



Your e-newspaper, published by the Great Britain-Cyprus Business Association

Inflation pressure hurts UK business confidence: Lloyds



British business confidence fell this month to its lowest since March 2021 as companies worried about inflation, while pay pressures also increased, according to a survey on Friday.

Lloyds Bank said its monthly business barometer fell in July to 25% from 28% in June, which was the series' long-run average. (Page 12)

Cyprus experiencing tech boom

Invest Cyprus, the state *authority* for attracting *foreign investment*, has awarded seven international companies for their vote of confidence in the Cypriot economy.

The seven firms awarded at the 10th Invest Cyprus International Investment Awards are active in many areas, from fintech and payment solutions to private equity funds investing in healthcare. (Page 16)



UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE: **BUSINESS ORIENTATION CYPRUS 2022**

Plus: An update on UK Economy and UK Investment Opportunities



The Great Britain-Cyprus Business Association Cyprus are organising an International Business Conference, on Monday, 14 November 2022 at London Marriott Hotel, Regents Park.

More than 20 speakers/panelists, from Cyprus and the UK, will participate. More than 120 delegates are expected to attend. A Minister from the government of the Republic of Cyprus will be the main speaker.

The event is under the auspices of the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For more information, please visit www.gbcy.business/events (Page 7).

UK business confidence continues to fall amid soaring inflation and cost of living crisis

Business confidence: The east of England, the West Midlands, Wales, and the north-east were all above the UK average of 28% and in the top five of the most confident UK regions. Photo: Matthew Childs/Reuters

UK businesses reported a fall in confidence this month, down by three points to 25%, as inflation and [cost of living](#) worries drove sentiment. (Page 14)



INDEX

1. Editorial:	
By By Michael R. Virardi, Speaker, Trainer, Author	3
2. Events:	
• INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE: BUSINESS ORIENTATION CYPRUS 2022 Plus: An update on UK Economy and UK Investment Opportunities	7
3. News:	
<u>Great Britain</u>	
• Inflation pressure hurts UK business confidence: Lloyds	12
• UK business confidence continues to fall amid soaring inflation and cost of living crisis	14
<u>Cyprus</u>	
• Cyprus experiencing tech boom	16
• Cyprus – punching above its weight in global shipping	20
• The framework for attracting companies to Cyprus is broadened	23
• The next few months are more difficult for the real estate market, says the President of Real Estate Agents	25
• Cyprus: Improving economic sentiment in July due to services and manufacturing	29
4. Business Profiles/Presentations:	
• Christiana Aristidou LLC	32
• NEOSERVE Audit Limited	36
• LOWCOSTFX	38
5. Articles:	
• REFORM OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN CYPRUS, by Savvas Savvides – Lawyer, Partner, Michael Kyprianou & Co LLC	43
• RATIFICATION OF DOUBLE TAXATION AVOIDANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CYPRUS AND THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN, by Tax Department at KINANIS LAW FIRM	46
• Cyprus Tax Department - Introduction of Transfer Pricing Law and Regulations in Cyprus, By Marios Palesis, Director & Stelios Lympouras, Associates at T. P. Alfa Services	49
• Law amending the Bicycle Traffic Regulation Law of 2018, by Pavlos Pavlou, Associate at G.kouzalis LLC	54
• Using Cyprus as a Business Headquartering Base, by N. Xenofontos LLC	58
• Compliance risks: What you don't timely manage can hurt you, by C.X. Financia Ltd	68
• Network Modernization; a crucial step for your digital transformation, by Theodosios Theodosiou, Business Development Manager, Cloudlayer8 Limited	74
• Green taxes, reliefs, and schemes for businesses, by Hiten Patel, Partner in Gerald Edelman LLP	78
• Liquidity Bridge Hosting: The Key for a Reliable Forex Trading Infrastructure, by NETSHOP Data Center Services	81
• Protect your IP Rights – SME Fund available until the 16 December 2022, by Aylin Zeybek – Lawyer Trainee at Elias Neocleous & Co LLC	84
 <u>Available only on Website page: E-Newspaper – Articles & Presentations, August 2022</u>	
• PROTOPAPAS LLP	
• ATHOS GROUP Family & Business Services	

EDITORIAL

Make this Count

By Michael R. Virardi, Speaker, Trainer, Author

It's no secret to the people closest to me: I'm very ambitious.



Ever since I can remember, as a young boy growing up in Cyprus and, later on, working for our family business, I had a strong desire and determination to succeed; a desire to make sure that whatever I did, I did it well.

This ambition was amplified by the fact that my [late father](#), Rolando G. Virardi, wanted to see me excel not just professionally but on a personal level too. With hindsight, I can now see that his advice always focused on how I could create added value, in particular for people at the

forefront of business but also for broader society.

People in the US know all about that.

The United States is the homeland of so many great professionals and, perhaps, of the most successful entrepreneurs this world has ever known. Business in the US is no joke. Every word, every gesture, every smile matters, especially in New York.

Yes, "The lights will inspire you" as the song says but those very same lights can also overwhelm and distract you if you're not careful.

As I strolled through Central Park, reflecting on how I would make the most of my [upcoming workshop](#) with the American P&I Club, I had just one thing on my mind:

"I'm here! I have overcome all the obstacles and constraints and I am where I always dreamed, I would be. So, I need to make this count."

Thankfully, I was prepared. More than prepared.

I knew that it was time to raise my game if I was going to deliver a successful workshop on "How to gain a competitive advantage" to one of the world's leading shipping insurers. After all, how do you stand out in an industry where differentiation is so hard? (For the record, a collective of thirteen mutuals provides Protection and Indemnity insurance for some 90% of world shipping.) The question was not a simple one for the company and while I didn't have all the answers, I knew that I could deliver insights and facilitate deep discussion to enable and empower those capable people to find the solutions they needed.

Make no mistake, I needed something more than 19 years of training and facilitation experience to make this intensive 5-day endeavour a success.

I pulled together the pieces of the puzzle by traveling beforehand to Athens to meet with members of The American P&I management team in person. I interviewed people with much more experience of their particular business than I could ever have gathered in a short space of time and cross-checked

the information with other sources in order to have a clear picture in my mind of the challenges I needed to deal with. Ray Dalio – the founder of Bridgewater Associates, one of the world's largest hedge funds – calls the process "triangulating", I call it dedication and commitment to delivering value.

Wishing to leave nothing to chance, I went all out with more than 50 hours of intense preparation. I strived to enhance my business and life perspective through numerous phone calls to trusted friends and advisors while, at the same time, rehearsing my performance like a highly disciplined soldier. For days before the event – as well as during the event in NYC – I'd go to bed at night with the same thought in my head:

“Make this count”.

And I did.

A few hours after the workshop was over, the management team expressed their enormous satisfaction with the result of my efforts and not just in words but in actions: they asked me to go back once a quarter, starting next year, to help their team identify and address more business challenges. All the hard work had paid off.

It usually does.

I left the US feeling both exhausted and fulfilled.

I also left as a much better professional and, I believe, a better person.

Most importantly, I left with the hope that somewhere, somehow Rolando G. Virardi might be watching over me with a big smile.

Short biography:

Michael R. Virardi is a facilitator, speaker and best-selling author on public speaking, leadership and business culture. He is also a proud husband and father to three children.

Working in over 19 countries and with some of the world's most prestigious and recognized companies, such as Google, The American P&I Club, Microsoft and Ericsson, Michael is one of the most highly respected and in-demand speakers and trainers across all continents.

He has written two best-selling books ([“Positive Impact”](#) and [“Crisis? Let's Beat it”](#)) and is currently working on his third book on the topic of public speaking and presentation skills. He is also the creator of the public speaking e-course [“Stand Up, Stand Out”](#).

You can find Michael on LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and TikTok where he shares daily insights and inspiration with his tens of thousands of followers.



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Great Britain-Cyprus Business Association



PRESENTS

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE: BUSINESS ORIENTATION CYPRUS 2022

Plus: An update on UK Economy and UK Investment Opportunities



A CONFERENCE FOR THE TRUE INVESTOR

London 14 November 2022

VENUE: Marriott Regents Park Hotel, 128 King Henry's Road, London NW3 3ST

This event is under the auspices of the government of the Republic of Cyprus



AREAS OF DISCUSSION

- 1. Technology and Start Ups**
- 2. Blockchain and Cryptos – new regulations in Cyprus**
- 3. Relocating your business in Cyprus – Updates based on the Government's action plan and Reforms for 2022**
- 4. Cyprus: An emerging Investment Fund Centre in Europe**
- 5. Real Estate: Investment Opportunities in Cyprus**
- 6. London: A Global Financial Centre**
- 7. UK Investment opportunities**



[For more information](#)

www.gbcy.business/events

Or send us an email to: info@gbcy.business

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AGENDA

8.45 a.m. – 9.30 a.m. Registration

9.30 a.m.

Opening speech by Savvas Kyriakides, Founder & President of the Great Britain-Cyprus Business Association

- The benefits from Business Networking between UK and Cyprus
- How businesses from both countries can benefit.

9.35 a.m.

Short Welcome Speech by the High Commissioner at the High Commission of the Republic of Cyprus in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Mr Andreas Kakouris

9.40 a.m.

Short Welcome Speech by the Minister Counselor for Economic and Commercial Affairs at the Embassy of Greece in London, Mr Yerassimos Lazaris

9.45 a.m.

**Speech by the a Minister of the Republic of Cyprus
Name TBC**

10.05 a.m. – 10.50 a.m.

Panel 1 Legal and Tax Updates based on the Government's action plan for 2022

10.50 a.m. – 11.05 a.m.

Coffee Break

11.05 a.m. – 11.45 p.m.

**Panel 2 Taking Advantage of the Technology and Best Startup Hubs in Europe.
-At the top of the list of top startup hubs in Europe is Cyprus.**

11.45 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Panel 3: Other Investment opportunities in Cyprus

12.30 p.m. – 12.45 p.m.

Coffee Break

12.45 p.m. – 1.30 p.m.

**Panel 4 London – A Global Financial & Investment Centre
- London ranked second best startup hub in the world for tech
- Return on Property Investment in London, very attractive**

1.30 p.m. – 2.15 p.m.

Panel 5 Real Estate: Investment Opportunities in Cyprus

2.15 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.

LUNCH AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES



PELAGHIAS, CHRISTODOULOU, VRACHAS LLC

WHO WE ARE

Our firm, **Pelagias, Christodoulou, Vrachas LLC**, is one of the most established and oldest law firms in Cyprus. We strive for excellence in reaching quality taking our clients objectives personally and aiming to build strong and long – lasting relationships. We consolidate a profound, multi-faceted knowledge of the law with a strong sense of professionalism in delivering results through our powerful team of lawyers.

Our law firm was founded in 1920 by John G. Pelagias and originally operated in Limassol. In 1950 his son George J. Pelagias relocated the law firm to Nicosia, where it has been operated since then.

In 1984, Alexandra Pelagias – Christodoulou joined her father and subsequently became partner in the law firm. In 1992, our law firm grew further when Petros Fr. Vrachas joined the firm which was then reorganised and later renamed to PELAGHIAS, CHRISTODOULOU, VRACHAS LLC.

WHAT WE DO

We aim to lead in each practice area of law we work in. Our clients range from multinational corporations to privately owned companies and individuals from different jurisdictions. Our focus is to concentrate on each client's specific requirements and objectives to provide legal solutions tailored to their needs.

