

**SYNTHESISED TEXT
OF THE MLI AND THE CONVENTION
BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION
AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION
WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME**

This document presents the synthesised text for the application of the Convention between Japan and the Republic of Bulgaria for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income signed on March 7, 1991 (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”), as modified by the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting signed by Japan and Bulgaria on June 7, 2017 (hereinafter referred to as “the MLI”).

This document was prepared on the basis of the reservations and notifications submitted to the Depositary (the Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) by Japan on September 26, 2018 and by Bulgaria on September 16, 2022 respectively.

The sole purpose of this document is to facilitate the understanding of the application of the MLI to the Convention and the document does not constitute a source of law. The authentic texts of the Convention and the MLI are the only legal texts applicable.

The provisions of the MLI that are applicable with respect to the provisions of the Convention are included in boxes throughout this document in the context of the relevant provisions of the Convention.

In this document, changes to the text of the provisions of the MLI have been made to conform the terminology used in the MLI to the terminology used in the Convention (such as changes from “Covered Tax Agreement” to “Convention” and changes from “Contracting Jurisdiction” to “Contracting State”). Similarly, changes have been made to parts of provisions of the MLI that describe existing provisions of the Convention by replacing such descriptive language with the article and paragraph numbers or language of the existing provisions. These changes are intended to increase the readability of the document and are not intended to change the substance of the provisions of the MLI.

Unless the context otherwise requires, references made to the provisions of the Convention will be understood as referring to the provisions of the Convention as modified by the provisions of the MLI.

Entry into force and entry into effect of the MLI

The MLI enters into force for Japan on January 1, 2019 and for Bulgaria on January 1, 2023 and has effect as follows:

The provisions of the MLI shall have effect in each Contracting State with respect to the Convention:

(a) in Japan:

- (i) with respect to taxes withheld at source on amounts paid or credited to non-residents, where the event giving rise to such taxes occurs on or after January 1, 2023; and
- (ii) with respect to all other taxes levied by Japan, for taxes levied with respect to taxable periods beginning on or after July 1, 2023; and

(b) in Bulgaria:

- (i) with respect to taxes withheld at source on amounts paid or credited to non-residents, where the event giving rise to such taxes occurs on or after January 1, 2023; and
- (ii) with respect to all other taxes levied by Bulgaria, for taxes levied with respect to taxable periods beginning on or after January 1, 2024.

CONVENTION
BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION
AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION
WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME

Japan and the Republic of Bulgaria,

~~Desiring to conclude a Convention for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income,~~

The following preamble text described in paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the MLI replaces the preamble language of the Convention referring to “Desiring to conclude a Convention for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income,”:

Article 6 – Purpose of a Covered Tax Agreement

Intending to eliminate double taxation with respect to the taxes covered by the Convention without creating opportunities for non-taxation or reduced taxation through tax evasion or avoidance (including through treaty-shopping arrangements aimed at obtaining reliefs provided in the Convention for the indirect benefit of residents of third jurisdictions),

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

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

Article 2

1. This Convention shall apply to the following taxes:

(a) in Japan:

- (i) the income tax;
- (ii) the corporation tax; and
- (iii) the local inhabitant taxes

(hereinafter referred to as “Japanese tax”);

- (b) in the Republic of Bulgaria:
 - (i) the tax on the total income; and
 - (ii) the tax on the profit(hereinafter referred to as "Bulgarian tax").

2. This Convention shall also apply to any identical or substantially similar taxes, whether national or local, which are imposed after the date of signature of this Convention in addition to, or in place of, those referred to in paragraph 1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other of any substantial changes which have been made in their respective taxation laws within a reasonable period of time after such changes.

