

No. 30798

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**FINLAND
and
LATVIA**

Convention for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital (with protocol). Signed at Helsinki on 23 March 1993

Authentic text: English.

Registered by Finland on 4 March 1994.

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**FINLANDE
et
LETTONIE**

Convention tendant à éviter la double imposition et à prévenir l'évasion fiscale en matière d'impôts sur le revenu et sur le capital (avec protocole). Signée à Helsinki le 23 mars 1993

Texte authentique : anglais.

Enregistrée par la Finlande le 4 mars 1994.

CONVENTION¹ BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND AND THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME AND ON CAPITAL

The Government of the Republic of Finland and the Government of the Republic of Latvia,

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. The existing taxes to which this Convention shall apply are:

a) in Finland:

(i) the state income taxes (valtion tuloverot; de statliga inkomstskatterna);

(ii) the corporate income tax (yhteisöjen tulovero; inkomstskatten för samfund);

(iii) the communal tax (kunnallisvero; kommunalskatten);

(iv) the church tax (kirkollisvero; kyrkoskatten);

(v) the tax withheld at source from interest (korkotulon lähdevero; källskatten på räntekomst);

(vi) the tax withheld at source from non-residents' income (rajoitetusti verovelvollisen lähdevero; källskatten för begränsat skattskyldig); and

(vii) the state capital tax (valtion varallisuusvero; den statliga förmögenhetsskatten);

(hereinafter referred to as "Finnish tax");

b) in Latvia:

(i) the profits tax (peļņas nodoklis);

(ii) the personal income tax (iedzīvotāju ienākuma nodoklis); and

(iii) the property tax (īpašuma nodoklis); (hereinafter referred to as "Latvian tax").

2. Where a new tax on income or on capital is introduced in a Contracting State after the date of signature of the Convention, the Convention shall apply also to such tax. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement determine whether a tax which is introduced in either Contracting State is one to which the Convention shall apply according to the preceding sentence.

3. The Convention shall apply also to any taxes, being identical with or substantially similar to those mentioned or referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, which are imposed after the date of signature of the Convention in addition to, or in place of, the taxes to which the Convention applies by virtue of those paragraphs. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other of any significant 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 "Finland" means the Republic of Finland and, when used in a geographical sense, means the territory of the Republic of Finland, and any area adjacent to the territorial waters of the Republic of Finland within which, under the laws of Finland and in accordance with international law, the rights of Finland with respect to the exploration for and exploitation of the natural resources of the sea bed and its sub-soil and of the superjacent waters may be exercised;

b) the term "Latvia" means the Republic of Latvia, and when used in the geographic sense, means the territory of the Republic of Latvia and any other area adjacent to the territorial waters of the Republic of Latvia within which, under the laws of Latvia and in accordance with international law, the rights of Latvia may be exercised with respect to the sea bed and its sub-soil and their natural resources;

¹ Came into force on 30 December 1993, i.e., 30 days after the date of the last of the notifications (of 30 November 1993) by which the Contracting Parties had informed each other of the completion of the constitutional requirements, in accordance with article 29 (2).

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

d) the term "company" means any body corporate or any entity which is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;

e) 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;

f) the term "national" means:

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

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

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

h) the term "competent authority" means:

(i) in Finland, the Ministry of Finance, its authorised representative or the authority which, by the Ministry of Finance, is designated as competent authority;

(ii) in Latvia, the Minister of Economic Reforms and the Head of State Finance Inspectorate or their authorised representatives.

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

Residence

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, place of incorporation or any other criterion of a similar nature. The term also includes a Contracting State itself, a local authority and a statutory body thereof. The 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, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to settle the question by mutual agreement and determine the mode of application of the Convention to such person. In the absence of such agreement, for the purposes of the Convention, the person shall in each Contracting State be deemed not to be a resident of the other Contracting State.

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; and

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 or a supervisory or consultancy activity connected therewith constitutes a permanent establishment only if such site, project or activity lasts for a period of more than six months.

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

a) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;

b) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery;

c) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;

d) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise or of collecting information, for the enterprise;

e) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of carrying on, for the enterprise, any other activity of a preparatory or auxiliary character;

f) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in sub-paragraphs 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 on behalf of an enterprise and has, and habitually exercises, in a Contracting State an authority to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise, that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in that State in respect of any activities which that person undertakes for the enterprise, unless the activities of such person are limited to those mentioned in paragraph 4 which, if exercised through a fixed place of business, would not make this fixed place of business a permanent establishment under the provisions of that paragraph.

