VAT Forum presents

20th Annual VAT Summit

15-16-17 May 2019
Cyprus
Parklane, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa, Limassol

www.vatforum.com/cyprus

What is the summit about?

- New VAT rules ‘Vouchers’ 2019
- New VAT rules for taxation of trade between Member states 2020
- Short overview of important cases of the European Court of Justice
- New VAT rules 2021 for distance sales
- Technology and other VAT relevant aspects in the cryptographic space
- Brexit, what should you know?
- Make Tax Digital (UK)
- TOMS
- The VAT Action Plan, new VAT rules 2022

Who should attend the summit?

- VAT managers working in a multinational environment
- VAT compliance managers responsible for VAT reporting in different member states
- VAT officials dealing with large and foreign taxable persons
- VAT advisers serving multinational clients
About the conference

We aim to create an open discussion between VAT managers within companies, consultants, officials from national VAT authorities and the European Commission. This conference aims to discuss hot topics and provide ready-made answers for businesses. The aim of the conference is also to inform companies and consultants of the latest changes to EC and national VAT legislation and the impact of these changes on business.

We aim to provide substantial information as well, not only to be used during the conference, but also as a reference tool back home.

During the sessions, participants will have the opportunity to raise questions. Participants are invited to contribute as much as they believe is useful during the panel discussions, in order to make this conference as interactive as possible. During each session, there will be sufficient time to answer questions and to discuss the issues with the audience.

The conference offers a unique opportunity for networking. Persons responsible for VAT and Customs from different companies and countries will be present. It is the ideal moment to exchange ideas and gather information from other countries.

What can you expect

- Direct knowledge transfer
- Logically structured presentations and lectures
- Lectures that go into technical VAT depth but are also practically oriented
- Continual interactive discussions with the participants
- Directly applicable solutions for your business environment
- No sales pitches
- Networking with other VAT experts
- Documentation binder and underlying information on a memory stick

Programme

Wednesday 15 May 2019

Welcoming (19:00 – 23:00)

19:00
Cocktail followed by a welcome dinner at the Parklane hotel
Thursday 16 May 2019

9:00 – 9:15
Welcome and introduction by Prof. Patrick Wille, President of VAT Forum

9:15 – 9:30
Opening of Forum Proceedings: Yiannis Tsangaris, Cyprus Commissioner of Taxation

9:30 – 10:30
New VAT rules ‘Vouchers’ 2019
Patrick Wille, president VAT Forum


The changes result in some vouchers being classified as ‘single-purpose vouchers’, which means that in future they will be taxed at the time of sale instead of the time of use.

An initial analysis of the commentary on the new rules published by the Member States has shown firstly that various interpretations are possible, and secondly also that certain issues are not clear at all and are not even covered in the clarification of the new legislation.

This session will focus on some issues that lack clarity.

The VAT consequences of providing free vouchers and the use of a voucher to make a partial payment where the voucher is not issued by the supplier are not entirely clear.

What are the new rules? What do you need to know to deal with this complex topic in the future?

Panel discussion

10:30 – 11:30
Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30
New VAT rules for taxation of trade between Member states 2020
Marja van den Oetelaar, Partner The VAT Consultancy Firm B.V

In preparation for the definitive VAT system for intra-Community trade, four quick fixes will be introduced in 1 January 2020 to simplify the application of VAT to trade within the member states:

• Call-off stock simplification
• Chain transactions
• VAT identification number and ESL as a material requirement

Harmonization of proof of transport for intra-Community supplies.

Panel discussion

12:30 – 14:00
Lunch

14:00 – 14:30
VAT Compliance: The Case of Cyprus
Haris Hadjimichael, Head of Department for EU Affairs and Tax Treatment, Cyprus Department of Tax

14:30 – 15:30
Brexit, what should you know?
Richard Asquith, VP Global Indirect Tax, Avalara

• Update on the Brexit political process
• VAT changes and additional compliance burdens
• Customs obligations and tariff charges on trading with the UK
• Strategies to limit the costs

Panel discussion
The European Court of Justice (ECJ) plays a central role in offering guidance as to how to interpret and define provisions of the VAT Directive. Important as some decisions may be, the ECJ is not always consistent and neither does it continually provide sufficient clarity in addressing the questions before it. A review of the most important recent judgments of the ECJ will provide a technical update as well as a look into where the ECJ has followed its previous decisions, and where it is perhaps seeking to broaden or reduce the application of the VAT Directive.

Friday 17 May 2019

9:30 – 10:30
New VAT rules for distance sales in 2021
Patrick Wille, President VAT Forum

The European Commission approved Directive 2017/2455 on 5 December 2017. Article 2 introduces a €10,000 threshold for distance sales of goods with effect from January 2021 and changes the distance sales rules completely. Marketplaces, platforms, portals or similar tools that facilitate e-commerce supplies for non-EU suppliers shall be deemed to have received and supplied the goods themselves. The good news is that, from 2021 onwards, suppliers making distance sales and exceeding the new threshold will be able to rely on the OSS (One Stop Shop) for the payment of VAT at the destination. What are the practical consequences and risks for businesses?