Article 3

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

- (a) the term "Japan", when used in a geographical sense, means all the territory of Japan, including its territorial sea, in which the laws relating to Japanese tax are in force, and all the area beyond its territorial sea, including the sea-bed and the subsoil thereof, over which Japan has jurisdiction in accordance with international law and in which the laws relating to Japanese tax are in force;
- (b) the term "Bulgaria" means the Republic of Bulgaria, and, when used in a geographical sense, means the territory of Bulgaria, including its territorial sea, in which the laws relating to Bulgarian tax are in force, and all the area beyond its territorial sea, including the sea-bed and the subsoil thereof, over which Bulgaria has jurisdiction in accordance with its legislation and international law;
- (c) the terms "a Contracting State" and "the other Contracting State" mean Japan or Bulgaria, as the context requires;
- (d) the term "tax" means Japanese tax or Bulgarian tax, as the context requires;
- (e) the term "person" includes an individual, a legal person or any entity treated as a legal person for tax purposes (hereinafter referred to as "a

legal person"), and any other body of persons;

- (f) the terms "enterprise of a Contracting State" and "enterprise of the other Contracting State" mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting State and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting State;
- (g) the term "nationals" means all individuals possessing the nationality of either Contracting State and all legal persons created or organized under the laws of that Contracting State and all organizations without legal personality treated for the purposes of tax of that Contracting State as legal persons created or organized under the laws of that Contracting State;
- (h) the term "international traffic" means any transport by a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise of a Contracting State, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State; and
- (i) the term "competent authority" means:
 - (i) in the case of Japan, the Minister of Finance or his authorized representative;
 - (ii) in the case of Bulgaria, the Minister of Finance or his authorized representative.

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

Article 4

1. For the purposes of this Convention, the term "resident of a Contracting State" means:

- (a) in relation to Japan, any person who, under the laws of Japan, is liable to tax therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of head or main office or any other criterion of a similar nature;
- (b) in relation to Bulgaria, any individual, other than a resident of a third state, who, under the laws of Bulgaria, is liable to tax therein, as well as any person other than an individual

which, under the laws of Bulgaria, is liable to tax therein by reason of the place of its head or main office or its registration, but the term does not include any person who is liable to tax in Bulgaria in respect only of income from sources therein.

2. The term "a resident of a third state" as used in subparagraph (b) of paragraph 1 means an individual who is treated as a resident of that third state under the laws of that third state.

3. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then this case shall be determined in accordance with the following rules:

- (a) He shall be deemed to be a resident of the Contracting State with which his personal and economic relations are closest (centre of vital interests);
- (b) If the Contracting State in which he has his centre of vital interests cannot be determined, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.

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

Article 5

1. For the purposes of this Convention, the term "permanent establishment" means a fixed place of business through which the business of an enterprise is wholly or partly carried on.

2. The term "permanent establishment" includes especially:

- (a) a place of management;
- (b) a branch;
- (c) an office;
- (d) a factory;
- (e) a workshop; and

- (f) a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction of natural resources.

3. A building site or construction or installation project constitutes a permanent establishment only if it lasts more than six months.

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

- ~~(a) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;~~
- ~~(b) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery;~~
- ~~(c) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;~~
- ~~(d) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise or of collecting information, for the enterprise;~~
- ~~(e) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of carrying on, for the enterprise, any other activity of a preparatory or auxiliary character;~~
- ~~(f) an installation project carried on by an enterprise of a Contracting State in connection with the sale or lease of machinery or equipment from that Contracting State to the other Contracting State; and~~
- ~~(g) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in sub paragraphs (a) to (f), provided that the overall activity of the fixed place of business resulting from this combination is of a preparatory or auxiliary character.~~

The following paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the MLI replaces paragraph 4 of Article 5 of the Convention:

Article 13 – Artificial Avoidance of Permanent Establishment Status through the Specific Activity Exemptions

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 5 of the Convention, the term "permanent establishment" shall be deemed not to include:

- a)
 - i) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;
 - ii) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery;
 - iii) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;
 - iv) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise or of collecting information, for the enterprise;
 - v) an installation project carried on by an enterprise of a Contracting State in connection with the sale or lease of machinery or equipment from that Contracting State to the other Contracting State;
- b) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of carrying on, for the enterprise, any activity not described in subparagraph a);
- c) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in subparagraphs a) and b),

provided that such activity or, in the case of subparagraph c), the overall activity of the fixed place of business, is of a preparatory or auxiliary character.