The quality of our services has long been acknowledged and recognised by our clients on both domestic and global level. Establishing our commitment to the wider community at large, we take pro bono work and offer the same level of service to clients who find themselves in particularly challenging situations. Through this procedure, we gain priceless experiences and job satisfaction, making us stronger and progressively cultivated leaders in our respective practice areas. Our highly qualified and experienced lawyers offer their services across all major areas of law, including corporate & commercial, litigation, investment funds and financial services, banking & finance, energy, real estate, mergers and acquisitions, competition, immigration, tax, insurance, administration, public procurement, employment as well as intellectual property and data protection.

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We are proud to be members of the Great Britain-Cyprus Business Association as part of our commitment to supporting those businesses during what it is a challenging time for many.

For more information on our Cyprus team visit www.quantumacyprus.com.

For more information on our UK team visit www.quantuma.com.

Inflation pressure hurts UK business confidence: Lloyds



British business confidence fell this month to its lowest since March 2021 as companies worried about inflation, while pay pressures also increased, according to a survey on Friday.

Lloyds Bank said its monthly business barometer fell in July to 25% from 28% in June, which was the series' long-run average.

A joint record 58% of companies expected to raise prices in the coming year, the survey showed - something that is likely to catch the eye of Bank of England officials who are deciding how much to raise interest rates, tomorrow, Aug. 4.

The survey reinforced the mix of slowing growth but rampant price pressures in Britain's economy, which economists increasingly believe will cause the BoE to raise borrowing costs next week by 50 basis points rather than 25.

"Business confidence declined this month, suggesting that economic headwinds are becoming more forceful," said Hann-Ju Ho, senior economist at Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking.

"Meanwhile, price pressures have shown no clear signs of a downward trend and there appears little sign yet that wage pressures are abating," he added.

While business confidence is weaker, it has not fallen by anything like the same amount as consumer sentiment, which July's GfK survey showed was the joint lowest since records began in 1974.

The survey showed 17% of companies expected average pay growth of 4% or more in the year ahead, the highest figure since the series started in 2018.

Two-thirds of the companies surveyed said inflation - which hit a 40-year high of 9.4% in June - was hurting them.

Lloyds said confidence in the manufacturing sector was hit hardest in July. The survey of around 1,200 businesses took place during the first half of July.

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UK business confidence continues to fall amid soaring inflation and cost of living crisis



Business confidence: The east of England, the West Midlands, Wales, and the north east were all above the UK average of 28% and in the top five of the most confident UK regions. Photo: Matthew Childs/Reuters

UK businesses reported a fall in confidence this month, down by three points to 25%, as inflation and [cost of living](#) worries drove sentiment.

According to the latest Lloyds Bank ([LLOY.L](#)) business barometer, the reading put confidence below the long-term average of 28% for the first time since March 2021, when the economy emerged from the second [COVID](#) wave.

More than half (54%) of British firms surveyed were most concerned about inflation, after it reached its [highest level in 40 years](#) in the year to June, at 9.4%.

The next biggest worries were an economic slowdown (38%) and tightening labour markets (25%).

Although businesses maintain an overall positive view on the economy, it has decreased in recent months as economic uncertainties have gained momentum, with economic optimism remaining positive but dropping by 10 points to 12%.

Despite the more challenging outlook, businesses' assessment of their own trading prospects remained relatively resilient this month, with the net balance for trading prospects for July up three points to 37%.

The data also showed that the proportion of firms expecting to raise their prices in the coming year increased to match the record high of 58% from April this year — up two points on last month. Meanwhile, an unchanged 5% of companies planned to lower their prices.

The majority (66%) of firms said inflation was having a negative impact, suggesting that they have been able to pass on some, but not all, of their rising costs to their customers. This compared with only 9% of businesses indicating it was having a positive impact.

Businesses reported a pickup in their expectations for wage growth in the year ahead, with 17% of firms expecting average pay growth of 4% or more for their employees, an all-time high.

In contrast, the share anticipating pay growth below 2%, including pay freezes, fell to a four-month low.

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Cyprus experiencing tech boom



Invest Cyprus, the state *authority* for attracting *foreign investment*, has awarded seven international companies for their vote of confidence in the Cypriot economy.

The seven firms awarded at the 10th Invest Cyprus International Investment Awards are active in many areas, from fintech and payment solutions to private equity funds investing in healthcare.

Invest Cyprus' Chairman Evgenios Evgeniou said the awards were given as a token of the country's appreciation for their contribution to the local economy, not for the performance.

Acknowledging the need to diversify foreign investments made in Cyprus, especially after the demise of the Citizenship for Investment scheme, Invest Cyprus has focused on bringing in Tech and Fintech companies and their executives.

In comments to the Financial Mirror, Evgeniou said: "Cyprus has introduced a new strategy for attracting foreign companies and skilled talent.

"The strategy focuses on high technology, shipping, pharmaceutical, innovation, and research and development companies".

And the authority is pleased to see its efforts bearing fruit, as a new business cluster of technology companies is developing.

"We are confident that, despite the challenges in the global economy, the [international business](#) clusters will continue to grow in the years to come."

"Efforts are intensifying to attract new businesses and investments to Cyprus that will create jobs and add value to our economy."

Highlighting the impact of foreign investments, which is of pivotal importance for sustainable development, Evgeniou said that existing investors act as ambassadors of Cyprus.

In this framework, the authority introduced an annual award ceremony to show its appreciation for companies benefitting the Cyprus economy.

The winners at this year's event were; BrainRocket, CVC, ECOMMBX, Murex, SYKES (part of Sitel Group), TheSoul Publishing and Medicover.

BrainRocket

The first award went to BrainRocket, a high-tech company active in “all things IT”, as the company likes to brand itself.

The firm offers research and development IT services aiming to offer innovative solutions.

BrainRocket, a Swedish firm, established its Limassol base just 15 months ago, aiming to become a fresh new add-on to the software world, ready to thrive and reach the top.

It has taken advantage of a Cyprus scheme offering low-income tax for executives, relocating 400 employees from Scandinavian countries.

Altogether BrainRocket employs over 600 people in Cyprus and another 150 working remotely; employees are from 15 different nationalities.

“Our current mission is to take the IT universe by shooting for the stars and building a creative digital future, choosing Cyprus to be our primary location.

“We aim to make the island one of the leading IT hubs,” BrainRocket’s CEO Boris Chaikin said.

Chaikin said Cyprus is a “marvelous choice” for international business operations.

“It has an affordable and compatible tax system allowing companies to work cost-effectively.

“In addition, Cyprus offers attractive conditions for employees, allowing them to enjoy a balanced work life.

“The sky’s the limit for BrainRocket. We are just warming up in Cyprus.”

BrainRocket has purchased a large plot of land in [Limassol](#), once the home of the old Galactica Luna park.

CVC Capital Partners

CVC Capital Partners was awarded for their investment in the island’s healthcare system.

The private equity fund has purchased the Apollonion Hospital in Nicosia for €83 mln while also negotiating to buy the Aretaio hospital in the capital.

Reportedly, the fund is preparing to create a new hospital on the island, which will house doctors and health services who choose to remain outside the General Healthcare system.

CVC manages funds on behalf of more than 300 institutional and non-public, and private sector investors worldwide. The investment fund’s clients are primarily American.

According to the fund’s data, CVC manages assets of more than \$50 bln worldwide, while it has a network of 24 offices in Europe, America, and Asia.

Medicover

Another firm awarded for boosting potential in the island’s health sector was Medicover, which announced the completion of the takeover of NIPD Genetics, a leading innovative biotechnology company based in Cyprus.

The purchase price for the 68.3% of acquired shares is €44.4 mln with no debt assumed, implying an enterprise value of €65 mln.

Medicover’s COO Staffan **Ternstrom** said they were “amazed” at the level of skills they found at NIPD, on which they will be continuing to build on.

“This deal provides a bridge point for us to move further into the Middle East and Africa,” said Ternstrom.

ECOMMBX

ECOMMBX was established in the Republic of Cyprus in 2016 and is headquartered in Nicosia, specialising in issuing virtual IBANS, facilitating SEPA & SWIFT transfers on a global scale and currency conversion.

The firm offers B2B e-money services through an advanced fintech platform and tailored-made payment solutions quickly and securely.

Murex

Paris-based Murex, a leading European software producer in trading, treasury, risk, and post-trade operations for financial markets, was also awarded for contributing to the local economy.

The third-largest firm in its sector in France cast its vote of confidence in late 2021, relocating its Lebanon office to Nicosia. It now employs more than 150 people.

SYKES

Also awarded, SYKES, now part of the Sitel group, is a US multinational business process outsourcing provider headquartered in Tampa, Florida.

SYKES opened its first office in Larnaca, Cyprus, in July 2017 with 20 employees and has grown rapidly since then, to employ more than 600 people in three offices, with many Cypriots joining the group.

Globally, SYKES are the third biggest business process outsourcing with 160,000 employees, working in eleven different languages.

“We ended up in Cyprus when we were looking for the optimal location to serve the [Nordic market](#).

“We started with a list of 19 locations, from which Larnaca scored the highest,” said SYKES’ Director for the Cyprus region, Kurt Soler.

“Cyprus is within the EU, has a good IT infrastructure, stable tax framework, flexible labour conditions, and excellent climate which attracts Nordic employees and clients.

“We have an ambitious growth facilitated by the local authorities’ approach and their openness.”

TheSoul Publishing

Also recognised for its contribution to Cyprus, TheSoul Publishing is one of the world’s most prolific and popular online media companies, reaching over one billion social media subscribers across the world’s most popular platforms, including YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Snap, Pinterest, and TikTok.

According to Tubular Labs since October 2020, TheSoul Publishing has continued to generate the most views of any media and entertainment creator across Facebook and YouTube — followed by such companies as Disney, Comcast, and Warner Bros. Discovery.

The company employs over 500 people in Cyprus.



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Cyprus – punching above its weight in global shipping

Cyprus Shipping Deputy Minister, Vassilios Demetriades, aptly describes the country as, “Small in size, but big in shipping”, as it continues to grow its maritime ambitions.



The Deputy Shipping Ministry was set up in 2018 underscoring the importance of the maritime industries. Speaking to *Seatrade Maritime News* at Posidonia 2022 recently Demetriades explained what he believes has been achieved and set out plans for the future.

Cyprus is perhaps best known as a ship management and owning centre and over the last decade it has seen a three-fold increase in the number of companies registered under its tonnage tax system from 95 to 285 at present. In terms of shipowning the country has a fleet of around 1,100 vessels with a combined gross tonnage of roughly 25m gt.

“So, this shows that the companies are trusting our EU approved tonnage tax system, which extended for another decade till 2029,” the Minister said.

The pandemic saw Cyprus demonstrating its commitment to the shipping industry and its seafarers, who endured the hardship of the crew change crisis globally and regulations that saw them confined to vessels for months on end. “From the very first month of the pandemic back in March 2020 we declared seafarers as essential workers facilitating up to now, and making possible, the repatriation and crew change of over 65,000 seafarers,” Demetriades said.

Cyprus also launched an initiative to vaccinate 40,000 seafarers from its national quota.

