

**CONVENTION BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE
PREVENTION OF TAX EVASION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME**

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Croatia, intending to conclude a Convention for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income without creating opportunities for non-taxation or reduced taxation through tax evasion or avoidance (including through treaty-shopping arrangements aimed at obtaining reliefs provided in this Convention for the indirect benefit of residents of third states), have agreed as follows:

Article 1
GENERAL SCOPE

1. This Convention shall apply only to persons who are residents of one or both of the Contracting States, except as otherwise provided in this Convention.
2. This Convention shall not restrict in any manner any benefit now or hereafter accorded:
 - a) by the laws of either Contracting State; or
 - b) by any other agreement to which both Contracting States are parties.
3. a) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (b) of paragraph 2 of this Article:
 - i) for purposes of paragraph 3 of Article XXII (Consultation) of the General Agreement on Trade in Services, the Contracting States agree that any question arising as to the interpretation or application of this Convention and, in particular, whether a taxation measure is within the scope of this Convention, shall be determined exclusively in accordance with the provisions of Article 25 (Mutual Agreement Procedure) of this Convention; and
 - ii) the provisions of Article XVII (National Treatment) of the General Agreement on Trade in Services shall not apply to a taxation measure unless the competent authorities agree that the measure is not within the scope of Article 24 (Non-Discrimination) of this Convention.
- b) For the purposes of this paragraph, a "measure" is a law, regulation, rule, procedure, decision, administrative action or any similar provision or action.
4. Except to the extent provided in paragraph 5 of this Article, this Convention shall not affect the taxation by a Contracting State of its residents (as determined under Article 4 (Resident)) and its citizens. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this Convention, a former citizen or former long-term resident of a Contracting State may be taxed in accordance with the laws of that Contracting State.
5. The provisions of paragraph 4 of this Article shall not affect:
 - a) the benefits conferred by a Contracting State under paragraph 3 of Article 7 (Business Profits), paragraph 2 of Article 9 (Associated Enterprises), paragraph 7 of Article 13 (Gains), subparagraph (b) of paragraph 1, paragraphs 2, 3 and 6 of Article 17 (Pensions, Social Security, Annuities, Alimony and Child Support), paragraph 3 of Article 18 (Contributions to Pension Funds), and Articles 23 (Relief From Double Taxation), 24 (Non-Discrimination) and 25 (Mutual Agreement Procedure); and
 - b) the benefits conferred by a Contracting State under paragraph 1 of Article 18 (Contributions to Pension Funds), and Articles 19 (Government Service), 20 (Students and Trainees) and 27 (Members of Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts), upon individuals who are neither citizens of, nor have been admitted for permanent residence in, that Contracting State.

6. For the purposes of this Convention, an item of income, profit or gain derived by or through an entity that is treated as wholly or partly fiscally transparent under the taxation laws of either Contracting State shall be considered to be derived by a resident of a Contracting State, but only to the extent that the item is treated for purposes of the taxation laws of such Contracting State as the income, profit or gain of a resident.

7. Where an item of income, profit or gain arising in one of the Contracting States otherwise would be entitled to the benefits of this Convention in that Contracting State and, under the law of the other Contracting State, a person's tax in respect of such item is determined by reference to the amount thereof that is remitted to or received in that other Contracting State and not by reference to the full amount thereof, then the relief to be allowed under this Convention in the first-mentioned Contracting State shall apply only to so much of the amount as is taxed in the other Contracting State.

8. Where an enterprise of a Contracting State derives income from the other Contracting State, and the first-mentioned Contracting State treats that income as profits attributable to a permanent establishment situated outside of that Contracting State, the benefits of this Convention shall not apply to that income if:

- a) the income that is treated as profits attributable to the permanent establishment is subject to a combined aggregate effective rate of tax in the first-mentioned Contracting State and the state in which the permanent establishment is situated that is less than the lesser of (i) 15 percent or (ii) 60 percent of the highest general statutory rate of company tax applicable in the first-mentioned Contracting State; or
- b) the permanent establishment is situated in a third state that does not have a comprehensive convention for the avoidance of double taxation in force with the Contracting State from which the benefits of this Convention are being claimed, unless the first-mentioned Contracting State includes the income treated as profits attributable to the permanent establishment in its tax base.

However, if a resident of a Contracting State is denied the benefits of this Convention pursuant to subparagraph (a) of this paragraph, the competent authority of the other Contracting State may, nevertheless, grant the benefits of this Convention with respect to a specific item of income if such competent authority determines that such grant of benefits is justified in light of the reasons such resident did not satisfy the requirements of subparagraph (a) of this paragraph (such as the existence of losses). The competent authority of the Contracting State to which a request has been made shall consult with the competent authority of the other Contracting State before either granting or denying the request made under this paragraph by a resident of that other Contracting State.

9. Nothing in this Convention shall be construed as preventing the United States from imposing a tax under section 59A, entitled the "Tax on Base Erosion Payments of Taxpayers with Substantial Gross Receipts," of the Internal Revenue Code (as it may be amended from time to time) on a company that is a resident of the United States or on the profits of a company that is a resident of Croatia that are attributable to a permanent establishment in the United States.

Article 2

TAXES COVERED

1. This Convention shall apply to taxes on income imposed on behalf of a Contracting

State irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.

2. There shall be regarded as taxes on income all taxes imposed on total income, or on elements of income, including taxes on gains from the alienation of property.

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

a) in the case of Croatia;

i) the profit tax;

ii) the income tax; and

iii) the local income tax.

b) in the case of the United States: the Federal income taxes imposed by the Internal Revenue Code (which do not include social security and unemployment taxes) and the Federal taxes imposed on the investment income of foreign private foundations.

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

Article 3

GENERAL DEFINITIONS

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

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

b) the term "company" means any body corporate or any entity that is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes according to the laws of the Contracting State in which it is resident;

c) 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; the terms also include an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting State through an entity that is treated as fiscally transparent in that Contracting State;

d) the term "enterprise" applies to the carrying on of any business;

e) the term "business" includes the performance of professional services and of other activities of an independent character;

f) the term "international traffic" means any transport by a ship or aircraft, except when such transport is solely between places in a Contracting State;

g) the term "competent authority" means:

- i) in Croatia: the Minister of Finance or his authorized representative;
and
 - ii) in the United States: the Secretary of the Treasury or his delegate;
- h) the term "Croatia" means the territory of the Republic of Croatia as well as those maritime areas adjacent to the outer limit of territorial sea, including the sea bed and subsoil thereof, over which the Republic of Croatia in accordance with international law and the laws of the Republic of Croatia exercises its sovereign rights and jurisdiction;
- i) the term "United States" means the United States of America, and includes the states thereof and the District of Columbia; such term also includes the territorial sea thereof and the sea bed and subsoil of the submarine areas adjacent to that territorial sea, over which the United States exercises sovereign rights in accordance with international law; the term, however, does not include Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam or any other United States possession or territory;
- j) the term "national" of a Contracting State means:
- i) any individual possessing the nationality or citizenship of that Contracting State; and
 - ii) any legal person, partnership or association deriving its status as such from the laws in force in that Contracting State;
- k) the term "pension fund" means any person established in a Contracting State that satisfies the following requirements imposed under the laws of that State:
- i) is generally exempt from income taxation in that Contracting State;
 - ii) operates exclusively or almost exclusively:
 - A) to administer or provide retirement benefits to individuals in consideration of their current or past employment (including self-employment), and benefits that are incidental or ancillary to such retirement benefits; or
 - B) to earn income for the benefit of one or more persons established in the same Contracting State that are generally exempt from income taxation in that Contracting State and that are operated exclusively or almost exclusively to administer or provide retirement benefits to individuals in consideration of their current or past employment (including self-employment), and benefits that are incidental or ancillary to such retirement benefits;
 - iii) other than in the case of a transfer from another pension fund established in the same Contracting State that qualifies as a tax-deferred transfer:
 - A) imposes contribution limits determined by reference to the amount of income earned by individual participants or the participant's spouse from current or past employment (including self-employment); and

- B) allows contributions by individual participants only in the form of cash; and
 - iv) is subject to periodic information reporting requirements to the government of the Contracting State in which it is established.
- l) the term "special tax regime" means any statute, regulation or administrative practice in a Contracting State with respect to a tax described in Article 2 (Taxes Covered) that meets all of the following conditions:
- i) results in one or more of the following:
 - A) a preferential rate of taxation for interest, royalties, guarantee fees or any combination thereof, as compared to income from sales of goods or services;
 - B) a permanent reduction in the tax base with respect to interest, royalties, guarantee fees or any combination thereof, without a comparable reduction for income from sales of goods or services, by allowing:
 - 1) an exclusion from gross receipts;
 - 2) a deduction without regard to any corresponding payment or obligation to make a payment;
 - 3) a deduction for dividends paid or accrued; or
 - 4) taxation that is inconsistent with the principles of Article 7 (Business Profits) or Article 9 (Associated Enterprises); or
 - C) a preferential rate of taxation or a permanent reduction in the tax base of the type described in part (1), (2), (3) or (4) of subclause (B) of this clause with respect to substantially all of a company's income or substantially all of a company's foreign source income, for companies that do not engage in the active conduct of a trade or business in that Contracting State;
 - ii) in the case of any preferential rate of taxation or permanent reduction in the tax base for royalties, does not condition such benefits on the extent of research and development activities that take place in the Contracting State;
 - iii) is generally expected to result in a rate of taxation that is less than the lesser of either:
 - A) 15 percent; or
 - B) 60 percent of the highest general statutory rate of company tax applicable in the other Contracting State;
 - iv) does not apply principally to:
 - A) pension funds;

- B) organizations that are established and maintained exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, artistic, cultural or educational purposes;
 - C) persons the taxation of which achieves a single level of taxation either in the hands of the person or the person's shareholders (with at most one year of deferral), that hold a diversified portfolio of securities, that are subject to investor-protection regulation in the Contracting State and the interests in which are marketed primarily to retail investors; or
 - D) persons the taxation of which achieves a single level of taxation either in the hands of the person or the person's shareholders (with at most one year of deferral) and that hold predominantly real estate assets; and
- v) after consultation with the first-mentioned Contracting State, has been identified by the other Contracting State through diplomatic channels to the first- mentioned Contracting State as satisfying clauses (i) through (iv) of this subparagraph.

No statute, regulation or administrative practice shall be treated as a special tax regime until 30 days after the date when the other Contracting State issues a written public notification identifying the regime as satisfying clauses (i) through (v) of this subparagraph; and

m) two persons shall be "connected persons" if one owns, directly or indirectly, at least 50 percent of the beneficial interest in the other (or, in the case of a company, at least 50 percent of the aggregate vote and value of the company's shares) or another person owns, directly or indirectly, at least 50 percent of the beneficial interest (or, in the case of a company, at least 50 percent of the aggregate vote and value of the company's shares) in each person. In any case, a person shall be connected to another if, based on all the relevant facts and circumstances, one has control of the other or both are under the control of the same person or persons.

2. As regards the application of this Convention at any time by a Contracting State, any term not defined herein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, or the competent authorities agree to a common meaning pursuant to the provisions of Article 25 (Mutual Agreement Procedure), have the meaning that it has at that time under the law of that Contracting State for the purposes of the taxes to which this Convention applies, any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that Contracting State prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that Contracting State.

