

International assignees working in Belgium*

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Introduction: International assignees working in Belgium

International assignees taking up employment in Belgium are frequently uninformed about the Belgian tax and social security system to which, in most cases, they will become subject.

This memorandum is designed to assist both international assignees and their employers in identifying the tax and social security implications of transfers to Belgium. It is not intended to be complete. More-detailed advice should be sought before any specific decisions are made. Further information can be obtained from our offices as listed in Appendix E.

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This document was not intended or written to be used, and it cannot be used, for the purpose of avoiding tax penalties that may be imposed on the taxpayer.

Step 1: Understanding basic principles

The scope of taxation in Belgium

- 1 An international assignee taking up employment in Belgium will generally become liable to income tax under Belgian law. Other taxes that may be relevant are property tax, and gift and succession duty. There is no wealth tax, as such, in Belgium. Capital gains taxes for private individuals are levied only on sales to foreign companies (outside the EEA) of substantial holdings in Belgian companies and on sales of property in certain circumstances.
- 2 Residents of Belgium are subject to personal income tax on their total worldwide income from all sources where non-residents are only taxable in Belgium on their Belgian source income (see paragraphs 4 to 7 below for the residence criteria).
- 3 Some expatriates who satisfy certain conditions as outlined in paragraphs 11 to 15 are fiscally considered 'non-resident' and benefit from special tax treatment. As non-residents, they are liable to pay Belgian tax only on income related to work carried out by them in Belgium.

Residence and domicile

- 4 Residence rather than domicile is the relevant factor in determining income tax liability. Under Belgian law, tax residence is governed by a number of criteria and is generally defined as the place where an individual has his/her permanent home (i.e. generally where the family lives) or where an individual has the centre of his/her economic interests (i.e. the place from where an individual manages his/her private affairs). The tax residence of married taxpayers is located at the place of the de facto family residence.
- 5 Domicile in civil law is essentially the same as residence in income tax law and is the term used when considering liability to inheritance tax. An international assignee domiciled in Belgium can become liable to Belgian inheritance tax on worldwide assets even when he/she is deemed to be non-resident in Belgium for income tax purposes.
- 6 Generally, an international assignee is considered to be a Belgian resident if:
 - as a married person, his/her family accompanies him/her to Belgium; or
 - as a single person, he/she establishes his/her permanent home and the centre of his/her economic interests in Belgium.

- 7 A taxpayer may be considered to be tax-resident in more than one country. Where this happens, a tax treaty between the countries in question may provide a solution to avoiding double taxation. Most tax treaties consider the following issues to be relevant in determining the place of residence:
- the permanent home;
 - the centre of economic activity;
 - nationality.

Belgian non-residents

- 8 Belgian non-residents are taxed in Belgium on their Belgian source income only, i.e.
- **Belgian-source income from employment:** in principle, only employment income borne in Belgium or relating to Belgian work days (>183 days) is taxable;
 - **Belgian-source property income:** taxation on property income located in Belgium only;
 - **Belgian-source investment income:** in principle, no tax on any investment income except interest and dividends paid by a Belgian company, which are generally taxed at a flat rate of 15% or 25%, respectively, (or 15% if conditions are met). With respect to interest, exemptions from withholding tax may apply to non-resident taxpayers under local Belgian rules. However, for certain expatriates (originating from an EU Member State) who qualify for the special taxation regime, the new EU Savings Directive applying since 1 July 2005 may have an impact on their Belgian-source interest payments, with a withholding tax of 20% being levied (35% as from 1 July 2011).
- 9 Taxation is applied on a sliding scale to successive portions of net taxable income. The 2009 rates vary between nil and 50%. Non-residents have to pay an additional tax at a rate of 7% of the total income tax payable.
- 10 A special tax regime is available to certain foreign executives and specialists working temporarily in Belgium. Under this regime, executives are considered as non-residents for tax purpose (see next page).

The special expatriate tax regime

- 11 Under certain conditions, a foreign executive assigned temporarily to Belgium within an international group of companies may qualify for a special taxation regime. The executive will be treated as a non-resident for Belgian tax purposes, liable to Belgian personal income tax on his/her Belgian-source income only.
- 12 Expatriates who qualify as fiscally non-resident are mainly management personnel, research personnel and foreign personnel without managerial responsibilities who are so highly specialised that recruiting such workers in Belgium is very difficult, if not impossible. To qualify, certain criteria have to be met:
 - employment must be in a qualifying entity. This includes scientific research centres or laboratories or businesses under foreign control or part of an international group. Employment can be in a control and coordination office of a multinational group of companies;
 - employment in Belgium must be temporary in nature;
 - the centre of the expatriate's economic and personal interests must not be in Belgium;
 - the expatriate may not have Belgian nationality.
- 13 Various factors set out in a practice note dated 8 August 1983 apply in determining whether or not the centre of an expatriate's interests is abroad. These may be divided into two groups:

those relating to the personal position of the expatriate such as:

 - ownership of real estate, personal property or securities abroad;
 - the existence of a life assurance policy taken out abroad;
 - continued membership of a group pension scheme or an equivalent savings or pension plan abroad;
 - inclusion of a 'diplomatic clause' in the Belgian rental agreement for accommodation;
 - renewal of credit cards issued by banks in the country of origin;

those relating to the expatriate's work activity:

 - continued affiliation to a foreign social security scheme;
 - possibly, the existence of a short-term employment contract;
 - the expatriate's presence in Belgium to set up or reorganise a business;
 - the executive's willingness to transfer his/her base of operations in the service of the group to another country if so requested;
 - continuing to act as an officer of a foreign company.

- 14 The fact that an expatriate has purchased a house in Belgium does not, in itself, constitute proof that he/she has decided to reside permanently in Belgium. The expatriate is not therefore precluded from claiming to be temporarily resident.
- 15 An expatriate newly transferred to Belgium is presumed to be a 'non-resident'. However, an application must be submitted and approved by the tax authorities in order to benefit from the special tax regime. The expatriate must provide supporting evidence in his/her initial application for non-resident status, as described in paragraphs 113 to 115.

Qualifying expatriates moving to another employer in Belgium

- 16 A non-resident who changes his/her job in Belgium to go and work for a firm affiliated to a different international group will in principle lose his/her non-resident status.
- 17 However, under exceptional circumstances, it is still possible to continue to benefit from the expatriate tax status, but this will be examined in depth by the tax authorities on a case-by-case basis.

