



Responding to COVID-19: BRITACOM PERSPECTIVE, 2 June 2020

Script of speech

Mr. Mikayel Pashayan, Deputy Chairman, State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia

Dear Colleagues,

First of all, I would like to welcome all the participants of BRITACOM virtual conference and to wish good health to you and your families.

Like most countries of the world, the Republic of Armenia has to face the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic and the drastic impact it put on the overall economy of Armenia as well as on the international economic conjuncture. Same as in other countries, the Armenian government continuously undertakes measures in order to neutralize and mitigate the social and economic consequences of the pandemic.

I am not able to mention specifically all of the socio-economic measures which are already implemented in Armenia. They are 18 in number and they are mostly aimed at the economic support to the micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and to the most vulnerable economic sectors such as agriculture, high tech and others, as well as aimed at the preservation of jobs in economy.

The tax policy measures are also considered by the Armenian government within the scope of the key levers to ride out the economic storm caused by the pandemic. To gauge the magnitude of tax policy measures already undertaken in Armenia, I'd like to note the legislative actions such as twofold reduction of the penalty rates for overdue tax payments, or threefold increase of the threshold of non-discharged tax liabilities enabling tax authorities to put lien on a taxpayer's property.



Another group of undertaken tax measures relate to the administration of taxes in the pandemic era. On May 4, the Chairman of Armenian Tax Administration adopted a special-purpose action plan intended for the improvement & enhancement of taxpayer compliance in Armenia. The plan is aimed at providing the consistency and comprehensiveness in the activities of Armenian Tax & Customs Administrations amid the coronavirus pandemic, rendering maximum support & assistance to the compliant taxpayers, as well as managing possible risks in the collection of tax revenues of the state budget. The Plan covers actions to be taken in the following three areas in the closest time:

- 1) tax assistance and broadening the taxpayer services
- 2) focusing the tax control activities at the most risky areas
- 3) enhancing communications and cooperation between the tax administration and taxpayers

However we are still looking forward to the new measures which would enable our economy to take advantages of the future post-pandemic world. Therefore we actively involve ourselves in the international tax cooperation activities which, as we believe, would enable our partners and us to exchange views and practices as well as to joint efforts in reconstruction of world economy against the backdrop of the new global challenge.

Thank you for attention!

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