With the current crisis in Ukraine following the Russian invasion of the country Cyprus continues to support seafarers and the industry with a cooperation with the Central Bank of Cyprus to allow crew to open bank accounts to receive their salaries. “Seafarers, irrespective of nationality, can easily open an account in Cyprus - a bank account of limited use, so, shipowners could deposit their salaries there, and so they can have access to their salary.”

He added: “These are a number of examples what we are doing to respond to the crisis to show that we are close to the shipping. We are not just a Registry, we respond to the needs of the industry.”

On the back of its role as a ship management and shipowning centre Cyprus is seeking to grow its services sector to become a fully-fledged maritime centre and the Minister notes they have been successful in attracting the likes of P&I Clubs, marine equipment providers, and technology companies.

Building on its success maritime Cyprus launched its SEA Change 2030 vision last October – SEA standing for Sustainable, Extrovet and Adaptable. Under these three pillars. It contains 35 individual actions to deliver sustainable progress for shipping

“We do believe by delivering these actions, Cyprus shipping will become more resilient to crisis and will have the framework conditions to become more competitive. But also, we will set the basis in conduct to lead to a positive change for global shipping,” Demetriades said.

“With this strategy, now, we are determined for Cyprus to bring more quality ships into our registry, because for us it's not a matter of quantity, but it's a matter of quality,” the Minister stated.

As shipping grapples with the transition to low and zero carbon fuels Cyprus has introduced incentives as part of its tonnage tax system. Owners and operators going beyond global commitments by IMO can enjoy up to a 30% discount on their tonnage tax.

He explained that it was not only important as discount to shipowners who demonstrated a green commitment, but also enables Cyprus to measure that's its fleet is headed in the right direction in terms of reducing its environmental impact. “As a registry we want also to guide shipowners, the companies that are trusting us to the right direction, in order to provide guidance and support in this green transformation.”

Looking more broadly Cyprus believes it has role to play in promoting the image and importance of shipping globally. “I would also like to see Cyprus contribution for better shipping globally be further enhanced. Because I do believe that as maritime nations, as people and a country that is passionate about shipping, we do need to see a greater and the role of the civil society acknowledging the role of shipping,” Demetriades stated.





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The framework for attracting companies to Cyprus is broadened

The Plenum with 50 votes in favour and one abstention approved into law two amending bills aimed at expanding the framework for attracting companies to Cyprus.



With the approval of these two laws, the package of tax measures included in the Strategy for attracting Businesses to Operate and / or Expand their Activities in Cyprus, as approved by the Council of Ministers, is completed.

With 50 votes in favour and one abstention, ecologist MP Alexandra Attalidou, the Plenary approved the amendment of the Income Tax Law, expanding the scope of the existing framework for

exemption from income tax of 50% of the remuneration of a person from employment in the Republic, in case he was a non-resident in the Republic before his employment.

As the General Manager of the Ministry of Finance had mentioned, the expansion of the scope of the tax deduction was promoted in the context of the implementation of the strategy of attracting companies to operate or even expand their activities in the Republic, with the aim of creating high added value jobs, expanding the production base and developing the economy.

In particular, the bill provides, inter alia, that 50% of the remuneration of young employees, whose commencement of their first employment in the Republic was on January 1, 2022, is exempt from income tax for a period of 17 years, provided that their remuneration per year exceeds €55,000 and they were not residents of the Republic for a period of at least 12 consecutive years before the start of their employment in the Republic,

It also provides for the granting of a corresponding exemption for purposes of equal treatment to existing taxpayers, provided that they were not residents of the Republic for a period of at least 12 consecutive years before the start of their employment in the Republic, in order to grant an exemption of 50% of the employment fee from the year 2022 until the completion of 17 years from the beginning of their employment, in the event that these taxpayers were beneficiaries based on the existing tax framework, tax exemption of 50% of their remuneration or tax exemption of 20% of their remuneration, with a maximum amount of exemption of €8,550, until the year 2021 and the remuneration from their employment in the Republic in the year of their employment in the year of their employment exceeded €55,000 per year.

The regulations are expected to make the tax framework for the employment of people from abroad more attractive, encouraging the activity of businesses in the Republic with a physical presence, transferring their headquarters and staff to Cyprus, the repatriation of Cypriots who have been permanently residing abroad for a long period and the attraction to the Republic of foreign high-level workers with specialization.

The Plenum also approved with the same analogy the amendment of the Income Tax Law, expanding the existing tax framework for investments in innovative enterprises, in order to include investments made by legal entities.

With the proposed regulations, thirty percent (30%) of the expense incurred for the investment of own funds by a legal entity in approved small and medium-sized innovative enterprises will be deducted from the taxable income, provided that the benefit from the deductible expense does not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the total taxable income of the person, with a maximum amount of €150,000.

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The next few months are more difficult for the real estate market, says the President of Real Estate Agents



By **FinancialNews**.
com.cy

The real estate market, despite the challenges, is showing resilience and adaptability, said the president of the Real Estate Agents Registration Council, Marinos Kynaigirou, warning that the coming months will be "more difficult, as the purchasing power of households will continue to be pressured and businesses may postpone decisions of an investment nature".

"At the same time, the upcoming increase in lending rates will also act as a deterrent to decisions to acquire property," he added, according to a Council statement.

In its newsletter for the real estate sector in the second quarter of 2022, based on the processing of the data of the Department of Lands and Surveys, the Council notes that a total of 5442 sales worth €1.2 billion were recorded. euro.

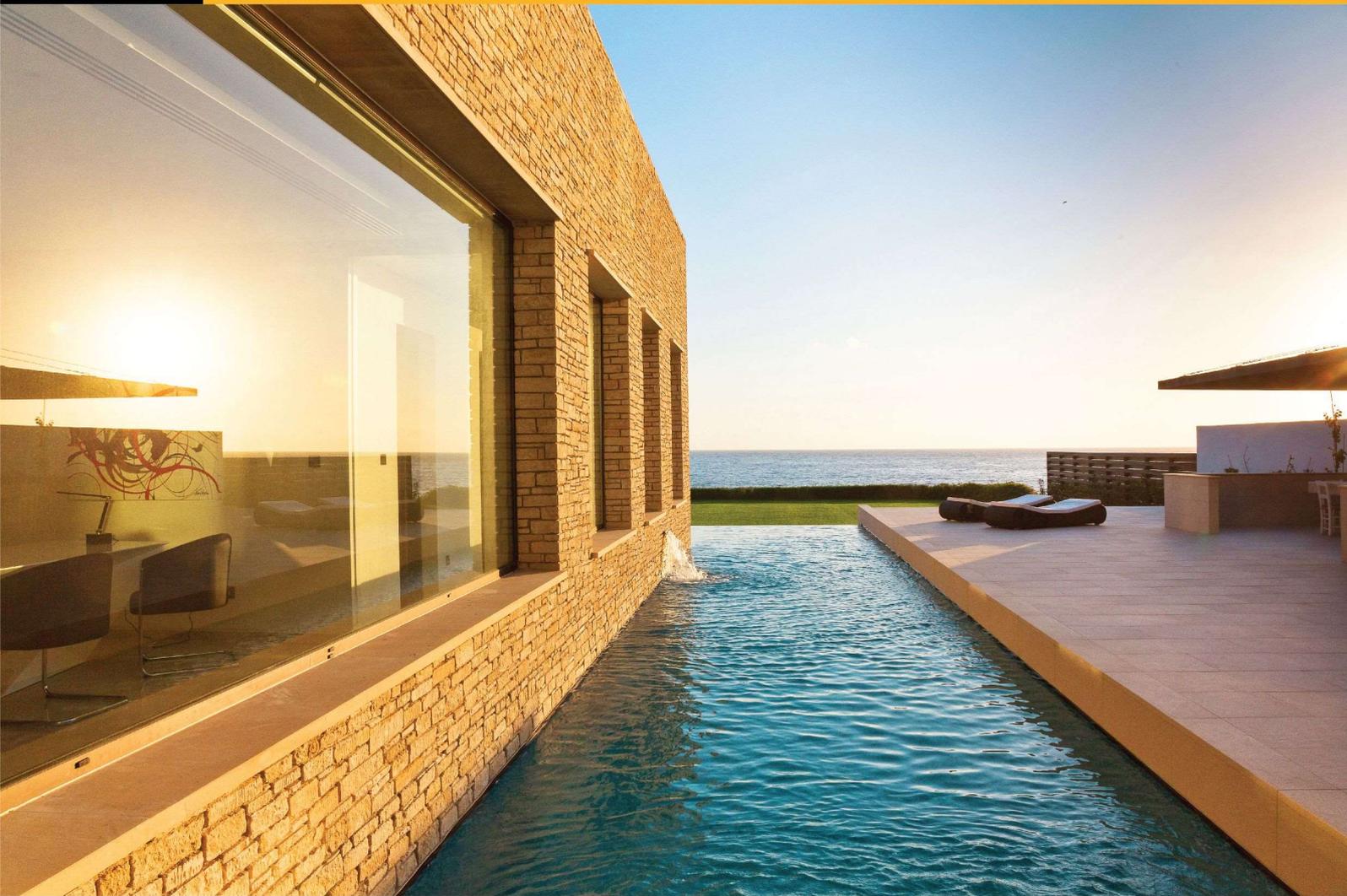
"For another quarter, and despite the conditions of intense uncertainty and rising inflation, interest in apartments and plots of land and other pieces of land was particularly strong," the Council's bulletin states.

In the Nicosia district, a total of 1620 operations were recorded, with a total value of €268 million, with the largest volume of operations involving apartments (562) and fields (409). In the Limassol district, both the total sales (1641) and mainly their value (€587 million) were greater than any other district. Particular interest was recorded for fields (410).

In the district of Paphos, sales in the second quarter reached 832 and their total value €174 million. In Paphos, the most sales of houses were recorded for another quarter (154), with a large percentage of them being characterized as villas. In Larnaca, sales amounted to 1034 and their total value to €173 million. Finally, in the famagusta district, 295 operations with a total value of €59 million were implemented. with interest for another quarter being intense for fields (174).

It is recalled that the Council secured for the first time access to the comparative sales of real estate of the Department of Lands and Surveys to all licensed real estate agents in the context of its continuous effort to increase transparency and information of both professionals and the public.

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Cyprus: Improving economic sentiment in July due to services and manufacturing



By **FinancialNews.**
com.cy

An improvement in the economic climate occurred in July this year, according to the Centre for Economic Research of the University of Cyprus.

Specifically, the Conjunctural Index (TEC) increased by 1,4 points compared to June 2022.

"The increase in the TEC is due to the improvement in the business climate in the services and manufacturing sectors," it said.

According to the Center for Economic Research of the University of Cyprus, businesses in the services more favorably assessed their recent financial situation and revised upwards the expectations for their turnover, resulting in an increase in sentiment in the sector.

"In manufacturing, the improvement in sentiment came from the upward revision of the estimates for next quarter's production. In construction, sentiment remained stable for the second consecutive month, as the evaluations of ongoing projects and employment expectations in the sector did not show any substantial changes," it added.

On the contrary, sentiment in retail trade declined slightly, mainly due to more negative estimates for future sales.

In July, consumer sentiment showed no change from negative June levels.

It is also stated that the improvement in consumers' responses to the recent financial situation of their households and the future financial situation of their households and the country has been accompanied by a weakening of the intentions for large purchases.

In July, the Economic Uncertainty Index moved slightly upwards, as uncertainty between firms in the services, construction and manufacturing sectors increased.