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 Contracting State, is liable to tax therein by reason of his domicile, residence, citizenship, place of management, place of incorporation, or any other criterion of a similar nature, and also includes that Contracting State and any political subdivision or local authority thereof. This term does not include any person whose tax is determined in that Contracting State, in whole or in part, on a fixed-fee, "forfait" or similar basis, or who is liable to tax in respect only of income from sources in that Contracting State or of profits attributable to a permanent establishment in that Contracting State.

2. The term "resident of a Contracting State" includes:
 - a) a pension fund established in that Contracting State; and
 - b) an organization that is established and maintained in that Contracting State exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, artistic, cultural, or educational purposes; notwithstanding that all or part of its income or gains may be exempt from tax under the domestic law of that Contracting State.
3. Where, by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then his status shall be determined as follows:
 - a) he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Contracting State in which he has a permanent home available to him; if he has a permanent home available to him in both Contracting States, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Contracting State with which his personal and economic relations are closer (center of vital interests);
 - b) if the Contracting State in which he has his center of vital interests cannot be determined, or if he does not have a permanent home available to him in either Contracting State, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Contracting State in which he has a habitual abode;
 - c) if he has a habitual abode in both Contracting States or in neither of them, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Contracting State of which he is a national;
 - d) if he is a national of both Contracting States or of neither of them, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavor to settle the question by mutual agreement.
4. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article a company is a resident of both Contracting States, such company shall not be treated as a resident of either Contracting State for purposes of its claiming the benefits provided by this Convention.
5. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article a person other than an individual or a company is a resident of both Contracting States, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement endeavor to determine the mode of application of this Convention to that person.

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 or construction or installation project, or an installation or drilling rig or ship used for the exploration or exploitation of the sea bed and its subsoil and their natural resources, situated in one of the Contracting States constitutes a permanent establishment only if it lasts, or the activities of the rig or ship lasts, for more than twelve months. For the sole purpose of determining whether the twelve-month period referred to in this paragraph has been exceeded:

- a) where an enterprise of a Contracting State carries on activities in the other Contracting State at a place that constitutes a building site or construction or installation project and these activities are carried on during periods of time that in the aggregate do not last more than twelve months; and
- b) connected activities are carried on at the same building site or construction or installation project during different periods of time, each exceeding thirty days, by one or more enterprises that are connected persons with respect to the first-mentioned enterprise,

these different periods of time shall be added to the periods of time during which the first-mentioned enterprise has carried on activities at that building site or construction or installation project.

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 the activities mentioned in subparagraphs (a) through (e) of this paragraph, 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 of this Article, where a person - other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 6 of this Article applies - is acting on behalf of an enterprise and has and habitually exercises in a Contracting State an

authority to conclude contracts that are binding on the enterprise, that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in that Contracting State in respect of any activities that the person undertakes for the enterprise, unless the activities of such person are limited to those mentioned in paragraph 4 that, 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 Contracting 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 as independent agents.

7. The fact that a company that is a resident of a Contracting State controls or is controlled by a company that is a resident of the other Contracting State, or that carries on business in that other Contracting State (whether through a permanent establishment or otherwise), shall not be taken into account in determining whether either company has a permanent establishment in that other Contracting State.

Article 6

INCOME FROM REAL PROPERTY (IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

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

2. The term "real property" or "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 real property (immovable property), livestock and equipment used in agriculture and forestry, rights to which the provisions of general law respecting landed property apply, usufruct of real property (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 real property (immovable property).

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article shall apply to income derived from the direct use, letting, or use in any other form of real property (immovable property).

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 of this Article shall also apply to the income from real property (immovable property) of an enterprise.

5. A resident of a Contracting State that is liable to tax in the other Contracting State on income from real property (immovable property) situated in the other Contracting State may elect for any taxable year to compute the tax on such income on a net basis as if such income were business profits attributable to a permanent establishment in such other Contracting State. Any such election shall be binding for the taxable year of the election and all subsequent taxable years unless the competent authority of the Contracting State in which the property is situated agrees to terminate the election.

Article 7

BUSINESS PROFITS

1. Profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that Contracting 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 that are attributable to the permanent establishment in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article may be taxed in that other Contracting State.
2. For the purposes of this Article, the profits that are attributable in each Contracting State to the permanent establishment referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article are the profits it might be expected to make, in particular in its dealings with other parts of the enterprise, if it were a separate and independent enterprise engaged in the same or similar activities under the same or similar conditions, taking into account the functions performed, assets used and risks assumed by the enterprise through the permanent establishment and through the other parts of the enterprise.
3. Where, in accordance with paragraph 2 of this Article, a Contracting State adjusts the profits that are attributable to a permanent establishment of an enterprise of one of the Contracting States and taxes accordingly profits of the enterprise that have been charged to tax in the other Contracting State, the other Contracting State shall, to the extent necessary to eliminate double taxation, make an appropriate adjustment if it agrees with the adjustment made by the first-mentioned Contracting State; if the other Contracting State does not so agree, the Contracting States shall eliminate any double taxation resulting therefrom by mutual agreement.
4. Where profits include items of income that 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.
5. In applying this Article, paragraph 8 of Article 10 (Dividends), paragraph 5 of Article 11 (Interest), paragraph 5 of Article 12 (Royalties), paragraph 3 of Article 13 (Gains) and paragraph 3 of Article 21 (Other Income), any income, profit or gain attributable to a permanent establishment during its existence is taxable in the Contracting State where such permanent establishment is situated even if the payments are deferred until such permanent establishment has ceased to exist.

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 Contracting State.
2. For purposes of this Article, profits from the operation of ships or aircraft include, but are not limited to:
 - a) profits from the rental of ships or aircraft on a full (time or voyage) basis;
 - b) profits from the rental on a bareboat basis of ships or aircraft if the rental income is incidental to profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic; and

- c) profits from the rental on a bareboat basis of ships or aircraft if such ships or aircraft are operated in international traffic by the lessee.

Profits derived by an enterprise from the inland transport of property or passengers within either Contracting State shall be treated as profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic if such transport is undertaken as part of international traffic.

3. Profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State from the use, maintenance, or rental of containers (including trailers, barges, and related equipment for the transport of containers) shall be taxable only in that Contracting State, except to the extent that those containers are used for transport solely between places within the other Contracting State.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 of this Article shall also apply to profits from 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 that differ from those that would be made between independent enterprises, then any profits that, but for those conditions, would 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 Contracting State, and taxes accordingly, profits on which an enterprise of the other Contracting State has been charged to tax in that other Contracting State, and the other Contracting State agrees that the profits so included are profits that would have accrued to the enterprise of the first-mentioned Contracting State if the conditions made between the two enterprises had been those that would have been made between independent enterprises, then that other Contracting State shall make an appropriate adjustment to the amount of the tax charged therein on those profits. In determining such adjustment, due regard shall be had to the other provisions of this Convention and the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall if necessary consult each other.

Article 10

DIVIDENDS

1. Dividends paid by a company that is a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting 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 Contracting State, but if the beneficial owner of the dividends is a resident of the other Contracting State, except as otherwise provided, the tax so charged shall not exceed:

- a) 5 percent of the gross amount of the dividends if, for the twelve-month period ending on the date on which the entitlement to the dividends is determined:
 - i) the beneficial owner has been a company that was a resident of the other Contracting State or of a qualifying third state. The term "qualifying third state" means a state that has in effect a comprehensive convention for the avoidance of double taxation with the Contracting State of the company paying the dividends that would have allowed the beneficial owner to benefit from a rate of tax on dividends that is less than or equal to 5 percent; and
 - ii) at least 10 percent of the aggregate vote and value of the shares of the company paying the dividends was owned directly by the beneficial owner or a qualifying predecessor owner. The term "qualifying predecessor owner" means a company from which the beneficial owner acquired the shares of the company paying the dividends, but only if the company from which the shares were acquired was, at the time of the acquisition, a connected person with respect to the beneficial owner of the dividend, and such company would have benefited from a rate of tax on dividends that is less than or equal to 5 percent either as a resident of the same Contracting State of which the beneficial owner of the dividends is a resident or of a state that has in effect a comprehensive convention for the avoidance of double taxation with the Contracting State of the company paying the dividends; and
- b) 15 percent of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases.

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

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article:

- a) dividends shall not be taxed in the Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident if:
 - i) the beneficial owner of the dividends is a pension fund that is a resident of the other Contracting State; and
 - ii) such dividends are not derived from the carrying on of a trade or business by the pension fund or through a person that is a connected person with respect to the pension fund; and
- b) dividends paid by a company that is a resident of the United States shall not be taxed in the United States if:
 - i) the beneficial owner of the dividends is a resident of Croatia that is a voluntary pension insurance scheme based on individual capitalized savings established under the "Act on Voluntary Pension Funds" as such law existed on the date of signature of this Convention; and

ii) such dividends are not derived from the carrying on of a trade or business by such resident or through a person that is a connected person with respect to such resident.

4. a) Subparagraph (a) of paragraph 2 of this Article shall not apply in the case of dividends paid by a U.S. Regulated Investment Company (RIC) or a U.S. Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT). In the case of dividends paid by a RIC, subparagraph (b) of paragraph 2 and paragraph 3 of this Article shall apply. In the case of dividends paid by a REIT, subparagraph (b) of paragraph 2 and paragraph 3 of this Article shall apply only if:

i) the beneficial owner of the dividends is an individual or pension fund, in either case holding an interest of not more than 10 percent in the REIT;

ii) the dividends are paid with respect to a class of shares that is publicly traded and the beneficial owner of the dividends is a person holding an interest of not more than 5 percent of any class of the REIT's shares; or

iii) the beneficial owner of the dividends is a person holding an interest of not more than 10 percent in the REIT and the REIT is diversified.

b) For purposes of this paragraph, a REIT shall be "diversified" if the value of no single interest in real property (immovable property) exceeds 10 percent of its total interests in real property (immovable property). For the purposes of this rule, foreclosure property shall not be considered an interest in real property (immovable property). Where a REIT holds an interest in a partnership, it shall be treated as owning directly a proportion of the partnership's interests in real property (immovable property) corresponding to its interest in the partnership.

5. In the case of the United States, notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article, dividends paid by an expatriated entity, as defined in Section 7874(a)(2)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code on the date of signature of this Convention and in the regulations that are or may be promulgated under Section 7874 with respect to that definition, and beneficially owned by a company resident in Croatia that is a connected person with respect to such expatriated entity may be taxed in accordance with the law of the United States for a period of ten years beginning on the date on which the acquisition of the domestic entity is completed. For purposes of applying this paragraph, no entity shall be treated as an expatriated entity if

a) it is a connected person with respect to the domestic entity immediately after the date on which the acquisition of the domestic entity is completed; and

b) prior to that date, it was never a connected person with respect to the domestic entity.

However, an entity described in the preceding sentence shall become an expatriated entity if, subsequent to the date on which the acquisition of the domestic entity is completed, the entity joins in filing a U.S. consolidated return with either the domestic entity or another entity that was a connected person with respect to the domestic entity immediately prior to the date on which the acquisition of the domestic entity was completed.