The tax year

- 18 The Belgian tax year runs from 1 January to 31 December. Where an individual is resident in Belgium for only part of a calendar year, his/her income in that period is treated as if it related to a full calendar year. There is no prorated restriction of allowances or grossing-up of income to an annual basis.
- 19 Income must be reported the year following the income year (e.g. income year 2009 – tax year 2010). A tax return is sent by the tax authorities during the tax year to be filled in by the taxpayer. An assessment note is sent by the tax authorities the year following the tax year. Any tax due must be paid to the tax authorities within two months after the assessment notice is sent out. Excess payments of tax are reimbursed by the tax authorities two months after the assessment notice is sent out.

Husband and wife

- 20 Tax on husbands' and wives' incomes is calculated separately.
- 21 As a special concession, where only one partner receives earned income, a notional transfer to the other partner of 30% of the earnings is allowed up to a ceiling of EUR 9,280, so that each is accorded a basic minimum deduction.
- 22 Although couples are taxed separately, tax returns and assessments are issued in joint names.

Step 2: Understanding the Belgian tax system

Tax treatment of employment income

Basic principles

23 Employment income is defined broadly and includes all fringe benefits provided by an employer. In addition to salary, taxable employment income includes bonuses, commissions, cost-of-living allowances, foreign service allowances, housing allowances, tax equalisation reimbursements, private use of company car, etc. The award of stock options in connection with employment in Belgium is taxable. A lump-sum method has been laid down for valuing benefits arising in the framework of qualifying stock option plans. Detailed advice on the implementation of stock option plans should be sought from our local offices.

Methods of calculating tax

- 24 Personal income tax is calculated by determining the tax base and assessing the tax due on that base. Taxation is charged on a sliding scale to successive portions of net taxable income. The 2009 rates range between nil and 50%.
- 25 Residents also pay municipal taxes at rates that range between nil and 9.5% of the total income tax payable. Non-residents have to pay a similar additional tax at a fixed rate of 7% of the total income tax payable.
- 26 In determining the tax base, compulsory social security contributions, whether paid in Belgium or abroad, are fully tax-deductible. Additionally, professional expenses can be deducted from the taxable basis either on an actual basis by producing the relevant vouchers or on a lump-sum basis, the maximum deductible amount presently being EUR 3,540 on a gross taxable salary of EUR 59,614.
- 27 Personal income tax is calculated on that tax base, after personal allowances are taken into account. Further details on the tax rates and personal tax exemptions are provided in Appendix A and Appendix B.
- 28 However, no personal allowance or notional transfer of earnings to the taxpayer's spouse (see paragraph 21) will be granted to non-resident taxpayers if they do not retain an abode in Belgium during the entire taxable period. According to the authorities, a married person's abode is deemed to be where the taxpayer lives with his or her spouse. Exceptions apply, however.

Withholding taxes

- 29 You will in due course be required to file an annual tax return, either at a special regional tax office for non-residents (as beneficiaries of the special tax regime) or at the local tax office of the municipality of residence. In most cases tax withholdings will be made by your employer at source on a monthly basis.
- 30 If, while working in Belgium, you are kept on the payroll of a foreign employer and the salary cost is not deducted from the Belgian-source profits of a Belgian permanent establishment of your employer, it is not in principle required to deduct withholding tax at source each month. However, we believe that the tax authorities could consider that tax must be deducted at source each month even if the foreign employer has no Belgian permanent establishment but the salary cost is cross-charged to a Belgian-incorporated company.
- 31 If you benefit from the special taxation regime as described below in paragraphs 32 to 70 and if your employer is required to withhold income tax at source on your remuneration, it may, at its own risk, take into account excluded non-taxable expense allowances – albeit only to the extent that they do not exceed the limits of EUR 11,250 or EUR 29,750 per annum – and any income that can be excluded for services rendered abroad.

Special expatriate tax regime

- 32 Expatriates who benefit from the special taxation regime are considered non-residents for Belgian tax purposes and are therefore taxable on their Belgian source income only, as explained in paragraphs 11 to 15.
- 33 The special tax regime recognises that payments made by an employer to an expatriate fall into two distinct categories:
 - base salary and foreign service premium, which are both taxable in Belgium to the extent that they relate to services performed in Belgium; and
 - expenses reimbursed by the employer, some of which are not taxable in the expatriate's hands and are tax-deductible by the employer (i.e. so-called 'tax free allowances').
- 34 The computation of tax-free allowances differs according to whether the employee receives a salary and a separate, identifiable reimbursement of expenses, or he/she is on a gross remuneration package, inclusive of expenses.
- 35 The first category includes expatriates paid on a net salary basis, such as those benefiting from tax equalisation (in receipt of a base salary after deduction of hypothetical home-country tax), or those benefiting from tax

protection. In these cases, an employer can pay allowances computed on the basis of international comparative studies, up to the limits set out in paragraph 52 below.

- 36 The method of calculating tax-free allowances on a gross remuneration package is fixed by the Belgian tax authorities. The result is generally less favourable for expatriates. This calculation also requires a good understanding of the terms 'base salary' and 'tax equalisation', and an appreciation of their limitations, including the fact that the amounts computed do not necessarily correspond to reality.
- 37 Paragraphs 38 to 53 below cover the rules for an expatriate receiving a salary and separate reimbursements of expenses. Paragraphs 54 to 62 cover the rules for an expatriate on a gross remuneration package.

An expatriate receiving salary and separate reimbursements of expenses

- 38 As long as an employer can show that expenditure is its responsibility, expense allowances and other benefits that it awards an expatriate will not be taxable in his/her hands, and will continue to be tax-deductible in the hands of the employer.
- 39 An expatriate will not be taxed on allowances paid by the employer to cover expenses that are incurred as a result of his/her being recruited or transferred to Belgium, whether paid as lump-sum allowances or as specific reimbursements of outgoings. The Belgian tax authorities tend to accept as non-taxable those costs that an expatriate would not have incurred if he/she had continued to work in his/her home country.
- 40 A distinction is drawn between recurring and non-recurring costs.
- 41 Non-recurring costs and expenses that are non-taxable include:
- costs and expenses incurred in moving to Belgium;
 - the costs of preparing accommodation for occupancy in Belgium;
 - costs and expenses incurred in moving away from Belgium.
- 42 Recurring costs and expenses that are non-taxable include:
- the supplementary cost of accommodation and additional cost of living compared with costs in the home country;
 - school fees (primary and secondary education);
 - annual travel costs for an expatriate and his/her family to their home country (air travel, economy class);

- loss incurred by his/her inability to rent out, or to obtain a normal market rental for, accommodation retained in the home country;
 - travelling expenses resulting from emergencies (death or serious illness of close members of his/her family or spouse);
 - exchange-rate fluctuations;
 - tax equalisation;
 - travelling expenses of children at school abroad to visit their parents, not exceeding two trips per year.
- 43 Care should be taken to retain all supporting vouchers, which have to be produced to the Belgian tax authorities on request. The ways in which more-controversial tax-free allowances are determined are set out below in paragraphs 44 to 53.

