

1996 Income and Property Tax Convention and Final Protocol

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CONVENTION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME AND ON PROPERTY

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Government of the Republic of Belarus, Desiring to conclude a convention for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on property,

Have agreed as follows:

Chapter I

Scope of the Convention

Article 1 Personal Scope

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

Article 2 Taxes Covered

1. This Convention shall apply to taxes on income and on property imposed on behalf of a Contracting State, or of its political subdivisions or local authorities, irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.
2. There shall be regarded as taxes on income and on property all taxes imposed on total income, on total property, or on elements of income or of property, including taxes on gains from the alienation of property, taxes on the total amounts of wages or salaries paid by enterprises, as well as taxes on property appreciation.
3. The existing taxes to which the Convention shall apply are in particular:
 - a. in the Netherlands:
 - de inkomstenbelasting (income tax),
 - de loonbelasting (wages tax),
 - de vennootschapsbelasting (company tax) including the Government share in the net profits of the exploitation of natural resources levied pursuant to the Mijnwet 1810 (the Mining Act of 1810) with respect to concessions issued from 1967, or pursuant to the Mijnwet Continentaal Plat 1965 (the Netherlands Continental Shelf Mining Act of 1965),
 - de dividendbelasting (dividend tax),
 - de vermogensbelasting (capital tax),(hereinafter referred to as "Netherlands tax");
 - b. in Belarus:
 - the tax on income and profits of legal persons,
 - the income tax on individuals,
 - the tax on immovable property,
 - the land tax,
 - the emergency tax ("Chernobyl tax"),(hereinafter referred to as "Belarus tax").
4. The Convention shall apply also to any identical or substantially similar taxes which are imposed after the date of signature of the Convention in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other of any substantial changes which have been made in their respective taxation laws.

Chapter II

Definitions

Article 3 General Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Convention, unless the context otherwise requires:
 - a. the terms "a Contracting State" and "the other Contracting State" mean the Kingdom of the Netherlands (the Netherlands) or the Republic of Belarus (Belarus), as the context requires; the term

"Contracting States" means the Kingdom of the Netherlands (the Netherlands) and the Republic of Belarus (Belarus);

b. the term "the Netherlands" means the part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands that is situated in Europe, including its territorial sea, and any area beyond the territorial sea within which the Netherlands, in accordance with international law, exercises jurisdiction or sovereign rights with respect to the sea bed, its sub-soil and its superjacent waters, and their natural resources;

c. the term "Belarus" means the Republic of Belarus and, when used in a geographical sense, means the territory over which the Republic of Belarus exercises under the laws of Belarus and in accordance with international law sovereign rights and jurisdiction;

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

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

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

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

h. the term "nationals" means:

1. any individual possessing the nationality of a Contracting State;

2. any legal person, partnership and association deriving their status as such from the laws in force in a Contracting State;

i. the term "competent authority" means:

1. in the Netherlands the Minister of Finance or his duly authorized representative;

2. in Belarus, the Main State Tax Body at the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus or its authorised representative.

3. As regards the application of the Convention by a Contracting State any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning which it has under the law of that State concerning the taxes to which the Convention applies.

Article 4 Resident

1. For the purposes of this Convention, the term "resident of a Contracting State" means any person who, under the laws of that State, is liable to tax therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of management, place of incorporation or any other criterion of a similar nature. But this term does not include any person who is liable to tax in that State in respect only of income from sources in that State or property situated therein. A Contracting State, its political subdivisions or local authorities thereof, an instrumentality of that State, political subdivision or authority as well as a pension fund or charitable organisation recognized as such in a Contracting State and of which the income is generally exempt from tax in that State, shall be regarded as resident of that State. As recognized pension fund of a Contracting State shall be regarded any pension fund recognized and controlled according to statutory provisions of that State.

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

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

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

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

If the status of such an individual cannot be determined according to the provisions of the preceding sentence, then the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.

3. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, the competent authorities of the States shall endeavour to settle the question by mutual agreement having regard to its place of effective management, the place where it is incorporated or otherwise constituted and any other relevant factors. In the absence of such agreement, such company shall not be entitled to claim any benefits under this Convention, except

that such company may claim the benefits of Articles 23 (Elimination of Double Taxation), 25 (Non-discrimination) and 26 (Mutual Agreement Procedure).

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 constitutes a permanent establishment only if it lasts more than 12 months.

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

- a. the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;
- b. the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery;
- c. the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;
- d. the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise or of collecting information, for the enterprise;
- e. the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of carrying on, for the enterprise, any other activity of a preparatory or auxiliary character;
- f. the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in sub-paragraphs a) to e), provided that the overall activity of the fixed place of business resulting from this combination is of a preparatory or auxiliary character.

5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, where a person - other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 6 applies - is acting on behalf of an enterprise and has, and habitually exercises, in a Contracting State an authority to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise, that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in that State in respect of any activities which that person undertakes for the enterprise, unless the activities of such person are limited to those mentioned in paragraph 4 which, if exercised through a fixed place of business, would not make this fixed place of business a permanent establishment under the provisions of that paragraph.

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

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

Chapter III

Taxation of Income

Article 6 Income From Immovable Property

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

2. The term "immovable property" shall have the meaning which it has under the law of the Contracting State in which the property in question is situated. Ships, boats and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.

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

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 shall also apply to the income from immovable property of an enterprise and to income from immovable property used for the performance of independent personal services.

Article 7 Business Profits

1. The profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State unless the enterprise carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein. If the enterprise carries on business as aforesaid, the profits of the enterprise may be taxed in the other State but only so much of them as is attributable to that permanent establishment.
2. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3, where an enterprise of a Contracting State carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, there shall in each Contracting State be attributed to that permanent establishment the profits which it might be expected to make if it were a distinct and separate enterprise engaged in the same or similar activities under the same or similar conditions and dealing wholly independently with the enterprise of which it is a permanent establishment.
3. In determining the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the permanent establishment, including executive and general administrative expenses so incurred, whether in the State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere.
4. Insofar as it has been customary in a Contracting State to determine the profits to be attributed to a permanent establishment on the basis of an apportionment of the total profits of the enterprise to its various parts, nothing in paragraph 2 shall preclude that Contracting State from determining the profits to be taxed by such an apportionment as may be customary; the method of apportionment adopted shall, however, be such that the result shall be in accordance with the principles contained in this Article.
5. No profits shall be attributed to a permanent establishment by reason of the mere purchase by that permanent establishment of goods or merchandise for the enterprise of which it is a permanent establishment.
6. For the purposes of the preceding paragraphs, the profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment shall be determined by the same method year by year unless there is good and sufficient reason to the contrary.
7. Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other Articles of this Convention, then the provisions of those Articles shall not be affected by the provisions of this Article.

Article 8 Shipping and Air Transport

1. Profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.
2. For the purposes of this Article, profits derived from the operation in international traffic of ships and aircraft include profits derived from the rental on a bareboat basis of ships and aircraft if operated in international traffic if such rental profits are incidental to the profits described in paragraph 1.
3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall also apply to profits from the participation in a pool, a joint business or an international operating agency.

Article 9 Associated Enterprises

1. Where
 - a. an enterprise of a Contracting State participates directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, or
 - b. the same persons participate directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of a Contracting State and an enterprise of the other Contracting State,and in either case conditions are made or imposed between the two enterprises in their commercial or financial relations which differ from those which would be made between independent enterprises, then any profits which would, but for those conditions, have accrued to one of the enterprises, but, by reason of those conditions, have not so accrued, may be included in the profits of that enterprise and taxed accordingly. It is understood, however, that the fact that associated enterprises have concluded arrangements, such as costsharing arrangements or general services agreements, for or based on the allocation of executive, general administrative, technical and commercial expenses, research and development expenses and other similar expenses, is not in itself a condition as meant in the preceding sentence.
2. Where a Contracting State includes in the profits of an enterprise of that State - and taxes accordingly - profits on which an enterprise of the other Contracting State has been charged to tax in that other State and the profits so included are profits which would have accrued to the enterprise of the first-mentioned State if the conditions made between the two enterprises had been those which would have been made between independent enterprises, then that other State shall make an appropriate adjustment to the amount of the tax charged therein on those profits. In determining such

adjustment, due regard shall be had to the other provisions of this Convention and the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall if necessary consult each other.