6. In the case of a company that otherwise satisfies the requirements of paragraph 2 of this Article, but fails to satisfy the requirements of paragraph 4 of Article 22 (Limitation on Benefits) regarding a dividend solely by reason of:

- a) the requirement in subclause (B) of clause (i) of subparagraph (e) of paragraph 7 of Article 22 (Limitation on Benefits) of this Convention; or
- b) the requirement in clause (ii) of subparagraph (e) of paragraph 7 of Article 22 (Limitation on Benefits) that a person entitled to benefits under paragraph 5 of Article 22 (Limitation on Benefits) would be entitled to a rate of tax with respect to the dividend that is less than or equal to the rate applicable under paragraph 2 of this Article;

such company may be taxed in the Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident and according to the laws of that Contracting State. In these cases, however, the tax so charged shall not exceed the highest rate among the rates of tax to which persons described in subparagraph (e) of paragraph 7 of Article 22 (Limitation on Benefits) of this Convention (notwithstanding the requirements referred to in subparagraphs (a) and (b) of this paragraph) would have been entitled if such persons had received the dividend directly. For purposes of this paragraph, (i) such persons' indirect ownership of the shares of the company paying the dividends shall be treated as direct ownership, and (ii) a person described in clause (iii) of subparagraph (e) of paragraph 7 of Article 22 (Limitation on Benefits) shall be treated as entitled to the limitation of tax to which such person would be entitled if such person were a resident of the same Contracting State as the company receiving the dividends.

7. For purposes of this Convention, the term "dividends" means income from shares or other rights, not being debt-claims, participating in profits, as well as income that is subject to the same taxation treatment as income from shares under the laws of the Contracting State of which the company making the distribution is a resident. The term does not include distributions that are treated as gain under the laws of the Contracting State of which the company making the distribution is a resident. In such case, the provisions of Article 13 (Gains) shall apply.

8. The provisions of paragraphs 1 through 6 of this Article 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, and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case the provisions of Article 7 (Business Profits) shall apply.

9. A Contracting State may not impose any tax on dividends paid by a resident of the other Contracting State, except insofar as the dividends are paid to a resident of the first-mentioned Contracting State or the dividends are attributable to a permanent establishment situated therein, nor may it impose tax on a corporation's undistributed profits, except as provided in paragraph 10 of this Article, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in that Contracting State.

- 10. a) A company that is a resident of one of the Contracting States and that has a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State or that is subject to tax in the other Contracting State on a net basis on its income that may be taxed in the other Contracting State under Article 6 (Income from Real Property (Immovable Property)) or under paragraph 1 of Article 13 (Gains) may be subject in that other Contracting State to a tax in addition to the tax allowable under the other provisions of this Convention.
- b) Such tax, however, may be imposed:

i) on only the portion of the business profits of the company attributable to the permanent establishment and the portion of the income referred to in subparagraph (a) of this paragraph that is subject to tax under Article 6 (Income from Real Property (Immovable Property)) or under paragraph 1 of Article 13 (Gains) that, in the case of the United States, represents the dividend equivalent amount of such profits or income and, in the case of Croatia, is an amount that is analogous to the dividend equivalent amount; and

ii) at a rate not in excess of the rate specified in subparagraph (a) of paragraph 2 or paragraph 6 of this Article, but only if for the twelve-month period ending on the date on which the entitlement to the dividend equivalent amount is determined, the company has been a resident of the other Contracting State or of a qualifying third state. The term "qualifying third state" has the same meaning as in clause (i) of subparagraph (a) of paragraph 2 of this Article.

11. For the purposes of this Article, a company that is a resident of a Contracting State shall be considered to own directly the shares owned by an entity that:

- a) is considered fiscally transparent under the laws of that Contracting State; and
- b) is not a resident of the other Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident;

in proportion to the company's ownership interest in that entity.

Article 11

INTEREST

1. Interest arising in a Contracting State and beneficially owned by a resident of the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in that other Contracting State.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article:

- a) interest arising in Croatia that is determined with reference to receipts, sales, income, profits or other cash flow of the debtor or a connected person with respect to the debtor, to any change in the value of any property of the debtor or a connected person with respect to the debtor or to any dividend, partnership distribution or similar payment made by the debtor or a connected person with respect to the debtor may be taxed in Croatia, and according to the laws of Croatia, but if the beneficial owner is a resident of the United States, the interest may be taxed at a rate not exceeding 15 percent of the gross amount of the interest;
- b) interest arising in the United States that is contingent interest of a type that does not qualify as portfolio interest under the law of the United States may be taxed by the United States, but if the beneficial owner is a resident of Croatia the interest may be taxed at a rate not exceeding 15 percent of the gross amount of the interest;
- c) interest arising in a Contracting State and beneficially owned by a resident of the other Contracting State that is a connected person with respect to the payor of the interest may be taxed in the first-mentioned Contracting State in accordance with

domestic law if such resident benefits from a special tax regime with respect to the interest in its Contracting State of residence;

d) in the case of the United States, interest paid by an expatriated entity, as defined in Section 7874(a)(2)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code on the date of signature of this Convention and in the regulations that are or may be promulgated under Section 7874 with respect to that definition, and beneficially owned by a company resident in Croatia that is a connected person with respect to such expatriated entity may be taxed in accordance with the law of the United States for a period of ten years beginning on the date on which the acquisition of the domestic entity is completed. For purposes of applying this paragraph no entity shall be treated as an expatriated entity if:

- i) it is a connected person with respect to the domestic entity immediately after the date on which the acquisition of the domestic entity is completed; and
- ii) prior to that date, it was never a connected person with respect to the domestic entity.

However, an entity described in the preceding sentence shall become an expatriated entity if, subsequent to the date on which the acquisition of the domestic entity is completed, the entity joins in filing a U.S. consolidated return with either the domestic entity or another entity that was a connected person with respect to the domestic entity immediately prior to the date on which the acquisition of the domestic entity was completed.

e) interest arising in a Contracting State and beneficially owned by a resident of the other Contracting State that is a connected person with respect to the payor of the interest may be taxed in the first-mentioned Contracting State in accordance with domestic law if such resident benefits, at any time during the taxable year in which the interest is paid, from notional deductions with respect to amounts that the Contracting State of which the beneficial owner is resident treats as equity;

f) interest arising in a Contracting State and beneficially owned by a resident of the other Contracting State that is entitled to the benefits of this Article only by reason of paragraph 5 of Article 22 (Limitation on Benefits) may be taxed in the first-mentioned Contracting State, but the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 percent of the gross amount of the interest; and

g) interest that is an excess inclusion with respect to a residual interest in a real estate mortgage investment conduit may be taxed by each Contracting State in accordance with its domestic law.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, in the case of a company seeking to satisfy the requirements of paragraph 4 of Article 22 (Limitation on Benefits) of this Convention regarding a payment of interest, if such company fails to satisfy the criteria of that paragraph solely by reason of:

- a) the requirement in subclause (B) of clause (i) of subparagraph (e) of paragraph 7 of Article 22 (Limitation on Benefits) of this Convention; or
- b) the requirement in clause (ii) of subparagraph (e) of paragraph 7 of Article 22 (Limitation on Benefits) that a person entitled to benefits under paragraph 5 of

Article 22 (Limitation on Benefits) would be entitled to a rate of tax with respect to the interest that is less than or equal to the rate applicable under paragraph 2 of this Article;

such company may be taxed by the Contracting State in which the interest arises according to the laws of that Contracting State. In these cases, however, the tax so charged shall not exceed the highest rate among the rates of tax to which persons described in subparagraph (e) of paragraph 7 of Article 22 (Limitation on Benefits) of this Convention (notwithstanding the requirements referred to in subparagraphs (a) and (b) of this paragraph) would have been entitled if such persons had received the interest directly. For purposes of this paragraph, a person described in clause (iii) of subparagraph (e) of paragraph 7 of Article 22 (Limitation on Benefits) shall be treated as entitled to the limitation of tax to which such person would be entitled if such person were a resident of the same Contracting State as the company receiving the interest.

4. The term "interest" as used in this Convention 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 or prizes attaching to such securities, bonds or debentures, and all other income that is subjected to the same taxation treatment as income from money lent under the law of the Contracting State in which the income arises. Income dealt with in Article 10 (Dividends) and penalty charges for late payment shall not be regarded as interest for the purposes of this Convention.

5. The provisions of paragraphs 1 through 3 of this Article 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, and the debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case the provisions of Article 7 (Business Profits) shall apply.

6. For purposes of this Article, interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payor is a resident of that Contracting State. Where, however, the person paying the interest, whether a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or derives profits that are taxable on a net basis in a Contracting State under paragraph 5 of Article 6 (Income from Real Property (Immovable Property)) or paragraph 1 of Article 13 (Gains), and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment or allocable to such profits, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated or from which such profits are derived.

7. The excess, if any, of the amount of interest allocable to the profits of a company resident in a Contracting State that are:

- a) attributable to a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State (including gains under paragraph 3 of Article 13 (Gains)); or
- b) subject to tax in the other Contracting State under Article 6 (Income from Real Property (Immovable Property)) or paragraph 1 of Article 13 (Gains);

over the interest paid by that permanent establishment, or in the case of profits subject to tax under Article 6 (Income from Real Property (Immovable Property)) or paragraph 1 of Article 13 (Gains), over the interest paid by that company, shall be deemed to arise in that other Contracting State and to be beneficially owned by a resident of the first-mentioned

Contracting State. The tax imposed under this Article on such interest shall not exceed the rates provided in paragraphs 1 through 3 of this Article.

8. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payor 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 that would have been agreed upon by the payor 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 Contracting 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 beneficial owner of the royalties is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 5 percent of the gross amount of the royalties.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article:

a) a royalty arising in a Contracting State and beneficially owned by a resident of the other Contracting State that is a connected person with respect to the payor of the royalty may be taxed in the first-mentioned Contracting State in accordance with domestic law if such resident benefits from a special tax regime with respect to the royalty in its Contracting State of residence; and

b) in the case of the United States, royalties paid by an expatriated entity, as defined in Section 7874(a)(2)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code on the date of signature of this Convention and in the regulations that are or may be promulgated under Section 7874 with respect to that definition, and beneficially owned by a company resident in Croatia that is a connected person with respect to such expatriated entity may be taxed in accordance with the law of the United States for a period of ten years beginning on the date on which the acquisition of the domestic entity is completed. For purposes of applying this paragraph, no entity shall be treated as an expatriated entity if:

i) it is a connected person with respect to the domestic entity immediately after the date on which the acquisition of the domestic entity is completed; and

ii) prior to that date, it was never a connected person with respect to the domestic entity.

However, an entity described in the preceding sentence shall become an expatriated entity if, subsequent to the date on which the acquisition of the domestic entity is completed, the entity joins in filing a U.S. consolidated return with either the domestic entity or another entity that was a connected person with respect to the domestic entity immediately prior to the date on which the acquisition of the domestic entity was completed.

4. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 of this Article, in the case of a company seeking to satisfy the requirements of paragraph 4 of Article 22 (Limitation on Benefits) of this Convention regarding a royalty, if such company fails to satisfy the criteria of that paragraph solely by reason of the requirement in subclause (B) of clause (i) of subparagraph (e) of paragraph 7 of Article 22 (Limitation on Benefits) of this Convention, such company may be taxed in the Contracting State in which the royalty arises and according to the laws of that Contracting State, except that the tax so charged shall not exceed the highest rate among the rates of tax to which persons described in subparagraph (e) of paragraph 7 of Article 22 (Limitation on Benefits) of this Convention (notwithstanding the requirement of subclause (B) of clause (i) of subparagraph (e) of paragraph 7 of Article 22 (Limitation on Benefits)) would have been entitled if such persons had received the royalty directly. For purposes of this paragraph, a person described in clause (iii) of subparagraph (e) of paragraph 7 of Article 22 (Limitation on Benefits) shall be treated as entitled to the limitation of tax to which such person would be entitled if such person were a resident of the same Contracting State as the company receiving the royalties.