Housing allowance

- 44 This allowance is intended to reflect the higher cost of accommodation in Belgium compared to the costs that the expatriate would have incurred on comparable accommodation in his/her home country.
- 45 Actual costs in the home country can be used as the basis for the evaluation, using receipts for rents paid, lease agreements, and the taxable or rateable value of property. Costs may alternatively be estimated using comparative tables or statistical publications such as Mica International Transfers or ORC International Compensation Tables, provided it is group policy to use these publications in determining allowances to be granted to employees sent abroad. Alternatively, the allowance can simply be fixed as the difference between actual rentals paid in Belgium and 12% of the base salary.
- 46 If the cost of accommodation in Belgium is higher than the cost of comparable accommodation in the home country, the excess may be properly reimbursed by the employer.
- 47 The cost of heating, electricity, gas, water and similar normal living expenses may not be included in computing the above excess figure. Any reimbursement of this category of expense by the employer is added to the employee's taxable income. Therefore, only rent and rent-equivalent payments (or 200/60 of the indexed, registered cadastral income value for expatriate house-owners or those in receipt of free accommodation directly owned or rented by the employer) can be taken into account in computing this allowance.

Cost-of-living allowance

- 48 Any increase in the cost of living in Belgium compared with the cost of living in an expatriate's home country can be reimbursed as a non-taxable allowance. Such increases, if relevant, can be identified from figures provided by economic and statistical studies accepted by the Belgian tax authorities, provided they are used as a matter of group policy.

School fees

- 49 For children aged six or older in primary or secondary education in Belgium, school fees and the cost of local transport are treated as non-taxable expense allowances. Payments by an employer for board and lodging in boarding schools and for the cost of private lessons are taxable fringe benefits. When children are educated abroad, the additional costs arising due to the distance from home, such as the cost of full board and lodging in boarding schools, may be accepted as a tax-free allowance. However, each case is examined on its merits and supporting vouchers are essential.

Tax equalisation

- 50 An employer may grant expatriates non-taxable allowances equal to the additional tax burden resulting from their employment in Belgium. Precise, detailed supporting evidence is required.
- 51 Very frequently, Belgian tax is higher than tax at comparable salary levels in an expatriate's home country. In order to neutralise the unfavourable effect on his/her net remuneration, it is accepted that the employer may meet the additional tax burden.
- 52 Apart from school fees and non-recurring costs and expenses, all other expenses are considered taxable to the extent that they exceed:
- EUR 11,250 for expatriates working in commercial and industrial operating units; or
 - EUR 29,750 for expatriates in recognised control and coordination offices or laboratories and scientific research centres.
- 53 Any excess therefore forms part of the employee's gross taxable pay.

Expatriates on a gross salary inclusive of expenses

- 54 When an expatriate's contract provides him/her with a salary inclusive of all expenses, the foreign base salary has to be calculated and expenses analysed in order to identify those that are non-taxable.
- 55 An expatriate's foreign base salary may be calculated from salary scales used by the group in the home country. Failing these, the Belgian gross salary is multiplied by an index provided by the Belgian tax authorities, after deduction of an expatriate premium of 10% (or 15% for non-European countries). The following rates apply for calendar year 2009:

Country	%	Country	%	Country	%
Austria	100	Ireland	90	Spain	85
Canada	90	Italy	85	Sweden	75
Denmark	100	Japan	60	Switzerland	100
Finland	85	Netherlands	100	Turkey	90
France	85	Norway	100	United Kingdom	85
Germany	100	Portugal	75	United States	90
Greece	70				

- 56 The same types of tax-free allowances are available to an expatriate on a gross remuneration package as are available to an expatriate who is reimbursed separately for expenses, but the computation of the tax-free element is different, as shown in paragraphs 57 to 62 below.

Housing allowance

- 57 To determine the non-taxable allowance, priority is given to actual costs (for example, actual rentals paid in Belgium and in the home country). Failing this, the allowance can be fixed as the positive difference between actual rentals paid (or 200/60 of the indexed, registered cadastral income figure for expatriate house-owners or those in receipt of free accommodation directly owned or rented by the employer) and 12% of the foreign base salary.
- 58 International statistical publications cannot be used, unless they form part of the employer's international expatriation policy. This is not practicable, however, when people are paid on a gross basis, so that the non-taxable allowance is equal to the positive difference between the actual rentals paid in Belgium and 12% of the foreign base salary.

Cost-of-living allowance

- 59 Once the foreign base salary has been determined as explained in paragraph 55 above, the non-taxable allowance representing the increase in cost of living is fixed at 5% of the foreign base salary, subject to a ceiling of EUR 2,500.
- 60 The restriction on the use of international statistical publications, referred to in paragraph 45 above, also applies to cost-of-living allowances.

Tax equalisation

- 61 The non-taxable allowance for tax equalisation is calculated as the difference between:
- the Belgian income tax on the base salary in the home country, before deducting the 10% or 15% expatriation premium, but after deducting Belgian personal social security contributions, the excluded proportion of salary relating to foreign travel, and progressive earned-income expense allowances (up to a ceiling of EUR 3,540); and
 - the income tax calculated on the base salary in the home country, after deducting applicable local social security contributions and standard tax allowances.

Other deductions

- 62 In addition to the allowances discussed in paragraphs 57 to 61 above, other expense allowances such as home leave, whether recurring or non-recurring, may be deducted from the gross salary to the extent that they can be justified. Note that school fees should be reimbursed by the employer separately in order to avoid their being taxable. An example of how allowances are determined for an expatriate on a gross remuneration package is set out in Appendix D.

Exclusion for services rendered abroad

- 63 In addition to the non-taxable allowances described above, services rendered to a company located outside Belgium and that can be identified as such are not subject to Belgian taxes although pay details must be reported. In the absence of identification, the proportion of overall pay relating to working days spent abroad is excluded from taxable income.
- 64 It should be emphasised that an expatriate is under an obligation to report the total worldwide earned income received from group entities even if salary paid abroad does not relate directly to his/her assignment in Belgium. In fact, relief for services rendered to the group outside Belgium is granted otherwise, as mentioned above.