Article 10 Dividends

1. Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. However, such dividends may also be taxed in the Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the dividends the tax so charged shall not exceed:
 - a. 5 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owner is a company (other than a partnership) which holds directly at least 25 per cent of the capital of the company paying the dividends;
 - b. 15 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State, in the case the recipient, being the beneficial owner of the dividends, is a company (other than a partnership):
 - i) which holds directly at least 50 per cent of the capital of the company paying the dividends and provided that an investment of at least ECU 250.000 has been made in the capital of the company paying the dividends, or
 - ii) which holds directly at least 25 per cent of the capital of the company paying the dividends and whose investment in the capital of the company paying the dividends is, directly or indirectly, guaranteed or insured by the Government of the other Contracting State.
4. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of paragraphs 2 and 3.
5. The provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 shall not affect the taxation of the company in respect of the profits out of which the dividends are paid.
6. The term 'dividends' as used in this Article means income from any kind of shares and income from rights, including income from debt-claims participating in profits, which is subjected to the same taxation treatment as income from shares by the laws of the State of which the company distributing the profits is a resident.
7. The provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.
8. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives profits or income from the other Contracting State, that other State may not impose any tax on the dividends paid by the company, except insofar as such dividends are paid to a resident of that other State or insofar as the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with a permanent establishment or a fixed base situated in that other State, nor subject the company's undistributed profits to a tax on the company's undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in such other State.

Article 11 Interest

1. Interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that State.
2. However such interest may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which it arises and according to the laws of that State, but if the beneficial owner of the interest is a resident of the other Contracting State the tax so charged shall not exceed 5 per cent of the gross amount of the interest.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2, interest shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the recipient of the interest is a resident if one of the following requirements is fulfilled:
 - a. the payer or the recipient of the interest is the Contracting State itself, a political subdivision or a local authority thereof or the Central Bank of a Contracting State;
 - b. the interest is paid in respect of a loan which has been approved by the Government of the Contracting State of which the payer of the interest is a resident;

- c. the interest is paid in respect of a loan granted, guaranteed, or insured by the Government of a Contracting State, the Central Bank of a Contracting State, or any agency or instrumentality (including a financial institution) owned or controlled by the Government of a Contracting State;
- d. the interest is paid in respect of a loan granted or guaranteed by a financial institution with the objective to promote development in the other Contracting State, or the interest is paid in respect of a loan or credit to finance the acquisition of industrial, commercial, trade, medical or scientific equipment.
4. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of paragraphs 2 and 3.
5. The term "interest" as used in this Article means income from debt-claims of every kind, whether or not secured by mortgage, but not carrying a right to participate in the debtor's profits, and in particular income from government securities and income from bonds or debentures, including premiums and prizes attaching to such securities, bonds or debentures. Penalty charges for late payment shall not be regarded as interest for the purpose of this Article.
6. The provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the interest, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the interest arises, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein and the debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.
7. Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that State itself, a political subdivision, a local authority or a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the interest, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.
8. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the interest, having regard to the debt-claim for which it is paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.

Article 12 Royalties

1. Royalties arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. However, such royalties may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise and according to the laws of that State, but if the beneficial owner of the royalties is a resident of the other Contracting State the tax so charged shall not exceed:
- a. 10 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties if the royalties have been received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work including cinematograph films, and films or tapes for radio or television broadcasting;
 - b. 5 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties if the royalties have been received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, industrial, commercial or scientific equipment (including road vehicles and trucks);
 - c. 3 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties if the royalties have been received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience.
3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of paragraph 2 of this Article.
4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the royalties, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the royalties arise, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.
5. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that State itself, a political subdivision, a local authority or a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying

the royalties, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the liability to pay the royalties was incurred, and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such royalties shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.

6. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the royalties, having regard to the use, right or information for which they are paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.

Article 13 Gains From the Alienation of Property

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

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

3. Gains from the alienation of ships or aircraft operated in international traffic or movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships or aircraft, shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

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

5. The provisions of paragraph 4 shall not affect the right of each of the Contracting States to levy according to its own law a tax on gains from the alienation of shares or "jouissance" rights in a company, the capital of which is wholly or partly divided into shares and which under the laws of that State is a resident of that State, derived by an individual who is a resident of the other Contracting State and has been a resident of the first-mentioned State in the course of the last five years preceding the alienation of the shares or "jouissance" rights.

Article 14 Independent Personal Services

1. Income derived by an individual who is a resident of a Contracting State in respect of professional services or other activities of an independent character shall be taxable only in that State unless he has a fixed base regularly available to him in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing his activities. If he has such a fixed base, the income may be taxed in the other Contracting State but only so much of it as is attributable to that fixed base.

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

3. For the purposes of this Convention, the term "fixed base" means a fixed place through which the activity of an individual performing independent personal services is wholly or partly carried on.

Article 15 Dependent Personal Services

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

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

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

3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft operated in international traffic, shall be taxable only in that State.

Article 16 Directors' Fees

Directors' fees or other remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in his capacity as a member of the board of directors, a "bestuurder" or a "commissaris" of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

Article 17 Artistes and Sportsmen

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 14 and 15, income derived by a resident of a Contracting State as an entertainer, such as a theatre, motion picture, radio or television artiste, or a musician, or as a sportsman, from his personal activities as such exercised in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other State.

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

Article 18 Pensions, Annuities and Social Security Payments

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

2. However, where such remuneration is not of a periodical nature and it is paid in consideration of past employment in the other Contracting State, or where instead of the right to annuities a lump sum is paid, this remuneration or this lump sum may be taxed in the Contracting State where it arises.

3. Any pension and other payments paid out under the provisions of a social security system of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in the first-mentioned State.

4. The term "annuity" means a stated sum payable periodically at stated times during life or during a specified or ascertainable period of time under an obligation to make the payments in return for adequate and full consideration in money or money's worth.

Article 19 Government Service

1.

a. Remuneration, other than a pension, paid by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority may be taxed in that State.

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

1. is a national of that State; or

2. did not become a resident of that State solely for the purpose of rendering the services.

a. Any pension 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 State or subdivision or authority may be taxed in that State.

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

3. The provisions of Articles 15, 16 and 18 shall apply to remuneration and to pensions 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

Payments which a student or business apprentice who is or was immediately before visiting a Contracting State a resident of the other Contracting State and who is present in the first-mentioned State solely for the purpose of his education or training receives for the purpose of his maintenance, education or training shall not be taxed in that State, provided that such payments arise from sources outside that State.

Article 21 Other Income

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

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply to income, other than income from immovable property as defined in paragraph 2 of Article 6, if the recipient of such income, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent

establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the income is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

Chapter IV

Taxation of Property

Article 22 Property

1. Property represented by immovable property referred to in Article 6, owned by a resident of a Contracting State and situated in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other State.
2. Property represented by property - other than immovable property - forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State or by property - other than immovable property - pertaining to a fixed base available to a resident of a Contracting State in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing independent personal services, may be taxed in that other State.
3. Property represented by ships and aircraft operated in international traffic and by property - other than immovable property - pertaining to the operation of such ships and aircraft, shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.
4. All other elements of property of a resident of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State.

