

Transfer Pricing Country Profile

Name of Country: **ITALY**

Date of profile: **February 2009**

No.	Item	Reference to and wherever possible text of the provisions; Wherever needed and possible, a translation into one of the OECD official languages would be welcome
1	Reference to the Arm's Length Principle	<p>The Italian tax legislation refers to the concept of 'normal value', which is consistent with the arm's length principle. Relevant provisions are included in the Italian Consolidated Income Tax (Testo Unico delle Imposte sui Redditi, TUIR) articles 9 paragraph 3 and 4, and article 110, paragraph 7, of the Presidential Decree no. 917 of 22 December 1986.</p> <p>Regulations on transfer pricing were issued in the early 80s (Circular Letter of the Ministry of Finance of 22 September 1980 no. 32/9/2267; Circular Letter of the Ministry of Finance 12 December 1981, no. 42/12/1587; their possible updating is currently under consideration).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">****</p> <p>Abstract from TUIR (in the original language):</p> <p>Article 9 “[...]”</p> <p>3. Per valore normale, salvo quanto stabilito nel comma 4 per i beni ivi considerati, si intende il prezzo o corrispettivo mediamente praticato per i beni e i servizi della stessa specie o similari, in condizioni di libera concorrenza e al medesimo stadio di commercializzazione, nel tempo e nel luogo in cui i beni o servizi sono stati acquisiti o prestati, e, in mancanza, nel tempo e nel luogo più prossimi. Per la determinazione del valore normale si fa riferimento, in quanto possibile, ai listini o alle tariffe del soggetto che ha fornito i beni o i servizi e, in mancanza, alle mercuriali e ai listini delle camere di commercio e alle tariffe professionali, tenendo conto degli sconti d'uso. Per i beni e i servizi soggetti a disciplina dei prezzi si fa riferimento ai provvedimenti in vigore.</p> <p>4. Il valore normale è determinato:</p> <p>a) per le azioni, obbligazioni e altri titoli negoziati in mercati regolamentati italiani o esteri, in base alla media aritmetica dei prezzi rilevati nell'ultimo mese;</p> <p>b) per le altre azioni, per le quote di società non azionarie e per i titoli o quote di partecipazione al capitale di enti diversi dalle società, in proporzione al valore del patrimonio netto della società o ente, ovvero, per le società o enti di nuova costituzione, all'ammontare complessivo dei conferimenti;</p> <p>c) per le obbligazioni e gli altri titoli diversi da quelli indicati alle lettere a) e b), comparativamente al valore normale dei titoli aventi analoghe caratteristiche negoziati in mercati regolamentati italiani o esteri e, in mancanza, in base ad altri elementi determinabili in modo obiettivo.</p> <p>[...]”¹</p>

¹ Unofficial translation:

Article 9

“[...]”3. Subject to the provision under paragraph 4 as to the goods considered therein, normal value means the price or consideration charged on average to goods and services of equal or similar kind, at arm's length and at the same marketing stage, at the time and place the goods and services have been purchased or supplied and, where such information is lacking, at the nearest time and place. For determining the normal value, reference is made, as far as it is possible, to the price lists or tariffs of the person supplying goods or services and, where such information is lacking, to the market-lists of the Chamber of Commerce as well as to professional tariffs, taking into account distributor discounts. For goods and services subject to price control, referred is made to the regulations in force.

4. Normal value is determined:

- a) for shares, bonds and other securities listed in a domestic or foreign stock exchange, on the basis of the average price recorded in the last month;

