# AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLE OF MAN AND

# THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION RELATING TO TAX MATTERS

Whereas it is acknowledged that the Isle of Man, under the terms of its Entrustment from the United Kingdom, has the right to negotiate, conclude, perform and, subject to the terms of this Agreement, terminate a tax information exchange agreement with the Republic of Turkey;

Whereas the Parties wish to enhance and facilitate the terms and conditions governing the exchange of information with respect to taxes;

Now, therefore, the Parties have agreed to conclude the following Agreement, which contains obligations on the part of the Parties only:

# ARTICLE 1

# OBJECT AND SCOPE OF THE AGREEMENT

The competent authorities of the Parties shall provide assistance through exchange of information that is foreseeably relevant to the administration and enforcement of the domestic laws of the Parties concerning taxes covered by this Agreement. Such information shall include information that is foreseeably relevant to the determination, assessment and collection of such taxes, the recovery and enforcement of tax claims, or the investigation or prosecution of tax matters. Information shall be exchanged in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and shall be treated as confidential in the manner provided in Article 8. The rights and safeguards secured to persons by the laws or administrative practice of the requested Party remain applicable to the extent that they do not unduly prevent or delay effective exchange of information.

#### **ARTICLE 2**

# **JURISDICTION**

A requested Party is not obligated to provide information which is neither held by its authorities nor in the possession or control of persons who are within its territorial jurisdiction.

### ARTICLE 3

# TAXES COVERED

- 1. The taxes which are the subject of this Agreement are:
  - a) in the Isle of Man, taxes on income or profit; and
  - b) in Turkey:
    - (i) the income tax;
    - (ii) the corporation tax.
- 2. This Agreement shall also apply to any identical or substantially similar taxes imposed after the date of signature of this Agreement in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes.

Furthermore, the taxes covered may be expanded or modified by mutual agreement of the Parties in the form of an exchange of letters. The competent authorities of the Parties shall notify each other of any substantial changes to the taxation and related information gathering measures covered by this Agreement.

# **ARTICLE 4**

#### DEFINITIONS

- 1. For the purposes of this Agreement, unless otherwise defined:
  - a) the term "Turkey" means the Turkish territory including the land territory, internal waters, the territorial sea and air space above them, as well as the maritime areas over which Turkey has sovereign rights or jurisdiction for the purpose of exploration, exploitation and preservation of natural resources whether living or non-living, pursuant to international law;
  - b) the term "Isle of Man" means the island of the Isle of Man, including its territorial sea, in accordance with international law;
  - c) the term "competent authority" means:
    - (i) in the case of Turkey, the Minister of Finance or his authorised representative;
    - (ii) in the case of the Isle of Man, the Assessor of Income Tax or his or her delegate.
  - 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 that is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
  - f) the term "publicly traded company" means any company whose principal class of shares is listed on a recognised stock exchange provided its listed shares can be readily purchased or sold by the public. Shares can be purchased or sold "by the public" if the purchase or sale of shares is not implicitly or explicitly restricted to a limited group of investors;
  - g) the term "principal class of shares" means the class or classes of shares representing a majority of the voting power and value of the company;

- h) the term "recognised stock exchange" means any stock exchange agreed upon by the competent authorities of the Parties;
- i) the term "collective investment fund or scheme" means any pooled investment vehicle, irrespective of legal form. The term "public collective investment fund or scheme" means any collective investment fund or scheme provided the units, shares or other interests in the fund or scheme can be readily purchased, sold or redeemed by the public. Units, shares or other interests in the fund or scheme can be readily purchased, sold or redeemed "by the public" if the purchase, sale or redemption is not implicitly or explicitly restricted to a limited group of investors;
- i) the term "tax" means any tax to which the Agreement applies;
- k) the term "applicant Party" means the Party requesting information;
- 1) the term "requested Party" means the Party requested to provide information;
- m) the term "information gathering measures" means laws and administrative or judicial procedures that enable a Party to obtain and provide the requested information;
- n) the term "information" means any fact, statement, document or record in any form whatever;
- o) the term "criminal tax matters" means tax matters involving intentional conduct which is liable to prosecution under the criminal laws of the applicant Party;
- p) the term "criminal laws" means all criminal laws designated as such under domestic law irrespective of whether contained in the tax laws, the criminal code or other statutes;
- q) the term "Party" means Turkey or the Isle of Man as the context requires.
- 2. As regards the application of this Agreement at any time by a Party, any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning that it has at that time under the law of that Party, any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that Party prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that Party.

### **ARTICLE 5**

# **EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION UPON REQUEST**

- 1. The competent authority of the requested Party shall provide upon request information for the purposes referred to in Article 1. Such information shall be exchanged without regard to whether the conduct being investigated would constitute a crime under the laws of the requested Party if such conduct occurred in the requested Party.
- 2. If the information in the possession of the competent authority of the requested Party is not sufficient to enable it to comply with the request for information, that Party shall use all relevant information gathering measures necessary to provide the applicant Party with the information requested, notwithstanding that the requested Party may not need such information for its own tax purposes.
- 3. If specifically requested by the competent authority of the applicant Party, the competent authority of the requested Party shall provide information under this Article, to the extent allowable under its domestic laws, in the form of depositions of witnesses and authenticated copies of original records.
- 4. Each Party shall ensure that its competent authorities for the purposes specified in Article 1 of the Agreement, have the authority to obtain and provide upon request:
  - a) information held by banks, other financial institutions, and any person acting in an agency or fiduciary capacity, including nominees and trustees;
  - b) information regarding the legal and beneficial ownership of companies, partnerships, trusts, foundations, "Anstalten" and other persons, including, within the constraints of Article 2, ownership information on all such persons in an ownership chain; in the case of trusts, information on settlors, trustees, protectors and beneficiaries; and in the case of foundations, information on founders, members of the foundation council and beneficiaries. Further, this Agreement does not create an obligation on the Parties to obtain or provide ownership information with respect to publicly traded companies or public collective investment funds or schemes unless such information can be obtained without giving rise to disproportionate difficulties.
- 5. The competent authority of the applicant Party shall provide the following information

to the competent authority of the requested Party when making a request for information under the Agreement to demonstrate the foreseeable relevance of the information to the request:

- a) the identity of the person under examination or investigation;
- b) a statement of the information sought including its nature and the form in which the applicant Party wishes to receive the information from the requested Party;
- c) the tax purpose for which the information is sought;
- d) grounds for believing that the information requested is held in the territory of the requested Party or is in the possession of or in the control of or obtainable by a person within the jurisdiction of the requested Party;
- e) to the extent known, the name and address of any person believed to be in the possession of or in the control of or able to obtain the requested information;
- f) a statement that the request is in conformity with the law and administrative practices of the applicant Party, that if the requested information was within the jurisdiction of the applicant Party then the competent authority of the applicant Party would be able to obtain the information under the laws of the applicant Party or in the normal course of administrative practice and that it is in conformity with this Agreement;
- g) a statement that the applicant Party has pursued all means available in its own territory to obtain the information, except those that would give rise to disproportionate difficulties.
- 6. The competent authority of the requested Party shall acknowledge receipt of the request to the competent authority of the applicant Party and shall use its best endeavours to forward the requested information to the applicant Party as soon as possible.

#### **ARTICLE 6**

# TAX EXAMINATIONS ABROAD

1. By reasonable notice given in advance, a Party may allow representatives of the competent authority of the other Party to enter the territory of the first-mentioned Party to

interview individuals and examine records with the prior written consent of the persons concerned. The competent authority of the second-mentioned Party shall notify the competent authority of the first-mentioned Party of the time and place of the intended meeting with the individuals concerned.

- 2. At the request of the competent authority of one Party, the competent authority of the other Party may allow representatives of the competent authority of the first-mentioned Party to be present at the appropriate part of a tax examination in the second-mentioned Party.
- 3. If the request referred to in paragraph 2 is acceded to, the competent authority of the Party conducting the examination shall, as soon as possible, notify the competent authority of the other Party about the time and place of the examination, the authority or official designated to carry out the examination and the procedures and conditions required by the first-mentioned Party for the conduct of the examination. All decisions with respect to the conduct of the tax examination shall be made by the Party conducting the examination.