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 an agent are devoted wholly or almost wholly on behalf of that enterprise, he will not be considered 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.

Article 6

Income from immovable property

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, buildings, any option or similar right in respect of immovable property, usufruct of immovable property and rights to variable or fixed payments as consideration for the working of, or the right to work, mineral deposits, sources and other natural resources. Ships, boats and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.

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

4. Where the ownership of shares or other corporate rights in a company entitles the owner of such shares or corporate rights to the

enjoyment of immovable property held by the company, the income from the direct use, letting, or use in any other form of such right to enjoyment may be taxed in the Contracting State in which the immovable property is situated.

5. 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.

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 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:

- a) that permanent establishment; or
- b) sales in that other State of goods or merchandise of the same or similar kind as those sold through that permanent establishment; or
- c) other business activities carried on in that other State of the same or similar kind as those effected through that permanent establishment.

The provisions of sub-paragraphs b) and c) shall not apply if the enterprise shows that such sales or activities could not reasonably have been undertaken by 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, in-

cluding 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 Article.

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 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.

7. 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.

Article 8

Shipping and air transport

1. Profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in that State.

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

Article 9

Associated enterprises

1. Where

a) an enterprise of a Contracting 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 by the first-mentioned State claimed to be 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 tax charged therein on those profits, where that other State considers the adjustment justified. 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.

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. 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) 5 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 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.

2. However, as long as an individual resident in Finland is entitled to a tax credit in respect of dividends paid by a company resident in

Finland, the following provisions of this paragraph shall apply in Finland instead of the provisions of paragraph 1:

a) Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of Finland to a resident of Latvia who is the beneficial owner of the dividends shall be exempt from Finnish tax on dividends.

b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph a), where the recipient is an individual or a body of persons (other than a company which controls directly at least 10 per cent of the voting power in the company paying the dividends), such dividends may also be taxed in Finland and according to Finnish law, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the dividends the tax so charged shall not exceed 5 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends.

3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2. The provisions of those paragraphs shall not affect the taxation of the company in respect of the profits out of which the dividends are paid.

4. The term "dividends" as used in this Article means income from shares, or other rights, not being debt-claims, participating in profits, as well as income from other 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.

5. 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 Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

6. 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.

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

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2,

a) interest arising in Latvia shall be taxable only in Finland if the interest is paid to:

(i) the State of Finland, or a local authority or a statutory body thereof;

(ii) the Bank of Finland;

(iii) the Finnish Fund for Industrial Cooperation Ltd (FINNFUND) or the Finnish Export Credit Ltd; or

(iv) any other institution, similar to those mentioned in subdivision (iii), as may be agreed from time to time between the competent authorities of the Contracting States;

b) interest arising in Finland shall be taxable only in Latvia if the interest is paid to:

(i) the State of Latvia, or a local authority or a statutory body thereof;

(ii) the Bank of Latvia;

(iii) any organisation established in the State of Latvia after the date of signature of this Convention and which is of a similar nature as any organisation established in Finland and referred to in subdivision (iii) of sub-paragraph a) (the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement determine whether such organisations are of a similar nature); or

(iv) any institution similar to any of those referred to in subdivision (iv) of sub-paragraph a), as may be agreed from time to time between the competent authorities of the Contracting States;

c) interest arising in a Contracting State on a loan guaranteed by any of the bodies mentioned or referred to in sub-paragraph a) or sub-paragraph b) and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in that other State;

d) interest arising in a Contracting State shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if:

(i) the recipient is a resident of that other State, and

(ii) such recipient is an enterprise of that other State and is the beneficial owner of the interest, and

(iii) the interest is paid with respect to indebtedness arising on the sale on credit, by that enterprise, of any merchandise or industrial, commercial or scientific equipment to an enterprise of the first-mentioned State, except where the sale or indebtedness is between related persons.

4. The term "interest" as used in this Article means income from debt-claims of every kind, whether or not secured by mortgage, 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.

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

6. Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is 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 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 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:

a) 5 per cent of the gross amount of royalties paid for the use of industrial, commercial or scientific equipment;

b) 10 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties in all other cases.

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

3. The term "royalties" as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work including cinematograph films, and films or tapes for television or radio broadcasting, 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 information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the royalties, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the royalties arise, 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 royalties are 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. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the royalties, 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 liability to pay the royalties was incurred, and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such royalties 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 royalties, having regard to the use, right or information for which they are paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.