- 65 The following calculation is done to determine the exclusion for services rendered abroad:

Annual taxable income multiplied by travel exclusion

$$\text{Travel exclusion} = \frac{\text{Number of working days spent abroad}}{\text{Total working days in the period}}$$

- 66 The 'total working days in the (tax) period' (in Belgium and abroad) may not normally include Saturdays, Sundays or Belgian public holidays, or sickdays or annual vacation.
- 67 In calculating the number of working days abroad, the day of departure is considered as spent in Belgium with the exception that one-day trips abroad are accepted as qualifying days spent abroad. The day of return is deemed to be spent outside Belgium. In addition, weekends and public holidays must be excluded even if they are spent abroad on business trips.
- 68 The expatriate must provide evidence of the number of working days spent abroad and of the professional nature of the trips (assignment instructions, hotel bills, air tickets with boarding pass, passport visas, etc.).

Rates and deductions

- 69 The taxable income of a non-resident is subject to tax at the same rates as the taxable income of a resident and is likewise added to other Belgian-source income such as real estate income or directorship fees received from a Belgian company. Investment income sourced in Belgium or abroad is excluded from taxable income but it should be noted that, in certain circumstances, such income may be subject to Belgian withholding tax.
- 70 An expatriate will also be able to deduct lump-sum business expenses from his/her taxable income, calculated as a percentage of earned income, up to a ceiling of EUR 3,540, in the same way as a Belgian-resident taxpayer. An expatriate also has the option to deduct actual business expenses instead of the lump-sum amount.
- 71 The sections in the rest of this chapter essentially relate to resident taxpayers.

Social security contributions and benefits

- 72 The Belgian social security system provides for benefits to be paid to persons who work or have worked in Belgium. These benefits are substantially financed by compulsory contributions from both employers and employees. Social security covers old age pensions, unemployment benefits, sickness and disability payments, family allowances, and industrial accidents and health care costs are not covered. The health care costs are not covered in full and additional private insurance may be advisable. There are also minimum regulations on holiday entitlement.

- 73 Employee social security contributions are withheld at source and paid by employers to the National Social Security Office, which is responsible for administering the social security system.
- 74 Contributions are made as a percentage of gross salary, with no upper limit. At present, the employee's contributions are 13.07% of gross salary, and employer's contributions (for white-collar workers) between 32.85% and 34.55%.

A special contribution based on car CO2 emissions is due by the employer where a company car can be used for private purposes. No employee contribution is due.

In addition, a special monthly lump-sum social security contribution is withheld from the employee's net salary. It varies from nil to EUR 60.94 per month depending on the quarterly amount of wages subject to social security contributions. The final annual special contribution varies from nil to EUR 731.28 and depends on the annual net taxable income reported in the employee's tax return. Settlement between the monthly contributions withheld and the final annual contribution due is calculated by the tax authorities via the income tax assessment.

- 75 Expatriate allowances that are exempt from Belgian income tax under the special tax regime granted to certain foreign executives (practice note of 8 August 1983) may, under certain conditions, be paid free of Belgian social security contributions. The Belgian social security authorities explicitly state that the exemption from social security contributions applies where these allowances are granted in connection with a transfer or secondment from a foreign group company or where the person was directly recruited abroad in order to be temporarily employed in Belgium. This exemption can be granted for a maximum period of 15 years.
- 76 Under EU Regulation 1408/71, an employee may apply on a form E-101 to remain subject to the social security scheme of his/her home country, provided the duration of his/her secondment does not exceed 12 months. It is possible, for a temporary assignment, to extend this period for one year and, in certain cases, to obtain special agreement from the social security authorities of both countries to allow a period of up to five years from the outset (three years for a secondment from Denmark).
- 77 Nationals of EU Member States who work both in their home country and in Belgium normally remain subject to the social security system of their home country.
- 78 Non-EU nationals employed in Belgium by a Belgian employer or a Belgian place of business of a foreign employer are in principle subject to the Belgian

social security system. However, social security treaties signed by Belgium with some countries may provide some relief to the extent that a seconded expatriate remains subject to the legislation of the home country.

- 79 There is social security treaty with the United States under which US nationals seconded to Belgium for periods of up to five years may elect to be excluded from the Belgian social security system provided they continue to participate in the US FICA system during that period. In certain circumstances, it may be possible to apply for an extension to the five-year period. One prerequisite is that US expatriates may not be on the payroll of the Belgian entity where they work, although the overall cost can be charged to the Belgian entity.
- 80 The US social security administration has to provide a certificate of coverage showing that the expatriate continues to be affiliated to the US social security scheme. It will therefore be helpful for a US employer intending to second an employee to Belgium to make a timely application to the relevant US authority so that a certificate of coverage can be issued.

Tax treatment of self-employment income

- 81 Resident individuals are liable to Belgian income tax on the worldwide profits generated from their business or independent profession. Profits from a business or profession also include capital gains on the sale of business assets, although a favourable tax treatment applies if these assets have been held for more than five years. Self-employed expatriates do not qualify for the special tax regime described earlier.

Tax treatment of investment income

- 82 Income from capital includes interest, dividends and income from real estate or other forms of investment. Interest and dividends received are, in principle, subject to a flat-rate tax of 15% for interest and 25% (or 15% if certain conditions are met) for dividends, usually withheld at source.
- 83 Foreign interest and dividends collected abroad must be declared in the annual tax return and the flat-rate tax is paid on assessment. The treatment of income from capital received by expatriates who benefit from the special taxation regime is explained in paragraph 8.
- 84 Local property tax (*précompte immobilier / onroerende voorheffing*) is assessed on 'cadastral income', i.e. the deemed rental value attributed to the property by the authorities. Some allowances are provided for occupancy. Property tax is levied on the balance at a rate that varies according to the municipality and location of the property. Rates generally range between 20% and 50% of the 'cadastral income'.

- 85 Owners occupying residential houses are taxed on the notional rental income ('revenu cadastral/kadastraal inkomen'). Properties rented out are taxed on the notional rental income or on the net rental income received (after deduction of lump-sum rental expenses). 'Non-resident' expatriates are liable to tax on Belgian real estate.
- 86 Under the EU Savings Directive applicable since 1 July 2005, EU withholding tax is in principle withheld from Belgian-source interest income for non-resident taxpayers (including foreign executives) originating from an EU Member State (with exceptions), unless they have a regular resident Belgian bank account: the normal 15% Belgian withholding tax applies. Further information can be obtained from our offices as listed in Appendix E.
- 87 For each taxpayer, the first EUR 1,730 of authorised savings bank account interest is exempt from the 15% withholding tax and is furthermore exempt from inclusion in the tax return for a single taxpayer or for each spouse of a married couple.

