

**No. 52169\***

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**Belgium  
and  
St. Vincent and the Grenadines**

**Agreement between the Kingdom of Belgium and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for the exchange of information relating to tax matters. Brussels, 7 December 2009**

**Entry into force:** *24 March 2014 by notification, in accordance with article 13*

**Authentic text:** *English*

**Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations:** *Belgium, 16 September 2014*

*\*No UNTS volume number has yet been determined for this record. The Text(s) reproduced below, if attached, are the authentic texts of the agreement /action attachment as submitted for registration and publication to the Secretariat. For ease of reference they were sequentially paginated. Translations, if attached, are not final and are provided for information only.*

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**Belgique  
et  
Saint-Vincent-et-les Grenadines**

**Accord entre le Royaume de Belgique et Saint-Vincent-et-les Grenadines en vue de l'échange de renseignements en matière fiscale. Bruxelles, 7 décembre 2009**

**Entrée en vigueur :** *24 mars 2014 par notification, conformément à l'article 13*

**Texte authentique :** *anglais*

**Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat des Nations Unies :** *Belgique, 16 septembre 2014*

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[ ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS ]

**AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM  
AND  
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES  
FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION RELATING TO TAX MATTERS**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**

**AND**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES,**

**DESIRING** to facilitate the exchange of information with respect to taxes,

**HAVE AGREED** as follows:

**Article 1**  
**Object and Scope of the Agreement**

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

**Article 2**  
**Jurisdiction**

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

**Article 3**  
**Taxes Covered**

1. The taxes which are the subject of this Agreement are all taxes imposed or administered by either Contracting Party including any identical or substantially similar taxes, including customs duties, imposed after the date of signature of the Agreement.
2. This agreement shall also apply to taxes imposed in Belgium by or on behalf of its political subdivisions or local authorities from the date on which Belgium shall notify the other Contracting Party through diplomatic channels that Belgium agrees on such application.

**Article 4**  
**Definitions**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, unless otherwise defined:
  - a) the term "Contracting Party" means Saint Vincent and the Grenadines or Belgium as the context requires;
  - b) the term "Saint Vincent and the Grenadines" means the country of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;
  - c) the term "Belgium" means the Kingdom of Belgium; used in a geographical sense, it means the territory of the Kingdom of Belgium, including the territorial sea and any other area in the sea and in the air within which the Kingdom of Belgium, in accordance with international law, exercises sovereign rights or its jurisdiction;

- d) the term “competent authority” means
    - i) in the case of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Minister of Finance or his authorised representative;
    - ii) in the case of Belgium, the Minister of Finance or his authorised representative;
  - e) the term “person” includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons;
  - f) the term “company” means any body corporate or any entity that is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;
  - g) the term “publicly traded company” means any company whose principal class of shares is listed on a recognised stock exchange provided its listed shares can be readily purchased or sold by the public. Shares can be purchased or sold “by the public” if the purchase or sale of shares is not implicitly or explicitly restricted to a limited group of investors;
  - h) the term “principal class of shares” means the class or classes of shares representing a majority of the voting power and value of the company;
  - i) the term “recognised stock exchange” means any stock exchange agreed upon by the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties;
  - j) the term “collective investment fund or scheme” means any pooled investment vehicle, irrespective of legal form. The term “public collective investment fund or scheme” means any collective investment fund or scheme provided the units, shares or other interests in the fund or scheme can be readily purchased, sold or redeemed by the public. Units, shares or other interests in the fund or scheme can be readily purchased, sold or redeemed “by the public” if the purchase, sale or redemption is not implicitly or explicitly restricted to a limited group of investors;
  - k) the term “tax” means any tax to which the Agreement applies;
  - l) the term “applicant Party” means the Contracting Party requesting information;
  - m) the term “requested Party” means the Contracting Party requested to provide information;
  - n) the term “information gathering measures” means laws and administrative or judicial procedures that enable a Contracting Party to obtain and provide the requested information;
  - o) the term “information” means any fact, statement or record in any form whatever;
  - p) the term “criminal tax matters” means tax matters involving intentional conduct which is liable to prosecution under the criminal laws of the applicant Party;
  - q) the term “criminal laws” means all criminal laws designated as such under domestic law irrespective of whether contained in the tax laws, the criminal code or other statutes.
2. As regards the application of this Agreement at any time by a Contracting Party, any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning that it has at that time under the law of that Party, any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that Party prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that Party.

**Article 5**  
**Exchange of Information Upon Request**

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