Liechtenstein | International Tax Architecture | Liechtenstein Tax Law | DTC Italy/Liechtenstein

### La nuova convenzione in materia tributaria tra Italia e Liechtenstein

Seminario di diritto tributario internazionale

Rome, 12 December 2023

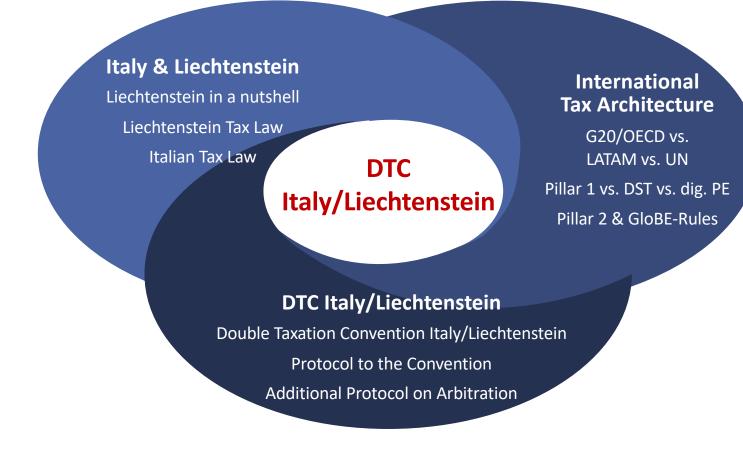


#### **Professor Dr Martin Wenz**

Chair in Business Taxation and the Laws of International and Liechtenstein Taxation Liechtenstein Business Law School Academic Head Liechtenstein Executive School University of Liechtenstein, Vaduz









Liechtenstein in a nutshell: Entrepreneurial innovative Business Location and Financial Centre

#### Small, open, developed, solid, liberal economy with stable policy

- No public debt | financial reserves: CHF 2bn | highly diversified
- State quota/Fiscal quota: 21% GDP | Tax quota: 14% GDP
- Standard & Poor's: AAA-Rating (one of 11) | Revenue ~ 1 bn. CHF
- Direct investments in  $DE > \sum CY/CZ/GR/HUN/MT/PL/PO/SLO/SK$
- German speaking countries: AT, BE, CH, DE, LU, LIE

#### European Internal Market: EU/EAA/EFTA/Schengen

- · Full market access and implementation of regulation
- Fundamental freedoms and prohibition of state aid
- European Passport: Goods and services
- EFTA-Free Trade Agreements

#### Special relationship to Switzerland

- Economic area: Customs and currency union (100 years) with CHF
- CH-Free Trade Agreements
- CH-Common indirect taxes: VAT, excise & stamp duties
- LIE-Direct tax system with moderate tax burden | LIE-Blockchain Act

#### Principality of Liechtenstein, since 1719

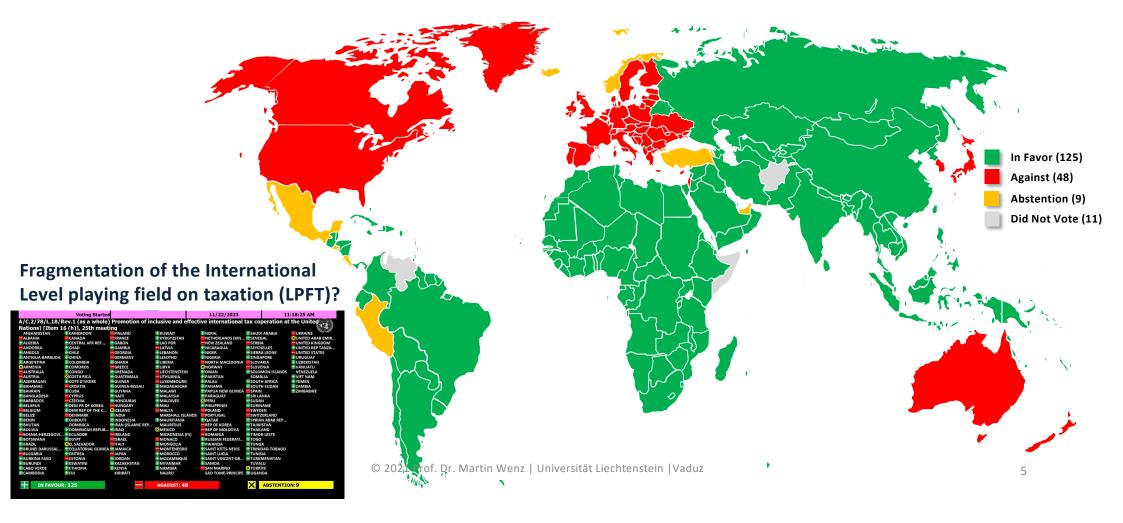
#### Sovereign small state for more than 300 years