7. If in any convention for the avoidance of double taxation concluded by Latvia with a third State, being a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) at the date of signature of this Convention, Latvia after that date would agree to exclude any kind of rights or property from

the definition contained in paragraph 3 or exempt royalties arising in Latvia from Latvian tax on royalties or to limit the rates of tax provided in paragraph 2, such definition or exemption or lower rate shall automatically apply as if it had been specified in paragraph 3 or paragraph 2, respectively.

Article 13

Capital gains

1. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of immovable property referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 6 and situated in the other Contracting State or shares in a company the assets of which consist mainly of such property 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 derived by an enterprise of a Contracting State 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 that State.

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

Article 14

Independent personal service

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 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 that other State, but only so much of the income as is attributable to that fixed base. For this purpose, where an individual who is a resident of a Contracting State stays in the other Contracting State for a period or periods exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any twelve-month period commencing or ending in the tax year concerned, he shall be deemed to have a fixed base regularly available to him in that other State and the income that is derived from his activities referred to above that are performed in that other State shall be 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 any twelve-month period commencing or ending in the tax 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 by a resident of a Contracting State, may be taxed in that State.

Article 16

Directors' fees

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

Article 17

Artistes and sportsmen

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 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 Articles 7, 14 and 15, be taxed in the Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or sportsman are exercised.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply to income derived from activities exercised in a Contracting State by an entertainer or a sportsman if the visit to that State is wholly or mainly supported by public funds of the other Contracting State or a local authority thereof. In such case, the income shall be taxable in accordance with the provisions of Article 7, Article 14 or Article 15, as the case may be.

Article 18

Pensions, annuities and similar payments

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 19, pensions and other similar remuneration in respect of past employment and annuities paid to a resident of a Contract-

ing State shall be taxable only in that State.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3, and subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 19,

a) pensions paid and other benefits, whether periodic or lump-sum compensation, granted under the social security legislation of a Contracting State or under any public scheme organised by a Contracting State for social welfare purposes shall be taxable only in that State;

b) annuities arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State shall be exempt from tax in that other State to the extent that they would be exempt from tax if received by a resident of the first-mentioned State.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, in the case of an individual who was a resident of a Contracting State and has become a resident of the other Contracting State, pensions, annuities and other similar remuneration paid to such individual and arising in the first-mentioned State may be taxed in that State according to the laws of that State, but the tax so charged shall not exceed 15 per cent of the gross amount of the payment. The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to such individual if he is a stateless person or a national of the other Contracting State without also being a national of the first-mentioned Contracting State.

4. The term "annuity" as used in this Article means a stated sum payable periodically at stated times during life, or during a specified or ascertainable period of time, under an obligation to make the payments in return for adequate and full consideration in money or money's worth (other than services rendered).

Article 19

Government service

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

b) However, such remuneration shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which

the individual is a resident if the services are rendered in that State and the individual:

- (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, or out of funds created by, a Contracting State, or a local authority or a statutory body thereof, to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State, authority or body shall be taxable only in that State.

b) However, such pension shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the individual is a resident if he is a national of that 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 on by a Contracting State, or a local authority or a statutory body thereof.

Article 20

Students

Payments which a student, or an apprentice or trainee, 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 not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Convention shall be taxable only in that State. However, such items of income, arising in the other Contracting State, may also be taxed in that other 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 paragraph 2 of Article 6, owned by a resident of a Contracting State and situated in the other Contracting State, or by shares in a company the assets of which consist mainly of such property 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 by an enterprise of a Contracting State, and by movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships and aircraft, 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.

Article 23

Elimination of double taxation

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

a) Where a resident of Finland derives income or owns elements of capital which, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, may be taxed in Latvia, Finland shall, subject to the provision of sub-paragraph b), allow:

(i) as a deduction from the tax on the income of that person, an amount equal to the tax on income paid in Latvia;

(ii) as a deduction from the tax on the capital of that person, an amount equal to the tax on elements of capital paid in Latvia.

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

b) Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of Latvia to a company which is a resident of Finland and controls directly at least 10 per cent of the voting power in the company paying the dividends shall be exempt from Finnish tax.

c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Convention, an individual who is a resident of Latvia and under Finnish taxation law with respect to the Finnish taxes referred to in Article 2 also is regarded as resident in Finland and may be taxed in Finland. However, Finland shall allow any Latvian tax paid on income or on capital as a deduction from Finnish tax in accordance with the provisions of sub-paragraph a). The provisions of this sub-paragraph shall apply only to nationals of Finland.