Various forms of income

- 88 This category includes casual earnings, awards, alimony receipts and those capital gains that are taxable. Income falling within this category is often taxed at fixed rates, mainly 16.5% and 33%, plus local tax.

Wealth taxes

- 89 There is no annual tax on net wealth in Belgium. However, a hidden wealth tax exists in the form of a transfer tax ('registration duties') on the sale or transfer of real property (buildings, land) other than newly-constructed houses and other buildings subject to VAT at 21%. Transfer taxes are levied by the regions and the rates depend on each region.
- 90 For properties located in the Walloon Region the rate amounts to 12.5%. Tax is computed on the sale price, or the assessed market value if higher, and is paid by the buyer. It should be noted that a resale or transfer of real property by notarial deed within two years from the date of the duly certified deed to purchase the property entitles the vendor to reclaim 3/5 of the transfer tax paid upon acquisition.
- 91 For properties located in the Flemish Region the tax rate amounts to 10%.
The first bracket of EUR 15,000 for the purchase of a main residence that is the taxpayer's sole property is exempt from transfer tax.

Furthermore a reimbursement or deduction, as the case may be, of the transfer tax paid on the taxpayer's previous home can be claimed (up to a maximum of EUR 12,500) provided it is sold within two years after the purchase of the new main residence.

If the conditions for this reimbursement are not met, resale or transfer of the property by notarial deed within two years of the date of the duly certified deed to purchase the property entitles the seller to reclaim 3/5 of the transfer tax paid on acquisition.

- 92 A transfer tax of 12.5% is levied on sales or transfers of real property located in the Brussels-Capital Region.

Tax is computed on the higher of the agreed sale price and the fair market value of the property. However, an exemption of EUR 60,000 (or EUR 75,000 depending on the location of the property) is granted for the acquisition by one or more natural persons of a property intended to become a main residence, provided it is the buyer's sole property.

This exemption is not granted for the acquisition of undeveloped land.

Resale or a transfer of the real property by notarial deed within two years following the date of the duly certified deed to purchase the property entitles the seller to reclaim 36% of the transfer tax paid on the acquisition.

Church taxes

- 93 There is no church tax in Belgium.

Step 3: What to do before you arrive in Belgium

Work permits, residence formalities and 'Limosa'

- 94 If you are a European Union (EU) national, you do not need a work permit to work in Belgium (except for new EU nationals from Bulgaria and Romania, who still need a work permit until 31 December 2011). For nationals of the new EU Member States, a short, simplified procedure applies to certain qualifications ('functions') for which there is a shortage on the Belgian labour market. If you are a national of a non-EU country, you need a work permit or a professional card (as a self-employed person) unless you are employed (as an executive or researcher with a Belgian contract) in a recognised coordination centre, which exempts you from the requirement to obtain a work permit. Other work-permit exemptions also exist (in the form of a limitative list), such as for business trips (exemption limited to five days per calendar month) and for certain managerial employees employed by Belgian headquarters. If you do not qualify for an exemption, a work permit has to be applied for. Highly qualified employees and managerial employees need to earn a certain minimum gross annual salary in order to be granted a work permit.
- 95 Depending on the duration of your stay in Belgium and your nationality, you need to carefully check the required residence formalities before you arrive in Belgium. Non-EU nationals who stay in Belgium for a period exceeding three months require to apply for a type D visa from the Belgian embassy/consulate in their country of origin. In the Belgian municipality where they will live, they need to be registered and obtain a Belgian residence permit. EU nationals do not require a visa but need to obtain a 'declaration of registration' from their local authority in Belgium. Special rules apply to family members (for purposes of 'family reunification').
- 96 On 1 April 2007, a duty of prior (electronic) notification was introduced for seconded employees and the self-employed. This duty of notification is referred to as the 'Limosa' obligation. Notification is required for any employee who is employed in Belgium temporarily or partially and normally works in one or more countries other than Belgium or is hired in a country other than Belgium. It also applies to any self-employed person who either sets up temporarily in Belgium in order to carry on one or more self-employed activities here, or temporarily or partially carries on self-employed activities in Belgium but normally works in one or more countries other than Belgium and does not permanently reside in Belgium.

Employment contracts

- 97 It is strongly advisable for all the terms and conditions of your assignment to Belgium to be set out in a written agreement before you are actually transferred to Belgium.
- 98 The authority of your employer to transfer you to a group entity in your home country, or elsewhere, will normally be included in your employment contract.
- 99 Consideration needs to be given to whether you should apply for the special tax regime on a net or gross remuneration package.
- 100 If you are an (international) assignee, resident and employed in Belgium, and you do not qualify for the special expatriate tax treatment but carry out a significant amount of work outside Belgium, you may find it advantageous to have separate employment contracts with your Belgian employer and an associated group company located abroad (i.e. a split payroll).
- 101 Where your non-Belgian employer is located in a 'treaty country', the 'exemption with progression' principle applies in Belgium to your overseas earned income. Due to the application of progressive tax rates in most countries, a payroll split between 'treaty countries', which accurately reflects services and responsibilities rendered in or for the two countries, will produce tax savings. Where your non-Belgian employer is located in a non-treaty country, your foreign income is subject to tax in Belgium at half the normal rate, provided it has been subject to foreign tax.

Remuneration packages

- 102 We outlined above the tax consequences of receiving a salary and separate reimbursement of expenses, or of being on a gross remuneration package inclusive of expenses. Employers will need to examine the overall cost to both the company and the employee before deciding which method is more appropriate. Generally speaking, the 'net' remuneration package is more tax-effective, as the recurring costs and expenses package for which the employer is responsible will most likely reach the tax-free ceilings of EUR 11,250 or EUR 29,750 for control and coordination offices, laboratories and scientific research centres. In the case of gross remuneration packages, this is frequently not the case.
- 103 As far as coordination offices are concerned, it is unlikely that the tax-free ceiling for allowances of EUR 29,750 will be reached without tax equalisation being built into the 'net' remuneration package.

- 104 The timing of payment of a bonus connected with an assignment to Belgium should be considered from the outset. If a bonus is paid after the assignment has terminated without charge to the Belgian entity, it may be exempt from tax in Belgium in certain circumstances.
- 105 Belgium sources stock-option income. For options whose vesting is subject to an employment condition, taxable income will be sourced based on the territories where the duties were carried out during the vesting period.