5. The term "royalty" as used in this Convention means payments of any kind received as consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic, scientific or other work (including cinematographic films), any patent, trademark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience.

6. The provisions of paragraphs 1 through 4 of this Article 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 and the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case the provisions of Article 7 (Business Profits) shall apply.

7. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when they are in consideration for the use of, or the right to use, property, information or experience in that Contracting State.

8. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payor 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 that would have been agreed upon by the payor 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 13

GAINS

1. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of real property (immovable property) situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. For the purposes of this Article the term "real property (immovable property) situated in the other Contracting State" shall include:

- a) real property (immovable property) referred to in Article 6 (Income from Real Property (Immovable Property));
- b) where that other Contracting State is the United States, a United States real property interest; and
- c) where that other Contracting State is Croatia,
 - i) shares, including rights to acquire shares, other than shares in which there is regular trading on a stock exchange, deriving 50 percent or more of their value directly or indirectly from real property referred to in subparagraph (a) of this paragraph situated in Croatia; and
 - ii) an interest in a partnership or trust to the extent that the assets of the partnership or trust consist of real property situated in Croatia, or of shares referred to in clause (i) of this subparagraph.

3. Gains from the alienation of movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment that an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State, including such gains from the alienation of such a permanent establishment (alone or with the whole enterprise), may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

4. Gains derived by an enterprise of a Contracting State from the alienation of ships or aircraft operated or used in international traffic or personal property pertaining to the operation or use of such ships or aircraft shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

5. Gains derived by an enterprise of a Contracting State from the alienation of containers (including trailers, barges and related equipment for the transport of containers) used for the transport of goods or merchandise shall be taxable only in that Contracting State, unless those containers are used for transport solely between places within the other Contracting State.

6. Gains from the alienation of any property other than property referred to in paragraphs 1 through 5 of this Article shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the alienator is a resident.

7. Where an individual who, upon ceasing to be a resident (as determined under paragraph 1 of Article 4 (Resident)) of one of the Contracting States, is treated under the taxation law of that Contracting State as having alienated property for its fair market value and is taxed in that Contracting State by reason thereof, the individual may elect to be treated for purposes of taxation in the other Contracting State as if the individual had, immediately before ceasing to be a resident of the first-mentioned Contracting State, alienated and reacquired such property for an amount equal to its fair market value at such time.

Article 14

INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 15 (Directors' Fees), 17 (Pensions, Social Security, Annuities, Alimony, and Child Support) and 19 (Government Service), 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 Contracting 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 Contracting State.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, 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 Contracting State if:

- a) the recipient is present in the other Contracting State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days for any twelve-month period commencing or ending in the taxable year concerned;
- b) the remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not a resident of the other Contracting State; and
- c) the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment that the employer has in the other Contracting State.

3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration described in paragraph 1 of this Article that is derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment as a member of the regular complement of a ship or aircraft operated in international traffic shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

Article 15

DIRECTORS' FEES

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

Article 16

ENTERTAINERS AND SPORTSMEN

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 14 (Income from Employment), income derived by a resident of a Contracting State as an entertainer, such as a theater, 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 Contracting State, except where the amount of the gross receipts derived by such entertainer or sportsman, including expenses reimbursed to him or borne on his behalf, from such activities does not exceed thirty thousand United States dollars (30,000) or its equivalent in Croatia for the taxable year of the payment.

2. Where income in respect of 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, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 14 (Income from Employment), may be taxed in the Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or sportsman are exercised unless the contract pursuant to which the personal activities are performed allows that other person to designate the individual who is to perform the personal activities.

Article 17

PENSIONS, SOCIAL SECURITY, ANNUITIES, ALIMONY, AND CHILD SUPPORT

1.
 - a) Pensions and other similar remuneration paid by a pension fund established in a Contracting State to an individual resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State. However, such pensions and other similar remuneration may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which the pension fund is established and according to the laws of that State, but if the beneficial owner of the pensions and other similar remuneration is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 percent of the gross amount of the payment.
 - b) Notwithstanding subparagraph (a) of this paragraph, the amount of any such pension or other similar remuneration when paid by a pension fund shall be exempt from taxation in the Contracting State of which the beneficial owner is a resident if such pension or other similar remuneration would have been exempt from taxation in the Contracting State in which the pension fund is established if the beneficial owner were a resident thereof. This subparagraph shall apply only if the beneficial owner was a resident of the Contracting State in which the pension fund is established when such beneficial owner first contributed to or participated in the pension fund, or in the case of a beneficial owner who obtained an interest in the pension fund or similar remuneration by reason of the death of the individual who first participated in the pension fund, such deceased individual was a resident of the Contracting State in which the pension fund is established when such individual first contributed to or participated in the pension fund.
2.
 - a) Where an individual who is a resident of a Contracting State is a member or beneficiary of, or participant in, a pension fund established in the other Contracting State, income earned by the pension fund may not be taxed as income of that individual, unless, and then only to the extent that, it is paid to, or for the benefit of, that individual from the pension fund (and not transferred to another pension fund established in that other Contracting State in a transfer that qualifies as a tax-deferred transfer under the laws of that other Contracting State). In such case, the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article shall apply. This subparagraph shall apply only if the individual was a resident of the Contracting State in which the pension fund is established when such individual first contributed to or participated in the pension fund, or in the case of a beneficiary who obtained an interest in the pension fund or similar remuneration by reason of the death of the individual who first participated in the pension fund, such deceased individual was a resident of the Contracting State in which the pension fund is established when such deceased individual first contributed to or participated in the pension fund.
 - b) Where a citizen of the United States who is a resident of Croatia is a member or beneficiary of, or participant in, a pension fund established in Croatia the United States may not tax the income earned by the pension fund as income of the individual unless, and then only to the extent that, it is paid to, or for the benefit of, that individual from the pension fund (and not transferred to another pension fund established in Croatia in a transfer that qualifies as a tax-deferred transfer under the laws of Croatia).
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, payments made by a Contracting State under provisions of the social security or similar legislation of that Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State or to a citizen of the United States shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned Contracting State.

4. Annuities derived and beneficially owned by an individual resident of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that Contracting State. The term "annuities" as used in this paragraph means a stated sum paid periodically at stated times during a specified number of years, or for life, under an obligation to make the payments in return for adequate and full consideration (other than services rendered).

5. Alimony paid by a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall be exempt from tax in both Contracting States. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, if the payor is entitled to a deduction for the alimony, such alimony may only be taxed in the Contracting State of which the recipient of the alimony is a resident. The term "alimony" as used in this paragraph means periodic payments made pursuant to a written separation agreement or a decree of divorce, separate maintenance, or compulsory support.

6. Periodic payments, not dealt with in paragraph 5 of this Article, for the support of a child made pursuant to a written separation agreement or a decree of divorce, separate maintenance, or compulsory support, paid by a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State, shall be exempt from tax in both Contracting States.

Article 18

CONTRIBUTIONS TO PENSION FUNDS

1. Where an individual is, or was immediately before exercising employment or self-employment in a Contracting State, a resident of the other Contracting State and is a member or beneficiary of, or participant in, a pension fund established in the other Contracting State:

- a) contributions paid by or on behalf of that individual to the pension fund during the period that he exercises an employment or self-employment in the first-mentioned Contracting State shall be deductible (or excludible) in computing the individual's taxable income in that first-mentioned Contracting State; and
- b) any benefits accrued under the pension fund, or contributions made to the pension fund by or on behalf of the individual's employer, during that period shall not be treated as part of the employee's taxable income and any such contributions shall be allowed as a deduction in computing the taxable income of the individual's employer in the first-mentioned Contracting State.

The relief available under this paragraph shall not exceed the lesser of the relief that is available in either Contracting State to its residents for contributions to, or benefits accrued under, a pension fund established in that Contracting State.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article shall not apply unless:

- a) contributions by or on behalf of the individual, or by or on behalf of the individual's employer, to the pension fund (or to another similar pension fund established in the same Contracting State for which the first-mentioned pension fund was substituted) were made before the individual began to exercise an employment or self-employment in the first-mentioned Contracting State in paragraph 1 of this Article; and
- b) the competent authority of the first-mentioned Contracting State in paragraph 1 of this Article has determined that the pension fund generally corresponds to a pension fund established in that Contracting State.

3. a) Where a citizen of the United States who is a resident of Croatia exercises an employment in Croatia, the income from which is taxable in Croatia, the contribution is borne by an employer who is a resident of Croatia or by a permanent establishment situated in Croatia, and the individual is a member or beneficiary of, or participant in, a pension fund established in Croatia:
 - i) contributions paid by or on behalf of that individual to the pension fund during the period that the individual exercises the employment in Croatia and that are attributable to the employment, shall be deductible (or excludible) in computing the individual's taxable income in the United States; and
 - ii) any benefits accrued under the pension fund, or contributions made to the pension fund by or on behalf of the individual's employer, during that period, and that are attributable to the employment, shall not be included in computing the employee's taxable income in the United States.
- b) The relief available under this paragraph shall not exceed the lesser of:
 - i) the relief that would be allowed by the United States to its residents for contributions to, or benefits accrued under, a generally corresponding pension fund established in the United States; and
 - ii) the amount of contributions or benefits that qualify for tax relief in Croatia.
- c) For purposes of determining an individual's eligibility to participate in and receive tax benefits with respect to a pension fund established in the United States, contributions made to, or benefits accrued under, a pension fund established in Croatia shall be treated as contributions or benefits under a generally corresponding pension fund established in the United States to the extent relief is available to the individual under this paragraph.
- d) This paragraph shall not apply unless the competent authority of the United States has agreed that the pension fund generally corresponds to a pension fund established in the United States.

Article 19

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 14 (Income from Employment), 15 (Directors' Fees), 16 (Entertainers and Sportsmen) and 20 (Students and Trainees):
 - a) salaries, wages and other remuneration, other than a pension, paid to an individual in respect of services rendered to a Contracting State or a political subdivision or local authority thereof shall, subject to the provisions of subparagraph (b) of this paragraph, be taxable only in that Contracting State;
 - b) such remuneration, however, shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the services are rendered in that Contracting State and the individual is a resident of that Contracting State who :

- i) is a national of that Contracting State; or
- ii) did not become a resident of that Contracting State solely for the purpose of rendering the services.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 17 (Pensions, Social Security, Annuities, Alimony, and Child Support):

a) any pension and other similar remuneration paid by, or out of funds created by, a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that Contracting State or subdivision or authority (other than a payment to which paragraph 3 of Article 17 (Pensions, Social Security, Annuities, Alimony, and Child Support) applies) shall, subject to the provisions of subparagraph (b) of this paragraph, be taxable only in that Contracting State;

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

3. The provisions of Articles 14 (Income from Employment), 15 (Directors' Fees), 16 (Entertainers and Sportsmen) and 17 (Pensions, Social Security, Annuities, Alimony, and Child Support) shall apply to salaries, wages and other similar remuneration, and to pensions and other similar remuneration, in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof.

Article 20

STUDENTS AND TRAINEES

1. Payments, other than remuneration for personal services, received by a student or business 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 Contracting State for the purpose of his full-time education or for his full-time training, shall not be taxed in that Contracting State, provided that such payments arise outside that Contracting State, and are for the purpose of his maintenance, education or training. The exemption from tax provided by this paragraph shall apply to a business trainee only for a period of time not exceeding twelve months from the date the business trainee first arrives in the first-mentioned Contracting State for the purpose of training.

