

Tax Newsflash Hong Kong Tax News: HK-Belarus Tax Treaty Signed

Hong Kong (HK) signed a comprehensive agreement for the avoidance of double taxation (CDTA) with Belarus on 16 January 2017. Belarus is located in Eastern Europe and is one of the countries along the Belt and Road. This is the 36th CDTA concluded by HK.

Below is a comparison of the withholding tax (WHT) rates of dividends, interest and royalties, under the respective domestic tax law and the HK-Belarus CDTA:

	Dividends	Interest	Royalties
HK non- CDTA rate	0%	0%	4.95%/16.5% (NB1)
Belarus non-CDTA rate	12% /13% (NB2)	10% / 13% (NB3)	13% / 15% (NB4)
HK-Belarus CDTA rate	0% / 5% (NB5)	0% / 5% (NB5)	3% / 5% (NB6)

NB1: The 4.95% rate applies (i) if the royalty is not paid to a related party; or (ii) if the royalty is paid to a related party, the licensed intellectual property has never been owned in whole or in part by a person carrying on business in Hong Kong. Otherwise, the rate is 16.5%.

NB2: 12% for companies; 13% for individuals.

NB3: 10% for companies; 13% for individuals.

NB4: 13% for individuals; 15% for companies.

NB5: 0% for beneficial owner being the government or institutions authorized by the government; 5% in all other cases.

NB6: 3% for the right to use aircraft; 5% in all other cases.

The HK-Belarus CDTA will come into force after the completion of ratification procedures on both sides. The CDTA can be downloaded from this link.

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