Importing personal possessions

- 106 A full exemption from value added tax (VAT) and customs duties is generally granted when personal possessions, including a car, are imported by a private individual transferring his/her normal place of residence from another country to Belgium.
- 107 To be eligible for the exemption, the goods must be owned by the importer and have been used at least six months before the residence is transferred to Belgium.
- 108 An application must be filed with the local customs office before or when goods are imported. Five copies of the list of possessions being imported are required.
- 109 The imported goods cannot be sold or let within the 12-month period following their duty-free importation.

Important points to remember

- 110 Employers and expatriates are advised to consult a home country tax adviser and a Belgian tax adviser before the transfer, so that the following means of minimising the tax burden can be considered:
- timing the arrival in Belgium;
 - avoidance of dual residence and double taxation;
 - deriving full benefit from the tax exemption on investment income, in cases where the special tax treatment applies.

Step 4: What to do when you arrive in Belgium

Establishing residence/domicile

- 111 As an international assignee intending to reside and work in Belgium, you must go through certain formalities with the local authority where you are to reside. Depending your nationality (EU or non-EU) the set of documents you need to submit for registration will be different. Non-EU nationals need to be able to present their work permit, for instance (unless they qualify for a work-permit exemption). The duration of your residence in Belgium (more or less than three months) is also important in determining the type of registration or 'declaration'. In the case of registration for more than three months, you will receive an electronic residence permit once the registration procedure is finalised.
- 112 Registration with the social security authorities should be done by your employer. You must select and register with a 'Mutuelle/Mutualiteit'. The local authority where you live will inform the local tax inspector of your arrival.

Application for non-residence status

- 113 The administrative formalities associated with the special tax regime are mainly the responsibility of the employer. Provided you meet the various conditions, the employer will have to file a formal application with the Director for Foreigners (Directeur Etranger – Directeur Buitenland) at the Ministry of Finance (Federal Public Service Finance) within six months of your arrival (the six-month deadline runs as from the first day of the month following that in which employment in Belgium commences).
- 114 The application file must include a formal request by the employee, and sufficient information to enable the tax officers to verify whether the expatriate and the company meet all the qualifying conditions for non-resident status and that the non-taxable expense allowances being claimed are justified.
- 115 The Belgian offices of PricewaterhouseCoopers will be pleased to provide clients with further advice on the application procedures and the documents and information needed to support a successful application. See Appendix E for further information.

Step 5: What to do at the end of the year

General

- 116 No specific formalities are required from you as an employee at the end of the tax year. It is nonetheless advisable for you, if you are appointed as a remunerated director of a Belgian company or performing self-employed activities, to adjust your level of withholding tax or tax prepayments during the year to avoid a tax surcharge for insufficient prepayments.
- 117 Similarly, if you work within the framework of the special tax regime, it is advisable to adjust the level of your withholding tax to meet your actual circumstances.

Step 6: What to do when you leave Belgium

Reporting your departure

- 118 You must report your departure from Belgium and the departure of your family at the population register at the town hall in the municipality where you reside.
- 119 Where applicable, your employer must report your departure and the cessation of contributions to the social security authorities and you must also advise your 'Mutuelle/Mutualiteit' accordingly.
- 120 The tax office dealing with your tax returns should also be advised of any change of address so that tax return forms covering the final tax period in Belgium can be sent out for completion. Tax returns for the period 1 January to the date of departure should in principle be filed within three months of the date of departure (for those who benefit from the special tax regime, the tax return for the period 1 January to the date of departure from Belgium need only be filed the following year).
- 121 A certificate of departure should be obtained from the local authority to enable household possessions to be removed to EU (and other) countries without VAT or import duty being charged. No tax authority certificate is required to permit household chattels to be taken out of Belgium.

Other issues

- 122 To minimise your tax burden, we advise you to seek advice on the timing of your departure. Care should be taken to avoid double taxation arising from dual residence status if you leave Belgium to work elsewhere but leave your family residence in Belgium for a period of time (e.g. to complete the children's education).
- 123 Any payments or bonuses received after departure in respect of Belgian employment will be subject to tax in Belgium. Planning for any such payments should be undertaken with care.

Step 7: Other matters requiring consideration

First and last year in Belgium

124 If your earnings in your first or last year in Belgium cover a period of less than 12 months, total income for the period is not grossed up to the 12-month equivalent in calculating progressive rates of tax. This factor can be used to plan appropriate commencement and cessation dates for an assignment.

Timing of bonuses

125 The timing of bonuses to expatriates merits careful examination, as indicated in paragraphs 104 and 123.

Inheritance and gift taxes

126 In principle, a gift has to be made in Belgium by way of a notarial deed. All Belgian notarial deeds must be registered, which means that Belgian gift taxes become due.

127 There are, however, exceptions to this principle: manual gifts and indirect gifts can be made without a Belgian notarial deed, so that they are exempt from Belgian gift taxes. This is not possible for immovable property, however.

128 Article 7 of the inheritance taxation codes (IHTC) of each region nevertheless provide that gifts made no more than three years prior to the death of the donor and that were not subject to Belgian gift taxes are deemed added to the estate of the donor and therefore are subject to inheritance taxes. Such gifts must be reported in the inheritance tax return at the value that the donated assets have at the time of death.

129 Inheritance tax is paid by heirs or legatees on the net amount inherited by each recipient from the estate of any deceased person who is considered to be a resident of Belgium.

130 Expatriates who benefit from the special tax regime are considered to be non-residents. However, this status applies only to direct taxes and not to inheritance taxes. Therefore, the question as to whether an expatriate who dies in Belgium is subject to inheritance tax depends on the facts of the individual case.

131 Tax rates vary according to the region where the gift is registered.

- 132 In the Flemish and Brussels-Capital Regions, registered gifts of movables are taxed at a reduced flat registration rate of 3% (for gifts between spouses, children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents and cohabittees) or 7% (for gifts between other individuals).
- 133 In the Walloon Region, registered gifts of movables are taxed at a reduced flat registration rate of 3% (for gifts between spouses, children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents and cohabittees), 5% (for gifts between brothers and sisters and between uncles or aunts and nephews or nieces) or 7% (for gifts between other individuals).
- 134 Gift tax on immovables is levied on the beneficiary at the following rates:

Gift tax rates per region

A. Walloon Region and Flemish Region (immovable goods only)

Spouse, children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents, (statutory) cohabittees

Taxable gift (EUR)	Not over	Rate (%)	Cumulative tax due
0	12,500	3%	375
12,500	25,000	4%	875
25,000	50,000	5%	2,125
50,000	100,000	7%	5,625
100,000	150,000	10%	10,625
150,000	200,000	14%	17,625
200,000	250,000	18%	26,625
250,000	500,000	24%	86,625
500,000	And above	30%	

Other rates are applicable to other persons depending on the region where the gift is registered.