~~5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, where a person other than an agent of an independent status to whom the provisions of paragraph 6 apply is acting on behalf of an enterprise and has, and habitually exercises, in a Contracting State an authority to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise, that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in that~~

~~Contracting State in respect of any activities which that person undertakes for the enterprise, unless the activities of such person are limited to those mentioned in paragraph 4 which, if exercised through a fixed place of business, would not make this fixed place of business a permanent establishment under the provisions of that paragraph.~~

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

The following paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 12 of the MLI replace paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 5 of the Convention:

Article 12 – Artificial Avoidance of Permanent Establishment Status through Commissionnaire Arrangements and Similar Strategies

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 5 of the Convention, but subject to paragraph 2, where a person is acting in a Contracting State on behalf of an enterprise and, in doing so, habitually concludes contracts, or habitually plays the principal role leading to the conclusion of contracts that are routinely concluded without material modification by the enterprise, and these contracts are:

- a) in the name of the enterprise; or
- b) for the transfer of the ownership of, or for the granting of the right to use, property owned by that enterprise or that the enterprise has the right to use; or
- c) for the provision of services by that enterprise,

that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in that Contracting State in respect of any activities which that person undertakes for the enterprise unless these activities, if they were exercised by the enterprise through a fixed place of business of that enterprise situated in that Contracting State, would not cause that fixed place of business to be deemed to constitute a permanent establishment under the definition of permanent establishment included in the provisions of Article 5 of the Convention.

2. Paragraph 1 shall not apply where the person acting in a Contracting State on behalf of an enterprise of the other Contracting State carries on business in the first-mentioned Contracting State as an independent agent and acts for the enterprise in the ordinary course of that business. Where, however, a person acts exclusively or almost exclusively on behalf of one or more enterprises to which it is closely related, that person shall not be considered to be an independent agent within the meaning of this paragraph with respect to any such enterprise.

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

The following paragraph 1 of Article 15 of the MLI applies to the Convention:

Article 15 – Definition of a Person Closely Related to an Enterprise

1. For the purposes of the provisions of Article 5 of the Convention, a person is closely related to an enterprise if, based on all the relevant facts and circumstances, one has control of the other or both are under the control of the same persons or enterprises. In any case, a person shall be considered to be closely related to an enterprise if one possesses directly or indirectly more than 50 per cent of the beneficial interest in the other (or, in the case of a company, more than 50 per cent of the aggregate vote and value of the company's shares or of the beneficial equity interest in the company) or if another person possesses directly or indirectly more than 50 per cent of the beneficial interest (or, in the case of a company, more than 50 per cent of the aggregate vote and value of the company's shares or of the beneficial equity interest in the company) in the person and the enterprise.

Article 6

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from immovable property situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. The term "immovable property" shall have the meaning which it has under the laws of the Contracting State in which the property in question is situated. The term shall

in any case include property accessory to immovable property, rights to which the provisions of general law respecting immovable property apply, usufruct of immovable property and rights to variable or fixed payments as consideration for the working of, or the right to work, mineral deposits, sources and other natural resources; ships and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.

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

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

Article 7

1. The profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that Contracting State unless the enterprise carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein. If the enterprise carries on business as aforesaid, the profits of the enterprise may be taxed in that other Contracting State but only so much of them as is attributable to that permanent establishment.

2. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3, where an enterprise of a Contracting State carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, there shall in each Contracting State be attributed to that permanent establishment the profits which it might be expected to make if it were a distinct and separate enterprise engaged in the same or similar activities under the same or similar conditions and dealing wholly independently with the enterprise of which it is a permanent establishment.

3. In determining the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the permanent establishment, including executive and general administrative expenses so incurred, whether in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere.

4. Insofar as it has been customary in a Contracting State to determine the profits to be attributed to a permanent establishment on the basis of an apportionment of the total profits of the enterprise to its various parts, nothing in paragraph 2 shall preclude that Contracting

State from determining the profits to be taxed by such an apportionment as may be customary; the method of apportionment adopted shall, however, be such that the result shall be in accordance with the principles contained in this Article.

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

6. For the purposes of the provisions of the preceding paragraphs of this Article, the profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment shall be determined by the same method year by year unless there is good and sufficient reason to the contrary.

7. Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other Articles of this Convention, then the provisions of those Articles shall not be affected by the provisions of this Article.

Article 8

1. Profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic carried on by an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

2. In respect of the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic carried on by an enterprise of a Contracting State, that enterprise, if an enterprise of Bulgaria, shall be exempt from the enterprise tax in Japan, and, if an enterprise of Japan, shall be exempt from any tax similar to the enterprise tax in Japan which may hereafter be imposed in Bulgaria.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall also apply to profits from the participation in a pool, a joint business or an international operating agency.

Article 9

1. Where

- (a) an enterprise of a Contracting State participates directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, or
- (b) the same persons participate directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of a Contracting State and an

enterprise of the other Contracting State,

and in either case conditions are made or imposed between the two enterprises in their commercial or financial relations which differ from those which would be made between independent enterprises, then any profits which would, but for those conditions, have accrued to one of the enterprises, but, by reason of those conditions, have not so accrued, may be included in the profits of that enterprise and taxed accordingly.

~~2. Where a Contracting State includes, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1, in the profits of an enterprise of that Contracting State - and taxes accordingly - profits on which an enterprise of the other Contracting State has been charged to tax in that other Contracting State and where the competent authorities of the Contracting States agree, upon consultation, that all or part of the profits so included are profits which would have accrued to the enterprise of the first mentioned Contracting State if the conditions made between the two enterprises had been those which would have been made between independent enterprises, then that other Contracting State shall make an appropriate adjustment to the amount of the tax charged therein on those agreed profits. In determining such adjustment, due regard shall be had to the other provisions of this Convention.~~

The following paragraph 1 of Article 17 of the MLI replaces paragraph 2 of Article 9 of the Convention:

Article 17 – Corresponding Adjustments

1. Where a Contracting State includes in the profits of an enterprise of that Contracting State - and taxes accordingly - profits on which an enterprise of the other Contracting State has been charged to tax in that other Contracting State and the profits so included are profits which would have accrued to the enterprise of the first-mentioned Contracting State if the conditions made between the two enterprises had been those which would have been made between independent enterprises, then that other Contracting State shall make an appropriate adjustment to the amount of the tax charged therein on those profits. In determining such adjustment, due regard shall be had to the other provisions of the Convention and the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall if necessary consult each other.

Article 10

1. Dividends paid by a legal person who is a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. However, such dividends may also be taxed in the Contracting State of which the legal person paying the dividends is a resident, and according to the laws of that Contracting State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the dividends the tax so charged shall not exceed:

- (a) 10 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owner is a legal person who owns at least 25 per cent of the voting shares of the legal person paying the dividends during the period of six months immediately before the end of the accounting period for which the distribution of profits takes place;
- (b) 15 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases.

The provisions of this paragraph shall not affect the taxation of the legal person in respect of the profits out of which the dividends are paid.

3. The term "dividends" as used in this Article means income from shares or other rights, not being debt-claims, participating in profits, as well as income from other corporate rights which is subjected to the same taxation treatment as income from shares by the taxation laws of the Contracting State of which the legal person making the distribution is a resident.

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

5. Where a legal person who is a resident of a Contracting State derives profits or income from the other Contracting State, that other Contracting State may not impose any tax on the dividends paid by the legal person, except insofar as such dividends are paid to a resident of

that other Contracting State or insofar as the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with a permanent establishment or a fixed base situated in that other Contracting State, nor subject undistributed profits of the legal person to a tax on undistributed profits of the legal person, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in that other Contracting State.

Article 11

1. Interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. However, such interest may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which it arises, and according to the laws of that Contracting State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the interest the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the interest.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2, interest arising in a Contracting State and derived by the Government of the other Contracting State, a local authority thereof, the Central Bank of that other Contracting State or any financial institution wholly owned by that Government, or by any resident of the other Contracting State with respect to debt-claims guaranteed, insured or indirectly financed by the Government of that other Contracting State, a local authority thereof, the Central Bank of that other Contracting State or any financial institution wholly owned by that Government shall be exempt from tax in the first-mentioned Contracting State.

