

# Preface

The present volume comprises the Master's theses of the part-time students attending the 2013/2015 class of the postgraduate LL.M. program "International Tax Law" at WU Wien.

This book analyses recent developments and trends in VAT/GST and direct taxation. As the authors show, these recent developments and trends in VAT/GST and direct taxation create various challenges and opportunities for the different players, countries and supranational organizations. In a globalized world, taxation plays a major role for individuals and enterprises when conducting cross-border trade. Thereby, both direct and indirect taxes have to be considered in order to comply with the tax legislation, on the one hand, and reach the preferred result for the taxpayer, on the other hand.

This book aims at identifying the recent global trends in both VAT/GST and direct taxation that become visible from an analysis of the similarities and differences of VAT/GST and direct taxes. The contributions in this book highlight the risks and challenges connected to recent developments in global taxation. The Master's theses in this book cover numerous recent developments/trends, ranging from nexus in taxation, transfer pricing, share deals, European State aid, non-discrimination rules, tax abuse, compliance issues, charities and developments in VAT/GST as well as direct taxation in the context of the OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) report. The contributions included in this book illustrate and reflect the great variety of the students' personal, cultural and professional backgrounds. These topics are looked at from different legal perspectives, including tax policy considerations, EU law, international tax law and – to a certain extent – domestic law in order to present a wide spectrum of issues and their solutions.

It was our task as well as pleasure to provide the students with critical support during the writing of their Master's theses. We would like to thank the students for their commitment and congratulate them on the successful completion of their studies and their ability to build bridges between direct and indirect taxes. Not only the students but we as well were able to gain insights in new ways of looking at different issues by taking into account a variety of legal, cultural and professional backgrounds. It was important to us that the students developed their own ideas. Therefore, responsibility for the contributions and the views taken therein remain solely with the authors.

Moreover, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Ms Margaret Nettinga, who contributed to the successful completion of this book by revising the Master's theses from a linguistic point of view. Credit needs to be given to Mag. Barbara Ender-Rochowansky who not only supported the students on various organizational issues but also was a huge help for us. Sincere thanks are given to Linde publishing house for the opportunity to publish this volume. Having Linde as a partner means great support and the professional cooperation needed to make a project such as the one at hand a success.

Vienna, June 2015

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