

Risk Assessment and Transfer Pricing in Austria

place/date:

Outline



- Facts on tax audits and case selection
- Decentralized risk assessment
- Challenges of the future
- Horizontal monitoring

General facts on audits in Austria



Who conducts the audit?

- Audit teams of tax offices:
 - Turnover < € 9,68 mio
 - No specialization of auditors
- Large taxpayer audit unit:
 - Auditors are specialized in industries but not fields of tax law (3 teams specialized in international relations)
 - Team of experts (restructurings, tp, evaluation of tangible and intangible property)

Selection of audit cases



- Ways of selection
 - Time selection
 - Group selection
 - Individual selection
- Audit density in Austria
 - Turnover > € 50mio every year of every taxpayer is audited
 - Between € 9,68 mio and € 50 mio frequent audits
- Focused audits in Austria
 - Not every transaction has to be audited, list of audit topics made by the auditor

Decentralized risk assessment



- Education and training is the core of this system
 - Obligatory transfer pricing courses for every auditor
 - Broad basic knowledge
- Support for the auditors
 - Team of experts
- Red flags
 - Continuing losses
 - Transactions with tax havens
 - Profit fluctuation
 - Etc, etc.

Outlook – New ways



- System is resource intensive
 - Tax administration
 - Taxpayer
- Discussion
 - Centraliced risk assessment?
 - New resources for information
 - New ways Enhanced relationship

Horizontal Monitoring



- Tax authorities
 - Effective allocation of resources
 - Improvement of tax compliance
 - No decrease in revenues
- Taxpayer
 - Reduction of administratorial efforts
 - Realtime legal certainty
- Communication
 - Trust and transparency
- Results
 - Less ex post audits, more ex ante evaluation

Horizontal Monitoring cont.



- Application:
 - Who can apply?
 - Who decides about participation?
- Internal Taxcontrolling
 - Internal risk assessment
 - Tax strategy
 - Open communication

Horizontal Monitoring -Facts



- Pilot program
- Tailored for up to 15 participants
- 1 at the moment and 3 applications
- Further decisions after evaluation