

Bahrain

Deadline to file Economic Substance (ES) return for Bahrain entities is 31 March 2021

The deadline for entities required to submit the ES return for the financial year ended 31 December 2020 is 31 March 2021. It is advisable for all impacted entities to file their ES returns urgently as delays may not only result in an inability to renew CRs but the imposition of financial penalties.

Click [here](#) to read our Tax Alert regarding the Bahrain ES reporting.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) issues tax rules for Integrated Logistics Bonded Zone (ILBZ)

GACA has recently issued tax rules for KSA's first ILBZ. The tax rules contains various tax and customs incentives along with the related conditions which apply to entities established in ILBZ to conduct specific activities. The incentives include:

- 50-year Tax Holiday which includes VAT suspension while under customs suspension
- Zero-rated corporate, income and withholding tax on certain payments
- 100% suspension of customs and import restrictions

Click [here](#) to read more. Click [here](#) to access the tax rules for ILBZ.

KSA grants incentives to Hajj and Umrah businesses

Saudi Arabia has approved certain incentives to private sector establishments and individuals engaged in businesses related to Hajj and Umrah (pilgrimage) with a view to help them recover from the financial impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

Click [here](#) to read more.

General Authority of Zakat and Tax (GAZT) continues inspection of businesses to identify non-compliance

On 9 March 2021, GAZT reported that it has continued inspecting businesses to identify non-compliance with tax obligations. In the previous week, 6,835 inspection visits were conducted which resulted in discovery of 1,007 violations.

GAZT highlighted that a significant number of violations were discovered based on reports through official reporting channels.

Click [here](#) to read more (in Arabic).

GAZT reminds taxpayers to take advantage of the extended tax amnesty

GAZT has reminded tax payers to take advantage of the extended tax amnesty scheme to benefit from a full waiver of penalties by making the full payment of the tax liability before end of March 2021.

Click [here](#) to read more (in Arabic).

Oman

Oman issues VAT Executive Regulations in Arabic

On 14 March 2021, Oman Tax Authority issued Decision No. 53 of 2021 regarding the VAT Executive Regulations. The effective date of implementation will be on 16 April 2021.

Click [here](#) to access the VAT Executive Regulations (in Arabic).

Oman announces tax reductions

On 9 March 2021, the Council of Ministers and Oman's Sultan approved the Economic Stimulus Plan (ESP) which aims to elevate the negative effects of COVID-19 on the national economy and put Oman back on track for economic recovery.

ESP includes proposals for reduction of corporate tax rate on small and medium enterprises to 12% (from 15% currently) for the years 2020 and 2021 as well as a 5-year exemption from tax to companies starting operations in 2021 or 2022 in sectors contributing to the diversification of the Omani economy.

Click [here](#) to read the alert prepared by KPMG Oman.

Qatar

Qatar Transfer Pricing Guidelines confirmed

The General Tax Authority has confirmed the applicability of the additional Transfer Pricing guidelines for documentation and compliance in Qatar, which was approved by way of the President's Decision No 4 of 2020.

Click [here](#) to read the alert prepared by KPMG Qatar.

Rwandan cabinet approves tax treaty with Qatar

On 15 March 2021, the Cabinet of Rwanda approved the tax treaty with Qatar, signed on 8 February 2021. Further developments will be reported as they occur.

Click [here](#) to read more.

China and Qatar sign protocol to tax treaty

On 11 March 2021, China and Qatar signed an amending protocol to update the China - Qatar Income Tax Treaty of 2001, in Doha.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Dubai Customs releases notice on restriction of petroleum gases and other gaseous hydrocarbons

Dubai customs issued customs notice No. 03 of 2021 for implementing the restriction on certain petroleum gases and other gaseous hydrocarbons from being imported into Dubai without prior approval from the Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology (ESMA).

Click [here](#) to access the notice.

Federal Tax Authority (FTA) tax auditors appointed as judicial officers

UAE has appointed 14 employees of the FTA as judicial officers. The judicial officers will be responsible for tracking down violations related to VAT and Excise Tax and to control tax crimes.

Dubai Customs releases notice on extension of temporary suspension of steel scrap and waste paper exports

On 18 February 2021, Dubai customs issued customs notice No. 04 of 2021 to extend the period of restricting the exportation of steel scrap and waste paper by 3 months (i.e. temporarily restricted until 15 April 2021).

Click [here](#) to read more.

2021 KPMG Virtual Global Indirect Tax Conference

With the indirect tax landscape taking on an increasingly important role in the new reality for tax leaders, we are delighted to invite you to the 2021 KPMG Virtual Global Indirect Tax Conference.

From 23 to 25 March 2021, join us to hear valuable insights from a range of leading speakers on the future of indirect taxes, and some of the ways in which indirect tax leaders are adapting to the new reality. With the theme of 'Indirect Tax 2.0 in a post-pandemic world', this highly interactive three-day event will give you the opportunity to learn from, debate and contribute to dynamic plenary sessions, industry-based breakout sessions, and meetings with your local KPMG professionals.

The sessions will be held live through our highly interactive platform so as to ensure we maximize your opportunity to contribute. Sessions will generally be held around lunchtime onwards in European time zones, morning in the East Coast of North America, and evening in the Asia Pacific region.

The conference program will include:

- Futurist views on the evolving business environment and predictions for the longer-term trends affecting indirect taxes emerging as a result of present conditions.
- A look at the future of indirect tax compliance, including trends in e-invoicing, real-time reporting, data management and more.
- Insights into the ways in which indirect tax teams are transforming, including evolving their sourcing models, technologies and processes in response to the challenges of the current environment.

[Register now](#)

The above is for general information only and is not intended to address the circumstances of any particular scenario. Please seek professional advice in relation to your particular circumstances.

For a detailed discussion on how the above updates may impact your business, [contact us](#).

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Click [here](#) to learn more about KPMG Corporate Services

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