2. A student or business trainee described in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be exempt from tax by the Contracting State in which the individual is temporarily present with respect to income from personal services in an aggregate amount equal to ten thousand United States dollars (10,000) or its equivalent in Croatia for the taxable year of the payment. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may adjust the amount provided in this paragraph to the extent necessary to take into account changes in the personal exemption, standard deduction or filing thresholds in the domestic laws of either Contracting State.

3. For purposes of this Article, a business trainee is an individual:

- a) who is temporarily in a Contracting State for the purpose of securing training required to qualify the individual to practice a profession or professional specialty; or

b) who is temporarily in a Contracting State as an employee of, or under contract with, a resident of the other Contracting State, for the primary purpose of acquiring technical, professional or business experience from a person other than that resident of the other Contracting State (or a connected person with respect to such resident of the other Contracting State).

Article 21

OTHER INCOME

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

2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 of this Article:

a) a guarantee fee arising in a Contracting State and characterized as other income by that Contracting State and beneficially owned by a resident of the other Contracting State that is a connected person with respect to the payor of the guarantee fee may be taxed in the first-mentioned Contracting State in accordance with domestic law if such resident benefits from a special tax regime with respect to the guarantee fee in its Contracting State of residence; and

b) in the case of the United States, a guarantee fee characterized as other income paid by an expatriated entity, as defined in Section 7874(a)(2)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code on the date of signature of this Convention and in the regulations that are or may be promulgated under Section 7874, and beneficially owned by a company resident in Croatia that is a connected person with respect to such expatriated entity may be taxed in accordance with the law of the United States for a period of ten years beginning on the date on which the acquisition of the domestic entity is completed. For purposes of applying this paragraph, no entity shall be treated as an expatriated entity if:

i) it is a connected person with respect to the domestic entity immediately after the date on which the acquisition of the domestic entity is completed; and

ii) prior to that date, it was never a connected person with respect to the domestic entity.

However, an entity described in the preceding sentence shall become an expatriated entity if, subsequent to the date on which the acquisition of the domestic entity is completed, the entity joins in filing a U.S. consolidated return with either the domestic entity or another entity that was a connected person with respect to the domestic entity immediately prior to the date on which the acquisition of the domestic entity was completed.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall not apply to income, other than income from real property (immovable property) as defined in paragraph 2 of Article 6 (Income from Real Property (Immovable Property)), if the beneficial owner of the income, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein and the right or property in respect of which the income is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment. In such case the provisions of Article 7 (Business Profits) shall apply.

Article 22

LIMITATION ON BENEFITS

1. Except as otherwise provided in this Article and in paragraph 6 of Article 10 (Dividends), paragraph 3 of Article 11 (Interest) and paragraph 3 of Article 12 (Royalties), a resident of a Contracting State shall not be entitled to the benefits of this Convention otherwise accorded to residents of a Contracting State (other than a benefit under paragraph 2 of Article 9 (Associated Enterprises) or Article 25 (Mutual Agreement Procedure) unless such resident is a "qualified person" as defined in paragraph 2 of this Article at the time when the benefit would be accorded.

2. A resident of a Contracting State shall be a qualified person at the time when a benefit otherwise would be accorded by this Convention if, at that time and, with respect to clause (i) of subparagraph (f) of this paragraph, on at least half of the days of any twelve-month period that includes the date when the benefit otherwise would be accorded, the resident is:

- a) an individual;
- b) a Contracting State, political subdivision or local authority thereof, or an agency or instrumentality of that Contracting State, political subdivision or local authority;
- c) a company, if the principal class of its shares (and any disproportionate class of shares) is regularly traded on one or more recognized stock exchanges, and either:
 - i) its principal class of shares is primarily traded on one or more recognized stock exchanges located in the Contracting State of which the company is a resident; or
 - ii) the company's primary place of management and control is in the Contracting State of which it is a resident;
- d) a company, if:
 - i) at least 50 percent of the aggregate vote and value of the shares (and at least 50 percent of the aggregate vote and value of any disproportionate class of shares) in the company is owned directly or indirectly by five or fewer companies entitled to benefits under subparagraph (c) of this paragraph, provided that, in the case of indirect ownership, each intermediate owner is a resident of the Contracting State from which a benefit under this Convention is being sought or is a qualifying intermediate owner; and
 - ii) with respect to benefits under this Convention other than under Article 10 (Dividends), less than 50 percent of the company's gross income, and less than 50 percent of the tested group's gross income, is paid or accrued, directly or indirectly, in the form of payments that are deductible for purposes of the taxes covered by this Convention in the company's Contracting State of residence (but not including arm's length payments in the ordinary course of business for services or tangible property, and in the case of a tested group, not including intra- group transactions): (A) to persons that are not residents of either Contracting State entitled to the benefits of this Convention under subparagraph

(a), (b), (c) or (e) of this paragraph; (B) to persons that are connected persons with respect to the company described in this subparagraph and that benefit from a special tax regime with respect to the deductible payment; or (C) with respect to a payment of interest, to persons that are connected persons with respect to the company described in this subparagraph and that benefit from notional deductions described in subparagraph (e) of paragraph 2 of Article 11 (Interest);

- e) a person described in paragraph 2 of Article 4 (Resident) of this Convention, provided that:
 - i) in the case of a person described in subclause (A) of clause (ii) of subparagraph (k) of paragraph 1 of Article 3 (General Definitions), more than 50 percent of the person's beneficiaries, members or participants are individuals resident in either Contracting State; and
 - ii) in the case of a person described in subclause (B) of clause (ii) of subparagraph (k) of paragraph 1 of Article 3 (General Definitions), the earnings of such person benefit exclusively, or almost exclusively, pension funds that satisfy the requirements of clause (i) of this subparagraph;
- f) a person other than an individual or person described in subparagraph (g), if:
 - i) persons that are residents of that Contracting State entitled to the benefits of this Convention under subparagraph (a), (b), (c) or (e) of this paragraph own, directly or indirectly, shares or other beneficial interests representing at least 50 percent of the aggregate vote and value (and at least 50 percent of the aggregate vote and value of any disproportionate class of shares) of the shares or other beneficial interests of such person, provided that, in the case of indirect ownership, each intermediate owner is a qualifying intermediate owner; and
 - ii) less than 50 percent of the person's gross income, and less than 50 percent of the tested group's gross income, is paid or accrued, directly or indirectly, in the form of payments that are deductible for purposes of the taxes covered by this Convention in the person's Contracting State of residence (but not including arm's length payments in the ordinary course of business for services or tangible property, and in the case of a tested group, not including intra-group transactions): (A) to persons that are not residents of either Contracting State entitled to the benefits of this Convention under subparagraph (a), (b), (c) or (e) of this paragraph; (B) to persons that are connected persons with respect to the person described in this subparagraph and that benefit from a special tax regime with respect to the deductible payment; or (C) with respect to a payment of interest, to persons that are connected persons with respect to the person described in this subparagraph and that benefit from notional deductions described in subparagraph (e) of paragraph 2 of Article 11 (Interest); or
- g) a person that is a voluntary pension insurance scheme based on individual capitalized savings established under the "Act on Voluntary Pension Funds" as such law existed on the date of signature of this Convention, provided that at least 90 percent of the person's members are individuals resident in Croatia.

3. a) A resident of a Contracting State shall be entitled to benefits under this Convention with respect to an item of income derived from the other Contracting State, regardless of whether the resident is a qualified person, if the resident is engaged in the active conduct of a trade or business in the first-mentioned Contracting State, and the income derived from the other Contracting State emanates from, or is incidental to, that trade or business. For purposes of this Article, the term "active conduct of a trade or business" shall not include the following activities or any combination thereof:

- i) operating as a holding company;
- ii) providing overall supervision or administration of a group of companies;
- iii) providing group financing (including cash pooling); or
- iv) making or managing investments, unless these activities are carried on by a bank, insurance company or registered securities dealer in the ordinary course of its business as such.

b) If a resident of a Contracting State derives an item of income from a trade or business activity conducted by that resident in the other Contracting State, or derives an item of income arising in the other Contracting State from a connected person, the conditions described in subparagraph (a) of this paragraph shall be considered to be satisfied with respect to such item only if the trade or business activity conducted by the resident in the first-mentioned Contracting State to which the item is related is substantial in relation to the same or complementary trade or business activity carried on by the resident or such connected person in the other Contracting State. Whether a trade or business activity is substantial for the purposes of this paragraph shall be determined based on all the facts and circumstances.

c) For purposes of applying this paragraph, activities conducted by connected persons with respect to a resident of a Contracting State shall be deemed to be conducted by such resident.

4. A company that is a resident of a Contracting State shall be entitled to a benefit under this Convention, regardless of whether the resident is a qualified person if, at the time when the benefit would be accorded, and with respect to subparagraph (a) of this paragraph, on at least half of the days of any twelve-month period that includes the date when the benefit otherwise would be accorded:

a) at least 95 percent of the aggregate vote and value of its shares (and at least 50 percent of any disproportionate class of shares) is owned, directly or indirectly, by seven or fewer persons that are equivalent beneficiaries, provided that, in the case of indirect ownership, each intermediate owner is a qualifying intermediate owner; and

b) less than 50 percent of the company's gross income, and less than 50 percent of the tested group's gross income, is paid or accrued, directly or indirectly, in the form of payments that are deductible for purposes of the taxes covered by this Convention in the company's Contracting State of residence (but not including arm's length payments in the ordinary course of business for services or tangible property, and in the case of a tested group, not including intra-group transactions): (i) to persons that are not equivalent beneficiaries; (ii) to persons that are equivalent

beneficiaries only by reason of paragraph 5 of this Article or of a substantially similar provision in the relevant comprehensive convention for the avoidance of double taxation; (iii) to persons that are equivalent beneficiaries that are connected persons with respect to the company described in this paragraph and that benefit from a special tax regime with respect to the deductible payment, provided that if the relevant comprehensive convention for the avoidance of double taxation does not contain a definition of a special tax regime analogous to the definition in subparagraph (1) of paragraph 1 of Article 3 (General Definitions), the principles of the definition provided in this Convention shall apply, but without regard to the requirement in clause (v) of that definition; or (iv) with respect to a payment of interest, to persons that are equivalent beneficiaries that are connected persons with respect to the company described in this paragraph and that benefit from notional deductions of the type described in subparagraph (e) of paragraph 2 of Article 11 (Interest).

5. A company that is a resident of a Contracting State that functions as a headquarters company for a multinational corporate group consisting of such company and its direct and indirect subsidiaries shall be entitled to benefits under this Convention with respect to dividends and interest paid by members of its multinational corporate group, regardless of whether the resident is a qualified person. A company shall be considered a headquarters company for this purpose only if:

- a) such company's primary place of management and control is in the Contracting State of which it is a resident;
- b) the multinational corporate group consists of companies resident in, and engaged in the active conduct of a trade or business in, at least four states, and the trades or businesses carried on in each of the four states (or four groupings of states) generate at least 10 percent of the gross income of the group;
- c) the trades or businesses of the multinational corporate group that are carried on in any one state other than the Contracting State of residence of such company generate less than 50 percent of the gross income of the group;
- d) no more than 25 percent of such company's gross income is derived from the other Contracting State;
- e) such company is subject to the same income taxation rules in its Contracting State of residence as persons described in paragraph 3 of this Article; and
- f) less than 50 percent of such company's gross income, and less than 50 percent of the tested group's gross income, is paid or accrued, directly or indirectly, in the form of payments that are deductible for purposes of the taxes covered by this Convention in the company's Contracting State of residence (but not including arm's length payments in the ordinary course of business for services or tangible property or payments in respect of financial obligations to a bank that is not a connected person with respect to such company, and in the case of a tested group, not including intra-group transactions): (i) to persons that are not residents of either Contracting State entitled to the benefits of this Convention under subparagraph (a), (b), (c) or (e) of paragraph 2 of this Article; (ii) to persons that are connected persons with respect to such company and that benefit from a special tax regime with respect to the deductible payment; or (iii) with respect to a payment of interest, to persons that are connected persons with respect to such company and that benefit from notional deductions described in subparagraph (e) of paragraph 2 of Article 11 (Interest).