- Constitutional hereditary monarchy based on a democratic and parliamentary system
- 160 km<sup>2</sup> (62 sq mi) between Austria and Switzerland
- One of two worldwide double landlocked countries
- Boarders with Switzerland and Austria
- Surrounded by EU-, G7- and NATO-Member States
- Population: 40'000 inhabitants + 20'000 commuters
- 4<sup>th</sup> smallest country in Europe, 6<sup>th</sup> worldwide
- GDP: CHF 6,7 Mrd | GDP: Industry: 42%, Local Business: 30%, Financial Centre: 21%, Agriculture: 7%
- Financial Centre: 12 Banks, 33 Insurance companies, 136 Trustees, 217 Trust enterprises, 561 Funds, 1353 Charitable foundations, 95 Asset Management COs

**Memberships**: EEA, EFTA, EBWE, Council of Europe, PostEurop, WTO, OPCW, CEMT, ICC, CTBTO, OIE, Global Forum, Inclusive Framework, IRENA, IACA, IGH, UPU, UIT, UNCTAD, IAEO, WIPO, UNO, OSZE, ECE, CEPT, CEB, CE, EBF, EPC, FC4S, Moneyval, ESMA, EBA, EUTELSAT, CEMT, EIOPA, EGMR, EPO, INTERPOL, IUCN, INTELSAT, ...

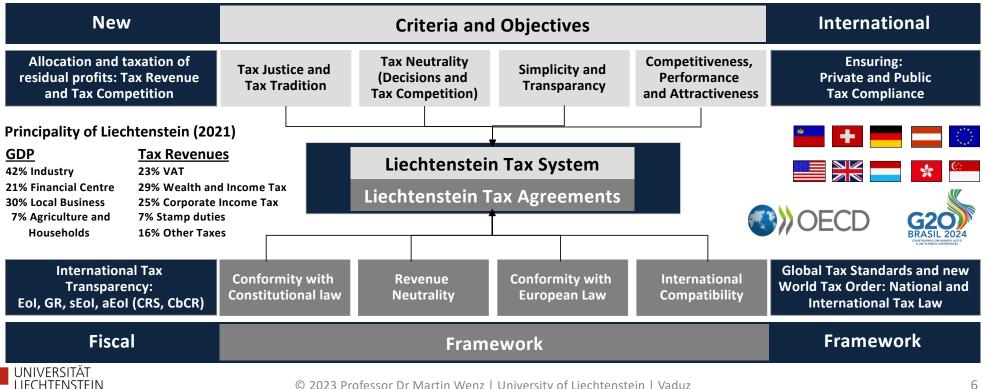
#### The new DTC between Italy and Liechtenstein International Tax Architecture: The dynamic level-playing field on taxation (LPFT) **EU-Tax Observatory UN Initiative Model Convention Global Tax Standards Double Tax Treaties** South Centre **ATAF Initiative** Incl. Framework: Progress Report Arm's length Standard TJN Interaction **FHTP: Progress Report** LATAM Initiative **BEPS-Minimum Standard** Global Forum: Progress Report EU-Anti-Tax-Avoidance, BEFIT United Nations (UN) International Tax **Exchange of Information** Architecture African Tax Administration EU/EEA: Internal Market: free-OECD-EoI, sEoI, aEoI: Forum (ATAF) Tax Good Governance doms | prohibition of state aid CRS, CbCR, FATCA Sovereignty EU-Tax Directives incl. on Pillar 2 Latin American Countries EU-DAC1-8 Competition Cooperation (LATAM): Platform for Taxation in Tax Good Governance Principles: LATAM and the Caribbean (PTLAC) Interaction Interaction Listing of non-cooperative Jurisdictions »OECD Pillar 1: MNE > 20bn New Amount A: Residual profits Inclusive Framework on BEPS: Pillar 1 | Pillar 2 World **International Tax Policy in a nutshell** Amount B: Baseline marketing **Tax Order Generation**: High residual profits (digital/IP) and distribution activities **EU-Tax Directive: Mandatory Implementation Taxation**: Where the value is created (allocation) of Pillar 2 incl. Large Scale Domestic Groups **Pillar 2: MNE > 750m** Priority: Taxation of residence vs. source vs. hubs (CF) GloBE | STTR **Development:** New World Tax Order as a **new international** r Martin Wenz | University of Liechtenstein | Vaduz Benchmark Tax System (GloBE-Tax System: BEPS 2.0)