Expectations for the course of prices, although at high levels, reflected signs of a de-escalation of the upward trends of the previous months.



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- Advising on **legal and regulatory compliance** in relation to data protection, anti-money laundering, consumer law and other potentially applicable regimes to various business models;

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- **Blockchain-enabled, DLT-enabled projects and other innovative projects:** general legal advice on the project/tokens involved, preparation/review of documentation (depending on the type of recipients involved) including white paper, light paper, pitch deck, investor presentation, one pager, written legal opinions, drafting and preparing the legal aspect of business plans and proposals to help attract investment;
- **Blockchain-based fundraising,** including ICO, STO, IEO; drafting of legal opinions to financial authorities, exchanges and crypto-exchanges;
- Legal support towards the **digital transformation of businesses** (legal opinions, advice on legal and regulatory compliance);
- Drafting and reviewing of **independent legal opinions, opinion letters** and advising on the **management of legal risks** associated and/or connected to any of the services, industries and areas described above;
- **Gaming:** Advising on the creation and ensuring compliance of internet/mobile games; drafting of all relevant documents and agreements;
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The founder and Managing Director of the firm is Neodlis Nicolaidis. Mr Nicolaidis is a Fellow member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and a Member of the Institute of Certified Accountants of Cyprus since 1987. He has many years experience in his field which he practices for over 20 years.

The firm's Director specialising in Tax matters is Michalis Elpidorou. Mr. Elpidorou is a Fellow member of The Chartered Association of Certified Accountants in the United Kingdom and a Member of The Institute of Certified Public Accountants of the Cyprus for over 25 years.



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Cyprus is a member of the EU and a modern international business and financial centre, with excellent infrastructure, situated at a strategic geographical location and time zone. English is the most widely used business language and the Cyprus Legal System is based on English Common Law.

Cyprus has a favourable tax system with very beneficial double tax treaties with over 40 countries and has established itself as a tax-incentive country and not a "tax heaven".

Cyprus has a mature professional services sector with highly educated and multilingual professionals. As an indication Cyprus was the first country outside the UK that has been approved by The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to qualify Chartered Accountants locally, without the need to work in the UK.

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Overview of the Corporate Tax System in Cyprus

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Cyprus Legal System

The Republic of Cyprus is a Member State of the European Union and a member of the Eurozone. Cyprus is an independent, sovereign Republic with a presidential system of government and a written constitution which safeguards the rule of law, political stability, human rights and the ownership of property. Cyprus is a member of the British commonwealth, Council of Europe, IMF, UN, World Bank and WTO and is signatory to many international conventions and treaties.

Cyprus' close links to Great Britain as part of the British Empire (it was a British Crown Colony until achieving independence in 1960) mean that its legal and judicial system is very much aligned with that of the United Kingdom. As such, Cyprus' primary corporate statutes are based on and derived from English company legislation and its legal system is modeled on the English common law system. Cyprus legislation is fully compliant with European Union Legislation. European Union Directives are fully implement into local legislation and European Union Regulations have direct effect and application in Cyprus.

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International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union ("EU IFRS") constitutes local Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP") in Cyprus and also forms the basis for the computation of taxable income for all Cyprus tax resident entities. Therefore, Cyprus registered entities need only maintain one set of financial information for financial reporting and tax purposes alike, based on a reporting framework widely accepted by investors, financiers and analysts across the globe.



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Mrs JWalker

An aerial photograph of a tropical resort. The image shows a sandy beach on the left, transitioning into a lush green area with numerous palm trees. Several buildings with grey roofs and blue accents are scattered throughout the resort. A large swimming pool is visible in the lower-left quadrant. The overall scene is bright and sunny, with clear shadows cast by the trees and buildings. In the bottom right corner, there are two overlapping white circular graphic elements.

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W: Under Construction

REFORM OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN CYPRUS

By Savvas Savvides – Lawyer, Partner, Michael Kyprianou & Co LLC



michaelkyprianou
Advocates - Legal Consultants

The judicial system of each country is the cornerstone of democracy and for this reason, there is an obligation on the part of the authorities of each country to do such reforms so that there is no delay in the administration of justice. As William Edward Gladstone has rightly put it '*Justice delayed is justice denied.*'

The judicial system in Cyprus needs immediate and modernizing reform, as there is a long delay in the administration of justice, due to the accumulation of many cases that have been waiting for years to be tried.

The delay in the administration of justice undermines the sense of justice of the citizens, affects the rule of law and is an obstacle to the economic development of the country and its social stability.

The chronic problem of delays in the administration of justice must be radically addressed in order to have a more efficient, faster and flexible judicial system.

The House of Representative has recently progressed with the passing of three bills regarding the judicial reform in Cyprus. The reform recommends the separation of the Supreme Court into two

Supreme Courts i.e. one Supreme Constitutional Court and one Supreme Court as provided for in the 1960 Constitution before the 1964 legislation was enacted when the one unified Supreme Court was established. It also proposes the creation of a new Second Instance Court, i.e. the Court of Appeal which will hear appeals from the First Instance Courts (civil and criminal) and in turn it will refer the most important matters to the higher tier of the Judiciary.

It is reasonable to ask whether the reintroduction of the aforementioned system, which had been in operation for four years, i.e. from 1960 to 1964, and which was ruled inadmissible in the *Ibrahim* case, is contrary to the principle of the Doctrine of Necessity.

In 1964, when the judicial system could no longer function due to the departure of the Turkish judges, the House of Representatives enacted the 1964 Law creating a Supreme Court. This was done with the well-known *Ibrahim* case which is the cornerstone of the Cyprus Constitution. The Court in that case adopted the principle *salus populi suprema lex esto*, i.e. the salvation of the people is above the law.

Many well-versed lawyers have expressed the view that the Government is paradoxically invoking the Doctrine of Necessity to return to the 1960 Constitution to justify the abolition of the sole Supreme Court and the restoration of the two Courts.

This "assumption" poses many dangers and in so doing suggests that the *Ibrahim* decision was wrong. Moreover, it will give the Turkish side the opportunity to accuse the Republic of Cyprus of wrongly

invoking the Doctrine of Necessity. The prevailing view is that doing so may destroy the Doctrine of Necessity which is the basis of the current constitution of the Republic of Cyprus.

The reform of the judiciary should aim for specificity. Specialization means speed, efficiency and quality. The speed, efficiency and quality of the administration of justice depend on the creation of specialized departments at all levels and stages of the justice system.

To deliver quality justice, both the executive and the legislature need to be vigilant in adopting appropriate measures.

In my humble opinion, proper reform of the judiciary is absolutely necessary for its proper functioning. The primary objective of the proposed reform of the Judiciary should be to preserve the confidence of citizens in our Courts. This can only be achieved by ensuring that the citizens of the Republic of Cyprus, who approach the Cypriot Courts, will be able to achieve justice quickly and efficiently. Therefore, any reform should focus on this aspect. I really hope that the reform passed by the House of Representatives will not create further delay in the administration of justice by introducing new procedures before different courts.

The content of this article is valid on the date of its first publication. It is intended to provide general guidelines on the subject and does not constitute legal advice. We recommend that you seek professional advice on this matter before acting on the information provided. For further information or advice, please contact Mr Savvas Savvides, partner and director at the law firm of Michael Kyprianou & Co LLC in Paphos, on 00357 26930800 or via email at savvas.savvides@kyprianou.com



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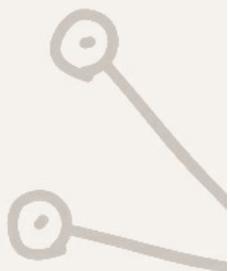
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06.22

RATIFICATION OF DOUBLE TAXATION AVOIDANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CYPRUS AND THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN



Yiota Michael

Senior Associate - Tax Department

A Convention for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income was signed on 17.12.2021 between the Republic of Cyprus and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

According to the Circular 6/2022 issued by the Cyprus Tax Department on 20th May 2022 the ratification process is finalised by both countries and the Treaty entered into force on 11 April 2022 whereas its provisions will enter into effect as from 1st January 2023.

The Treaty is based on the OECD's and United Nations Model Conventions.

The Treaty incorporates the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting minimum standards and also the latest standards in relation to the exchange of information, mutual agreement procedure and principal purpose test.

Below is a summary of the main provisions of the Treaty:

- Dividends

A 5% WHT if the beneficial owner is a company (other than a partnership) which holds directly at least 10% of the capital of the company paying the dividends. For all other cases, the treaty provides for a maximum 10% WHT.

- Interest

A 5% WHT on interest payments, provided that the recipient is the beneficial owner of such interest. Nil WHT for interest payments where the beneficial owner of the interest is the Government, a political subdivision, a local authority or the National Bank of the other Contracting State.

- Royalties and fees for technical services

A 7% WHT on royalties and fee payments for technical services, provided that the recipient is the beneficial owner of such royalties/fees.

- Capital gains

Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of shares in a company deriving more than 50% of their value directly from immovable property situated in the other Contracting State, and only those gains attributable to the immovable property, may be taxed in that other State.

An exemption applies for the alienation of shares listed on an approved stock exchange.

Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of shares in a company deriving their value or greater part of their value directly or indirectly from exploration or exploitation rights; or from property situated in the other Contracting State and used in the exploration or exploitation of the seabed or subsoil or their natural resources situated in the other State; or from such rights and such property taken together, may be taxed in that other State.

Entitlement to benefits

The Treaty contains a principal purpose test, whereby treaty benefits may be denied in respect of an item of income or capital in cases where it is reasonable to conclude, having regard to all relevant facts and circumstances, that obtaining treaty benefits was one of the principal purposes of any arrangement or transaction that resulted directly or indirectly in that benefit.

The agreement with Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is expected to enhance economic and trade ties with Cyprus, providing new opportunities and better protection to tax residents of both countries.

Upgrading and expanding the network of Double Taxation Conventions, is of high economic and political importance and aims to further strengthen Cyprus as an international business centre.

Contact

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Cyprus Tax Department

Introduction of Transfer Pricing Law and Regulations in Cyprus

2022

Marios Palesis

Director

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CONTENTS	Page
A. INTRODUCTION.....	3
B. DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS	3
C. CATEGORIES COVERED	4
D. PENALTIES	4
E. ADVANCED PRICING ARRANGEMENTS	4
F. HOW CAN TP ALFA SERVICES LIMITED ASSIST	5



A. INTRODUCTION

The Cyprus Parliament on 30th of June 2022 has voted the new transfer pricing law and regulations which establish transfer pricing documentation requirements for Companies that are resident in the Republic and Permanent establishments (PEs) in the Republic of non-tax resident companies.

The law and regulations are aligned with the OECD Transfer Pricing Guidelines and apply as from 1st of January 2022.

B. DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The most important points of the law and regulations are the following:

1. Documentation should be maintained for related party transactions. Article 33 of income tax law has been amended to introduce a 25% relationship test which upon fulfilment, the parties are considered related and any transactions between them should be at arm's length.
2. Companies and PEs mentioned above are obliged to maintain the following Transfer Pricing documentation:
 1. master file;
 2. local file and;
 3. table of summarised transactions

The above should be ready by 31 March of 2024 which is the deadline for submission of tax returns for the tax year 2022.

