

AGREEMENT OF 29TH MAY, 2001

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME

Article 1

Personal Scope

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

Article 2

Taxes Covered

1. This Agreement shall apply to taxes on income 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 all taxes imposed on total income, or on elements of income, including taxes on gains from the alienation of movable or immovable property, taxes on the total amounts of wages or salaries, as well as taxes on capital appreciation.
3. The existing taxes to which this Agreement shall apply are in particular:
 - a) in the case of 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); and
 - de dividendbelasting (dividend tax);(hereinafter referred to as “Netherlands tax”);
 - b) in the case of Kuwait:
 - the corporate income tax;
 - the contribution from the net profits of the Kuwaiti shareholding companies payable to the Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Science (KFAS); and
 - the Zakat;(hereinafter referred to as “Kuwaiti tax”).
4. This Agreement shall apply also to any identical or substantially similar taxes, which are imposed after the date of signature of this Agreement 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.

Article 3 General Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:
 - a) the term “a Contracting State” means the Kingdom of the Netherlands (the Netherlands) or the State of Kuwait (Kuwait), as the context requires; the term “Contracting States” means the Kingdom of the Netherlands (the Netherlands) and the State of Kuwait (Kuwait);
 - 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 “Kuwait” means the territory of the State of Kuwait and includes any area beyond the territorial sea which in accordance with international law has been or may hereafter be designated under the laws of Kuwait, as an area in which Kuwait may exercise sovereign rights or jurisdiction;
 - d) the term “person” includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons;
 - e) the term “company” means any body corporate or any entity, which is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
 - f) the terms “enterprise of a Contracting State” and “enterprise of the other Contracting State” mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting State and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting State;
 - g) the term “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 “national” means:
 - (1) any individual possessing the nationality of a Contracting State;
 - (2) any legal person, partnership and association deriving its 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 Kuwait: the Minister of Finance or an authorized representative of the Minister of Finance;
 - j) the term “tax” means the Netherlands tax or Kuwaiti tax, as the context requires.
2. As regards the application of this Agreement 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 Contracting State concerning the taxes to which this Agreement applies.

Article 4 Resident

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “resident of a Contracting State” means any person who, under the laws of that State, is liable to tax therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature. The term, however, does not include any person who is liable to tax in that State in respect only of income from sources in that State.

2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, a resident of a Contracting State shall include:

- a) the Government of that Contracting State or any political subdivision or local authority thereof; and
- b) any governmental institution created in that Contracting State under public law such as a corporation, Central Bank, fund, authority, foundation, agency or other similar entity, provided that its capital is beneficially and exclusively owned by the Government of that Contracting State or any political subdivision or local authority thereof; and
- c) in the case of Kuwait, any inter-governmental entity established in Kuwait in whose capital Kuwait subscribes together with other states.

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

- a) he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State in which he has a permanent home available to him; if he has a permanent home available to him in both States, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State with which his personal and economic relations are closer (centre of vital interests);
- b) if the State in which he has his centre of vital interests cannot be determined, or if he has not a permanent home available to him in either State, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State in which he has an habitual abode;
- c) if he has an habitual abode in both States or in neither of them, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State of which he is a national;
- d) if his status cannot be determined under the provisions of subparagraph a) through c), the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.

4. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then it shall be deemed to be a resident of the Contracting State in which its place of effective management is situated.

Article 5 Permanent Establishment

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, 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 a construction, assembly or installation project or a supervisory activity in connection therewith constitutes a permanent establishment only if such site, project or activity continues for a period of more than six months.

4. The furnishing of services, including consultancy services, by an enterprise of a Contracting State in the other Contracting State constitutes a permanent establishment only if such activities continue in that other Contracting State for the same project or a connected project for a period or periods aggregating more than six months within any twelve-month period.

5. An enterprise of a Contracting State shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State and to carry on business through that permanent establishment if substantial equipment is being used in that Contracting State for more than six months within any twelve-month period by, for or under contract with the enterprise in exploration for, or the exploitation of, natural resources, or in activities connected with such exploration or exploitation.

6. 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 subparagraphs 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.

7. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, where a person – other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 8 applies – is acting in a Contracting State on behalf of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the first-mentioned Contracting State, in respect of any activities which that person undertakes for the enterprise, if

- a) he has and habitually exercises in the first-mentioned Contracting State a general authority to conclude contracts in the name of such enterprise, unless the activities of such person are limited to those mentioned in paragraph 6 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; or

- b) he has no such authority, but habitually maintains in the first-mentioned Contracting State a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to such enterprise from which he regularly delivers goods or merchandise on behalf of such enterprise.