UN-Voting Results: Promotion of inclusive and effective international tax cooperation at the level of the UN



Liechtenstein Tax Strategy and Tax System: Legal and Economic Framework

**Objective**: Tax System for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – Attractive, modern, efficient, performing, integrated & recognized **Liechtenstein** as an international fully recognized International Business Location and Financial Centre in Europe



Liechtenstein International and European Tax Policy: Declarations and Milestones

Liechtenstein Declaration January 20, 2009: Total revision of the Liechtenstein Tax Act consistent with European law and International Tax Standards

Liechtenstein Declaration March 12, 2009: OECD Standard regarding the exchange of information and the avoidance of double taxation – ensuring rightful tax liabilities (past/present/future)

**Liechtenstein Declaration November 14, 2013**: OECD Standard regarding the automatic exchange of information and the avoidance of double taxation – ensuring rightful tax liabilities (past/present/future)

Liechtenstein Declaration March 04, 2016: OECD actions against Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) – compatibility with global Tax Standards

**Liechtenstein Declaration August 22, 2016**: Liechtenstein ratifies the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters (MCAA)

Announcement dated November 14, 2017: EU Tax Good Governance Standards: Liechtenstein commits to comply with the requirements of the EU-MS-Code of Conduct Group (EU Blacklisting)

**Publication dated February 21, 2019**: Publication of the Financial Centre Strategy of the Liechtenstein Government

Announcement dated December 16, 2022: Introduction and implementation of global minimum taxation (Pillar 2/GloBE)

Liechtenstein Tax Strategy and Tax System: Concept, System and Dynamic Development

#### Concept and Basis: National, International and European Fiscal Framework

- » Comprehensive International Tax System
- » System of Individual wealth and income as well as corporate income tax, VAT, excise and stamp duties, other taxes
- » Basis for International Tax Cooperation and Compliance

#### Liechtenstein Tax System | Basis: Liechtenstein Tax Roadmap

- » Modern, attractive and efficient to raise the FL tax revenue ~ 1 bn. CHF
- » In conformity with European Law (EU/EEA): Fundamental Freedoms and Prohibition of State Aid
- » Compatible with International and European Tax Standards (Full International Tax Compliance)
- » Transparent and internationally recognised tax treatment of individuals and legal entities

#### Dynamic Development | International and European Fiscal Framework | Global Tax Standards

- » New Tax Regulation: Single Rule Book | International and European Standardization: G20/OECD, EU, UN, ...
- » Compliance with International Tax Transparency: (G20/OECD/EU): CRS | CbCR | EoI | GR | sEoI | aEoI
- » Compliance with BEPS-Standards | Adherence to Tax Good Governance Standards | Implementation of Minimum Tax



Liechtenstein Tax Treatment of Individuals

#### Liechtenstein Tax Treatment of Individuals

- » Individual wealth and income tax system
  - Focus: One-time taxation of market income
  - Integrated wealth and income tax system: Full and continuous integration of a standardised return of 4% of the taxable net wealth into the further income subject to income tax
- » Individual wealth and income tax liability
  - Unlimited tax liability of resident individuals with their worldwide taxable net wealth and further income
  - Limited tax liability of non-resident individuals with their domestic taxable net wealth and further income with a Withholding Tax on salaries, wages and Directors fees
- » Progressive tax rates | Tax burden max. 20-28% depending on the municipal surcharge (range between 150-250%)