3. Table of summarised transactions is the only one of the above documents that must be submitted to Tax Authorities on the submission of the tax return. This document will provide high-level information for the related parties transactions.
4. Local files must be prepared by taxpayers involved in controlled transactions (transactions with related entities) and submitted to the Tax Authorities upon request. Exempted from preparation of local file are taxpayers whose volume of controlled transactions per category (analysed below) does not exceed the amount of EUR 750.000.
5. Master file must be prepared by companies that are either the ultimate or surrogate parent entities of the group with an annual consolidated turnover that exceeds the amount of EUR 750 million and submitted to the Tax Authorities upon request.



C. CATEGORIES COVERED

The new transfer pricing law covers all types of transactions that are concluded between related parties. Therefore, documentation must be prepared (subject to the above exemptions) on:

1. Sale/purchase of goods
2. Provision/receipt of services
3. Paying/receiving royalty income and sale/purchase of Intellectual Property (IP)
4. Provision/receipt of financial services
5. Other types of transactions between related entities

D. PENALTIES

Penalties will be imposed to taxpayers who do not comply with requirements of the new law and regulations regarding transfer pricing documentation.

The penalties can vary from EUR 500.00 to EUR 20,000.00 depending on the case as will be described in the articles of the law.

E. ADVANCED PRICING ARRANGEMENTS

The new legislation also introduces provisions for requesting Advances Pricing Arrangements (APA).

APA will set in advance the price/methodology/assumptions for a specific transaction that is requested by the taxpayer and eventually agreed between tax authorities and taxpayer.

Commissioner of Taxation will review the application and provide a reply to the taxpayer within 10 months from the date of application. The period for reply can be extended to up to 24 months where necessary.

Bilateral APAs (APAs involving tax authorities of more than one state) will also be available to the taxpayers. The application will be made in parallel to both states tax authorities by the taxpayer who will provide the authorities with all necessary information/documents necessary to assess the request.

An APA can be valid for a maximum period of 4 years. APA can be revisited and revised upon request of the taxpayer or where the Commissioner of Taxation consider it necessary.

It must be noted that the Commissioner retains the power to revoke or cancel an APA under certain circumstances.



F. HOW CAN TP ALFA SERVICES LIMITED ASSIST

TP ALFA SERVICES LIMITED can assist to you to:

- Understand the impact of the information included in this publication on your intragroup financing transactions.
- Perform and submit a transfer pricing study for your intragroup transactions.
- Prepare an APA and liaise with tax authorities to enable the client secure a pricing in advance;
- Assist in the formation of the internal transfer pricing policy
- Represent you in a transfer pricing dispute with the tax authorities

DISCLAIMER

This publication has been prepared as a general guide and for information purposes only. It is not a substitution for professional advice. One must not rely on it without receiving independent advice based on the particular facts of his/her own case. No responsibility can be accepted by the authors or the publishers for any loss occasioned by acting or refraining from acting on the basis of this publication.

July 2022

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Law amending the Bicycle Traffic Regulation Law of 2018

By Pavlos Pavlou, Associate at G.kouzalis LLC



On July 15th, the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus has voted for the amendment of the Bicycle Traffic Regulation Law of 2018 (hereinafter referred to as “the Law”).

The Law, which previously has been applicable solely to bicycles, now applies to any other Personal Mobility Devices (hereinafter referred to as “the PMD”). In its turn, a PMD in the amended Law is defined as “a self-propelled device, with any form of energy, which can carry a seated or standing person having a steering wheel and at least one drive shaft, as well as at least two wheels as points of contact with the road”, thus including the so-called “e-scooters”.

General Rules and Prohibitions.



The general rules and prohibitions with respect to PMD are included in the Part IIA of the Law. One of the first requirements for the use of such devices is that the operator of the PMD has to be at least 14 years old.

Furthermore, the Law imposes a positive obligation on the owner of the PMD (including any legal entity, which operates and/or stores PMD), or a parent, or a guardian of the minor, to do all the necessary actions to prevent the use of the PMD by the minor.

The use of a PMD (which can develop speed of maximum 20 kilometers per hour) is only permitted on any road on which there is a posted traffic sign that sets the maximum permitted speed at thirty (30) kilometers per hour, and/or on any cycle path, cycle lane, or in an area that is an extension of a cycle path which is intended to provide the possibility of its shared use by cyclists and pedestrians, and which carries a special traffic sign for this purpose. It should be noted that it is prohibited to use a PMD in any square, or on any pedestrian street, except following a decision of the relevant Municipality or Community in which traffic areas are defined as permitted, and which would bare a specific traffic sign permitting such use with speed limit set at ten (10) kilometers per hour.

During the use of the PMD, the operator shall wear a properly attached protective helmet, and it is prohibited for the operator of a PMD to carry any person as a passenger in any part of a said device unless the design provides for such transportation, and the passenger is:

- (a) over twelve (12) years of age;
- (b) he/she is seated in a seat provided by construction for this purpose, and sufficiently fixed to the frame of the device in question, in accordance with the manufacturing specifications of the device;
- (c) wears a properly fastened protective helmet;

Furthermore, the use of a PMD by a person on any highway, or a high mobility way, which is designated as such by a special traffic sign, is prohibited. Finally, It is prohibited to use the PMD by a person who is under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, applied by analogy with the provisions of the Road Safety Law.

Penalties.

Violation of the above-mentioned provisions of the Law, entails in case of a conviction, a fine not exceeding one-thousand-euro (€1,000), or imprisonment for a period not exceeding three (3) months, or both of these penalties.

Minimum Equipment and Operation of Business.

The Part IIIA of the Law provides for specific requirements relating to the equipment of the PMD. Each PMD shall have:

- a) brake system;
- b) a white or yellow light, permanently attached to its front, which is visible from a distance of not less than one hundred and fifty (150) meters;
- c) steady or flashing red light at the rear, which is visible from a distance of no less than one hundred and fifty (150) meters;
- d) a special bell (bell) or siren, suitable so that the sound produced during its use can be perceived at a sufficient distance;
- e) Tires that ensure sufficient traction on the road surface or on any other terrain on which the PMD moves;

It must be noted that there is a liability under the Law imposed on the person who manufactures and/or assembles and/or imports and/or sells and/or disposes of in any other way of a PMD, which is intended to be used in permitted traffic areas, to ensure that said device has the minimum equipment and the characteristics specified above. Furthermore, during the sale and/or other disposals of the PMD, the seller and/or the person who disposes of the device in any way, must ensure that the proof of sale or other disposals of the said device is accompanied by a written certificate (hereinafter referred to as "the certificate") from the person who has manufactured and/or assembled and/or imported the device or its authorised representative, that the device has the equipment and features specified in the provisions of the present Law.

In a case in which the person who has manufactured and/or assembled and/or imported the PMD and/or its authorised representative is unable to provide the certificate, the seller or the person who has the device in any way, ensures that the proof of sale or other disposal is accompanied by a written certificate from a mechanical engineer registered under the provisions of the Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber Law, which certifies that the device complies with requirements of the Law.

Finally, It is further provided that, on the date of entry into force of this Law, a person who owned a PMD, in order to be able to use it in authorised traffic areas, has to secure prior certification either from a person who manufactures and/or assembles and/or imports and/or sells a PMD either by a mechanical engineer registered under the provisions of the Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber Law.

Licensing for Businesses renting PMD.

For the operation of businesses renting PMD, within the boundaries of Municipalities or Communities, the businesses in question shall secure, on an annual basis, a license to operate and circulate their devices from the relevant Municipalities and/or Communities, by submitting a relevant application, or which is accompanied by the following:

- a) a copy of the id card or registration certificate of the company, in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Law, or a cooperative registration certificate, in accordance with the provisions of the Law on Cooperatives and Partnerships and Trade Names, depending on the form in which the company operates the business;
- b) the certificate for each PMD, which the business intends to make available for rental purposes;
- c) a written record of the rental procedures of the business, in order to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Law;

It must be noted that additional documents/information may be required by the Municipalities and/or Communities.

Penalties.

The person or Business who manufactures and/or assembles and/or imports and/or sells and/or disposes of in any other way the PMD in case of the violation of the above provisions of the Law, commits an offense and in case of conviction is liable to a fine not exceeding five-thousand-euro (€5,000), or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six (6) months or to both of these penalties.

Traffic Rules in relation to PMD.

Part IVA of the Law prescribes Traffic rules during the operation of the PMD.

A person operating a PMD must:

- a) comply with the indications of traffic signals and traffic lights that regulate the traffic of vehicles, motorized and non-motorized;
- b) not move outside the designated traffic lane;
- c) comply with signals and instructions of a police officer who regulates traffic or a person who regulates traffic at a pedestrian crossing outside a school;
- d) maintain increased attention when moving in permitted traffic areas;
- e) give priority to the passage of a pedestrian who is moving or has expressed his intention to move in a timely manner in a pedestrian crossing, square or pedestrian street crossing a cycle path, or cycle lane;
- f) make every possible effort to facilitate pedestrians, especially children, moving in the same permitted traffic area;
- g) not carry any person as a passenger in the Personal Mobility Device, except if allowed in the present Law;
- h) manifest his/her intentions in a timely and visible manner with the appropriate hand signal for each case;
- i) not park, place or leave the PMD on a cycle lane, cycle path, cycle path or road surface
- j) not park, place or leave the PMD in a square, footpath, or sidewalk, in a way that obstructs or is likely to obstruct the free movement of pedestrians, cyclists, people with disabilities, or other users of PMD;
- k) not move parallel to the left of another PMD user or cyclist;
- l) not tow or push any object which is not intended by construction to be towed or pushed by a PMD;
- m) not allow the PMD to be towed by another vehicle, motorized or not;
- n) ensure that lights are in operation;
- o) wear a properly fastened protective helmet;

Penalties.

A person who violates the above provisions of the Law commits an offense and, in case of conviction, is subject to a fine not exceeding one thousand euro (€1,000).

Entering into Force.

The present Law enters into force upon its publishing in the official gazette of the Republic except from the provisions relating to the Equipment, which shall enter into force on 1st March 2023.

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Using Cyprus as a Business Headquartering Base



Relocation Highlights

- ✓ Revised immigration policy for non -EU tech professionals
- ✓ Establishment of Business Facilitation Unit
- ✓ Attractive corporate & income tax regime
- ✓ Favourable IP Box Regime as low as 2.5% effective tax rate
- ✓ Reduced naturalisation for non-EU nationals
- ✓ Low cost of doing business

New Incentives for Third-Country Nationals (TCNs)

- ✓ Temporary work and residence permits for up to 3 years for TCN employees, renewable upon expiry
- ✓ Possibility for support staff to relocate under certain conditions



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Access to the labour market for spouses of highly skilled TCN employees earning at least a gross salary of €2.500 per month



Digital nomad visa for TCNs for a period up to 3 years (right of residence in Cyprus for 1 year, with a possibility of renewal for a further 2 years)

Tax Incentives



Tax exemption of 50% for new domiciled employees with employment remuneration of ≤ €100.000 (applicable for 10 years) or



Lower of 20% employment income of €8.550 (applicable for 5 years)

Taxation in General

The Cyprus tax system imposes taxes only to tax residents of Cyprus or persons who have income from sources in Cyprus.

Corporate tax on profits of a Cyprus company amounts to 12.5%.