8. An enterprise of a Contracting State shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State merely because it carries on business in that other 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. However, when the activities of such an agent are devoted wholly or almost wholly on behalf of that enterprise, he will not be considered an agent of an independent status within the meaning of this paragraph.

9. 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 Contracting State (whether through a permanent establishment or otherwise), shall not of itself constitute either company a permanent establishment of the other.

Article 6

Income From Immovable Property

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

2. The term “immovable property” shall have the meaning which it has under the law of the Contracting State in which the property in question is situated. The term shall in any case include property accessory to immovable property, livestock and equipment used in agriculture and forestry, rights to which the provisions of general law respecting landed property apply, usufruct of immovable property and rights to variable or fixed payments as consideration for the working of, or the right to work, mineral deposits, sources and other natural resources; ships and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall apply to income 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 are 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 those deductible expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the permanent establishment, including executive and general administrative expenses so incurred, whether in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere. However, no such deduction shall be allowed in respect of amounts, if any, paid (otherwise than towards reimbursement of actual expenses) by the permanent establishment to the head office of the enterprise or any of its other offices, by way of royalties, fees or other similar payments in return for the use of patents or other rights, or by way of commission, for specific services performed or for

management, or, except in the case of a banking enterprise, by way of interest on moneys lent to the permanent establishment. Likewise, no account shall be taken, in the determination of the profits of a permanent establishment, for amounts charged (otherwise than towards reimbursement of actual expenses), by the permanent establishment to the head office of the enterprise or any of its other offices, by way of royalties, fees or other similar payments in return for the use of patents or other rights, or by way of commission for specific services performed or for management, or, except in the case of a banking enterprise, by way of interest on moneys lent to the head office or any of its other offices.

4. No profits shall be attributed to a permanent establishment by reason of the mere purchase by that permanent establishment of goods or merchandise for the enterprise.

5. 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.

6. If the information available is inadequate to determine profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment, nothing in this Article shall affect the application of any law or regulations of a Contracting State relating to the determination of the tax liability of a person by making of an estimate, provided that the result shall be in accordance with the principles contained in this Article.

7. 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.

8. Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other Articles of this Agreement, 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. If the place of effective management of a shipping enterprise is aboard a ship, then it shall be deemed to be situated in the Contracting State in which the home harbor of the ship is situated, or, if there is no such home harbor, in the Contracting State of which the operator of the ship is a resident.

3. 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.

4. 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 Agreement 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 beneficial owner of the dividends is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed:

- a) zero per cent of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owner is a company which holds directly at least 10% (ten per cent) of the capital of the company paying the dividends;
- b) 10% (ten per cent) of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases.

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

4. The term “dividends” as used in this Article means income from shares, “jouissance” shares or “jouissance” rights, mining shares, founders’ shares or other rights, not being debt-claims, participating in profits, as well as income from other corporate rights which is subjected to the same taxation treatment as income from shares by the laws of the State of which the company making the distribution is a resident.

5. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

6. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives profits or income from the other Contracting State, that other State may not impose any tax on the dividends paid by the company, except insofar as such dividends are paid to a resident of that other State or insofar as the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with a permanent establishment or a fixed base situated in that other State, nor subject the company’s undistributed profits to a tax on the company’s undistributed profits, even if the

dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in such other State.

Article 11

Interest

1. Interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in that other State if such resident is the beneficial owner of the interest.
2. The term “interest” as used in this Article means income from debt-claims of every kind, whether or not secured by mortgage and whether or not carrying a right to participate in the debtor’s profits, and in particular income from government securities and income from bonds or debentures, including premiums and prizes attaching to such securities, bonds or debentures.
3. The provisions of paragraph 1 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.
4. 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.
5. 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 Agreement.

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 Contracting 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% (five per cent) of the gross amount of such royalties.
3. The term “royalties” as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work, including cinematography films, or films or tapes used for television or radio broadcasting, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience.
4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the royalties, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the royalties arise, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

5. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is 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 Agreement.

Article 13 Capital Gains

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

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

3. Gains from the alienation of ships or aircraft operated in international traffic or movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships or aircraft shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated. For the purposes of this paragraph the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 8 shall apply.

