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"TAXES COVERED"

A Study of Article 2 of the OECD Model Tax Conventions

Author: Patricia Brandstetter

Summary

The substantive scope of a tax treaty determines the extent of protection it can provide against international double taxation. Countries worldwide have adopted the text of Art. 2 ("Taxes covered") of the OECD Model Tax Conventions in their bilateral tax treaties. However, the structure and wording of Art. 2, which have remained virtually unchanged since the beginnings of tax treaty law in the 1920s, create interpretive issues and uncertainties in practical treaty application.

This book not only provides an in-depth analysis of recent case law and academic literature, but also sheds light on the background to the standard formulations so widely used in the provision on the substantive scope of today's tax treaties. The source documents used have rarely found their way into publications before: historical OEEC and OECD Reports and Minutes, originally largely classified as "restricted" and thus inaccessible to the public for decades, provide an insight into

the drafting process of Art. 2 and the discussions of Delegates from various nations on practical implications for treaty application. The book offers a unique perspective on this core treaty provision and aims to provide guidance for determining the "taxes covered" in any tax treaty.



Dr Patricia Brandstetter, LLM (NYU), admitted to the New York Bar, is a Tax Associate at the Long Island, NY offices of BDO USA, LLP. Prior to joining BDO in the United States, she was a research assistant and lecturer at the Institute for Austrian and International Tax Law in Vienna, Austria.

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