B. Brussels-Capital Region (immovable goods only)

Spouse, children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents and cohabittees*

Taxable gift (EUR)	Not over	Rate (%)	Cumulative tax due
0	50,000	3%	1,500
50,000	100,000	8%	5,500
100,000	175,000	9%	12,250
175,000	250,000	18%	25,750
250,000	500,000	24%	85,750
500,000	And above	30%	

* *Cohabitees: only persons who have made a statement of statutory cohabitation as referred to in articles 1475 and 1476 of the Belgian Civil Code.*

Other special, more-favourable rates are applicable under certain conditions to gifts of the full ownership of real property located in the Brussels-Capital Region and intended for housing purposes between spouses, children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents and cohabittees.

Other rates are applicable to: brothers and sisters, uncle, aunts, nephews and nieces and for other persons.

135 Inheritance tax rules differ according to the region where the deceased had his/her fiscal residence (see point 118 for the definition of the applicable region).

Inheritance tax rates per region

A. Walloon Region

Rates applicable in direct bloodline and between spouses and cohabittees*

Taxable inheritance (EUR)	Not over	Rate (%)	Cumulative tax due
0	12,500	3%	375
12,500	25,000	4%	875
25,000	50,000	5%	2,125
50,000	100,000	7%	5,625
100,000	150,000	10%	10,625
150,000	200,000	14%	17,625
200,000	250,000	18%	26,625
250,000	500,000	24%	86,625
500,000	And above	30%	

* *Cohabitees: applies to persons who have made a statement of statutory cohabitation as referred to in articles 1475 and 1476 of the Civil Code (as introduced by the Act of 23 November 1998).*

However, the following conditions must be met:

- the parties must have signed a statement of statutory cohabitation for a period of one year before death;
- the cohabittees must be registered at the same address;
- the cohabittees cannot be brothers and/or sisters, uncles/aunts and nephews/nieces.

Other rates are applicable to brothers, sisters, uncle, aunts, nephews and nieces and other persons.

B. Flemish Region

Spouse, children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents, (statutory) cohabittees*

Taxable inheritance (EUR)	Not over	Rate (%)	Cumulative tax due
0	50,000	3%	1,500
50,000	250,000	9%	19,500
250,000	And above	27%	

**No minimum period of cohabitation is required for statutory cohabittees (declaration of cohabitation at the local town hall); a minimum of one year's cohabitation is required for the other cohabittees. Cohabittees can be partners living as man and wife as well as brothers and/or sisters, uncles, aunts, friends, etc.*

In some cases, the family home is not subject to tax when inherited by a direct-line heir, spouse or cohabitee.

According to article 48(3) IHTC, the tax base must be computed on the net share of each heir and separately, first on movable assets and then on immovable assets.

This means that, in principle, two separate computations have to be done by the heirs to calculate the inheritance taxes that are due on each category of assets. Consequently, tax rates between movable and immovable assets are no longer progressive.

According to article 48 IHTC, debts and funeral costs, with the exception of debts specially contracted in order to purchase or preserve assets, are charged as a priority on movable assets and family businesses.

Some of the taxes calculated above can be abated. The abatements differ between the Flemish Region and the two other regions.

Other rates are applicable to other heirs or legatees.

Contrary to a mortis causa transfer in a direct blood line or between spouses and cohabitees, no difference is drawn between movable and immovable assets for the purpose of calculating inheritance taxes.

Moreover, the law in Flanders does not lay down any priority as to the assets against which the deceased's debts are to be charged.

The rate applicable to 'others' is applied to the corresponding portion of the sum of the net shares received by the persons belonging to that category.

C. Brussels-Capital Region

Spouse, children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents and cohabitees*

Taxable inheritance (EUR)	Not over	Rate (%)	Cumulative tax due
0	50,000	3%	1,500
50,000	100,000	8%	5,500
100,000	175,000	9%	12,250
175,000	250,000	18%	25,750
250,000	500,000	24%	85,750
500,000	And above	30%	

* *Cohabitees: only persons who have made a statement of statutory cohabitation as referred to in articles 1475 and 1476 of the Belgian Civil Code.*

The taxable legacy of each heir or legatee, in principle, consists of the sum of the total net value of the assets received by each of them.

Other rates are applicable to brothers, sisters, uncle, aunts, nephews and nieces and other persons.

136 A special form of inheritance tax arises on the death of a Belgian non-resident who leaves property in Belgium. Tax is chargeable on the gross value of the property instead of on the net amount inherited by each recipient, at standard rates of inheritance tax.

137 Article 38 IHTC specifies the region where the inheritance tax return has to be filed and, at the same time, the rules applicable for calculating the inheritance taxes.

According to Article 38(1°) IHTC, the inheritance tax return has to be filed with the inheritance tax office where the deceased had his/her last tax domicile.

Article 38(1°) IHTC also provides that, where the deceased had his/her tax domicile in more than one region during the five years preceding his/her death, the tax return has to be filed in the region where he/she had his/her tax domicile for the longer period during those 5 years.

138 If the deceased was a non-resident, the mortis causa transfer tax return ('droits de mutation lors du décès/rechten van overgang bij overlijden') has to be filed with the office in whose district the portion of property representing the highest federal rateable value is located ('kadastraal inkomen' or 'revenu cadastral'). The so-called 'mortis causa transfer tax' is calculated according to the rates and rules applicable in the region in which the tax return has to be filed.

139 This means that a mortis causa transfer tax return requiring to be filed in, say, the Walloon region according to Article 38(2°) IHTC will be taxed according to the rules in force in that region, whether or not the tax return mentions property located in any other region.

140 Foreign inheritance taxes paid on property situated abroad and owned by a deceased Belgian resident can be deducted from Belgian tax payable on that property under certain conditions. In such situations, estate planning is essential.

141 The inheritance tax rates on the net amount received where a business is transferred by inheritance have been reduced to 3% in the Brussels Capital Region. Under certain conditions, the net amount received upon the transfer by inheritance of a family business can be exempted from inheritance tax in the Flemish Region and the Walloon Region.

142 The conditions under which the favourable rates of 0% (in the Flemish Region and the Walloon Region) or 3% (in the Brussels-Capital Region) apply differ from region to region.

