

Memorable GGI ITPG meeting in Malta

Once again, the International Taxation Practice Group Meeting has been a complete success. More than 30 GGI members from 13 various countries met for a three day tax conference held at Le Meridien Hotel on the Mediterranean island of Malta.

Chaired by Oliver Biernat, a series of lectures on current tax issues were given. These were preceded by the introduction of a new software system, which has been developed for complex interna-

tional tax planning and which reflects the various double taxation agreements, as well as automatically computing the withholding taxes on income from profits.

GGI tax experts lectured on a variety of tax issues:

Oliver Biernat, Germany

– EU commission plans to fight tax fraud.

– Full information exchange, transparency and cooperation between EU tax authorities.

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Sunshine for a Malta walk.

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Ionut Zeche, Romania

– Implementation of Merger Directive 90/434/EEC.

– Training for GGI Tax Juniors at the Marie Curie Center, Vienna University.

Marios Eliades, Cyprus

– Proven advantages of using Cyprus for international tax planning within the European Union.

Alan Rajah, United Kingdom

– Presentation of the "Holding Company Matrix" (a GGI-project).

– The use of UK agency (or nominee) companies

Dr. Robert D'Alessandro & James Zammit, Malta

– Maltese business & personal solutions / multi-jurisdictional applications.

After the lecture series, the floor was opened to an

interesting debate on matters arising during the course of the weekend, for example, the pressure from the USA and the EU on tax havens and the issue of banking secrecy in light of the G20 summit held in April 2009.

The conference ended with members agreeing a "to do" list, which will serve as the basis for the next ITPG meeting taking place in Lucerne in May 2009.

In addition to the superb sightseeing trip of Valletta, the wonderful evening program of local Maltese specialties and fine wines organized for both evenings



The Malta fortress.

also proved very enjoyable. The hosts, Dr. Robert and Steve D'Alessandro and their team went to a great deal of trouble

to ensure that this working weekend was such a success in every respect: professionally, culturally ...and culinarily!