance* shares or *jouissance* rights, mining shares, founder's shares 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.

6. 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 professional 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 cases, the provisions of article 7 or article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

7. 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 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 State.

8. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 7 of this article, dividends distributed by a company which is a resident of a Contracting State and has a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State in the proportion that the income derived from the permanent establishment represents in relation to the company's total income before taxes and at a rate which shall not exceed 5 per cent.

Article 11. INTEREST

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. However, this rate shall be reduced to 5 per cent in respect of interest arising from loans whose term exceeds seven years. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of this limitation.

3. 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. Penalty charges for late payment shall not be regarded as interest for the purpose of this article.

4. 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 article 7 or article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

5. Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that State itself, a political subdivision, 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.

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 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 State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.

Article 12. ROYALTIES

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

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

3. The term "royalties" as used in this article mean payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary work, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for the use of, or the right to use, industrial, commercial or scientific equipment, or for studies and information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience. This term also includes payments of any kind for cinematographic films and works recorded on film and tape for television broadcasting.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the royalties, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the royalties arise, through a permanent establishment, or performs professional services from a fixed base, and the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base.

In such cases, the provisions of article 7 or article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

5. Where owing to a special relationship between the payer and the recipient 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 recipient 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 State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.

Article 13. CAPITAL GAINS

1. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of immovable property referred to in article 6 and situated in the 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 a 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 or aircraft operated in international traffic or movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships or aircraft, shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

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

Article 14. INDEPENDENT PERSONAL SERVICES

1. Income derived by 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, unless he has a fixed base regularly available to him in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing his activities. If he has such a fixed base, the income may be taxed in the other State but only so much of it as is attributable to that fixed base.

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

Article 15. DEPENDENT PERSONAL SERVICES

1. Subject to the provisions of articles 16, 18 and 19, 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:

- (a) The recipient is present in the other State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in the fiscal year concerned; and
- (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 article, remuneration derived in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft operated in international traffic may be taxed in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

Article 16. DIRECTORS' FEES

1. 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 similar organ of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

Article 17. ENTERTAINERS AND ATHLETES

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of articles 7, 14 and 15, income derived by an entertainer, such as a theatre, motion picture, radio or television artiste, or a musician, or by an athlete, from his personal activities as such, may be taxed in the Contracting State in which such activities are exercised.

2. Where income in respect of personal activities exercised by an entertainer or an athlete accrues to a person other than the entertainer or athlete himself, that income may, notwithstanding the provisions of articles 7, 14 and 15, be taxed in the Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or athlete are exercised.

Article 18. PENSIONS

Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of article 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.

Article 19. GOVERNMENT SERVICE

1. (a) Remuneration, other than a pension, paid by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision 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 other State and the individual is a resident of that State:

- (i) Is a national of that State; or
 - (ii) Did not become a resident of that State solely for the purpose of rendering the services.
2. (a) Any pension paid by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or 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 articles 15, 16 and 18 shall apply to remuneration and pensions in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried out by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof.

Article 20. STUDENTS

Payments which a student or business 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.

Article 21. OTHER INCOME

1. Items of income of a resident of a Contracting State, wherever arising, not dealt with in the foregoing articles 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 article 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 article 7 or article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

Article 22. CAPITAL

1. Capital represented by immovable property referred to in article 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 and aircraft operated in international traffic and by movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships or aircraft shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.
4. All other elements of capital of a resident of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State.

Article 23. ELIMINATION OF DOUBLE TAXATION

1. Double taxation shall be avoided as follows:

(A) Where a resident of a Contracting State derives income or owns capital which, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, may be taxed in the other Contracting State, the first-mentioned State shall deduct:

- (a) From the tax payable on the income of such resident, an amount equal to the tax paid in the other State, and
- (b) From the tax payable on the capital of such resident, an amount equal to the capital tax paid in the other State.

In either case, such deduction may not exceed the amount of the income tax or capital tax as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable, as the case may be, to the income or the capital which may be taxed in the other State.

(B) Where, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, income derived or capital owned by a resident of a Contracting State is exempt from tax in that State, such State may, in calculating the amount of tax on the remaining income or capital of such resident, take into account the exempted income or capital.

2. (A) For purposes of the application of paragraph 1(A) of this article, the term "tax paid" in Tunisia by a resident of Spain is presumed to comprise any amount of Tunisian tax which would have been payable for any given year, if a tax exemption or reduction had not been granted for that year or for a portion of that year under the following Tunisian laws: Act 69-35, Act 72-38, Act 81-56, to the extent that such laws are still in force on the date of signature of this Convention and are not subsequently amended or are amended only in minor respects without any change in their general character.

(B) For purposes of the application of paragraph 1(A) of this article, the term "tax paid" in Spain by a resident of Tunisia is presumed to comprise any amount of Spanish tax which would have been payable for any given year, if it were not for the tax exemption or reduction set forth in article 25 (C), paragraphs 1 and 2, of Act 61/1978 of 27 December 1978 to the extent that that Act is still in force on the date of signature of this Convention and is not subsequently amended, or is amended only in minor respects without any change in its general character.

(C) The same treatment as that provided for in sub-paragraphs (A) and (B) of this paragraph shall be accorded to any other provision adopted subsequently granting a tax exemption or reduction, which the competent authorities of the Contracting States agree is of a similar nature, if it is not subsequently amended or if only minor amendments are made which do not affect its general character.

Article 24. NON-DISCRIMINATION

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 article 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 article 9, paragraph 6 of article 11, or paragraph 5 of article 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.

5. The provisions of this article shall, notwithstanding the provisions of article 2, apply to taxes of every kind and description.

Article 25. MUTUAL AGREEMENT PROCEDURE

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.

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 State, with a view to the avoidance of taxation which is not in accordance with the Convention.

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 the 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 in order to reach agreement 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.

Article 26. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

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. Any information exchanged shall be treated as secret and shall be disclosed only to persons or

authorities responsible for the assessment or collection of the taxes which are the subject of this Convention.

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 or the 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*).

Article 27. DIPLOMATIC AGENTS AND CONSULAR OFFICERS

Nothing in this Convention shall affect the fiscal privileges of diplomatic agents or consular officers under the general rules of international law or under the provisions of special agreements.

Article 28. ENTRY INTO FORCE

1. This Convention shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Tunis as soon as possible.

2. The Convention shall enter into force upon the exchange of instruments of ratification and its provisions shall have effect for the first time in respect of income derived on or after 1 January of the year following its entry into force.

Article 29. TERMINATION

This Convention shall remain in force until terminated by a Contracting State. Either Contracting State may terminate the Convention through diplomatic channels, by giving notice of termination at least six months before the end of any calendar year after the third year following the year of ratification. In such event, the Convention shall apply for the last time in respect of income derived prior to 1 January of the year following its termination.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Convention.

DONE at Madrid on 2 July 1982 in duplicate in the French language.

For the Government
of the Spanish State:

[Signed]

L. CALVO SOTELO
President of the Government

For the Government
of the Republic of Tunisia:

[Signed]

M'ZALI
Prime Minister