Wealth Tax	Taxable Net Wealth	Standardised return: <b>4%</b>	Tax Base	<b>Tax Rates</b> Principality of Liechtenstein with surcharge of the	Liechtenstein Wealth and
Income Tax	Taxable Income from salaries, profits, fees, remuneration	Taxable Income from net wealth	Tax Allowances	different Municipalities ── Overall tax burden: max. 20-28% →	Income Tax



Liechtenstein Tax Treatment of Business Entities and Wealth Management Structures (1/2)

#### Liechtenstein Tax Treatment of Legal Entities: Business Entities and Wealth Management Structures

#### » Corporate income tax system: One-time taxation of market income

- **Corporate income tax** with flat rate (12.5%), Allowance for Corporate Equity and creditable minimum tax
- Separate entity principle and international shareholder relief system to prevent organizational double taxation
- Principle of dealing at arm's length based on OECD transfer pricing guidelines
- No: Preferential tax regimes (IP-Box), tax incentives (tax allowances: super deduction, Qualified refundable tax credits: QRTC) etc.
- All legal entities are subject to corporate income tax according to the same corporate income tax system »
  - SE, Plc (AG), Ltd (GmbH), Foundation (Stiftung), Establishment (Anstalt), Trust reg. and foreign legal entities with LI-PoEM
  - Legal entities that qualify as Private Asset Structures (PAS) are subject to the minimum tax only
  - Charitable Legal Entities are personally tax exempted from corporate income tax incl. the minimum corporate income tax
- » Corporate income tax liability
  - Profits subject to corporate income tax are determined based on the annual financial statements to be drawn up in accordance with the EU-harmonised LI-Persons and Companies Act (PGR), considering specific tax provisions for modifications (+/-)
  - Unlimited tax liability: Resident legal entities with domestic seat or place of effective management with world-wide profits
  - Limited tax liability: Non-resident legal entities with neither domestic seat nor PoEM with domestic profits

» Integration and Implementation: International Tax Agreements (DTC, MLI, MC) and Tax Standards (OECD, EU, UN, ...) UNIVERSITÄT LIECHTENSTEIN © 2023 Professor Dr Martin Wenz | University of Liechtenstein | Vaduz 10



Liechtenstein Tax Treatment of Business Entities and Wealth Management Structures (2/2)

# Liechtenstein Tax Treatment of other Business Entities and Wealth Management Structures without Legal Personality

- » International tax system: Tax transparency
- » **Partnerships (without legal personality)**: Taxation at the level of the respective individual and corporate domestic or foreign partners
- » Trusts (Minimum corporate income tax of CHF 1.800): Taxation at the level of the settlor and the beneficiaries
- » Investment funds (UCITSG, AIFMG, IUG): Taxation at the level of the respective individual and corporate investors
- » Life insurance contracts: Taxation at the level of the insurance company and the insures
- » Integration and Implementation: International Tax Agreements (DTC, MLI, MC) and Tax Standards (OECD, EU, UN, ...)



Liechtenstein Tax Agreements: DTC, MLI, TIEA, MC, TA, TACP, FATCA, MCAA

#### Double Taxation Conventions, Multilateral Instrument, Special Tax Agreements



#### DTC in negotiation





#### Tax Information Exchange Agreements, Multilateral Convention In force: TIEA, TIEA<sup>+</sup>, MC, EoI, GR, sEoI, aEoI

S)>OECD €

MC: 138 countries and jurisdictions

- » Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes: Peer Review Eol 2019
  «Liechtenstein largely compliant»
- » OECD/IF: Peer Review CbCR (2022): «Liechtenstein meets all the terms of reference relating to the domestic legal and administrative Framework, regarding the exchange of information, and relating to the appropriate use of CbC Reports»

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#### Global and European Tax Standards: Tax Transparency – Tax Regulation – No listing on Eol

In force: OECD/G20 (BEPS, FHTP: Actions 5, 6, 13, 14), EU/EEA (EEA-A, EU-ATAP, EU-MS-CoC)