If the requirements of subparagraph (b), (c) or (d) of this paragraph are not fulfilled for the relevant taxable year, they shall be deemed to be fulfilled if the required ratios are met when averaging the gross income of the preceding four taxable years.

6. If a resident of a Contracting State is neither a qualified person pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article, nor entitled to benefits under paragraph 3, 4 or 5 of this Article, the competent authority of the other Contracting State may, nevertheless, grant the benefits of this Convention, or benefits with respect to a specific item of income, taking into account the object and purpose of this Convention, but only if such resident demonstrates to the satisfaction of such competent authority a substantial nontax nexus to its Contracting State of residence and that neither its establishment, acquisition or maintenance, nor the conduct of its operations had as one of its principal purposes the obtaining of benefits under this Convention. The competent authority of the Contracting State to which a request has been made shall consult with the competent authority of the other Contracting State before either granting or denying the request made under this paragraph by a resident of that other Contracting State.

7. For the purposes of this Article:

a) the term "recognized stock exchange" means:

i) any stock exchange registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission as a national securities exchange under the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934;

ii) the Zagreb Stock Exchange; and

iii) any other stock exchange agreed upon by the competent authorities of the Contracting States;

b) the term "principal class of shares" means the ordinary or common shares of the company, provided that such class of shares represents the majority of the aggregate vote and value of the company. If no single class of ordinary or common shares represents the majority of the aggregate vote and value of the company, the "principal class of shares" are those classes that in the aggregate represent a majority of the aggregate vote and value of the company;

c) the term "disproportionate class of shares" means any class of shares of a company, or in the case of a trust, any class of beneficial interests in such trust, resident in one of the Contracting States that entitles the shareholder or interest holder to disproportionately higher participation, through dividends, redemption payments or otherwise, in the earnings generated in the other Contracting State;

d) a company's "primary place of management and control" is in the Contracting State of which it is a resident only if:

i) the executive officers and senior management employees of the company exercise day-to-day responsibility for more of the strategic, financial and operational policy decision-making for the company and its direct and indirect subsidiaries in that Contracting State, and the staff of such persons conduct more of the day-to-day activities necessary for preparing and making those decisions in that Contracting State, than in any other state; and

- ii) such executive officers and senior management employees exercise day-to-day responsibility for more of the strategic, financial and operational policy decision-making for the company and its direct and indirect subsidiaries, and the staff of such persons conduct more of the day-to-day activities necessary for preparing and making those decisions, than the officers or employees of any other company;
- e) the term "equivalent beneficiary" means:
 - i) a resident of any state, provided that:
 - A) the resident is entitled to all the benefits of a comprehensive convention for the avoidance of double taxation between that state and the Contracting State from which the benefits of this Convention are sought, under provisions substantially similar to subparagraph (a), (b), (c) or (e) of paragraph 2 of this Article or, when the benefit being sought is with respect to interest or dividends paid by a member of the resident's multinational corporate group, the resident is entitled to benefits under provisions substantially similar to paragraph 5 of this Article, provided that, if such convention does not contain a comprehensive limitation on benefits article, the provisions of this Article were contained in such convention. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, an individual (1) who is liable to tax in his or her state of residence with respect to foreign source income or gains only on a remittance or similar basis, or (2) whose tax is determined in that state, in whole or in part, on a fixed-fee, "forfait" or similar basis, shall not be considered an equivalent beneficiary; and
 - B) 1) with respect to income referred to in Article 10 (Dividends), 11 (Interest) or 12 (Royalties) of this Convention, if the resident had received such income directly, the resident would be entitled under such convention, a provision of domestic law or any other international agreement, to a rate of tax with respect to such income for which benefits are being sought under this Convention that is less than or equal to the rate applicable under this Convention. Regarding a company seeking benefits under paragraph 4 of this Article with respect to Article 10 (Dividends), for purposes of this subclause:
 - I) if the resident is an individual, and the company is engaged in the active conduct of a trade or business in its Contracting State of residence that is substantial in relation, and similar or complementary, to the trade or business that generated the earnings from which the income is paid, such individual shall be treated as if he or she were a company described in subparagraph (c) of paragraph 2 of this Article. Activities conducted by a person that is a connected person with respect to the company seeking benefits shall be deemed to be conducted by such company. Whether a trade or business activity is substantial shall be determined based on all the facts and circumstances; and
 - II) if the resident is a company (including an individual treated as a company), to determine whether the resident is entitled to a rate of tax that is less than or equal to the rate

applicable under this Convention, the resident's indirect ownership of the shares of the company paying the dividends shall be treated as direct ownership; or

2) with respect to an item of income, profit or gain referred to in Article 7 (Business Profits), 13 (Gains) or 21 (Other Income) of this Convention, the resident is entitled to benefits under such convention that are at least as favorable as the benefits that are being sought under this Convention; and

C) notwithstanding that a resident may satisfy the requirements of subclauses (A) and (B) of this clause, where the item of income, profit or gain has been derived through an entity that is treated as wholly or partly fiscally transparent under the laws of the Contracting State of the company seeking benefits, if the item of income, profit or gain would not be treated as the income, profit or gain of the resident under a provision analogous to paragraph 6 of Article 1 (General Scope) of this Convention had the resident, and not the company seeking benefits under paragraph 4 of this Article, itself owned the entity through which the income, profit or gain was derived by the company, such resident shall not be considered an equivalent beneficiary with respect to the item of income;

ii) a resident of the same Contracting State as the company seeking benefits under paragraph 4 of this Article that is entitled to all the benefits of this Convention by reason of subparagraph (a), (b), (c) or (e) of paragraph 2 of this Article or, when the benefit being sought is with respect to interest or dividends paid by a member of the resident's multinational corporate group, the resident is entitled to benefits under paragraph 5 of this Article, provided that, in the case of a resident described in paragraph 5 of this Article, if the resident had received such interest or dividends directly, the resident would be entitled to a rate of tax with respect to such income that is less than or equal to the rate applicable under this Convention to the company seeking benefits under paragraph 4 of this Article; or

iii) a resident of the Contracting State from which the benefits of this Convention are sought that is entitled to all the benefits of this Convention by reason of subparagraph (a), (b), (c) or (e) of paragraph 2 of this Article, provided that all such residents' ownership of the aggregate vote and value of the shares (and any disproportionate class of shares) of the company seeking benefits under paragraph 4 of this Article does not exceed 25 percent of the total vote and value of the shares (and any disproportionate class of shares) of the company.

f) the term "qualifying intermediate owner" means an intermediate owner that is either:

i) a resident of a state that has in effect with the Contracting State from which a benefit under this Convention is being sought a comprehensive convention for the avoidance of double taxation and that does not benefit from either (A) a special tax regime, provided that if the relevant comprehensive convention for the avoidance of double taxation does not contain a definition of a special tax regime analogous to the definition in subparagraph (1) of paragraph 1 of Article 3 (General Definitions), the principles of the definition provided in this Convention shall apply, but without regard to the requirement in clause (v) of that definition; or (B) notional interest deductions of the type described in subparagraph (e) of paragraph 2 of Article 11 (Interest); or

- ii) a resident of the same Contracting State as the company applying the test under subparagraph (d) or (f) of paragraph 2 or paragraph 4 of this Article to determine whether it is eligible for benefits under the Convention;
- g) the term "tested group" means the resident of a Contracting State that is applying the test under subparagraph (d) or (f) of paragraph 2 of this Article or paragraph 4 or 5 of this Article to determine whether it is eligible for benefits under the Convention (the "tested resident"), and any company or permanent establishment that:
 - i) participates as a member with the tested resident in a tax consolidation, fiscal unity or similar regime that requires members of the group to share profits or losses; or
 - ii) shares losses with the tested resident pursuant to a group relief or other loss sharing regime in the taxable year; and
- h) the term "gross income" means gross receipts as determined in the person's Contracting State of residence for the taxable year that includes the time when the benefit would be accorded, except that where a person is engaged in a business that includes the manufacture, production or sale of goods, "gross income" means such gross receipts reduced by the cost of goods sold, and where a person is engaged in a business of providing non-financial services, "gross income" means such gross receipts reduced by the direct costs of generating such receipts, provided that:
 - i) except when relevant for determining benefits under Article 10 (Dividends) of this Convention, gross income shall not include the portion of any dividends that are effectively exempt from tax in the person's Contracting State of residence, whether through deductions or otherwise; and
 - ii) except with respect to the portion of any dividend that is taxable, a tested group's gross income shall not take into account transactions between companies within the tested group.

Article 23

RELIEF FROM DOUBLE TAXATION

1. In the case of Croatia, double taxation will be relieved as follows:

Where a resident of Croatia derives income that, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, may be taxed in the United States, Croatia shall allow as a deduction from the tax on the income of that resident, an amount equal to the income tax paid in the United States.

Such deduction shall not, however, exceed that part of the income tax, as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable to the income which may be taxed in the United States.

2. In the case of the United States, to the extent allowed under the law of the United States (as it may be amended from time to time):

- a) the United States shall allow to a resident or citizen of the United States as a credit against the United States tax on income applicable to residents and citizens the income tax paid or accrued to Croatia by or on behalf of such resident or citizen; and

- b) in the case of a United States company owning at least 10 percent of the aggregate vote or value of the shares of a company that is a resident of Croatia and from which the United States company receives dividends, the United States shall allow a deduction in the amount of such dividends in computing the taxable income of the United States company.
3. For the purposes of applying subparagraph (a) of paragraph 2 of this Article:
- a) the taxes paid or accrued to Croatia that are referred to in subparagraph (a) of paragraph 3 of Article 2 (Taxes Covered) shall be considered income taxes; and
- b) an item of gross income, as determined under the law of the United States, derived by a resident or citizen of the United States that, under this Convention, may be taxed in Croatia shall be deemed to arise in Croatia.
4. Where a United States citizen is a resident of Croatia:
- a) with respect to items of income, profit or gain that under the provisions of this Convention are exempt from United States tax or that are subject to a reduced rate of United States tax when derived by a resident of Croatia who is not a United States citizen, Croatia shall allow as a credit against Croatia tax only the tax paid, if any, that the United States may impose under the provisions of this Convention other than taxes that may be imposed solely by reason of citizenship under paragraph 4 of Article 1 (General Scope);
- b) for purposes of applying subparagraph (a) of paragraph 2 of this Article to compute United States tax on those items of income, profit or gain referred to in subparagraph (a) of this paragraph, the United States shall allow as a credit against United States tax the income tax paid to Croatia after the credit referred to in subparagraph (a) of this paragraph; the credit so allowed shall not reduce the portion of the United States tax that is creditable against the Croatia tax in accordance with subparagraph (a) of this paragraph; and
- c) for the exclusive purpose of relieving double taxation in the United States under subparagraph (b) of this paragraph, items of income, profit or gain referred to in subparagraph (a) of this paragraph shall be deemed to arise in Croatia to the extent necessary to avoid double taxation of such income under subparagraph (b) of this paragraph.