Chapter V

Elimination of Double Taxation

Article 23 Elimination of Double Taxation

1. The Netherlands, when imposing tax on its residents, may include in the basis upon which such taxes are imposed the items of income or property which, according to the provisions of this Convention, may be taxed in Belarus.
2. However, where a resident of the Netherlands derives items of income which according to Article 6, Article 7, paragraph 7 of Article 10, paragraph 6 of Article 11, paragraph 4 of Article 12, paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 13, Article 14, paragraph 1 of Article 15, paragraph 3 of Article 18, paragraphs 1 (subparagraph a) and 2 (subparagraph a) of Article 19 and paragraph 2 of Article 21 of this Convention may be taxed in Belarus and are included in the basis referred to in paragraph 1, the Netherlands shall exempt such items of income by allowing a reduction of its tax. This reduction shall be computed in conformity with the provisions of Netherlands law for the avoidance of double taxation. For that purpose the said items of income shall be deemed to be included in the total amount of the items of income which are exempt from Netherlands tax under those provisions.
3. Further, the Netherlands shall allow a deduction from the Netherlands tax so computed for the items of income or property which according to paragraph 2 of Article 10, paragraph 5 of Article 13, Article 16, Article 17, paragraph 2 of Article 18 and paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 22 of this Convention may be taxed in Belarus to the extent that these items are included in the basis referred to in paragraph 1. The amount of this deduction shall be equal to the tax paid in Belarus on these items of income or property, but shall not exceed the amount of the reduction which would be allowed if the items of income or property so included were the sole items of income or property which are exempt from Netherlands tax under the provisions of Netherlands law for the avoidance of double taxation.
4. In the case of Belarus, double taxation shall be avoided as follows: Where a resident of Belarus derives income or owns items of property which, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, may be taxed in the Netherlands, Belarus shall allow:
 - a. as a deduction from the tax on the income of that resident, an amount equal to the income tax paid in the Netherlands;
 - b. as a deduction from the tax on the items of property of that resident, an amount equal to the property tax paid in the Netherlands.

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

Chapter VI

Special Provisions

Article 24 Offshore Activities

1. The provisions of this Article shall apply notwithstanding any other provisions of this Convention. However, this Article shall not apply where offshore activities of a person constitute for that person a

permanent establishment under the provisions of Article 5 or a fixed base under the provisions of Article 14.

2. In this Article the term "offshore activities" means activities which are carried on offshore in connection with the exploration or exploitation of the sea bed and its sub-soil and their natural resources, situated in a Contracting State.

3. An enterprise of a Contracting State which carries on offshore activities in the other Contracting State shall, subject to paragraph 4 of this Article, be deemed to be carrying on, in respect of those activities, business in that other State through a permanent establishment situated therein, unless the offshore activities in question are carried on in the other State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 30 days in any period of twelve months.

For the purposes of this paragraph:

a. where an enterprise carrying on offshore activities in the other Contracting State is associated with another enterprise and that other enterprise continues, as part of the same project, the same offshore activities that are or were being carried on by the first-mentioned enterprise, and the aforementioned activities carried on by both enterprises - when added together - exceed a period of 30 days, then each enterprise shall be deemed to be carrying on its activities for a period exceeding 30 days in a twelve month period;

b. an enterprise shall be regarded as associated with another enterprise if one holds directly or indirectly at least one third of the capital of the other enterprise or if a person holds directly or indirectly at least one third of the capital of both enterprises.

4. However, for the purposes of paragraph 3 of this Article the term "offshore activities" shall be deemed not to include:

a. one or any combination of the activities mentioned in paragraph 4 of Article 5;

b. towing or anchor handling by ships primarily designed for that purpose and any other activities performed by such ships;

c. the transport of supplies or personnel by ships or aircraft in international traffic.

5. A resident of a Contracting State who carries on offshore activities in the other Contracting State, which consist of professional services or other activities of an independent character, shall be deemed to be performing those activities from a fixed base in the other Contracting State if the offshore activities in question last for a continuous period of 30 days or more.

6. Salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment connected with offshore activities carried on through a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State may, to the extent that the employment is exercised offshore in that other State, be taxed in that other State.

7. Where documentary evidence is produced that tax has been paid in Belarus on the items of income which may be taxed in Belarus according to Article 7 and Article 14 in connection with respectively paragraph 3 and paragraph 5 of this Article, and to paragraph 6 of this Article, the Netherlands shall allow a reduction of its tax which shall be computed in conformity with the rules laid down in paragraph 2 of Article 23.