4. For the purposes of paragraph 3, the terms "the Central Bank" and "financial institution wholly owned by the Government" mean:

(a) in the case of Japan:

- (i) the Bank of Japan;
- (ii) the Export-Import Bank of Japan;
- (iii) the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund;
- (iv) the Japan International Cooperation Agency;
and
- (v) such other financial institution the capital of which is wholly owned by the Government

of Japan as may be agreed upon from time to time between the Governments of the two Contracting States;

(b) in the case of Bulgaria:

- (i) the Bulgarian National Bank;
- (ii) the Bulgarian Foreign Trade Bank; and
- (iii) such other financial institution the capital of which is wholly owned by the Government of Bulgaria as may be agreed upon from time to time between the Governments of the two Contracting States.

5. The term "interest" as used in this Article means income from debt-claims of every kind, whether or not secured by mortgage and whether or not carrying a right to participate in the debtor's profits, and in particular, income from Government securities and income from bonds or debentures, including premiums and prizes attaching to such securities, bonds or debentures.

6. The provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the interest, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the interest arises, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other Contracting State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

7. Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that Contracting State itself, a local authority thereof or a resident of that Contracting State. Where, however, the person paying the interest, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.

8. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the interest, having regard to the debt-claim for which it is paid, exceeds the

amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Convention.

Article 12

1. Royalties arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. However, such royalties may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise, and according to the laws of that Contracting State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the royalties the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties.

3. The term "royalties" as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work including cinematograph films and films or tapes for radio or television broadcasting, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for the use of, or the right to use, industrial, commercial or scientific equipment, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience.

4. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that Contracting State itself, a local authority thereof or a resident of that Contracting State. Where, however, the person paying the royalties, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the liability to pay the royalties was incurred, and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such royalties shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.

5. The provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 of this Article shall likewise apply to proceeds arising from the alienation of any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work including cinematograph films and films or tapes for radio or television broadcasting, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, or secret formula or process, except when the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 13 are applicable to the gains to be derived from

such proceeds.

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

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

Article 13

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

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

3. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of ships or aircraft operated in international traffic and any property, other than immovable property, pertaining to the operation of such ships or aircraft shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

4. Unless the provisions of paragraph 2 are applicable, gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of shares of a legal person being a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

5. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of any property other than that referred to in paragraph 5 of Article 12 and paragraphs 1 to 4 of this Article shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

The following paragraph 4 of Article 9 of the MLI applies to the Convention:

*Article 9 – Capital Gains from Alienation of Shares or Interests of Entities
Deriving their Value Principally from Immovable Property*

4. For purposes of the Convention, gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of shares or comparable interests, such as interests in a partnership or trust, may be taxed in the other Contracting State if, at any time during the 365 days preceding the alienation, these shares or comparable interests derived more than 50 per cent of their value directly or indirectly from immovable property situated in that other Contracting State.

Article 14

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

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

Article 15

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 16, 18, 19, 20

and 21, salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment shall be taxable only in that Contracting State unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting State. If the employment is so exercised, such remuneration as is derived therefrom may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

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

- (a) the recipient is present in that other Contracting State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in the calendar year concerned;
- (b) the remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not a resident of that other Contracting State; and
- (c) the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment or a fixed base which the employer has in that other Contracting State.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, remuneration in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft operated in international traffic by an enterprise of a Contracting State may be taxed in that Contracting State.

Article 16

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

Article 17

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

Such income shall, however, be exempt from tax in that other Contracting State if such activities are exercised by

an individual, being a resident of the first-mentioned Contracting State, pursuant to a special programme for cultural exchange agreed upon between the Governments of the two Contracting States.

2. Where income in respect of personal activities exercised in a Contracting State by an entertainer or an athlete in his capacity as such accrues not to the entertainer or athlete himself but to another person who is a resident of the other Contracting State, that income may, notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7, 14 and 15, be taxed in the first-mentioned Contracting State.

Such income shall, however, be exempt from tax in that Contracting State if such income is derived from the activities exercised by an individual, being a resident of the other Contracting State, pursuant to a special programme for cultural exchange agreed upon between the Governments of the two Contracting States and accrues to another person who is a resident of that other Contracting State.