I. Tax Residents in Cyprus:

Tax resident of Cyprus, in the case of a physical person, means:

- a. Any individual who resides in Cyprus for one or more periods which exceed in total 183 days in the financial year, or
- b. Any individual who stays in Cyprus for at least 60 days in the year of assessment, provided that:
 - 1) He/she is not tax resident in another country and does not spend ≥183 days in any other country.
 - 2) He /she maintains a permanent residence in Cyprus which can be owned or rented
 - 3) He/she conducts any business or is employed in Cyprus or is a director in a Cyprus company as at the 31st of December in the year of assessment.

All Cyprus tax residents, as identified above, either Cypriots or foreign nationals, are taxed in Cyprus on their worldwide income accrued or derived from all sources in Cyprus and abroad.



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A person who is a tax resident of Cyprus but his/her place of domicile is outside Cyprus can enjoy significant tax benefits.

II. Non-Tax Residents in Cyprus:

Individuals who are not tax residents of Cyprus are taxed on income accrued or derived only from sources in Cyprus, if any.

C. Income Tax

Income tax is imposed on the chargeable income. Chargeable income includes the following types of income:

- 1) Employment Income
- 2) Benefits in Kind
- 3) Deemed benefit of 9% per annum on the balance of any amount granted by a company (as a loan or any other financial facility) to its individual shareholders or directors or their spouses or relatives up to the second degree for non-business purposes.
- 4) Business Income (as a sole trader)
- 5) Royalty Income from Intellectual Property
- 6) Active Interest Income
- 7) Pension and Annuities
- 8) Rental Income from Property
- 9) Trading Goodwill

Individual Tax Rates:

The following tax rates apply for physical persons who are tax residents of Cyprus:

Chargeable Income (€)	Tax Rate (%)
0-19.500	0
19.501 – 28.000	20
28.001 – 36.300	25
36.301 – 60.000	30
Over 60.000	35



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All expenses gained wholly and exclusively for the production of income are deductible in calculating the taxable income of an individual, including the following:

- Expense Deduction Interest relating to the acquisition of assets used in the business: the whole amount
- Expenses for letting of buildings: 20% of the gross rental income
- Interest in respect of the acquisition of a building for rental purposes: the whole amount
- Subscriptions to trade unions or professional bodies: the whole amount
- Expenditure for the maintenance of buildings under preservation order (subject to conditions): depends on the size of the building
- Donations to approved charitable organisations: the whole amount
- Donations to political parties (subject to conditions): up to €50.000
- Expenditure for scientific research: the whole amount
- Expenditure on film infrastructure and technological equipment (subject to conditions): up to 20%

Tax credit relief is granted under conditions, if on a particular income, taxation has already been paid abroad provided that the taxpayer provides the tax authorities with the original tax receipts evidencing the payment of such foreign tax.

D. Special Defence Contribution Tax

The notion of domicile was introduced into the SDCT and tax resident individuals are classified either as Resident and Domiciled in Cyprus or as Resident but not Domiciled in Cyprus.

I. Cyprus “domiciled” tax resident individuals:

Such physical persons will be subject to SDCT at the following rates:

- 1) Dividends 17%;
- 2) Passive interest 30%;
- 3) Trading Interest – Nil (this type of interest is subject to income tax at the above indicated rates mentioned in section C.);
- 4) Rental income 3% on the 75% of the total rental income;
- 5) Interest received by an individual from Government Savings Certificates, Government Bonds and



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Corporate Bonds 3%;

Tax credit relief is granted under conditions, if on the particular income, taxation has already been paid abroad provided that the taxpayer provides the tax authorities with the original tax receipts, as above.

II. Cyprus “non - domiciled” tax resident individuals:

Such physical persons will be EXEMPTED from SDCT. Therefore, dividend, passive interest and rental income received, is exempt from such taxation.

E. Social Insurance Contributions

Employed and self-employed persons who obtain employment income in Cyprus, are subject to Social Insurance Contributions.

The Social Insurance Contributions deducted from the emoluments of the employee/self-employed person comprises the following:

I. For Employees:

- Social Insurance at 8.3%
- GHS at 4,0%

The Social Insurance Contributions are applicable on the amount of the annual gross employment income of the employee, up to a maximum annual insurable income of €58.080, €4.840 per month for monthly paid employees and €1.117 per week for weekly paid employees.

The contributions are withheld by the employer on a monthly basis, and are paid on behalf of the employee to the Social Insurance Department, at the end of the following month in which the deduction is made.

II. For Self Employed persons:

- Social Insurance at 15.6%

The Social Insurance Contributions are applicable on the fixed insurable earnings, in accordance with the category of business income of the self-employed person, subject to a compulsory minimum and a maximum insurable income, as defined by the Social Insurance Department.

The self-employed person is responsible for the calculation and payment of the Social Insurance Contribution, paid on a quarterly basis.



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III. For the Employer:

The employer is liable to pay contributions for every employee on a monthly basis, at the end of the following month in which the contribution relates to at the following rates:

- Social Insurance at 8.3%
- Redundancy Fund at 1.2%
- Industrial training Fund at 0.5%
- Social Cohesion Fund at 2.0%
- GHS at 2,9%
- Central Holiday Fund at 8% (if not exempt)

The employer can get an exemption from the Central Holiday Fund, if he offers paid leave benefits.

F. Contributions to the General Healthcare System

Individuals who obtain income in Cyprus, may have the obligation to contribute to the General Healthcare System ("GHS").

- i) For Employees: 2.65%
- ii) For Employers: 2.90%
- iii) Self – Employed: 4.00%

GHS contributions are capped at EUR 180,000 annual income.

G. Capital Gains Tax

There is a 20% tax on gains from the disposal of immovable property situated in Cyprus, including gains from the disposal of shares in non- listed companies which directly or indirectly own immovable property in Cyprus and derive at least 50% of their market value from such immovable property.

Disposal of shares of listed companies does not impose any capital gains tax even if the listed company owns immovable property in Cyprus.

H. Indirect Tax

Types of indirect taxes include VAT, excise tax and customs duty (import duty and export duty).

VAT is imposed on the provision of goods or services in Cyprus, on the acquisition of goods in Cyprus from other Member States and on the importation of goods in Cyprus from any place outside the EU countries.



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The current VAT rates are as follows:

- 0% Zero rate
- 5% Reduced rate
- 9% Reduced rate
- 19% Standard rate

I. Benefits of a Cyprus company

- Low corporate tax rate 12,5% on profit
- Dividend participation exemption
- Exemption on disposal of securities (e.g. shares, bonds, debentures)
- No withholding taxes on dividend, interest and royalty payments abroad
- No capital gains tax (except for disposal of real estate in Cyprus or shares of company holding real estate in Cyprus to the extent gains is attributable to the real estate holding)
- No succession taxes
- Attractive IP regime
- Tonnage tax for shipping companies
- Notional interest deduction for investments into Cyprus companies
- Personal tax exemptions for new residents and non-domiciled individual
- More than 60 double tax treaties

J. Requirements for registering a Cyprus company

- Approved name – company name needs to be approved by the Cyprus Registrar of Companies.
- Registered office – an address that is in Cyprus to which official company documentation is sent. A common practice is that the firm that helps form the new company to use their address or the company can establish its own address.
- Shareholders – at least one registered shareholder is required for new companies. Registered shareholders can be other companies, an individual resident in Cyprus, or a foreign national.
- Share capital – no minimum paid-up share capital is required and it can be in Euros or other currencies. Standard practice is for private companies to issue share capital of €1.000.
- Directors – newly registered companies must have at least one director and directors can be Cypriot or foreign nationals.
- Following an amendment in the Income Tax Law on the 21 December 2021, a company that has been incorporated or registered pursuant to any law in the Republic and whose management and control is exercised outside the Republic is deemed to be a Cyprus tax resident unless the company is a tax resident in any other country. This amendment will come into force on the 31 December 2022.



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- Secretary – to implement the directors' instructions and ensure compliance with regulatory and statutory requirements, a secretary must be appointed.

For any further information and assistance as to how we can help you and your business, contact us.

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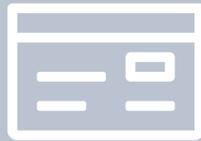
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Compliance risks: What you don't timely manage can hurt you



As global regulations and stakeholder expectations increase significantly, organizations are exposed to a greater degree of compliance risk than ever before. Compliance risk is a threat to a company's financial, organizational, or reputational standing resulting from violations of laws, regulations, codes of conduct, or standards of practice.

Cyprus Investment Firms ('CIFs'), Alternative Investment Funds ('AIFs') and other regulated entities constantly strengthen their internal processes and procedures and spend more on AML and regulatory compliance mechanisms compared to the past decades. Compliance is a vital mechanism not only due to fear of the cost of non-compliance but also due to increased regulation.

Our compliance team examines below some of the common challenges faced by the compliance officers today and share some tips on how to overcome these challenges.

Implementation and Monitoring of Regulations

One of the challenges we have identified relates to the implementation of rules and regulations surrounding regulated entities (such as CIFs, AIFs and others).

Businesses need to constantly monitor regulatory changes in laws and regulations. The monitoring will assist them take informed strategic decisions and adjust compliance procedures to avoid the risk of misconduct, enforcement fines etc.

Compliance professionals need to keep pace with the increasing volume of regulatory changes to laws and regulations relevant to the company. New information from regulators, governments and related agencies should be gathered and analyzed by compliance department to determine the company's best course of action.

Increased Risk of AML Compliance and Fraud

The pandemic changed the pattern of investors and suddenly, millions of people started using electronic means for transacting or even joining trading platforms for the first time. Thus, technology has created an opportunity for criminals to exploit it. The disruption caused by covid-19 has made the work of compliance officers more difficult, as building the economic profile of clients during unprecedented times proved to be an extremely hard task

Fraudsters usually make use of complex structures and transaction patterns which creates vast volumes of data that can sometimes be thrown to compliance officers in a disorganized manner. This increased the risk of AML compliance, as fraudsters could exploit this confusion to pursue their illegal activities. The main challenges faced by regulated entities is the task of harnessing those data and connect the various streams of disorganized information. Criminals continue to exploit technological vulnerabilities in order to carry out social engineering and other cyber-attacks on many companies or individuals. Examples include fake Covid passports hacking of bank accounts, etc. Firms must ensure that their controls remain suitably robust, and that staff remain vigilant to identify and report such activity as it arises.

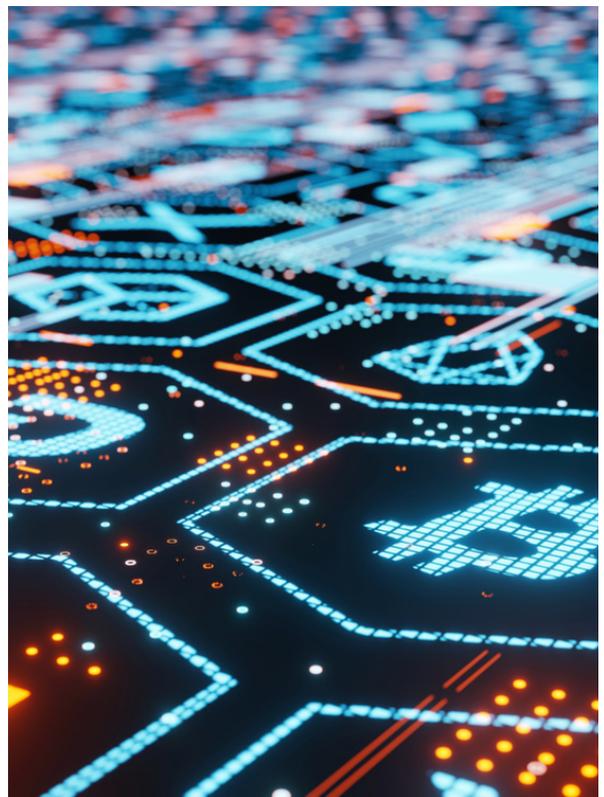
The key to preventing fraud remains the same. Ensuring adequate training on fraud risks and application of knowledge and understanding in day-to-day work.