In force: US (FATCA: Model I), OECD/G20 (MC, CRS, CRS-MCAA, CbCR-MCAA), FL/EU- (aEoI-A) (()



- Common Reporting Standard (CRS): MC, CRS-MCAA (aEol, early adopter), FL-aEol-Act, FL-aEol-Order: 28 (2016), 61 (2017), 88 (2018), 108 (2019), 111 (2020), 114 (2021), 121 (2022), 124 (2023) states and jurisdictions; Peer Review CRS 2022: Liechtenstein «CRS in Place» | Legal framework: In Place; Effectiveness in practice: On Track
- » Country-by-Country Reporting: MC, CbCR-MCAA/ CAA-USA (aEoI, BEPS), FL-CbCR-Act, FL-CbCR-Order: 55 (2017), 62 (2018), 74 (2019), 83 (2020), 89 (2021), 95 (2022), 100 (2023) states and jurisdictions
- » Tax Rulings: MC, FL-Tax Act, FL-Eol-Act (sEol, BEPS)

Liechtenstein in Europa: EEA-Member and DTC-Contracting State

- DTC-Contracting States
- EEA-Member States, no DTC yet
- Other European Countries



Countries and Jurisdictions: Compare your country | International Tax Framework: BEPS

Anti-Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS): Criteria	Austria	Germany	Italy	Liechtenstein
Inclusive Framework on BEPS membership	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Two-pillar plan to address the tax challenges arising from the digitalisation of the economy (October 2021)	Participates in agreement	Participates in agreement	Participates in agreement	Participates in agreement
Existence of harmful tax regimes (BEPS Action 5)	Not harmful (no harmful regime exists)			
Exchange of information on tax rulings (BEPS Action 5)	Reviewed / no recommendations	Reviewed / no recommendations	Reviewed /no recommendations	Reviewed / no recommendations
Preventing treaty abuse (BEPS Action 6)	2022 review completed	2022 review completed	2022 review completed	2022 review completed
CbC – Domestic law (BEPS Action 13)	Legal framework in place			
CbC – Information exchange network (BEPS Action 13)	Activated	Activated	Activated	Activated
Effective dispute resolution (BEPS Action 14)	Stage 2 reviewed, recommendations made	Stage 2 reviewed, recommendations made	Stage 2 reviewed, recommendations made	Stage 2 reviewed, recommendations made
Multilateral Instrument (BEPS Action 15)	In force	In force	Signed	In force

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**Source**: OECD, Tax co-operation | Compare your country, December 2023.

Countries and Jurisdictions: Compare your country | International Tax Transparency (1/4)

Exchange of Information on Request (EoIR): Criteria	Austria	Germany	Italy	Liechtenstein
Global Forum Membership	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
EoIR Rating Round 1	Largely compliant	Largely compliant	Largely compliant	Largely compliant
EoIR Rating Round 2	Largely compliant	Largely compliant	Compliant	Largely compliant
Mutual Administrative Assistance Convention	In force	In force	In force	In force

Automatic Exchange of Information (AEoI): Criteria	Austria	Germany	Italy	Liechtenstein
Commitment to AEoI (CRS)	2018	2017	2017	2017
CRS MCAA signed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Legal frameworks' assessment	In place	In place	In place	In place
Initial review of effectiveness in practice of AEOI	On track	On track	On track	On track
Mutual Administrative Assistance Convention	In force	In force	In force	In force



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**Source**: OECD, Tax co-operation | Compare your country, December 2023. 15

G20/OECD-Global Forum: Overall Rating on the Implementation of the EOIR Standard in 2022

Jurisdiction	Exchange of Information on Request (EOIR) Peer Reviews, 9 November 2022					
	Round 1: Overall Rating	Round 2: Overall Rating				
Austria	Largely Compliant	Largely Compliant				
Germany	Largely Compliant Largely Compliant					
Ireland	Compliant	Compliant				
Italy	Largely Compliant	Compliant				
Liechtenstein	Largely Compliant	Largely Compliant	<b>Source</b> : Global Forum on			
Luxembourg	Largely Compliant	Largely Compliant	Transparency and Exchange of			
Switzerland	Largely Compliant	Largely Compliant	Tax Purposes, Global Forum			
United States	Largely Compliant	Largely Compliant	Annual Report, November 202			