Article 18

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

Article 19

1. (a) Remuneration, other than a pension, paid by a Contracting State or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that Contracting State or local authority thereof, in the discharge of functions of a governmental nature, shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.
- (b) However, such remuneration shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the services are rendered in that other Contracting State and the individual is a resident of that other Contracting State who:
 - (i) is a national of that other Contracting State; or
 - (ii) did not become a resident of that other Contracting State solely for the purpose of rendering the services.
2. (a) Any pension paid by, or out of funds to which

contributions are made by, a Contracting State or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that Contracting State or local authority thereof shall be taxable only in that Contracting State.

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

3. The provisions of Articles 15, 16, 17 and 18 shall apply to remuneration and pensions in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting State or a local authority thereof.

Article 20

Payment which a student or business apprentice who is or was immediately before visiting a Contracting State a resident of the other Contracting State and who is present in the first-mentioned Contracting State solely for the purpose of his education or training receives for the purpose of his maintenance, education or training shall be exempt from tax of the first-mentioned Contracting State, provided that such payments are made to him from outside that first-mentioned Contracting State. The same shall apply to remuneration which such student or business apprentice derives from an employment which he exercises in that first-mentioned Contracting State for a period not exceeding five taxable years from the date of his arrival in order to obtain practical experience related to his education or training or supplement his maintenance.

Article 21

1. An individual who visits a Contracting State for a period not exceeding two years for the purpose of teaching or conducting research at a university, college, school or other accredited educational institution in that Contracting State, and who is, or immediately before such visit was, a resident of the other Contracting State shall be exempt from tax in the first-mentioned Contracting State on any remuneration for such teaching or research in respect of which he is subject to tax in the other Contracting State.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply to income from research if such research is undertaken primarily for the private benefit of a specific person or persons.

Article 22

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

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

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, items of income of a resident of a Contracting State not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Convention and arising in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

Article 23

1. In Bulgaria, double taxation shall be eliminated as follows:

~~(a) Where a resident of Bulgaria derives income which, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention may be taxed in Japan, Bulgaria shall, subject to the provisions of subparagraphs (b) and (c) of this paragraph, exempt such income from tax.~~

The following paragraph 6 of Article 5 of the MLI replaces subparagraph (a) of paragraph 1 of Article 23 of the Convention:

Article 5 – Application of Methods for Elimination of Double Taxation

6. a) **Where a resident of Bulgaria derives income which may be taxed in Japan in accordance with the provisions of the Convention (except to the extent that these provisions allow taxation by Japan solely because the income is also income derived by a resident of Japan), Bulgaria shall allow as a deduction from the tax on the income of that resident, an amount equal to the income**

tax paid in Japan.

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

- b) Where in accordance with any provision of the Convention income derived by a resident of Bulgaria is exempt from tax in Bulgaria, Bulgaria may nevertheless, in calculating the amount of tax on the remaining income of such resident, take into account the exempted income.

- (b) Where a resident of Bulgaria derives income which, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 11 and 12 may be taxed in Japan, Bulgaria shall allow as a deduction from the tax on the income of that resident an amount equal to the tax paid in Japan. Such deduction shall not, however, exceed that part of the tax, as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable to such income derived from Japan.

- (c) Where in accordance with any provision of this Convention income derived by a resident of Bulgaria is exempt from tax in Bulgaria, Bulgaria may, nevertheless, in calculating the amount of the tax on the remaining income of such resident, take into account the exempted income.

2. Subject to the laws of Japan regarding the allowance as a credit against Japanese tax of tax payable in any country other than Japan:

- (a) Where a resident of Japan derives income from Bulgaria which may be taxed in Bulgaria in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, the amount of Bulgarian tax payable in respect of that income shall be allowed as a credit against the Japanese tax imposed on that resident. The amount of credit, however, shall not exceed that part of the Japanese tax which is appropriate to that income.
- (b) Where the income derived from Bulgaria is a dividend paid by a legal person who is a resident of Bulgaria to a legal person who is a resident of Japan and who owns not less than 25 per cent either of the voting shares of the legal person paying the dividend, or of the total shares issued by that legal person, the credit shall

take into account the Bulgarian tax payable by the legal person paying the dividend in respect of its income.