Article 25 Non-Discrimination

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

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

3. Except where the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 9, paragraph 8 of Article 11, or paragraph 6 of Article 12, apply, interest, royalties and other disbursements paid by an enterprise of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall, for the purpose of determining the taxable profits of such enterprise, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been paid to a resident of the first-mentioned State. Similarly, any debts of an enterprise of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall, for the purpose of determining the taxable property of

such enterprise, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been contracted to a resident of the first- mentioned State.

4. Enterprises of a Contracting State, the capital of which is wholly or partly owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by one or more residents of the other Contracting State, shall not be subjected in the first-mentioned State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which other similar enterprises of the first-mentioned State are or may be subjected.

5. Contributions paid by, or on behalf of, an individual who is a resident of a Contracting State to a pension plan that is recognized for tax purposes in the other Contracting State will be treated in the same way for tax purposes in the first-mentioned State as a contribution paid to a pension plan that is recognized for tax purposes in that first-mentioned State, provided that

a. such individual was contributing to such pension plan before he became a resident of the first-mentioned State; and

b. the competent authority of the first-mentioned State agrees that the pension plan corresponds to a pension plan recognized for tax purposes by that State.

For the purpose of this paragraph, "pension plan" includes a pension plan created under a public social security system.

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

Article 26 Mutual Agreement Procedure

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

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

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

4. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may communicate with each other directly for the purpose of reaching an agreement in the sense of the preceding paragraphs.

Article 27 Exchange of Information

The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Convention or of the domestic laws of the Contracting States concerning taxes covered by the Convention insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the Convention. The exchange of information is not restricted by Article 1. Any information received by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic laws of that State and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) involved in the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals in relation to, the taxes covered by the Convention. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes. They may disclose the information in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions.

Article 28 Assistance in Recovery

1. The States agree to lend each other assistance and support with a view to the collection, in accordance with their respective laws or administrative practice, of the taxes to which this Convention shall apply and of any increases, surcharges, overdue payments, interests and costs pertaining to the said taxes.

2. At the request of the applicant State the requested State shall recover tax claims of the first-mentioned State in accordance with the law and administrative practice for the recovery of its own tax claims. However, such claims do not enjoy any priority in the requested State and cannot be

recovered by imprisonment for debt of the debtor. The requested State is not obliged to take any executory measures which are not provided for in the laws of the applicant State.

3. The provisions of paragraph 2 shall apply only to tax claims which form the subject of an instrument permitting their enforcement in the applicant State and, unless otherwise agreed between the competent authorities, which are not contested. However, where the claim relates to a liability to tax of a person as a non-resident of the applicant State, paragraph 2 shall only apply, unless otherwise agreed between the competent authorities, where the claim may no longer be contested.

4. The obligation to provide assistance in the recovery of tax claims concerning a deceased person or his estate is limited to the value of the estate or the property acquired by each beneficiary of the estate, according to whether the claim is to be recovered from the estate or from the beneficiaries thereof.

5. The requested State shall not be obliged to accede to the request:

- a. if the applicant State has not pursued all means available in its own territory, except where recourse to such means would give rise to disproportionate difficulty;
- b. if and insofar as it considers the tax claim to be contrary to the provisions of this Convention or of any other convention to which both of the States are parties.

6. The request for administrative assistance in the recovery of a tax claim shall be accompanied by:

- a. a declaration that the tax claim concerns a tax covered by the Convention and that the conditions of paragraph 3 are met;
- b. an official copy of the instrument permitting enforcement in the applicant State;
- c. any other document required for recovery;
- d. where appropriate, a certified copy confirming any related decision emanating from an administrative body or a public court.

7. The applicant State shall indicate the amounts of the tax claim to be recovered in both the currency of the applicant State and the currency of the requested State. The rate of exchange to be used for the purpose of the preceding sentence is the last selling price settled on the most representative exchange market or markets of the applicant State. Each amount recovered by the requested State shall be transferred to the applicant State in the currency of the requested State. The transfer shall be carried out within a period of a month from the date of the recovery.