Crypto-Assets

In a little over a decade, Bitcoin and other crypto assets have progressed from an idea to an economic phenomenon. We have seen cryptocurrencies explode as a viable way to trade currency. Due to its very nature and initial lack of regulation, it resulted in a large stream of illicit activity – namely money laundering.

As cryptocurrency adoption continues to grow, AML professionals must stay on top of the rapidly developing regulatory and cryptocurrency landscape to ensure that their organizations remain compliant and can identify and mitigate risks. Furthermore, the public and private sectors will need to continue working together to establish regulatory frameworks and investigative techniques to keep the cryptocurrency and global financial ecosystem safe.

CX Financia helps clients develop comprehensive and effective anti-financial crime programs, designing controls to manage the reputational and conduct-related risk exposures in relation to crypto assets. If you are interested in becoming a Crypto Asset Service Provider (CASP) and providing services related to Crypto Assets, please get in touch with us for a consultation.



Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) Reporting

ESG has become a key topic during board room discussions nowadays. It's now imperative for companies to take action by incorporating a well-structured ESG program that aligns with market expectations and investor interest.

The key to effective, ESG management in the coming year will be to seek transparency, as well as the underlying information required to make informed business decisions.

The first step to building an ESG program is to assess your current state, identify potential risks, and map metrics to corporate goals.

Once you understand specifically what you'd like to accomplish, use a materiality analysis to engage with key internal stakeholders and establish priorities around strategy, goals, and metrics.



How Can You Tackle Compliance Challenges?

Compliance departments have started changing how they investigate suspicious activity, conduct KYC and operate their automatic monitoring programs. Most investigations will be automated, KYC will be conducted in a seamless manner and machine learning will more effectively identify suspicious activity.

Some of the tips to tackle compliance challenges are:

How technology can help Compliance Officers

Technological advancements have grown a lot due to the demand of the industry for more efficiency and speed. Regulatory Technology (RegTech) facilitates compliance with regulatory obligation, saves time and is a useful tool in the hands of compliance officers. There are a lot of software solutions available on the market that can release compliance officers from the strain of manual searching and organizing data. Thus Compliance Officers can devote their time more effectively in analyzing the data they receive.

Investment in training regarding regulatory trends

Regulated entities limit their risk of exposure by investing more in training their employees on AML and Regulatory Compliance matters. When preparing their employee training program entities should also consider which employees require training, the content of the training provided, the form of the training, the frequency and how employees can keep up to date with emerging risk factors.

Continuously Monitor Changing Risks

Effective compliance programs are about more than identifying problems and taking corrective action. While that's important, it's arguably more important to continuously monitor and look ahead to potential compliance pitfalls. A proactive approach to compliance means your Chief Compliance Officer and staff are watching pending regulations and staying abreast of industry changes so they're able to react nimbly to implement new processes when needed.

When you identify and implement needed changes in procedures in response to a changing risk landscape, be sure to also update your compliance controls to address those changes. It's a lot cheaper to implement changes before than to have to go back and fix violations and address issues after the fact. In today's digital world, it's easier than ever to stay on top of what the regulators are doing. Subscribing to regulators and industry thought leaders' resources and attending industry conferences can actually save your firm money by reducing costly doovers or unwinding hastily-applied patches later.

Adopt a Forward-Looking Approach

When implementing new policies, procedures or systems for your organization, one of the best things you can do is look ahead to where you see your firm in five or ten years and assess whether your current controls would suffice in that environment.

You need to implement compliance policies and procedures designed to prevent, detect and correct potential issues based on where your firm is today, of course. It can be tempting to want to stop there – especially if your firm is still relatively small. However, doing so can be short-sighted.

Here's why: The compliance controls that are effective today for your 10-person firm may not be scalable. If they're not, you could wind up having to overhaul your program at a significant cost later.



Choosing CX Financia as your trusted partner

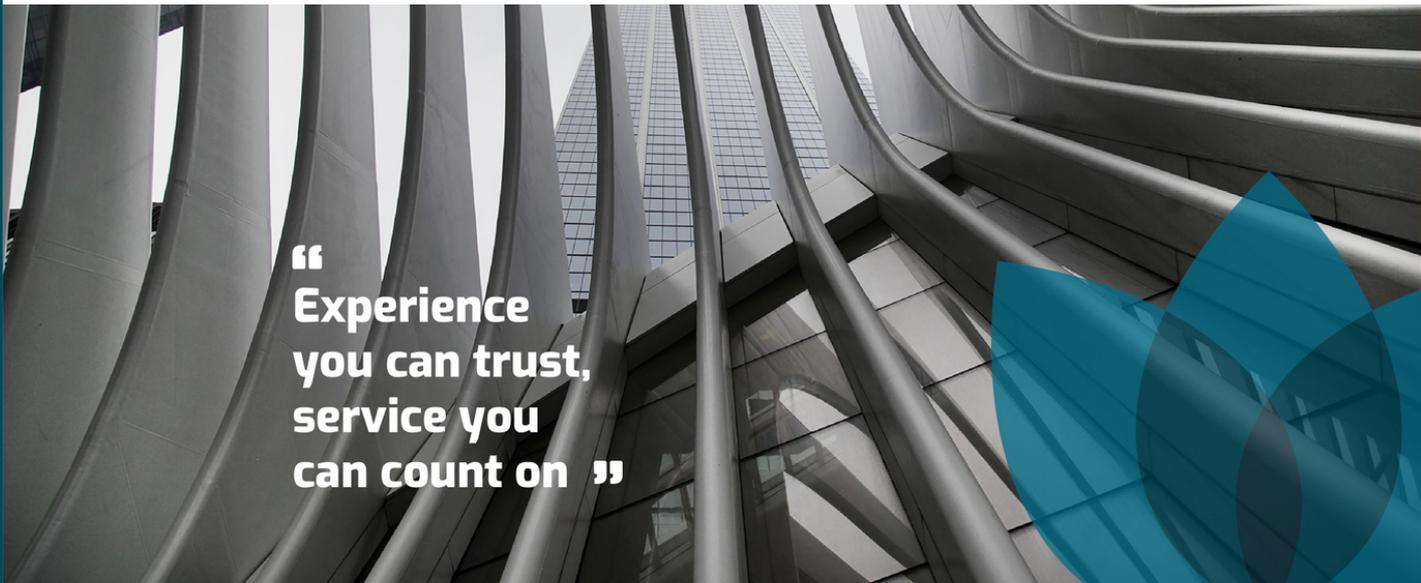
Our team has extensive experience in compliance matters over various industries with specialization in the investment services sector. We understand the complexities of a variety of business contracts, licensing agreements, and reporting processes and procedures. We have the know-how to assist you to deal with your regulatory requirements and ensure you are aware of the rules, regulations and policies that are applicable to your operations and business sector.

CX Financia can provide a number of day-to-day compliance supporting services based on best practices by keeping up to date with the ever-changing regulatory environment. We take pride in meeting tight deadlines, advising on any possible effect on your organization and provide feasible and appropriate solutions or actions.

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Network Modernization; a crucial step for your digital transformation

By Theodosios Theodosiou, Business Development Manager, Cloudlayer8 Limited



Digital transformation cannot just happen without network modernization. This is a crucial step. Digital transformation is a journey, an ongoing process of new procedures, new culture and new technologies. These three factors simultaneously have a positive impact on the business by optimizing operations, empowering employees to improve business deliverables, transforming products/services based on market data and helping engage customers in the sales cycle. It involves collecting data from all possible sources. Analytics help businesses build value and a competitive advantage based on data. Cloud computing is the prerequisite to success.

Current IT architectures include datacentres, multiple clouds and on-premises infrastructures. Users are mobile, access the network from multiple devices and locations. There are external users, customers and partners!

The network architecture should be modernized and adapt to the new norm, ensuring smooth operations, security and high availability. The peripheral network boundaries of the traditional LAN and WAN must be modernized and redesigned to support multicloud, mobility, security and constantly changing requirements. At the end of the day the network should be able to deliver healthy and secure application access, which is mission critical to the success of the business.

The Multicloud Network

A common current IT infrastructure is distributed on-premises and to the cloud, to collocation datacentres, Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS), Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) and Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) public cloud and company premises. We also have remote branches, work-from-home and mobile employees, customers and partners worldwide. Let's not forget containerization and microservices. This reality makes the network distributed and very difficult to deploy, manage, maintain and secure.

Software Defined Network (SDN)

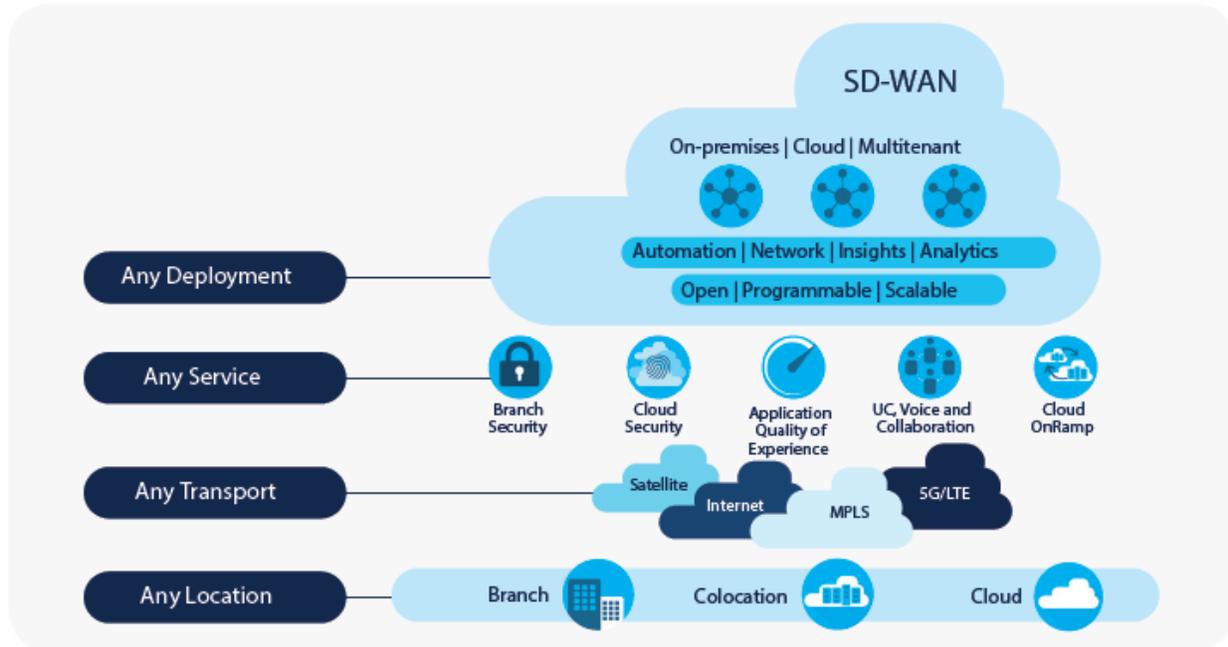
SDN is a new approach to networking, which allows data and workloads to move easily between distributed locations, clouds and hybrid architectures. SDN offers network expansions easy and fast, whether or not the network expansions are on-premise or in the cloud.