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. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 4, a Contracting State may, in accordance with its own laws, including the interpretation of the term "alienation", levy tax on gains derived by an individual who is a resident of the other Contracting State from the alienation of shares in, "jouissance" rights or debt-claims on a company whose capital is divided into shares and which, under the laws of the first-mentioned Contracting State, is a resident of that State, and from the alienation of part of the rights attached to the said shares, "jouissance" shares or debt-claims, if that individual - either alone or with his or her spouse - or one of their relations by blood or marriage in the direct line directly or indirectly holds at least 5 per cent of the issued capital of a particular class of shares in that company. This provision shall apply only if the individual who derives the gains has been a resident of the first-mentioned State in the course of the last ten years preceding the year in which the gains are derived and provided that, at the time he became a resident of the other Contracting State, the above-mentioned conditions regarding share ownership in the said company were satisfied.

In cases where, under the domestic laws of the first-mentioned State, an assessment has been issued to the individual in respect of the alienation of the aforesaid shares deemed to have taken place at the time of his emigration from the first-mentioned State, the above shall apply only in so far as part of the assessment is still outstanding.

Article 14 Independent Personal Services

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

Article 15

Dependent Personal Services

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 16, 18, 19 and 20, 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 and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in his capacity as a member of the board of directors or, in the case of the Netherlands a “bestuurder” or a “commissaris”, or other similar organ of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in the first-mentioned Contracting State. However, such fees or remuneration may be taxed in the Contracting State of which the aforementioned company is a resident, but the tax charged shall not exceed 25% (twenty-five per cent) of the gross amount of such fees or other remuneration.

Article 17

Artistes and Sportsmen

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

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

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply to remuneration or profits, salaries, wages and similar income derived by entertainers or sportsmen who are residents of a Contracting State from activities in the other Contracting State if their visit to that Contracting State is substantially supported from the public funds of the other Contracting State, including those of any political subdivision, a local authority or statutory body thereof, nor to income derived by a non-profit making organization in respect of such activities provided no part of its income is payable to, or is otherwise available for the personal benefit of its proprietors, founders or members.

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, as well as annuities paid to a resident of a Contracting State, shall be taxable only in that State. Any pension and other payment paid out under the provisions of a social security system of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in that other State.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, a pension or other similar remuneration, annuity, or any pension and other payment paid out under the provisions of a social security system of a Contracting State, may also be taxed in the Contracting State from which it is derived, in accordance with the laws of that State:

- a) if and in so far as the entitlement to this pension or other similar remuneration or annuity in the Contracting State from which it is derived is exempt from tax, or the contributions associated with the pension or other similar remuneration or annuity made to the pension scheme or insurance company were deducted in the past when calculating taxable income in that State or qualified for other tax relief in that State; and
- b) if and in so far as this pension or other similar remuneration or annuity is in the Contracting State of which the recipient thereof is a resident not taxed at the generally applicable rate for income derived from dependent personal services, or less than 90 per cent of the gross amount of the pension or other similar remuneration or annuity is taxed; and
- c) if the total gross amount to the pensions and other similar remuneration and annuities, and any pension and other payment paid out under the provisions of a social security system of a Contracting State, in any calendar year exceeds the sum of 20,000 Euro.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, if this pension or other similar remuneration is not periodic in nature, is paid in respect of past employment in the other Contracting State and is paid out before the date on which the pension commences, or if a lump-sum payment is made in lieu of the right to an annuity before the date on which the annuity commences, the payment or this lump-sum may also be taxed in the Contracting State from which it is derived.

4. A pension or other similar remuneration or annuity is deemed to be derived from a Contracting State if and insofar as the contributions or payments associated with the pension or other similar remuneration or annuity, or the entitlements received from it qualified for tax relief in the State. The transfer of a pension from a pension fund or an insurance company in a Contracting State to a pension fund or an insurance company in another State will not restrict in any way the taxing rights of the first-mentioned State under this Article.

5. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of paragraph 2. They shall also decide what details the resident of a Contracting State must submit

for the purpose of the proper application of the Agreement in the other Contracting State, in particular so that it can be established whether the conditions referred in subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 2 have been met.

6. 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.

7. Whether and to what extent a pension or similar remuneration falls under this Article or under Article 19 is determined by the nature of the past employment, as private or governmental, during which the entitlement to that part of the pension or similar remuneration was built up.

Article 19 Government Service

1. a) Salaries, wages and other similar remuneration, other than a pension, paid by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that State.

b) However, such salaries, wages and other similar 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.

2. 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 shall be taxable only in that State.

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

3. The provisions of Articles 15, 16 and 18 shall apply to salaries, wages and other similar 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 Professors and Teachers

An individual who is or was immediately before visiting a Contracting State a resident of the other Contracting State and who, at the invitation of the Government of the first-mentioned Contracting State or of a university, college, school, museum or other cultural institution in that first-mentioned Contracting State or under an official programmed of cultural exchange, is present in that Contracting State for a period not exceeding two consecutive years solely for the purpose of teaching, giving lectures or carrying out research at such institution shall be exempt from tax in that Contracting State on his remuneration for such activity, provided that the payment of such remuneration is derived by him from outside that Contracting State.

Article 21 Students

1. 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.

2. In respect of grants, scholarships and remuneration from employment in a Contracting State not covered by paragraph 1, a student or business apprentice described in paragraph 1 shall, in the case he is a resident of that State, be entitled during such education or training to the same exemptions, relief's or reductions in respect of taxes available to residents of that Contracting State.

Article 22 Other Income

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

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply to income, other than income from immovable property as defined in paragraph 2 of Article 6, if the recipient of such income, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the income is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

Article 23 Elimination of Double Taxation

1. In the case of the Netherlands, double taxation shall be avoided as follows:

- a) The Netherlands, when imposing tax on its residents, may include in the basis upon which such taxes are imposed the items of income which, according to the provisions of this Agreement, may be taxed in Kuwait.
- b) However, where a resident of the Netherlands derives items of income which according to Article 6, Article 7, paragraph 5 of Article 10, paragraph 3 of Article 11, paragraph 4 of Article 12, paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 13, Article 14, paragraph 1 of Article 15, paragraphs 1 (subparagraph a) and 2 (subparagraph a) of Article 19 and paragraph 2 of Article 22 of this Agreement may be taxed in Kuwait and are included in the basis referred to in subparagraph a) of 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.
- c) Further, the Netherlands shall allow a deduction from the Netherlands tax so computed for the items of income which according to paragraph 2 of Article 10, paragraph 2 of Article 12, paragraph 5 of Article 13, Article 16, Article 17, paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 18 of this Agreement may be taxed in Kuwait to the extent that these items are included in the basis referred to in subparagraph a) of paragraph 1. The amount of this deduction shall be equal to the tax paid in Kuwait on these items of income, but shall not exceed the amount of the reduction which would be allowed if the items of income so included were the sole items of income which are exempt from Netherlands tax under the provisions of Netherlands law for the avoidance of double taxation.

- d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph b) of paragraph 1 of this Article, the Netherlands shall allow a deduction from the Netherlands tax for the tax paid in Kuwait on items of income which according to Article 7, paragraph 5 of Article 10, paragraph 3 of Article 11, paragraph 4 of Article 12, Article 14 and paragraph 2 of Article 22 of this Agreement may be taxed in Kuwait to the extent that these items are included in the basis referred to in subparagraph a) of paragraph 1, if and insofar as the Netherlands under the provisions of Netherlands law for the avoidance of double taxation allows a deduction from the Netherlands tax of the tax levied in another country on such items of income. For the computation of this deduction the provisions of subparagraph c) of paragraph 1 of this Article shall apply accordingly.

2. In the case of Kuwait, double taxation shall be avoided as follows: Where a resident of Kuwait derives income which, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, may be taxed in both the Netherlands and Kuwait, Kuwait shall allow as a deduction from the tax on the income of that resident, an amount equal to the tax on income paid in the Netherlands. Such deduction shall not, however, exceed that part of the tax on income, as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable to the income which may be taxed in the Netherlands.

Article 24

Offshore Activities

1. The provisions of this Article shall apply notwithstanding any other provisions of this Agreement. 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 seabed 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 12 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 afore-mentioned 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 12 months-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 5 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 Kuwait on the items of income which may be taxed in Kuwait 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 subparagraph b) of paragraph 1 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 Contracting State than the taxation levied on enterprises of third states, carrying on the same activities in the same circumstances. 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. 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 which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which other similar enterprises the capital of which is wholly or partly owned or controlled directly or indirectly by one or more residents of any third state are or may be subjected.

4. Nothing in this Article shall be interpreted as imposing a legal obligation on either Contracting State to extend to the residents of the other Contracting State, the benefit of any treatment, preference or privilege which may be accorded to any third state or its residents by virtue of the formation of a customs union, economic union, a free trade area or any regional or sub-regional arrangement relating wholly or mainly to taxation or movement of capital to which such the first-mentioned Contracting State may be a party.

5. Except where the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 9, paragraph 5 of Article 11, or paragraph 6 of Article 12, apply, interest, royalties and other disbursements paid by an enterprise of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall, for the purpose of determining the taxable profits of such enterprise, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been paid to a resident of the first-mentioned State. Similarly, any debts of an enterprise of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall, for the purpose of determining the taxable capital of such enterprise, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been contracted to a resident of the first-mentioned State.

6. 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.

7. In this Article, the term “taxation” means taxes which are the subject of this Agreement.

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 Agreement, 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 this Agreement.

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 this Agreement. Any agreement reached shall be implemented notwithstanding any time limits in the domestic law of the Contracting States.

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

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.

5. If any difficulty or doubt arising as to the interpretation or application of this Agreement cannot be resolved by the competent authorities of the Contracting States in a mutual agreement procedure pursuant to the previous paragraphs of this Article within a period of two years after the question was raised, the case may, at the request of either Contracting State, be submitted for arbitration on a case by case basis, unless the competent authorities agree on an alternative settlement procedure and provided the taxpayer or taxpayers involved agree in writing to be bound by the decision of the arbitration panel. The decision of the arbitration panel in a particular case shall be binding on both Contracting States and the taxpayer or taxpayers involved with respect to that case.

Article 27

Exchange of Information

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Agreement or of the domestic laws of the Contracting States concerning taxes covered by this Agreement insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to this Agreement. 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 this Agreement. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes. They may disclose the information in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions.

2. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 1 be construed so as to impose on a Contracting State the obligation:

- a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;
- b) to supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State;
- c) to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process, or information, the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy (*ordre public*).

3. The Contracting States may release to the arbitration panel, established under the provisions of paragraph 5 of Article 26, such information as is necessary for carrying out the arbitration procedures. Such release of information shall be subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article. The members of the arbitration panel shall be subject to the limitations on disclosure described in paragraph 1 of this Article with respect to any information so released.

Article 28

Miscellaneous Rules

1. The provisions of this Agreement shall not be construed to restrict in any manner any exclusion, exemption, deduction, credit or other allowance now or hereafter accorded by any other special arrangement on taxation in connection with the economic or technical cooperation between the Contracting States.

2. The competent authorities of each Contracting State may prescribe regulations in order to carry out the provisions of this Agreement and will inform each other of such regulations.

Article 29

Diplomatic and Consular Privileges

1. Nothing in this Agreement 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.

2. For the purposes of this Agreement an individual, who is a member of a diplomatic or consular mission of a Contracting State in the other Contracting State or in a third State and who is a national of the sending State, shall be deemed to be a resident of the sending State if he is submitted therein to the same obligations in respect of taxes on income as are residents of that State.

3. This Agreement shall not apply to international organisations, organs and officials thereof and members of a diplomatic or consular mission of a third State, being present in a Contracting State, if they are not subjected therein to the same obligations in respect of taxes on income as are residents of that State.

Article 30

Entry Into Force

1. This Agreement 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 formalities constitutionally required in their respective States have been complied with, and its provisions shall have effect in both Contracting States:

- a) in respect of taxes withheld at source, for amounts paid or credited on or after the thirtieth day after the date on which this Agreement has entered into force;

- b)* in respect of other taxes, for taxable periods beginning on or after the first day of January of the calendar year following that in which this Agreement has entered into force.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, a resident of a Contracting State may choose to have the provisions of this Agreement to take effect as from 1 January 2001.

Article 31 Termination

This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of five years and shall continue in force thereafter for a similar period or periods unless either Contracting State notifies the other in writing, six months before the expiry of the initial or any subsequent period, of its intention to terminate this Agreement. In such event, this Agreement shall cease to have effect in both Contracting States:

- a)* in respect of taxes withheld at source, for amounts paid or credited on or after the first day of January of the calendar year next following that in which the notice of termination is given; and
- b)* in respect of other taxes, for taxable periods beginning on or after the first day of January of the calendar year next following that in which the notice of termination is given.