Panel discussion

10:30 – 11:00
Coffee break

11:00-12:30
VAT considerations in Distributed Ledger Technology
Matthew Zampa, Partner Zampa Debattista

How does the existing VAT legislation regulate businesses operating in the blockchain space? What are the current pitfalls? The session will introduce the audience to different operations that blockchain businesses might be involved in, with a view to identifying the applicable VAT treatment.

We will mainly analyse the VAT treatment of the following in the light of the existing guidance.
available at EU level and the guidelines published by the Commissioner for Revenue:

- Different types of DLT assets;
- The raising of capital through initial coin offerings and security token offerings;
- Different types of exchanges and their VAT treatment;
- Other service providers such as miners; digital wallet providers and portfolio managers;

Panel discussion

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 14:45

Make Tax Digital
Richard Asquith, VP Global Indirect Tax, Avalara

- What are the UK’s new requirements for VAT records and filing introduced in April 2019?
- What is the digital journey?
- What software options are available to comply with the new API portal?
- How has HMRC modified the penalties regime?
- What are HMRC’s future plans for transaction reporting?

14:45 – 15:30

TOMS
David Bennett

David will describe recent decisions by the Court of Justice of the European Union and consider their implications for those selling travel within the EU. He will also look at the European Commission’s plans to reform the TOMS rules. This will include a summary of the conclusions of the European Commission’s recent study on the application of the current TOMS rules and on options for reform of those rules. He will cover discussions between the Commission and the Member States on the study’s findings, assess what is likely to change and what the effect of such changes would be.

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee break

16:00 – 17:00

The VAT Action Plan, new VAT rules 2022
Dorota Baczewska-Golińska, Partner, Doradca Podatkowy

17:00 – 17:15

Wrap-up of the day by Prof. Patrick Wille, President of VAT Forum

18:15

Social event 20 years VAT Forum

A walking tour of the old town of Limassol, including the medieval Limassol Castle, where Richard the Lionheart married Berengaria of Navarre and crowned her Queen of England in 1191. The tour ends with a sit-down dinner at a traditional Cyprus tavern in full view of the castle.
Cancellation: Nominated individuals who are unable to attend can nominate somebody else to go in their place.

For cancellations of participation in the Summit of which we are notified before 30 April 2019, the sum paid will be reimbursed after the deduction of € 150 to cover administration costs. For cancellations made from 30 April 2019 onwards, a reimbursement of 50% will be made and the documentation will be sent to the participant. Cancellations after 13 May 2019 will be considered as a “no show” and no reimbursements will be made. If you register after 10 May 2019, we cannot guarantee that your name will appear on the participation list.
About VAT Forum

VAT Forum is an international partnership of indirect tax specialists and was founded in 1999 by Professor Prof. Patrick Wille, along with other independent VAT consultants and member companies. It consists of partners (highly experienced independent VAT consultants), and members (companies that trade across borders). The Forum organises activities and provides services for its members.

It is a fact that VAT is becoming a major issue and a significant liability for those businesses that are active across borders in Europe; this is not only the case for multinational firms, but also for smaller companies that trade within Europe.

For this reason, it is VAT Forum’s main aim to support the VAT compliance requirements of its members actively, by means of short and long-term training programmes, conferences, information dissemination, weekly newsletters, technical discussion groups, lobbying and networking.

www.vatforum.com

VAT Forum Partners available at the Summit

- **Austria**: Thomas Pühringer (Pühringer Tax Consulting GmbH)
- **Belgium**: Patrick Wille, Isabelle Desmeytere (VAT Forum)
- **Bulgaria**: Tania Pavlova (Taxacta)
- **Czech Republic**: Jan Kaucky (Jan Kaucky VAT s.r.o.)
- **Cyprus**: Alexis Tsielepis (Chelco VAT Ltd)
- **France**: Marnix Cornette (RFN)
- **Germany**: Iris Schaefer (WP/StB Iris Schaefer)
- **Greece**: Stamatis Papahimonas (A&P - Tax and Finance)
- **Malta**: Matthew Zampa (Zampa Debattista)
- **Norway**: Morten Stegard (Stegard Law – VAT Consulting AS)
- **Poland**: Dorota Baczeskwa (Partner, Doradca Podatkowy)
- **Portugal**: Conceição Gamito (Vieira de Almeida)
- **Slovakia**: Milan Vargan (TAX systems)
- **Spain**: Pablo Lujuan (IVA Consulta)
- **The Netherlands**: Marja van den Oetelaar (The VAT Consultancy Firm B.V.)
- **United Kingdom**: David Stokes (Accordace Technical Services Ltd)