



Unified Belgian Tax Alliance for a Successful Recovery

I hope you are all doing well and staying safe in these unprecedented difficult times.

I herewith want to give you a quick update on the efforts of the BJA Legal & Tax Committee related to the COVID-19 crisis.

The BJA Legal & Tax Committee plays an active role in the Unified Belgian Tax Alliance for a Successful Recovery (hereinafter referred to as the “Alliance”).

The Alliance is an informal group of tax experts from professional organizations VBO-FEB, VOKA, UWE, UNIZO, AmCham, InHouse Tax Forum, Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce (BJA) and Tax Consultants/Lawyers as AKD, BDO, Bird&Bird, Deloitte, EY, KPMG, Linklaters, PwC, Tiberghien (WTS) and Vandendijk & Partners. Through these organizations, many companies including both SME's and MNC's are involved or represented.

The aim of the Alliance is to propose a number of tax measures broadly supported by the members of the Alliance. To this effect a Position Paper was prepared by the Alliance and shared with the Cabinet of the Minister of Finance. An Alliance will be more impactful with its messages compared with proposals from all different angles. Obviously, the BJA can still make its own policy proposals in the specific interest of the Japanese business community.

The Alliance approach is highly appreciated by the Cabinet of the Minister of Finance, which is fully aware of this initiative. The Position Paper has already been discussed with the Cabinet of the Minister of Finance during video calls and it has been agreed to have regular touchpoints and open dialogue between the Cabinet of the Minister of Finance and the Alliance.

The Alliance expressed its strong appreciation for the measures taken so far by the Belgian Government to mitigate on the immediate impact of the COVID-19 crisis.



In order to ensure that all types of businesses that are otherwise healthy but now heavily affected by this crisis can cope with the economic consequences of COVID-19, the Alliance recommends additional measures to minimize the risk of negative snowballing effects to ensure the short-term continuity of businesses in Belgium and a successful recovery afterwards.

The proposed measures are based on following principles:

- Necessity for a successful recovery
- Restricted to businesses materially impacted by COVID-19 crisis
- In the short term, keep the cash in the otherwise healthy companies
- Delay reporting & payment of all types of cash-flow impacting taxes
- Reduce administrative burden & red tape, including through increasing use of digital tools
- Feasibility, effectiveness and workability

The Alliance also calls for a strong cooperation between the federal, regional and local authorities, so as to ensure coherence and alignment of their policies. Also, alignment between measures in the fiscal and social security sphere is recommended.

The BJA remains in close dialogue with the Alliance and the Cabinet of the Minister of Finance and will keep its members updated on further developments and concrete measures coming out of this initiative.

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