3. For the purposes of the credit referred to in subparagraph (a) of paragraph 2 above, where an amount of tax paid in Bulgaria on dividends or royalties to which the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 10 or paragraph 2 of Article 12, as the case may be, apply is less than 10 per cent of the gross amount thereof, Bulgarian tax shall be deemed to have been paid at the rate of 10 per cent of the gross amount of such dividends or royalties.

4. For the purposes of the credit referred to in paragraph 2 above, the term "Bulgarian tax payable" shall be deemed to include the amount of the Bulgarian tax which would have been paid under the laws of Bulgaria if the Bulgarian tax had not been reduced or exempted in accordance with the special incentive measures designed to promote economic development in Bulgaria, provided that an agreement is made between the two Governments in respect of the scope of the benefit accorded to the taxpayer by the said measures.

5. The provisions of paragraphs 3 and 4 shall not apply in respect of income derived by a resident of Japan in any taxable year beginning on or after the first day of January of 2002.

Article 24

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

2. The taxation on a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State shall not be less favourably levied in that other Contracting State than the taxation levied on enterprises of that other Contracting State carrying on the same activities.

This provision shall not be construed as obliging a Contracting State to grant to residents of the other Contracting State any personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for taxation purposes on account of civil status or family responsibilities which it grants to its own

residents.

3. Except where the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 9, paragraph 8 of Article 11, or paragraph 7 of Article 12, apply, interest, royalties and other disbursements paid by an enterprise of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State shall, for the purpose of determining the taxable profits of such enterprise, be deductible under the same conditions as if they had been paid to a resident of the first-mentioned Contracting State.

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

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

Article 25

~~1. Where a person considers that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for him in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, he may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the domestic laws of those Contracting States, present his case to the competent authority of the Contracting State of which he is a resident or, if his case comes under paragraph 1 of Article 24, to that of the Contracting State of which he is a national.~~

The following first sentence of paragraph 1 of Article 16 of the MLI replaces the first sentence of paragraph 1 of Article 25 of the Convention:

Article 16 – Mutual Agreement Procedure

Where a person considers that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for that person in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, that person may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the domestic law of those Contracting States, present the case to the competent authority of either Contracting State.

The case must be presented within three years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Convention.

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

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

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

Article 26

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Convention or of the domestic laws of the Contracting States concerning taxes covered by this Convention insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to the provisions of this Convention, or for the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to such taxes. Any information so exchanged shall be treated as secret and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities, including courts, involved in the assessment or collection of the taxes covered by this Convention or the determination of appeals in relation thereto.

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

- (a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and the administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;
- (b) to supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the

administration of that or of the other Contracting State;

- (c) to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process, or information, the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy (ordre public).

Article 27

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

The following paragraph 1 of Article 7 of the MLI applies to the Convention:

Article 7 – Prevention of Treaty Abuse

1. Notwithstanding any provisions of the Convention, a benefit under the Convention shall not be granted in respect of an item of income if it is reasonable to conclude, having regard to all relevant facts and circumstances, that obtaining that benefit was one of the principal purposes of any arrangement or transaction that resulted directly or indirectly in that benefit, unless it is established that granting that benefit in these circumstances would be in accordance with the object and purpose of the relevant provisions of the Convention.

Article 28

1. This Convention shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Tokyo as soon as possible.

2. This Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of the exchange of instruments of ratification and shall have effect in both Contracting States as regards income for any taxable year beginning on or after the first day of January of the calendar year next following that in which this Convention enters into force.

Article 29

This Convention shall continue in effect indefinitely but either Contracting State may, on or before the thirtieth day of June of any calendar year beginning after

the expiration of a period of five years from the date of its entry into force, give to the other Contracting State, through the diplomatic channel, written notice of termination and, in such event, this Convention shall cease to have effect in both Contracting States as regards income for any taxable year beginning on or after the first day of January of the calendar year next following that in which the notice of termination is given.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorized thereto, have signed this Convention.

DONE in duplicate at Sofia, this seventh day of March, 1991 in the English language.

For Japan:

Takashi Tajima

For the Republic of Bulgaria:

Ivan Kostov