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

e) For the purposes of sub-paragraph a), the term "tax on income paid in Latvia" shall be deemed to include Latvian income tax which would have been paid but for any time-limited exemption or reduction of tax granted under incentive provisions contained in Latvian laws designed to promote economic development to the extent that such tax that would have been paid relates to profits other than profits from activities in the financial sector and that no more than 25 per cent of such profits consist of interest and gains from the alienation of shares and bonds or consist of profits derived from third States.

f) The provisions of sub-paragraph e) shall apply for the first ten years for which the Convention is effective. However, the competent authorities of the Contracting States may consult each other in order to determine whether such period shall be extended.

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

a) Where a resident of Latvia derives income

or owns capital which in accordance with this Convention, may be taxed in Finland, unless a more favourable treatment is provided in its domestic law, Latvia shall allow:

(i) as a deduction from the tax on the income of that resident, an amount equal to the income tax paid thereon in Finland;

(ii) as a deduction from the tax on the capital of that resident, an amount equal to the capital tax paid thereon in Finland.

Such deduction in either case shall not, however, exceed that part of the income or capital tax in Latvia, 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 Finland.

b) For the purpose of sub-paragraph a), where a company that is a resident of Latvia receives a dividend from a company that is a resident of Finland in which it owns at least 10 per cent of its shares having full voting rights, the tax paid in Finland shall include not only the tax paid on the dividend but also the tax paid on the underlying profits of the company out of which the dividend was paid.

c) For the purposes of sub-paragraph a), tax that is paid in Finland and that could not be imposed according to the provisions of this Convention but for the provisions of sub-paragraph c) of paragraph 1, shall be deemed not to have been paid in Finland.

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, in particular with respect to residence, are or may be subjected. This provision shall, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1, also apply to persons who are not residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

2. Stateless persons who are residents of a Contracting State shall not be subjected in either 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

the State concerned in the same circumstances, in particular with respect to residence, are or may be subjected.

3. 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.

4. Except where the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 9, paragraph 7 of Article 11, or paragraph 6 of Article 12, apply, interest, royalties and other disbursements paid by an enterprise of a Contracting 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.

5. 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.

6. 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 or, if his case comes under paragraph 1 of Article 24, to that of the Contracting State of which he is a national. The case must be presented within three years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

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. In the event the competent authorities reach an agreement, refund or credit of taxes shall be allowed by the Contracting States in accordance with such agreement. 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 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. The exchange of information is not restricted by Article 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*).

Article 27

Assistance in collection

1. The Contracting States undertake to lend assistance to each other in the collection of the taxes owed by a taxpayer to the extent that the amount thereof has been finally determined according to the laws of the Contracting State making the request for assistance.

2. In the case of a request by a Contracting State for the collection of taxes which has been accepted for collection by the other Contracting State, such taxes shall be collected by that other State in accordance with the laws applicable to the collection of its own taxes and as if the taxes to be so collected were its own taxes.

3. Any request for collection by a Contracting State shall be accompanied by such certificate as is required by the laws of that State to establish that the taxes owed by the taxpayer have been finally determined.

4. Where the tax claim of a Contracting State has not been finally determined by reason of it being subject to appeal or other proceedings, that State may, in order to protect its revenues, request the other Contracting State to take such interim measures for conservancy on its behalf as are available to the other State under the laws of that other State. If such request is accepted by the other State, such interim measures shall be taken by that other State as if the taxes owed to the first-mentioned State were the own taxes of that other State.

5. A request under paragraph 3 or paragraph 4 shall only be made by a Contracting State to the extent that sufficient property of the taxpayer owing the taxes is not available in that State for recovery of the taxes owed.

6. The Contracting State in which tax is recovered in accordance with the provisions of this Article shall forthwith remit to the Contracting State on behalf of which the tax was collected the amount so recovered less, where appropriate, the amount of extraordinary costs referred to in sub-paragraph b) of paragraph 7.

7. It is understood that unless otherwise agreed by the competent authorities of both Contracting States,

a) ordinary costs incurred by a Contracting State in providing assistance shall be borne by that State,

b) extraordinary costs incurred by a Contracting State in providing assistance shall be borne by the other State and shall be payable regardless of the amount collected on its behalf by that other State.

As soon as a Contracting State anticipates that extraordinary costs may be incurred, it shall so advise the other Contracting State and indicate the estimated amount of such costs.

8. In this Article, the term "taxes" means the taxes to which the Convention applies and includes any interest and penalties relating thereto.

Article 28

*Members of diplomatic missions
and consular posts*

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

Article 29

Entry into force

1. The Governments of the Contracting States shall notify each other that the constitutional requirements for the entry into force of this Convention have been complied with.

2. The Convention shall enter into force thirty days after the date of the later of the notifications referred to in paragraph 1 and its provisions shall have effect in both Contracting States:

a) in respect of taxes withheld at source, on income derived on or after 1 January in the calendar year next following the year in which the Convention enters into force;

b) in respect of other taxes on income, and taxes on capital, for taxes chargeable for any tax year beginning on or after 1 January in the calendar year next following the year in which the Convention enters into force.

Article 30

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 in writing at least six months before the end of any calendar year. In such event, the Convention shall cease to have effect in both Contracting States:

a) in respect of taxes withheld at source, on income derived on or after 1 January in the calendar year next following the year in which the notice is given;

b) in respect of other taxes on income, and taxes on capital, for taxes chargeable for any tax year beginning on or after 1 January in the calendar year next following the year in which the notice is given.

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

Done in duplicate at Helsinki this 23rd day of March 1993, in the English language.

For the Government
of the Republic of Finland:

IIRO VIINANEN

For the Government
of the Republic of Latvia:

ANNA ZIGURE

PROTOCOL

At the signing today of the Convention between the Republic of Finland and the Republic of Latvia for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention"), the undersigned have agreed upon the following provisions which shall form an integral part of the Convention:

1. With reference to the provisions of the Convention

Where the term "statutory body" appears, it is understood that this term means any legal entity of a public character created by the laws of a Contracting State in which no person other than the State itself, or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof, has an interest.

2. With reference to Article 7, paragraph 3

It is understood that expenses to be allowed as deductions by a Contracting State include only expenses that are deductible under the domestic laws of that State.

3. With reference to Article 8

It is understood that "profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State from the operation of ships in international traffic" shall be interpreted according to paragraphs 7 to 14 of the Commentary on Article 8 of the OECD Model Tax Convention on Income and on Capital (1992) and does not, in any event, include the profits from the operation or ownership of docks, warehouses, terminal facilities, stevedoring equipment or other similar property located on land, except where these profits are directly related to the operation, by the enterprise, of such ships.

4. With reference to Article 11, paragraph 3 d)

It is understood that a person is related to another person, where one person, alone or together with one or more related persons, has,

directly or indirectly, an interest of more than 50 per cent in the other person, or where one or more persons, alone or together with one or more related persons, have, directly or indirectly, an interest of more than 50 per cent in the two persons.

5. With reference to Article 12, paragraph 2

It is understood that the term "royalties" shall be deemed not to include payments for the use of drilling rigs, or similar purpose equipment, used for the exploration for or the extraction of hydrocarbons.

6. With reference to Article 12, paragraph 3

It is agreed that the income from leasing of industrial, commercial or scientific equipment shall be included in the term "royalties" as defined in Article 12, paragraph 3.

7. With reference to Article 15, paragraph 2

The provisions of Article 15, paragraph 2, shall not apply to an employee who is hired out. For the purposes of the preceding sentence, an employee who is a resident of a Contracting State shall be deemed to be hired out if he is placed at another person's disposal by a person (the hirer-out) to carry out work in the business of such other person (the principal) in the other Contracting State, provided that the principal is a resident of, or has a permanent establishment in, that other State, and that the hirer-out neither has any responsibility nor bears any risk in respect of the result of the work.

In determining whether an employee shall be deemed to be hired out, a comprehensive review shall be carried out, with particular reference to whether:

- a) the overall supervision of the work rests with the principal;
- b) the work is carried out in a place of work which is at the disposal of the principal and for which he has responsibility;

c) the remuneration to the hirer-out is computed according to the time spent or with reference to any other relationship between the remuneration and the wages received by the employee;

d) the main part of the tools and materials are supplied by the principal; and

e) the hirer-out does not decide unilaterally

on the number of employees or their qualifications.

In witness whereof the undersigned, duly authorised thereto, have signed this Protocol.

Done in duplicate at Helsinki this 23rd day of March 1993, in the English language.

For the Government
of the Republic of Finland:

IIRO VIINANEN

For the Government
of the Republic of Latvia:

ANNA ZIGURE