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 that is more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which nationals of that other Contracting State in the same circumstances, in particular with respect to residence, are or may be subjected. This provision shall also apply to persons who are not residents of one or both of the Contracting States. However, for the purposes of United States taxation, United States nationals who are subject to tax on a worldwide basis are not in the same circumstances as nationals of Croatia who are not residents of the United States.

2. The taxation on a permanent establishment that an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State shall not be less favorably levied in that other Contracting State than the taxation levied on enterprises of that other Contracting State carrying on the same activities.
3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article 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 that it grants to its own residents.
4. Except where the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 9 (Associated Enterprises), paragraph 8 of Article 11 (Interest), or paragraph 7 of Article 12 (Royalties) 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 Contracting 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 the first-mentioned resident, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been contracted to a resident of the first-mentioned Contracting 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 Contracting State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith that is more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which other similar enterprises of the first-mentioned Contracting State are or may be subjected.
6. Nothing in this Article shall be construed as preventing either Contracting State from imposing a tax as described in paragraph 10 of Article 10 (Dividends) or paragraph 7 of Article 11 (Interest).
7. The provisions of this Article shall, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 2 (Taxes Covered), 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 such person in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, it may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the domestic law of those Contracting States, and the time limits prescribed in such laws for presenting claims for refund, present its case to the competent authority of one or both of the Contracting States. The case must be presented within six years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Convention.
2. The competent authority shall endeavor, 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 that is not in accordance with this Convention. Any agreement reached shall be implemented notwithstanding any time limits or other procedural limitations in the domestic law of the Contracting States. Assessment and collection procedures shall be suspended during the period that any mutual agreement proceeding is pending.

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

- a) to the same attribution of income, deductions, credits, or allowances of an enterprise of a Contracting State to its permanent establishment situated in the other Contracting State;
- b) to the same allocation of income, deductions, credits, or allowances between persons;
- c) to the settlement of conflicting applications of this Convention, including conflicts regarding:
 - i) the characterization of particular items of income;
 - ii) the characterization of persons;
 - iii) the application of source rules with respect to particular items of income;
 - iv) the meaning of any term used in this Convention;
 - v) the timing of particular items of income;
- d) to advance pricing arrangements; and
- e) to the application of the provisions of domestic law regarding penalties, fines, and interest in a manner consistent with the purposes of this Convention.

4. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may agree to increase any specific monetary amounts referred to in this Convention to reflect economic or monetary developments.

5. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may communicate with each other directly, including through a joint commission, for the purpose of reaching an agreement in the sense of the preceding paragraphs.

6. Where a person has presented a case to the competent authority of one or both of the Contracting States either:

- a) pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article on the basis that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States resulted or will result for that person in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Convention; or
- b) on a taxpayer-specific case regarding a matter described in paragraph 3 of this Article;

and the competent authorities are unable to reach agreement to resolve that case, and the conditions described in paragraph 7 of this Article are met, the case shall be resolved through arbitration conducted in the manner prescribed by paragraphs 7 through 9 of this Article and according to any rules or procedures agreed upon by the competent authorities of the Contracting States pursuant to paragraph 10 of this Article.

7. A case shall be submitted to arbitration on the earliest date on which all of the following conditions have been satisfied:

- a) at least two years have passed since the commencement date of such case, unless the competent authorities of the Contracting States have agreed to a different date and notified the presenter of the case of such agreement;
 - b) the presenter of the case has submitted a written request to the competent authority to which the case was presented for a resolution of the case through arbitration;
- and
- c) all concerned persons and their authorized representatives or agents have submitted to the competent authorities of both Contracting States written agreements not to disclose to any other person any information received during the course of the arbitration proceeding from either Contracting State or the arbitration panel, other than the determination of the panel.

A case shall not, however, be submitted to arbitration if a decision with respect to such case has already been rendered by a court or administrative tribunal of either Contracting State, or if the competent authorities of the Contracting States have agreed prior to the date on which the arbitration otherwise would be submitted that the particular case is not suitable for resolution through arbitration.

8. For the purposes of this Article, the following definitions shall apply:

- a) the term "presenter" means the person that has presented a case to the competent authority of one or both of the Contracting States either:
 - i) pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article on the basis that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for that person in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Convention; or
 - ii) on a taxpayer-specific case regarding a matter described in paragraph 3 of this Article;
- b) the term "concerned person" means the presenter and all other persons, if any, whose tax liability to either Contracting State may be directly affected by a mutual agreement to resolve a case submitted to arbitration pursuant to paragraph 7 of this Article; and
- c) the "commencement date" for a case means the earliest date on which the information necessary to undertake substantive consideration for a mutual agreement has been received by both competent authorities.

9. For the purposes of arbitrations under this Article, the following rules shall apply:

- a) The arbitration panel shall consist of three individual members. The competent authority of each Contracting State shall select one member of the arbitration panel. In the event that the competent authority of a Contracting State fails to select a member for the arbitration panel in the manner and within the time periods agreed by the competent authorities of the Contracting States pursuant to paragraph 10 of this Article, the competent authority of the other Contracting State shall select a second member. The two members of the arbitration panel who have been selected shall select the third

member, who shall serve as Chair of the arbitration panel. If the two initial members of the arbitration panel fail to select the Chair in the manner and within the time periods agreed by the competent authorities of the Contracting States pursuant to paragraph 10 of this Article, these members shall be dismissed, and each competent authority of the Contracting States shall select a new member of the arbitration panel. The Chair shall not be a national or lawful permanent resident of either Contracting State. The members appointed shall not be employees, nor have been employees within the twelve-month period prior to the date on which a case is submitted to arbitration, of the tax administration or the treasury department of the Contracting State that identified them. Furthermore, the members appointed shall not have any prior involvement with the specific matters at issue in the arbitration proceeding for which they are being considered as arbitrators.

b) The members of the arbitration panel and their staff shall be considered to be "persons or authorities" to whom information may be disclosed under Article 26 (Exchange of Information and Administrative Assistance) of this Convention.

c) All material received by a competent authority of a Contracting State in the course of, or relating to, an arbitration proceeding (including the arbitration panel's determination) shall be considered to be information exchanged between the Contracting States. Accordingly, no such information relating to an arbitration proceeding may be disclosed by the competent authorities of the Contracting States, except as permitted under Article 26 (Exchange of Information and Administrative Assistance). The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall ensure that members of the arbitration panel and their staff agree in writing to treat any information relating to the arbitration proceeding consistent with the confidentiality and nondisclosure provisions of Article 26 (Exchange of Information and Administrative Assistance) of this Convention and the applicable domestic laws of the Contracting States.

d) If at any time before the arbitration panel delivers a determination to the competent authorities of the Contracting States:

i) the competent authorities of the Contracting States reach a mutual agreement to resolve the case pursuant to this Article;

ii) the presenter of the case withdraws the request for arbitration;

iii) a decision concerning the case is rendered by a court or administrative tribunal of one of the Contracting States during the arbitration proceeding; or

iv) if any concerned person or their authorized representatives or agents violates the written nondisclosure statement required by subparagraph (c) of paragraph 7 of this Article, and the competent authorities of both Contracting States agree that such violation should result in the termination of the arbitration proceeding;

the mutual agreement procedure, including the arbitration proceeding, with respect to the case shall terminate.

e) After a case is submitted to arbitration, the presenter shall be permitted to submit to the competent authorities of both Contracting States for submission to the arbitration panel a paper setting forth the presenter's analysis and views of the case for consideration by the arbitration panel. Such submission must be submitted before

the date on which the competent authorities of the Contracting States are required to submit their position papers to the arbitration panel, and shall not include any information not previously provided to the competent authorities before the case was submitted to arbitration.

f) After a case is submitted to arbitration, the competent authority of each of the Contracting States shall be permitted to submit to the arbitration panel a position paper with a proposed resolution addressing each adjustment or similar issue raised in the case and shall simultaneously provide a copy of such position paper to the other competent authority. Such proposed resolution shall be a resolution of the entire case and shall reflect all agreements previously reached between the competent authorities of the Contracting States with respect to any adjustment or similar issue raised in the case. Such proposed resolution shall be limited to a disposition of specific monetary amounts (for example, of income, profit, gain or expense) or, where specified, the maximum rate of tax charged pursuant to the Convention for each adjustment or similar issue in the case. The competent authority of each of the Contracting States shall also be permitted to submit additional supporting papers for consideration by the arbitration panel, and shall simultaneously provide a copy of such supporting papers to the other competent authority. Neither a position paper nor an additional supporting paper shall contain information not previously disclosed by a competent authority during the negotiation of the case being submitted to arbitration.

g) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (f) of this paragraph, it is understood that, in the case of an arbitration proceeding concerning:

- i) the tax liability of an individual for which the competent authorities have been unable to reach agreement with respect to the individual's Contracting State of residence;
- ii) the taxation of the business profits of an enterprise with respect to which the competent authorities have been unable to reach an agreement on whether a permanent establishment exists; or
- iii) such other issues the determination of which are contingent on resolution of similar threshold questions;

the position paper may include positions regarding clause (i), (ii) or (iii) of this subparagraph, in addition to proposed resolutions limited to specific monetary amounts (for example, of income, profit, gain or expense) or, where specified, the maximum rate of tax charged pursuant to this Convention due as a consequence of the arbitration panel's determination regarding residency, the existence of a permanent establishment or other threshold questions.

h) Where an arbitration proceeding concerns a case comprising multiple adjustments or issues each requiring a disposition of specific monetary amounts of income, profit, gain or expense or, where specified, the maximum rate of tax charged pursuant to this Convention, the position paper may propose a separate disposition for each adjustment or similar issue.

i) Each competent authority shall be permitted to submit a reply to a position paper submitted by the other competent authority to the arbitration panel, and shall simultaneously provide the other competent authority with a copy of any such reply submitted to the arbitration panel.

j) The arbitration panel shall deliver a determination in writing to the competent authorities of the Contracting States. The determination reached by the arbitration panel in the arbitration proceeding shall be limited to one of the proposed resolutions for the case submitted by one of the competent authorities of the Contracting States for each adjustment or similar issue and any threshold questions, and shall not include a rationale or any other explanation of the determination. The determination of the arbitration panel shall have no precedential value with respect to the application of this Convention in any other case.

k) The determination of the arbitration panel with respect to a case submitted to arbitration shall constitute a resolution by mutual agreement under this Article and shall be binding on the Contracting States if it is accepted by all of the concerned persons. Unless the competent authorities of both Contracting States agree to a longer time period, the concerned persons shall have 45 days from the date they receive the determination of the arbitration panel to notify, in writing, the competent authority of the Contracting State to whom the case was presented of their acceptance of determination. In the event the case is pending in litigation, each concerned person that is a party to such litigation must also advise, within the same time frame, the relevant court of its acceptance of the determination of the arbitration panel and its intention to withdraw from the consideration of the court the issues resolved through the proceeding. If any concerned person fails to so advise the relevant competent authority and relevant court within this time frame, the determination of the arbitration panel shall be considered not to have been accepted by the concerned persons. Where the determination of the arbitration panel is not accepted, the case shall not be eligible for any subsequent further consideration by the competent authorities.

l) The fees and expenses of the members of the arbitration panel, as well as any costs incurred in connection with the proceeding by the Contracting States, shall be borne equitably by the competent authorities of the Contracting States.

10. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall agree in writing, before the first case is submitted to arbitration, on time periods and procedures that are consistent with paragraphs 6 through 9 of this Article for:

a) establishing when information necessary to undertake substantive consideration for a mutual agreement has been received by both competent authorities for purposes of determining the commencement date, and for notifying each other when such requirement has been satisfied;

b) notifying the presenter of any agreements that a case is not suitable for resolution through arbitration, or to change the date on which a case shall be submitted to arbitration;

c) the appropriate application of arbitration in the context of a request for an advanced pricing arrangement, including rules concerning the date on which a case may be submitted to arbitration;

d) obtaining the agreements of all concerned persons and their authorized representatives or agents not to disclose any information received during the course of the arbitration proceeding from the competent authority of either Contracting State or the arbitration panel, other than the determination of such panel pursuant to subparagraph (c) of paragraph 7 of this Article, and the agreements of the members of the arbitration panel and their staff to treat any information relating to the arbitration proceeding consistent

with the confidentiality and nondisclosure provisions of Article 26 (Exchange of Information and Administrative Assistance), as required by subparagraph (c) of paragraph 9 of this Article;

- e) the appointment of the members of the arbitration panel;
- f) the submission of position papers, supporting papers and reply submissions by the competent authorities of the Contracting States to the arbitration panel;
- g) the submission to the competent authorities of both Contracting States by the presenter of a paper setting forth the presenter's views and analysis of the case for consideration by the arbitration panel;
- h) the delivery by the arbitration panel of its determination to the competent authorities of the Contracting States;
- i) the acceptance or rejection by the concerned persons of the determination of the arbitration panel; and
- j) the adoption by the arbitration panel of any additional procedures necessary for the conduct of its business.

The competent authorities of the Contracting States may mutually agree in writing to modify their agreement concerning these time periods and procedures, as needed, and may further agree in writing on such other rules, time periods and procedures as may be necessary for the effective and timely implementation of an arbitration proceeding.

Article 26

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is foreseeably relevant for carrying out the provisions of this Convention or the domestic laws of the Contracting States concerning taxes of every kind imposed by a Contracting State to the extent that the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Convention, including information relating to the assessment or collection, or administration of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals in relation to, such taxes. The exchange of information is not restricted by paragraph 1 of Article 1 (General Scope) or Article 2 (Taxes Covered).

2. Any information received under this Article by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic law of that Contracting State and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) involved in the assessment, collection, or administration of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals in relation to, the taxes referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, or the oversight of such functions. 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. Notwithstanding the preceding sentences of this paragraph:

- (a) the competent authority of the Contracting State that receives information under the provisions of this Article may, with the written consent of the competent

authority of the Contracting State that provided the information, also make available that information for:

- (i) counter-terrorism purposes, but only if the information may be disclosed for such purposes under the domestic laws of the Contracting State that received the information;
- (ii) purposes permitted under the provisions of an international agreement governing legal assistance in criminal matters that is in force between the Contracting States that allows for the exchange of tax information; or
- (iii) other purposes, but only when the information may be used for the same or similar such purposes under the laws of both Contracting States; and

(b) the competent authority of a Contracting State may disclose information not relating to a particular person received under this Convention if it has determined, after consultation with the competent authority of the other Contracting State, that such disclosure would not impair tax administration (including the administration of this Convention).

3. In no case shall the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article 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 that is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State; or
- c) to supply information that 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.

4. If information is requested by a Contracting State in accordance with this Article, the other Contracting State shall use its information gathering measures to obtain the requested information, even though that other Contracting State may not need such information for its own tax purposes. The obligation contained in the preceding sentence is subject to the limitations of paragraph 3 of this Article but in no case shall such limitations be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because it has no domestic interest in such information.

5. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 3 of this Article be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because the information is held by a bank, other financial institution, nominee or person acting in an agency or a fiduciary capacity or because it relates to ownership interests in a person.

6. If specifically requested by the competent authority of a Contracting State, the competent authority of the other Contracting State shall provide information under this Article in the form of depositions of witnesses and authenticated copies of unedited original documents (including books, papers, statements, records, accounts, and writings).

7. Each of the Contracting States shall endeavor to collect on behalf of the other Contracting State such amounts as may be necessary to ensure that relief granted by the Convention from taxation imposed by that other Contracting State does not inure to the benefit of

persons not entitled thereto. This paragraph shall not impose upon either of the Contracting States the obligation to carry out administrative measures that would be contrary to its sovereignty, security, or public policy.

8. The requested Contracting State shall allow representatives of the requesting Contracting State to interview individuals and examine books and records in the requested Contracting State with the consent of the persons subject to examination.

9. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may develop an agreement or arrangement on the mode of application of this Article, including an agreement or arrangement to ensure comparable levels of assistance to each of the Contracting States, but in no case shall the lack of such agreement relieve a Contracting State of its obligations under this Article.

Article 27

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 28

SUBSEQUENT CHANGES IN LAW

1. If at any time after the signing of this Convention, a Contracting State reduces the general statutory rate of company tax that applies with respect to substantially all of the income of resident companies with the result that such rate falls below the lesser of either (a) 15 percent or (b) 60 percent of the highest general statutory rate of company tax applicable in the other Contracting State, or the first-mentioned Contracting State provides an exemption from taxation to resident companies for substantially all foreign source income (including interest and royalties), the Contracting States shall consult with a view to amending this Convention to restore an appropriate allocation of taxing rights between the Contracting States. If such consultations do not progress, the other Contracting State may notify the first-mentioned Contracting State through diplomatic channels that it shall cease to apply the provisions of Articles 10 (Dividends), 11 (Interest), 12 (Royalties) and 21 (Other Income). In such case, the provisions of such Articles shall cease to have effect in both Contracting States with respect to payments to resident companies six months after the date that the other Contracting State issues a **written public notification** stating that it shall cease to apply the provisions of Articles 10 (Dividends), 11 (Interest), 12 (Royalties) and 21 (Other Income).

2. For the purposes of determining the highest general statutory rate of company tax:

- a) the allowance of generally available deductions based on a percentage of what otherwise would be taxable income, and other similar mechanisms to achieve a reduction in the overall rate of tax, shall be taken into account; and
- b) the following shall not be taken into account:
 - i) a tax that applies to a company only upon a distribution by such company, or that applies to shareholders; and

- ii) the amount of a tax that is refundable upon the distribution by a company of a dividend.

Article 29

ENTRY INTO FORCE

1. This Convention shall be subject to ratification in accordance with the applicable procedures of each Contracting State. The Contracting States shall notify each other in writing, through diplomatic channels when their respective applicable procedures have been satisfied.
2. This Convention shall enter into force on the date of the later of the notifications referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article. This Convention shall have effect:
 - a) in respect of taxes withheld at source, for amounts paid or credited on or after the first day of the second month next following the date on which this Convention enters into force; and
 - b) in respect of other taxes, for taxable years beginning on or after the first day of January next following the date on which this Convention enters into force.
3. Notwithstanding paragraph 2 of this Article:
 - a) the provisions of paragraphs 6 through 10 of Article 25 (Mutual Agreement Procedure) of this Convention shall have effect with respect to:
 - i) cases that are under consideration by the competent authorities as of the date on which this Convention enters into force. For such cases, the commencement date shall be the date on which this Convention enters into force; and
 - ii) cases that come under consideration after the date on which this Convention enters into force; and
 - b) the provisions of Article 26 (Exchange of Information and Administrative Assistance) shall have effect from the date of entry into force of this Convention, without regard to the taxable year to which the matter relates.

Article 30

TERMINATION

This Convention shall remain in force until terminated by a Contracting State. Either Contracting State may terminate the Convention by giving notice of termination to the other Contracting State through diplomatic channels. In such event, this Convention shall terminate on the date of such notification. Notwithstanding such termination, this Convention shall cease to have effect:

- a) in respect of taxes withheld at source, for amounts paid or credited after the expiration of the six-month period beginning on the date on which notice of termination was given; and

b) in respect of other taxes, for taxable years beginning on or after the expiration of the six-month period beginning on the date on which notice of termination was given.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Convention.

DONE at _____ in duplicate, in the English and Croatian languages, both texts being equally authentic, this __ day of _____, 20__.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

**PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE PREVENTION OF
TAX EVASION
WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME**

On signing the Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Croatia for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Tax Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (the "Convention"), the two Governments have agreed to the following:

1. With reference to subparagraph (k) of paragraph 1 of Article 3 (General Definitions) of the Convention:

a) In the case of the United States, the term "pension fund" includes the following: a trust providing pension or retirement benefits under an Internal Revenue Code section 401(a) qualified pension plan (which includes a Code section 401(k) plan) and a profit sharing or stock bonus plan, a Code section 403(a) qualified annuity plan, a Code section 403(b) plan, a trust that is an individual retirement account under Code section 408, a Roth individual retirement account under Code section 408A, a simple retirement account under Code section 408(p), a trust providing pension or retirement benefits under a simplified employee pension plan under Code section 408(k), a trust described in section 457(g) providing pension or retirement benefits under a Code section 457(b) plan, and the Thrift Savings Fund (section 7701(j)). A group trust described in Revenue Ruling 81-100, as amended by Revenue Ruling 2014-24 and Revenue Ruling 2011-1, qualifies as a pension fund only if it is operated exclusively or almost exclusively to earn income for the benefit of pension funds that are themselves entitled to benefits under the Convention as a resident of the United States.

b) In the case of Croatia, the term "pension fund" includes a fund operating as a mandatory pension insurance scheme based on individual capitalized savings established under the "Act on Mandatory Pension Funds".

2. With reference to subparagraph (l) of paragraph 1 of Article 3 (General Definitions) of the Convention:

Except as provided below, the rate of taxation shall be determined based on the income tax principles of the Contracting State that has implemented the regime in question. In the case of a regime that provides only for a preferential rate of taxation, the generally expected rate of taxation under the regime shall equal such preferential rate. In the case of a regime that provides only for a permanent reduction in the tax base, the rate of taxation shall equal the statutory rate of company tax generally applicable in the Contracting State to companies subject to the regime in question less the product of such rate and the percentage reduction in the tax base (with the baseline tax base determined under the principles of the Contracting State, but without regard to any permanent reductions in the tax base described in subparagraph (l)(i)(B)) that the regime is generally expected to provide. For example, a regime that generally provides for a 20 percent permanent reduction in a company's tax base would have a rate of taxation equal to the applicable statutory rate of company tax reduced by 20 percent of such statutory rate. In the case of a regime that provides for both a preferential rate of taxation and a permanent reduction in the

tax base, the rate of taxation would be based on the preferential rate of taxation reduced by the product of such rate and the percentage reduction in the tax base.

3. If Croatia enacts legislation similar to section 59A or section 7874 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, or legislation establishing entities similar to a U.S. Regulated Investment Company (RIC) or a U.S. Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT), the Contracting States shall, at Croatia's request, consult to consider possible amendments to the Convention.

4. With respect to paragraph 1 of Article 4 (Resident), a voluntary pension insurance scheme based on individual capitalized savings established under the "Act on Voluntary Pension Funds" as such law existed on the date of signature of the Convention shall be deemed to be a person that is a resident of Croatia for the purposes of applying the Convention.

This Protocol shall enter into force on the date of entry into force of the Convention and shall form an integral part of the Convention.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Protocol.

DONE at _____ in duplicate, in the English and Croatian languages, both texts being equally authentic, this __ day of _____, 20__.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA