

OVERVIEW OF TAX EVENTS FOR AUGUST 2015

REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS

The main trends in the tax policy for 2016-2018 have been approved. The crucial point for business is that taxes are frozen for the next three years.

<http://www.minfin.ru/ru/>, 27 July 2015

A toll for heavy trucks (RUB 3.06 per km) has been agreed with the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Economic Development. The toll for using federal roads will be charged on trucks weighing more than 12 tons, starting from 15 November.

Vedomosti, 11 August 2015

The Russian Ministry of Finance is drafting a double tax treaty with Hong Kong, which is deemed to be an offshore jurisdiction. “The most important thing is to establish a tax on interest at zero rate, thus making leveraged financing cheaper”, says an official from the Ministry of Finance.

Vedomosti, 7 August 2015

The Russian Ministry of Finance has proceeded with developing the procedure for multilateral pricing agreements to be concluded, involving an executive authority of a foreign state.

www.nalog.ru , 21 August 2015

PRACTICE

Russia's Federal Tax Service has summarised the outcomes of tax disputes settled in courts and out of court during the first quarter of 2015: the number of appeals has decreased by more than 4% as compared with the corresponding period of 2014; the number of disputes between business and tax authorities has reduced by 10%, with courts finding in favour of the state in 77% of cases.

www.nalog.ru , 10 August 2015

According to Deputy Head of the Russian Federal Tax Service Alexey Overchuk, the electronic services that the Federal Tax Service offers to taxpayers are among the most advanced services in the world and the global tax community acknowledges this fact.

www.nalog.ru , 24 August 2015

Oriflame Cosmetics LLC (a Russian structure of Oriflame) has filed an appeal with the Russian Supreme Court against the decisions of lower courts that an additional RUB 537 million of tax payments were lawfully assessed against the company. All the additional tax accruals refer to the same item in the decision in dispute, where the tax authority has valued the royalty payments made to Oriflame Kosmetiek B.V. (the Netherlands).

www.rapsinews.ru, 5 August 2015

Mazda Motor Rus has filed a cassation appeal with the Russian Supreme Court against the decision of a lower court seeking that a decision of the tax authority be held invalid. During the tax audit, a tax evasion scheme had been identified: the company purchased cars from Mazda Motor Logistics Europe N.V. at a higher price and then sold them at the regular price. This resulted in Mazda Motor Rus siphoning abroad about RUB 2.6 billion and failing to pay taxes of approximately RUB 600 million on the amount.

www.kommersant.ru, 19 August 2015