

Preface

Both the OECD Model Tax Convention on Income and on Capital (OECD Model) and the United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention (UN Model) often serve as a basis for tax treaty negotiations between different jurisdictions worldwide. At the same time, however, and for a number of reasons, the interpretation of a particular tax treaty provision may still differ from country to country. Therefore, the risk of double or even multiple (non-)taxation is not fully eliminated. In order to promote a uniform interpretation of tax treaties worldwide and, hence, to reduce the risk of double or multiple (non-)taxation, basic knowledge is needed on how various tax treaty issues are solved in different jurisdictions. It is widely known that a unified approach to interpretation and application of international tax treaty rules can benefit not only the countries which are parties to the tax treaty in question but also their taxpayers, as well as international trade and investment in general. Therefore, this topic is of ongoing concern to many tax scholars, practitioners, representatives of international organizations and public officials.

On 23–25 May 2019, the conference “Tax Treaty Case Law around the Globe” was held at the WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business). This international conference took place for the ninth time (for the fifth time in Vienna) and was jointly organized by the Institute for Austrian and International Tax Law of the WU and the European Tax College of Tilburg University. The conference was dedicated to the analysis of the most important cases on international tax treaty law decided in different tax jurisdictions across the world in 2018. 40 cases were presented by outstanding tax experts from 24 countries. Each presentation was followed by an intensive and fruitful discussion. The participants in the conference compared interpretation approaches existing in both the OECD and non-OECD Member countries and came up with comprehensive conclusions and suggestions. The main scientific results of the conference are presented in this book.

Each report in this book is dedicated to a court case or a number of cases from 2018 on a particular article of the tax treaty at issue (often based on the OECD Model or UN Model) in a certain jurisdiction. Every report is structured in a similar way: facts of the case, the decision and reasoning of the court and the author’s observations, including the possible impact of the decision on international tax law development in the respective country and in other jurisdictions. This clear and concise structure enables a solid and accessible overview of the 2018 case law

on tax treaty application. The systematic structure of each report allows for different tax treaty case law to be studied and compared in a simple and efficient way.

The editors believe that the reports presented in this book are of high value and, therefore, will be of particular interest for academics, tax consultants, judges, public officials and all those interested in international tax law. The fact that many domestic decisions are otherwise available only in the respective national languages makes the materials contained in this book even more valuable.

The editors would like to express their sincere gratitude to the Linde Publishing House for their cooperation and swift realization of this publishing project. Ms. Eleanor Campbell contributed greatly to the completion of this book by editing and polishing the texts for authors, for whom English is – for the most part – a foreign language. Furthermore, we are most grateful to Ivan Lazarov and Anika Streicher who helped with the preparation and realization of the conference and assisted in editing the book. Finally, special thanks go to Renée Pestuka and Layomi Gunatilleke-Jester who were responsible for the organization of the conference in Vienna and who also worked on the publication of this book.

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