

European Union Savings Directive - Questions & Answers

This document is intended to answer frequently asked questions you may have in respect of the "European Union Savings Directive" ("EUSD").

What is the European Union Savings Directive?

The European Union Savings Directive was approved by the EU Council of Ministers on 3 June 2003 and published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 26 June 2003. It is numbered 2003/48/EC and deals with the taxation of savings income in the form of interest payments. It is implemented in the UK by the Reporting of Savings Income Information Regulations 2003 and came into effect on 1 July 2005.

What is the aim of the European Union Savings Directive?

To ensure EU residents pay tax in accordance with the law of their country of permanent residence. The Directive applies to individuals receiving income from savings from outside their resident state.

Where will the Directive be effective?

The Directive, or equivalent measures, will apply in the following EU member states and other territories (all described as "prescribed territories" under the Directive):

All 27 EU member states: Austria, Bulgaria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom;

Other territories: Anguilla, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Turks & Caicos.

Although British crown dependencies, such as Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man, are not EU members they are reportable jurisdictions.

Why are Georgeson and Computershare Investor Services PLC advising me of this?

You hold/held a security which is covered by the EUSD (for which Computershare, Georgeson's parent company, act as registrar and paying agent) and the address recorded for you is in one of the prescribed territories.

Which securities are covered by the EUSD?

Generally it is securities that attract savings income through the payment of interest.

How will this affect interest on my investment?

The way you receive your interest payments will not change. However, if your permanent place of residence is in one of the prescribed territories, then details of the interest you receive from your investments will be available to the Revenue Authority within the country you reside.

How is residency determined under the Directive?

Where your permanent residential address is in an EU country then it is the country in which that address is located that is your country of residency.

Why do you ask for copies of the documentation to be authenticated?

Copies of original documentation need to be authenticated by a person of public standing, to confirm that the copy is actually a true copy of the original documentation. Georgeson do not ask for original documentation to be sent for security reasons; there is always a possibility that post may go missing or be intercepted and, therefore, Georgeson would suggest only authenticated copies of such important information are forwarded in the post. Original documentation is acceptable but it is sent to Georgeson, and returned by Georgeson, entirely at your own risk.

Why do you need someone official to authenticate the documents?

Someone of public standing - as a Notary Public, Solicitor, Lawyer, An Embassy Consulate or High Commission, a Stockbroker, an Accountant or a Bank Manager must authenticate your original documents to provide evidence that the original exists and to prevent fraud. It is possible that you may be asked to pay a fee for authentication. Unfortunately, Georgeson are not in a position to reimburse you.

I have already supplied you with all or some of this information for different purposes. Can I, therefore, ignore this communication?

As a result of the EUSD, Georgeson and Computershare are required to obtain the most up-to-date information for all investors who are affected by this Directive. You are, therefore, required to complete the enclosed form and return it here together with the up to date requested documentation.

I no longer reside at the address, to which Georgeson sent this communication, what should I do?

Please confirm your correct permanent address when completing the form with the use of the words "formerly of....now of.....", to show the address you now wish to have registered; please ensure that any documentation forwarded with the form does show your correct address. If you have or expect to receive an interest payment, you are required to complete the enclosed form and forward the necessary documentation.

Please Note: all future correspondence will be sent to your updated address.

What happens if I do not reply to this communication?

The EUSD is mandatory and, therefore, you are required to provide the necessary information and documentation. Georgeson will be obliged to contact you further if they do not receive a response to this communication.

Will joint holders of securities also receive a communication with regard to this directive?

If any joint holders are permanently resident in one of the prescribed territories then they will also receive this communication, and will be required to supply information and documentation. If the permanent residence of a holder is in England, N.Ireland, Scotland or Wales they will not receive this communication.

What information do you require?

You need to complete the enclosed form with details of your Tax Identification Number (TIN)*. If you do not have a TIN you need to complete your date of birth, town/city of birth and your country of birth. Please note that, if you do not quote a TIN, or all three details relating to your birth, your form will be returned and Georgeson will be obliged to correspond with you further.

*Your TIN can be obtained from documentation received from your tax authority

What happens if I complete and return the form without the requested documentation?

Georgeson will be obliged to return your form together with a letter requesting the required documentation.

Why do I have to fill in the form AND send further documentation?

To comply with the UK law, Georgeson and Computershare have to verify that the information you have supplied in the form is correct. It is important that you provide evidence that proves your identity and evidence that proves your residential address.

What if I no longer have any investments with Computershare?

You are still required to complete the enclosed form and return it together with the necessary documentation if you received or expect to receive an interest payment in the relevant tax year.

I hold multiple securities with multiple Holder Identification Numbers, will I receive multiple forms?

Yes. You will receive a separate form for each individual Holder Identification Number, in each security that is covered by the EUSD. Please ensure you complete ALL forms received and return these forms together with one set of documentation.

Where can I find additional information?

<http://www.georgeson.com/unclaimed> or contact us on +44 (0)870 703 0067.

As with all tax matters, we recommend that you seek independent professional advice on the implications (if any) of the requirements for your own personal circumstances.