143 The system of reduced rates came into effect on 1 January 1997 in the Flemish Region, 1 January 2006 in the Walloon Region and 1 January 1999 in the Brussels-Capital Region. The exemption from inheritance tax for transfers of family businesses in the Flemish Region came into effect on 10 October 1999. The cohabitation rule in the Flemish Region has applied since 1 January 2001.

Appendix A: Overview of income tax rates

Tax year 2010 – Year of income 2009

Personal income tax rates

Tax brackets in 2009 applicable to net taxable income after deduction of business expenses (disregarding possible additional tax exemptions):

Taxable income (EUR)	Not over	Rate (%)	Tax on bracket	Cumulative tax
0	7,900	25%	1,975	1,975
7,900	11,240	30%	1,002	2,977
11,240	18,730	40%	2,996	5,973
18,730	34,330	45%	7,020	12,993
34,330	and above	50%		

Appendix B: Overview of personal allowances

Tax year 2010 - Year of income 2009

Basic tax-free allowances (in EUR):

if taxable income not over 23,900	6,690
If taxable income between 23,900 and 24,160	6,690 less difference between taxable income and 23,900
if taxable income above 24,160	6,430

Any balance not used up by the income of one spouse can be transferred and applied against the income of the other spouse.

Child allowances:

The basic tax-free allowance is increased by a progressive scale of child allowances which are also tax-free (in EUR):

	Per child	Cumulative
First child	1,370	1,370
Second child	2,150	3,520
Third child	4,360	7,880
Fourth child	4,870	12,750
Fifth child and additional children	4,870	

Handicapped children count as two children in the above scale.

For each child under three years old on 1 January of the tax year, the above amounts are increased by EUR 510, provided no children's custody expenses are deducted.

Allowances for other dependent relatives who form part of the household and do not have resources exceeding certain limits: EUR 1,370 per dependent (double for handicapped dependant).

As mentioned above, the above allowances are set against the low tax brackets.

Net taxable income is determined after deduction of allowable expenses:

Standard expense deduction:

This deduction is calculated on gross earnings on a sliding scale (in EUR):

28.7% of the first bracket of	5,190
10% on the second bracket of	5,120
5% on the third bracket of	6,860
3% on the excess	

For remunerated directors, the deduction is a flat 5%.

The standard deduction may not exceed a ceiling of EUR 3,590.

In exceptional circumstances, it may be possible for a salaried taxpayer to claim business expenses actually incurred instead of a standard allowance.

100% (limited) of duly evidenced payments to an approved kindergarden, independently registered child nurses, or schools (in respect of children under the age of 12) are deductible from taxable income on condition that it includes earned income.

Appendix C: Typical tax computation

Tax year 2010 – Year of income 2009

Married person with two dependent children (aged 3 or over); wife has no taxable income; municipal tax of 7%

Tax computation	EUR	EUR
Salary after deduction of social security contributions		47,100.00
Computation of tax base		
1. Gross taxable salary	47,100.00	
2. Less: standard business deductions		
EUR 0 to EUR 5,190.00: 28.7%	(1,489.53)	
EUR 5,190.01 to EUR 10,310.00: 10%	(512.00)	
EUR 10,310.01 to EUR 17,170.00: 5%	(343.00)	
EUR 17,170.01 to EUR 47,100.00: 3%	(897.90)	
Total standard business deductions:		<u>(3,242.43)</u>
3. Difference = Tax base		43,857.57
Portion attributed to the spouse	9,280.00	
Portion left to the taxpayer	34,577.57	
4. Computation of tax on spouse's portion		
0% tax on 0 to 6,690.00 (exemption) *	0	
25% tax on 6,690.01 to 7,900.00	302.50	
30% tax on 7,900.01 to 9,280.00	414.00	
Total (I)		<u>716.50</u>
5. Computation of tax on taxpayer's portion		
0% on 0 to 6,430.00 (exemption) *	0	
0% on 6,430.01 to 9,950.00 (exemption for 2 children) *	0	
30% on 9,950.01 to 11,240.00	387.00	
40% on 11,240.01 to 18,730.00	2,996.00	
45% on 18,730.01 to 34,330.00	7,020.00	
50% on 34,330.01 to 34,577.57	123.78	
Total (II)		<u>10,526.78</u>
Total (I) + Total (II)		<u>11,243.28</u>
Plus: Municipal tax: 11,243.28 x 7%		<u>787.03</u>
Plus a special social security contribution		<u>519,33</u>
Final tax		12,549.64

* See Appendix B: Overview of personal allowances

Appendix D: Tax-free allowances on a gross remuneration package

Tax year 2010 – Year of income 2009

The expatriate is paid on a gross basis; tax-free allowances are deemed to be included in his/her gross salary and have to be determined. The expatriate is a Belgian national, married; spouse has no earned income, two children (older than 3). He/she is entitled to a travel exclusion outside Belgium of 12.9% in 2009.

1 Professional earnings	EUR
Salary and foreign service premium	94,000.00
2 Foreign base salary	
$(94,000 \times 85\% (1) \times 100) / 110$	72,636.36
3 Determination of allowances	
A Cost of living $(72,636.36 \times 5\% = 3,631.82)$ – limited to	2,500.00
B Housing allowance	
Rent paid in Belgium	9,000.00
Less: $72,636.36 \times 12\%$	(8,716.36)
Total housing allowance	283.64
C Tax equalisation: Belgian taxes	
Foreign base salary before deduction of 10% premium: $(94,000 \times 85\%)$	79,900.00
Less: Belgian social security contributions: $(79,900 \times 13.07\%)$	(10,442.93)
Sub-total	69,457.07
Less: Exclusion for travel outside Belgium: $(69,457.07 \times 12.9\%)$	(8,959.96)
Tax base	60,497.11
Belgian taxes	
(I) thereon	19,038.57
(II) UK taxes on foreign base salary: 72,636.36 (cf. point 2 above) (2)	(17,282.87)
Difference (I) - (II)	1,755.70
Total tax-free allowances: $(2,500.00 + 283.64 + 1,755.70)$	4,539.34

(1) This percentage is that applicable for income year 2009.

(2) Average exchange rate GBP 1 = EUR 1.2558.

Appendix E: Belgium contacts and offices

Websites

HR Services web site: <http://www.hrservices.be>

International Assignees Services Belgium web site: <http://be.pwcexpat.com>

PricewaterhouseCoopers Belgium web site: <http://www.pwc.be>

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Our specialists are pleased to help you; do not hesitate to contact them.

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