

**OVERVIEW OF TAX EVENTS FOR APRIL 2015**

## REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS

On 3 May, the Russian President signed Federal Law No. 113-FZ. This law establishes that a tax agent is obliged to provide quarterly estimates of personal income tax amounts which it has calculated and withheld, to tax authorities. If it fails to provide such estimates, a penalty is imposed on it and its bank accounts are blocked.

*[www.kremlin.ru](http://www.kremlin.ru), 3 May 2015*

On 6 April, the Russian President signed Federal Law No. 82-FZ. Now companies may stop using a round seal on paper documents.

*[www.kremlin.ru](http://www.kremlin.ru), 6 April 2015*

On 31 March, the Russian President signed a Federal Law aimed at ensuring that the information provided during the state registration of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs is accurate.

*[www.kremlin.ru](http://www.kremlin.ru), 31 March 2015*

On 24 April, the State Duma passed in the first reading the Government's draft law aimed at extending the list of grounds for compensating adjustments of taxes in the case of controlled transactions. The draft law will make it easier for one party to a transaction to adjust profit tax, personal income tax, mineral extraction tax or VAT if the other party states lower amounts of the taxes.

*[www.rg.ru](http://www.rg.ru), 21 April 2015*

On 10 April, a new version of a draft law has been put before the State Duma. It concerns the general standard for fighting tax abuse. Experts think that the position of taxpayers may deteriorate sharply.

*[rbcdaily.ru](http://rbcdaily.ru), 27 April 2015*

The State Duma is drafting legislative amendments to exempt a number of Islamic banking transactions from VAT.

*[izvestia.ru](http://izvestia.ru), 7 April 2015*

Russia and China are drafting an agreement setting a zero rate of the tax on interest for companies in both countries.

*[www.vedomosti.ru](http://www.vedomosti.ru), 29 April 2015*

The Russian Finance Ministry has published a new version of a draft law imposing an obligation on auditors to report to tax authorities. The revised version reduces the volume of information which auditors are to share with tax authorities. Moreover, such information will have to be provided only if a taxpayer itself fails to provide it upon tax authorities' request or if a foreign tax authority requests it.

*[regulation.gov.ru](http://regulation.gov.ru), 30 March 2015*

A working group of Russia's Ministry for Economic Development compiled a list of non-tax payments which may be reformed. For some of them rates will be frozen, others are planned to be cancelled for some time, and a number of payments will be adjusted in view of requests from the business sector.

***www.rg.ru, 7 April 2015***

*Additionally:*

***www.vedomosti.ru, 21 April 2015***

The Russian President instructed the Russian Government to consider, by 1 July, whether it would be reasonable to introduce 'a mechanism for a resort fee and to direct the relevant income to be used for developing tourism infrastructure'.

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The Russian Minister of Communications and Mass Media Nikolay Nikiforov believes it would be reasonable to look into whether foreign Internet companies may be taxed at the location of their customers.

***ria.ru, 28 April 2015***

The Russian Ministry of Finance drafted the Main Directions of Tax Policy for the years 2016 through 2018. The plan for the next three years keeps the current structure of the tax system. The main emphasis is placed on changes in administration.

***kommersant.ru, 13 April 2015***

The Russian Government is looking into the possibility of transferring to the Russian Federal Tax Service the administration of social contributions paid to extra-budgetary funds and returning to the uniform social tax.

***www.kommersant.ru, 13 April 2015***

## **PRACTICE**

Russia will join the European equivalent of FATCA in 2018.

*[izvestia.ru](http://izvestia.ru), 23 April 2015*

Written clarifications of legislation which are issued by executive authorities can be challenged in court. The Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation handed down such decision on 31 March. The court also imposed an obligation on legislators to set a procedure for appealing against such instruments that lay down official interpretations.

*[www.ksrf.ru](http://www.ksrf.ru), 31 March 2015*

Russian major distributors of electronic appliances have signed a charter concerning transferring to transparent import arrangements. The Russian Federal Tax Service was among those insisting that such agreement should be concluded.

*[Vedomosti](http://Vedomosti), 6 April 2015*

Deputies of the communist party faction in the State Duma have declared that they have found grounds to recover taxes from Google, eBay and PayPal and suggested that the Federal Tax Service take note.

*[www.kommersant.ru](http://www.kommersant.ru), 28 April 2015*