8. At the request of the applicant State, the requested State shall, with a view to the recovery of an amount of tax, take measures of conservancy even if the claim is contested or is not yet the subject of an instrument permitting enforcement, in so far as such is permitted by the laws and administrative practice of the requested State.

9. The instrument permitting enforcement in the applicant State shall, where appropriate and in accordance with the provisions in force in the requested State, be accepted, recognised, supplemented or replaced as soon as possible after the date of the receipt of the request for assistance by an instrument permitting enforcement in the requested State.

10. Questions concerning any period beyond which a tax claim cannot be enforced shall be governed by the law of the applicant State. The request for assistance in the recovery shall give particulars concerning that period.

11. Acts of recovery carried out by the requested State in pursuance of a request for assistance, which, according to the laws of that State, would have the effect of suspending or interrupting the period mentioned in paragraph 10, shall also have this effect under the laws of the applicant State. The requested State shall inform the applicant State about such acts.

12. The requested State may allow deferral of payment or payment by installments, if its laws or administrative practice permit it to do so in similar circumstances; but it shall first inform the applicant State.

13. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by common agreement prescribe rules concerning minimum amounts of tax claims subject to a request for assistance.

14. The States shall reciprocally waive any restitution of costs resulting from the respective assistance and support which they lend each other in applying this Convention. The applicant State shall in any event remain responsible towards the requested State for the pecuniary consequences of acts of recovery which have been found unjustified in respect of the reality of the tax claim concerned or of the validity of the instrument permitting enforcement in the applicant State.

Article 29 Limitation of Articles 27 and 28

In no case shall the provisions of Articles 27 and 28 be construed so as to impose on a Contracting State the obligation:

- a. to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;

- b. to supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State;
- c. to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial, or professional secret or trade process, or information, the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy.

Article 30 Diplomatic Agents and Consular Officers

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

Chapter VII

Final Provisions

Article 31 Entry Into Force

1. This Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the latter of the dates on which the respective Governments have notified each other in writing that the procedures required by the laws of their respective States for the bringing into force of the Convention have been complied with, and its provisions shall have effect for taxable years and periods beginning on or after the first day of January in the calendar year following that in which the Convention has entered into force.

2. As regards relations between the Netherlands and Belarus, the Convention between the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and on property, signed at Moscow on November 21, 1986, shall terminate upon the entry into force of this Convention. However, the provisions of the first-mentioned Convention shall continue to have effect for taxable years and periods which are expired before the time at which the provisions of this Convention shall be effective.

Article 32 Termination

This Convention shall remain in force until terminated by one of the Contracting States. Either State may terminate the Convention, through diplomatic channels, by giving written notice of termination at least six months before the end of any calendar year after the expiration of a period of five years from the date of its entry into force. In such event the Convention shall cease to have effect for taxable years and periods beginning after the end of the calendar year in which the notice of termination has been given.

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

Done at The Hague this 26th day of March 1996, in duplicate, in the Netherlands, Belarusian and English languages, the three texts being equally authentic. In case there is any divergence of interpretation between the Netherlands and Belarusian texts, the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS:

M.N. Chygir

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS:

W. Kok

PROTOCOL

At the moment of signing the Convention for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on property, this day concluded between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Republic of Belarus, the undersigned have agreed that the following provisions shall form an integral part of the Convention

I. It is understood that where in this Convention the term "political subdivisions" is used, this term is only applicable to the Netherlands.

II. Ad articles 3 and 8

It is understood that when establishing the 'place of effective management' as meant in subparagraph g of paragraph 1 of article 3 and in paragraph 1 of article 8, circumstances which may, inter alia, be taken into account are the place where a company is actually managed and controlled, the place where the decision-making at the highest level on the important policies essential for the management of a company takes place, the place that plays a leading part in the management of a company from an economic and functional point of view and the place where the most important accounting books are kept.

III. Ad Article 4

An individual living aboard a ship without any real domicile in either of the Contracting States shall be deemed to be a resident of the Contracting State in which the ship has its home harbour.

IV. Ad Articles 5, 6, 7, 13 and 24

It is understood that exploration and exploitation rights of natural resources shall be regarded as immovable property situated in the Contracting State the sea bed and sub-soil of which they are related to, and that these rights shall be deemed to pertain to the property of a permanent establishment in that State. Furthermore, it is understood that the aforementioned rights include rights to interests in, or to the benefits of, assets to be produced by such exploration or exploitation.

V. Ad article 6, 13 and 22

It is understood that the term immovable property shall not include the items dealt with in paragraph 2 of Article 12.

VI. Ad article 7

In respect of paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 7, where an enterprise of a Contracting State sells goods or merchandise or carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, the profits of that permanent establishment shall not be determined on the basis of the total amount received by the enterprise, but shall be determined only on the basis of that portion of the income of the enterprise that is attributable to the actual activity of the permanent establishment in respect of such sales or business. Specifically, in the case of contracts for the survey, supply, installation or construction of industrial, commercial or scientific equipment or premises, or of public works, when the enterprise has a permanent establishment, the profits attributable to such permanent establishment shall not be determined on the basis of the total amount of the contract, but shall be determined only on the basis of that part of the contract that is effectively carried out by the permanent establishment in the Contracting State where the permanent establishment is situated. The profits related to that part of the contract which is carried out by the head office of the enterprise shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the enterprise is a resident.

VII. Ad Articles 7 and 14

Payments received as a consideration for technical services, including studies or surveys of a scientific, geological or technical nature, or for consultancy or supervisory services shall be deemed to be payments to which the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14 apply.

VIII. Ad Articles 7, 14 and 24

It is understood that in the case of wages and salaries paid by an enterprise of a Contracting State the capital of which is wholly or partly owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by residents of the other Contracting State, such wages and salaries shall be deductible in computing the taxable profits of such enterprise, unless the wages and salaries relate to profits which are exempt from tax. The foregoing sentence shall apply accordingly to wages and salaries when computing the taxable profits of a permanent establishment. In the case of interest the foregoing will only be applicable if the interest is paid to a company resident of a Contracting State by a company resident of the other Contracting State, in which the first mentioned company holds directly 100 per cent of the capital.

IX. Ad Articles 10, 11 and 12

Where tax has been levied at source in excess of the amount of tax chargeable under the provisions of Articles 10, 11 or 12, applications for the refund of the excess amount of tax have to be lodged with the competent authority of the State having levied the tax, within a period of three years after the expiration of the calendar year in which the tax has been levied. Where a claim is made by a taxpayer for a refund as meant in the foregoing sentence tax withheld at source in a Contracting State at the rate in excess of that provided for under the terms of the Convention will be refunded in a timely manner.

X. Ad Article 16

It is understood that "bestuurder or commissaris" of a Netherlands company means persons, who are nominated as such by the general meeting of shareholders or by any other competent body of such company and are charged with the general management of the company and the supervision thereof, respectively.

XI. Ad article 18

As long as Belarus cannot under its national legislation exercise the taxation right provided for under paragraph 1 of article 18, the provisions of this paragraph shall, for the time being, not be operative concerning pensions received by a resident of Belarus in connection with an employment formerly exercised in the Netherlands. With respect to such pensions the provisions of the Netherlands national legislation will continue to apply. As soon as the competent authority of Belarus informs the competent authority of the Netherlands that Belarus can exercise under its national legislation the taxation right provided for under paragraph 1, this protocol provision will cease to apply.

XII. Ad Article 23

It is understood that for the computation of the reduction mentioned in paragraph 3 of Article 23, the items of property referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 22 shall be taken into account for the value

thereof reduced by the value of the debts secured by mortgage on that property and the items of property referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 22 shall be taken into account for the value thereof reduced by the value of the debts pertaining to the permanent establishment or fixed base.

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

Done at The Hague this 26th day of March 1996, in duplicate, in the Netherlands, Belarusian and English languages, the three texts being equally authentic. In case there is any divergence of interpretation between the Netherlands and Belarusian texts, the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS:

M.N. Chygir

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS:

W. Kok