# ARTICLE 7

# POSSIBILITY OF DECLINING A REQUEST

- 1. The requested Party shall not be required to obtain or provide information that the applicant Party would not be able to obtain under its own laws for purposes of the administration or enforcement of its own tax laws. The competent authority of the requested Party may decline to assist where the request is not made in conformity with this Agreement.
- 2. The provisions of this Agreement shall not impose on a Party the obligation to provide information subject to legal privilege as provided for under domestic law of that Party or to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process. Notwithstanding the foregoing, information of the type referred to in Article 5, paragraph 4 shall not be treated as such a secret or trade process merely because it meets the criteria in that paragraph.
- 3. The requested Party may decline a request for information if the disclosure of the information would be contrary to public policy (ordre public).
- 4. A request for information shall not be refused on the ground that the tax claim giving rise to the request is disputed.

5. The requested Party may decline a request for information if the information is requested by the applicant Party to administer or enforce a provision of the tax law of the applicant Party, or any requirement connected therewith, which discriminates against a national of the requested Party as compared with a national of the applicant Party in the same circumstances.

#### **ARTICLE 8**

# CONFIDENTIALITY

- 1. All information provided and received by the competent authorities of the Parties shall be kept confidential.
- 2. Such information shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) concerned with the purposes specified in Article 1, and used by such persons or authorities only for such purposes, including the determination of any appeal. For these purposes, information may be disclosed in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions.
- 3. Such information may not be used for any purpose other than for the purposes stated in Article 1 without the express written consent of the competent authority of the requested Party.
- 4. Information provided to an applicant Party under this Agreement may not be disclosed to any other jurisdiction.

#### **ARTICLE 9**

# **COSTS**

Unless the competent authorities of the Parties otherwise agree, ordinary costs incurred in providing assistance shall be borne by the requested Party, and extraordinary costs in providing assistance (including costs of engaging external advisers in connection with litigation or otherwise) shall be borne by the applicant Party. The respective competent authorities shall consult from time to time with regard to this Article, and in particular the

competent authority of the requested Party shall consult with the competent authority of the applicant Party if the costs of providing information with respect to a specific request are expected to be extraordinary.

#### ARTICLE 10

#### IMPLEMENTATION LEGISLATION

The Parties shall enact any legislation necessary to comply with, and give effect to, the terms of the Agreement.

#### ARTICLE 11

#### MUTUAL AGREEMENT PROCEDURE

- 1. Where difficulties or doubts arise between the Parties regarding the implementation or interpretation of the Agreement, the competent authorities shall endeavour to resolve the matter by mutual agreement.
- 2. In addition to the agreements referred to in paragraph 1, the competent authorities of the Parties may mutually agree on the procedures to be used under Articles 5, 6 and 9.
- 3. The competent authorities of the Parties may communicate with each other directly for purposes of reaching agreement under this Article.
- 4. The Parties may also agree on other forms of dispute resolution should this become necessary.

# **ARTICLE 12**

#### **ENTRY INTO FORCE**

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the later of the dates on which each of the Parties has notified the other in writing that the procedures required by its law have been complied with.

2. Upon entry into force, the provisions of this Agreement shall have effect:

a) for criminal tax matters on that date; and

b) for all other matters covered in Article 1 on that date, but only in respect of taxable

periods beginning on or after the date of signature of this Agreement or, where there is

no taxable period, all charges to tax arising on or after the date of signature.

**ARTICLE 13** 

**TERMINATION** 

1. This Agreement shall remain in force until terminated by a Party. Either Party may

terminate the Agreement at any time after the Agreement enters into force, provided that at

least six months prior notice of termination has been given in writing to the competent

authority of the other Party.

2. If the Agreement is terminated the Parties shall remain bound by the provisions of

Article 8 with respect to any information obtained under the Agreement.

In witness whereof the undersigned being duly authorised in that behalf by their respective

Governments, have signed the Agreement.

Done at London, this 21st day of September 2012, in duplicate, in the English and Turkish

languages, both texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF

THE ISLE OF MAN

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

Mehmet KİLCİ

Miltellabile

President of Revenue Administration

William Edward TEARE

Minister of Treasury