SDN is software-based, while traditional networking is hardware-based. Software-based networking offers much more flexibility than traditional networking. It allows administrators to control the network, change configuration settings, provision resources, and increase network capacity from a centralized user interface, without having to add more hardware. Network administrators can centrally configure and manage both physical and virtual routers, switches and gateways, in all corporate locations and clouds. Existing network investments that are SDN ready can also be used.

“Within an SDN infrastructure, applications can request and obtain services from the underlying network infrastructure. This capability leads to the development of more proactive and dynamic applications that improve the user experience. SDN changes the way networks are designed and deployed, where the applications have more control on the configuration of the network infrastructure. SDN offers businesses the chance to build networks with increased application awareness and intelligence about Layer 4 - Layer 7 protocol attributes and delivery requirements.”

Ref: Cisco Software Defined Networking August 30, 2013

https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/td/docs/solutions/Enterprise/Data_Center/VMDC/SDN/SDN.html



Ref: Cisco SD-WAN at Glance

https://static.ziftsolutions.com/files/8a99833d75195eb70175282c20654025/Cisco_SDWAN_AtAGlance.pdf

Conclusion

In my opinion every business is unique and has its own optimum architecture. Relying 100% on technology enabled by a modern, high available and secure network is not something one can ignore.

Theodosios Theodosiou
Business Development Manager
Cloudlayer8 Limited
Contact details: tt@cl8.com or +357 25 022900

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Green taxes, reliefs, and schemes for businesses



By Hiten Patel, Partner in Gerald Edelman LLP



There are many reasons why a company may seek to improve their sustainability credentials. The push for net zero across global markets has prompted many firms, from brand new ventures to established businesses, to take stock of their own carbon footprint. Plus, public demand for planet friendly goods and services is at an all-time high.

However, a further motivation for businesses to go green are the significant savings to be made through [green tax incentives](#) and schemes which are available to firms who take steps

towards lowering their pollution and waste levels.

The availability of green [tax relief](#) and schemes for businesses differs depending on their size and remit. Below, we will take you through an array of options which are crucial to explore for businesses in 2022.

Enhanced capital allowances

[Enhanced capital allowances \(ECAs\)](#) are just one example of the many green tax relief schemes now available to companies across the UK. Under this scheme, businesses that implement environmentally friendly changes within their operating framework can claim a 100% first-year capital allowance against purchases including energy-efficient machinery and water-saving devices. This incentive for positive and permanent change in a business' approach to its climate strategy is particularly useful for new companies who may incur hefty start-up costs related to purchasing equipment or SMEs who are looking to make upgrades which are both cost-effective and futureproof.

Energy-efficient vehicle allowances

Many businesses rely on company cars to keep their operations moving. Through tax incentives, companies are being rewarded for keeping carbon emissions low across their fleet of vehicles. For [new cars with zero to low carbon emissions](#), companies can claim the full value of the car through first-year allowances. The tax benefits decrease as the carbon emissions of a vehicle increase. Subsequently, these capital allowances render the move to electric or low carbon cars an attractive investment prospect for businesses, particularly SMEs, as their purchase makes sense for both the health of a business's finances and the planet.

Climate change agreements

[Climate change agreements \(CCAs\)](#) are a further route for businesses looking to reduce both their financial outgoings and carbon footprint. A vast and diverse [range of industry sectors are eligible for a CCA](#), from ceramics to meat. The agreement comprises a voluntary deal made between a business and the Environment Agency. The goal of this arrangement is to moderate the energy use and carbon emissions of commercial entities. If companies can deliver on their end of the agreement, they become eligible to receive a sizeable discount on the climate change levy (CCL); a tax added to commercial electricity and fuel bills. Savings of up to 90% for electricity and a 65% reduction for gas are available, depending on the level of intensive energy use.

Emissions trading

The [EU Emissions Trading System \(EU ETS\)](#) allows energy-intensive companies to both buy and sell greenhouse gas emission allowances in the marketplace. In order to participate in the EU ETS, a firm is required to meet ambitious emissions targets by either cutting their output or by trading the emissions allowances. There are a number of ways in which a company could do this. These include engaging in direct trade with other businesses, buying and selling through an external party including a specialist trader, or even bidding at EU member state auctions. The scheme is designed to incentivise pollution reduction early on in a business' inauguration into the scheme. By doing so, a business is able to take advantage of the opportunity to accrue surplus emissions allowances, and then sell them on. In addition, there are low administrative costs related to emissions trading, alongside the capacity for reducing, tracking and reporting emissions, thus holding the enterprise to accountability.

Research and Development tax relief

Through spending long durations on unpredictable projects in a bid to cultivate solutions for climate change, companies in sectors such as energy or construction, for example, can accumulate hefty bills through experimenting to find the optimal solution. Businesses in this position, both large and small, are eligible for [research and development \(R&D\) tax relief](#). SMEs who demonstrate a focus on developing sustainable solutions within their operation could expect to be granted tax relief of up to 44% on the qualifying outgoings.

There is a myriad of challenges facing the negotiation between advancing business and protecting the climate. However, governments across the world are devising new strategies to incentivise businesses in their bid to decarbonise their supply chains: tax relief and recompense schemes are two of them. This article has covered a few examples of the help available for businesses, but there are many alternatives out there to explore further in order to aid you in revamping your business' climate strategy today.

For more information, please [click here](#) and get in touch with a member of our team.

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Liquidity Bridge Hosting: The Key for a Reliable Forex Trading Infrastructure



FX Liquidity Bridge: The Key for a Reliable Trading Infrastructure



When making trading decisions, liquidity is a key consideration for investors. Liquidity is used to measure the level of activity that takes place in the financial market, which is especially important when trading different currencies as it indicates a pair's, like EUR/USD, ability to be traded without having a significant impact on its exchange rate.

With that being said, a liquidity bridge has become a fundamental component in bridging trading platforms, like [MT4](#), [MT5](#) or [cTrader](#), with liquidity providers, and thus an essential tool for Brokers. In this article, we'll take a closer look at why a liquidity bridge is important, and what to consider when choosing a data center for liquidity bridge hosting.

What is a Liquidity Bridge

A liquidity bridge, or simply 'bridge', is essentially software that acts as the intermediary between a trading platform and liquidity providers. Utilizing a liquidity bridge has become crucial for brokers as not only does it offer direct market access, but also faster trade execution, reduced slippage and enhanced security.

Why a Liquidity Bridge is Important to Retail and Institutional Forex Brokers

Liquidity bridges have become the industry standard for both retail and institutional Forex Brokers. By forming the bridge between the trading platform and the liquidity providers on the other end, brokers are assured that each trade is correctly pushed and cleared before reporting back to the trading platform.

One of the main features of a liquidity bridge is that it provides the ability to set pricing markups, ultimately expanding the options and customization capabilities a broker has when making a product offering. A liquidity bridge also enables brokers to buy and sell assets as close to the market price as possible by providing a single point of connectivity to multiple liquidity sources through an aggregated price feed.

Bridge software also provides tools to improve a broker's risk-management system by giving them the ability to route orders, as well as diverse exposure and advanced reporting. Ultimately, by implementing bridge technology, brokers can effectively streamline their work, resulting in higher profits.

Key Points to Consider when Choosing a Data Center for Liquidity Bridge Hosting

As an integral part of your trading infrastructure, finding the right [data center](#) for liquidity bridge hosting is paramount, so it's crucial to consider the following:

Location & Latency

The unwavering stability and performance of a liquidity bridge is elementary to the seamless execution of trades, and the location of your data center is the key to achieving that. Opting for a data center in a strategic financial location offers an optimal environment for attaining the **ultra-low latency** required for a high-quality connection.

Most of the Liquidity Providers are hosted in London and New York Data centers. Contact us for pricing information and latency results.

Security

Your chosen data center should be located somewhere safe and at low risk of natural disasters, whilst also featuring the highest standards of redundancy. Be sure to check that the data center you choose is fully certified and compliant with regulatory requirements. Finally, a data center or hosting provider that can protect your infrastructure from DDoS attacks is a big plus too.

Support

Having around-the-clock support should also be a priority when choosing a data center. It's important to note that the integration process of a liquidity bridge could sometimes require additional support and having a responsive team to assist you could prove extremely valuable.

List of the Best Liquidity Bridge Providers

With years of experience in the financial market, NetShop ISP has gained huge industry insight through the analysis of customer statistics that were used to compile this list of popular liquidity bridge providers.

1. [Brokeree](#)
2. [Match-Trade](#)
3. [Gold-I](#)
4. [B2Broker](#)
5. [Tools4Brokers](#) (T4B)
6. [FX Bridge Technologies](#)
7. [oneZero](#)
8. [FXCubic](#)

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Protect your IP Rights – SME Fund available until the 16 December 2022

By Aylin Zeybek – Lawyer Trainee at Elias Neocleous & Co LLC



The “*Ideas Powered for Business SME Fund*” (‘the SME Fund’) is an initiative implemented by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) which started in January 2022 and will run until the 16 December 2022.

The SME Fund is a grant scheme designed to help and protect the intellectual property (IP) rights of EU small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Funds are limited and will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.

Protecting your Intellectual Property is essential in the digital era that we live in. It is the only legal way to protect your unique ideas, products, or services from being copied or used without your permission. The protection of IP can cover a wide range of assets, including trademarks.

Who can benefit from the SME Fund?

The SME Fund offers financial support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) established in the European Union. The application can be filed by an owner, an employee or an authorised representative of an EU SME. Grants are always transferred directly to the small and medium-sized enterprises.

How do I know that my company is a valid SME?

In general, EU SMEs are categorised as follows:

Enterprise category	Staff headcount	Annual turnover	Annual balance sheet total
Medium-sized	<250	≤ € 50 m	≤ € 43 m
Small	<50	≤ € 10 m	≤ € 10 m
Micro	<10	≤ € 2 m	≤ € 2 m

CYPRUS – SME Fund

In Cyprus, the SME fund is a reimbursement programme that issues vouchers that can be used to partly cover the fees for the selected activities.

Voucher 1 covers **€1,500** to use for costs linked to the **IP Scan, trademarks and design fees**.

The process consists of four stages: -

- 1) Apply for the grant
- 2) Receive your grant award and voucher(s)
- 3) Request and pay for IP Activities
- 4) Get reimbursed

Activities you can apply for:

Based on your business needs, the SME Fund, 2022 edition, covers several activities to help you implement your IP asset strategy. Some of these are as follows:

- 1) 90% reimbursement for IP pre-diagnostic services (IP Scan)
- 2) 75% reimbursement of trademark and design fees at EU level
- 3) 75% reimbursement of trademark and design fees at national and regional level
- 4) 50% reimbursement of trademark and design fees outside the EU

If you require assistance or more information concerning intellectual property, please contact [Ramona Livera](#) or the [Elias Neocleous & Co LLC Intellectual Property team](#).



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- RAKEZ
- Other Free Zone Formation
- Other**
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- Provide Platform for Engagement Focused Cooperation between Member Firms

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