		<p>Article 110 “[...]” 7. I componenti del reddito derivanti da operazioni con società non residenti nel territorio dello Stato, che direttamente o indirettamente controllano l'impresa, ne sono controllate o sono controllate dalla stessa società che controlla l'impresa, sono valutati in base al valore normale dei beni ceduti, dei servizi prestati e dei beni e servizi ricevuti, determinato a norma del comma 2, se ne deriva aumento del reddito; la stessa disposizione si applica anche se ne deriva una diminuzione del reddito, ma soltanto in esecuzione degli accordi conclusi con le autorità competenti degli Stati esteri a seguito delle speciali “procedure amichevoli” previste dalle convenzioni internazionali contro le doppie imposizioni sui redditi. La presente disposizione si applica anche per i beni ceduti e i servizi prestati da società non residenti nel territorio dello Stato per conto delle quali l'impresa esplica attività di vendita e collocamento di materie prime o merci o di fabbricazione o lavorazione di prodotti. [...]”²</p>
2	Reference to the OECD Transfer Pricing Guidelines (if any)	<p>No explicit reference has been made to the OECD Guidelines. However, the relevant Circular Letter (no. 32/9/2267 of 22 September 1980) refers to the methods for determining the arm's length price, as they are described in the 1979 OECD Report. In addition, since 1995 tax auditors are instructed to follow the updated OECD TP Guidelines when applying the ALP.</p>
3	Definition of related parties	<p>The definition of related parties is provided for by Circular Letter no. 32/9/2267 of 22 September 1980. Control is defined for transfer pricing purposes in order to cover all hypothesis of potential or actual economic effect, according to the circumstances.</p>
4	Transfer pricing methods	<p>The Circular Letter no. 32/9/2267 of 22 September 1980 refers to the TP methods as described in the 1979 OECD Report. This regulation explicitly provides for the hierarchy among TP methods in compliance with the OECD Guidelines. In addition, since 1995 tax auditors are instructed to follow the updated OECD TP Guidelines when applying the ALP.</p>
5	Transfer pricing documentation requirements	<p>General rules on tax documentation apply. Italy intends to conform with the Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Member States within the Council, on a Code of Conduct on transfer pricing documentation for associated enterprises in the European Union (EU TPD) (2006/C 176/01).</p>

- b) for other shares, participations of companies not limited by shares, and for securities or shares representing participations in the capital of entities other than companies, in proportion to the company or entity net worth or, for newly established companies or entities, to the total amount of the contribution of capital;
- c) for bonds and securities other than those referred to in the above subparagraphs a) and b), by analogy with securities with similar features listed in a domestic or foreign stock exchange and, where such information is lacking, on the basis other elements which can be objectively determined.

² Unofficial translation

Article 110

“[...]”7. Elements of income arising from transactions with non-resident companies which control - directly or indirectly - the enterprise, or are controlled by the enterprise or by the same person controlling the enterprise, are evaluated, in accordance with para. 2 of this article, on the basis of the normal value of the goods supplied, the services rendered and the goods and services received, if they produce an increase in taxable income; this provision shall also apply if the result is a decrease in taxable income, but only in compliance with agreements concluded by the competent authorities of foreign States in accordance with the mutual agreement procedures provided for by international conventions for the avoidance of double taxation. This provision applies also to goods supplied and services rendered by non-resident companies on behalf of which the enterprise carries out the sale and marketing of raw materials or manufactured goods or the manufacturing or processing of products. [...]”

6	Specific transfer pricing audit procedures and/or specific transfer pricing penalties.	None.
7	Relevant regulations on Advance Pricing Arrangements	<p>Article 8 of Decree-Law no. 269/2003, transposed into domestic Law no. 326 of 24 November 2003, provides for arrangements (so-called International Tax Ruling) between the Italian tax administration and enterprises carrying out their business activity at international level concerning mainly, but not exclusively, transfer pricing, dividends, interest, royalties and other international issues.</p> <p>The relevant implementation rules have been issued by the <i>Agenzia delle Entrate</i> (the Italian Revenue Agency, which is the competent authority for the ruling procedure) on the 23rd of July 2004.</p>
8	Link to relevant Government Internet sites	<p>www.finanze.gov.it (Finance Department) www.agenziaentrate.gov.it (Revenue Agency) http://dt.finanze.it/doctrib/SilverStream/Pages/DOCTRIBFrameset.html (Tax documentation database)</p> <p>Italian version only available</p>
9	Other relevant information	None.