G20/OECD-Global Forum: Overall Rating on the Implementation of the AEOI Standard in 2022

Core Requirement 1 (domestic legal framework)	Core Requirement 2 (international legal framework	Overall determination	Core Requirement 1	Core Requirement 2	Overall ratin	
			(domestic info. collection and reporting)	(international information exchange)		
In Place	In Place	In Place	On Track	On Track	On Track	
In Place	In Place	In Place	On Track	On Track	On Track	
In Place	In Place	In Place	On Track	On Track	On Track	
In Place	In Place	In Place	On Track	On Track	On Track	<b>Source</b> : Globa
In Place	In Place	In Place	On Track	On Track	On Track	Forum, Peer
In Place	In Place	In Place	On Track	On Track	On Track	Review of the Automatic
In Place But Needs Improvement	In Place	In Place But Needs Improvement	On Track	On Track	On Track	Exchange of Financial Acco Information,
	In Place In Place In Place In Place In Place In Place In Place In Place	In PlaceIn Place	In PlaceIn Place	In PlaceIn PlaceIn PlaceOn TrackIn PlaceIn PlaceIn PlaceOn Track	In PlaceIn PlaceIn PlaceOn TrackIn PlaceIn PlaceIn PlaceOn TrackOn Track	In PlaceIn PlaceOn TrackOn TrackOn TrackIn PlaceIn PlaceIn PlaceOn TrackOn TrackOn Track

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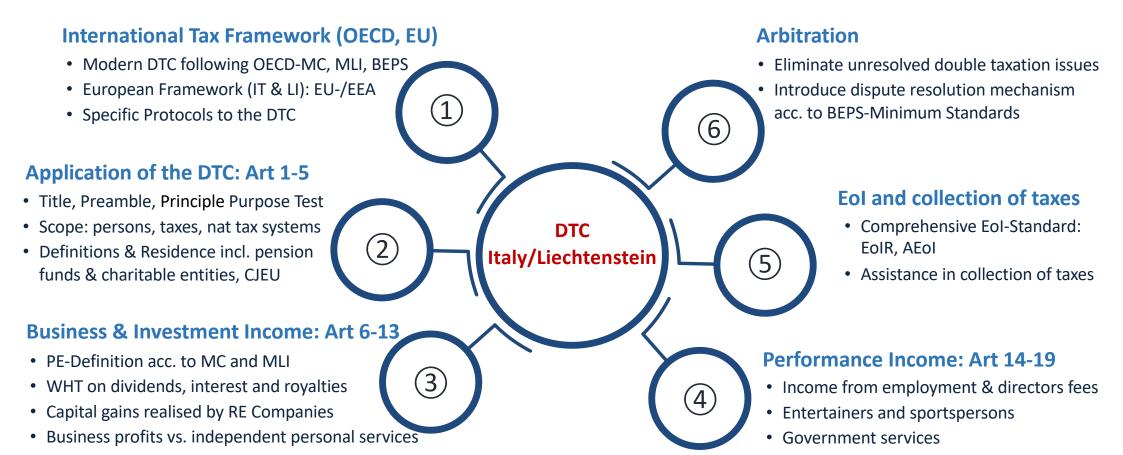
Automatic Exchange of Information (AEoI/CRS): Reporting Financial Institutions and Accounts in 2021

Country	Financial Institutions reporting Financial Accounts in 2021	Financial Accounts reported in 2021	Number of exchange partners to which information was successfully sent in 2022 (update: 29 November 2023)
Austria	505	1 297 139	78
Germany	3 956	6 984 924	80
Ireland	5 969	2 336 574	81
Italy	2 237	1 636 046	77
Liechtenstein	4 731	362 912	79
Luxembourg	6 730	2 868 125	83
Switzerland	4 348	3 403 874	81 Source: OECD, Global Forum   Peer Rev of the Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information, November 2022 (Update November 2023).

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Rome, 12 December 2023



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