

- a) The money laundering law creates the Financial Information Unit (UIF) who is in charge of the analysis, treatment and transmission of information in order to prevent and impede the money laundering originating from, among others: Crimes related to the traffic and illegal commercialization of drugs (Law N° 23,737)
- b) Crimes related to arms traffic (Law N° 22,415);
- c) Crimes related to illegal association o terrorist association
- d) Crimes committed by illegal associations organized to commit crimes for political or racial purposes;
- e) Crimes against Public Administration
- f) Crimes of minor's prostitution and child pornography
- g) Crimes related to terrorism financing

The UIF analyzes the information received by the entities that have the obligation to report suspicious activities or operations and, as the case may be, inform the Public Ministry so as to carry out the investigations that may be considered relevant or necessary.

The money laundering legal framework in Argentina also assigns information and control duties to certain private sector entities, such as banks, agents, non-profits organizations, stock exchanges, insurance companies, according to the regulations of the Financial Information Unit, and for financial entities, the Central Bank. These regulations apply to many Argentine companies, including us. These obligations consist mainly of : (i) maintaining internal policies and procedures aimed at money laundering prevention and financing of terrorism, especially through the application of the policy "know your client"; (ii) reporting any suspicious activity or operation and (iii) acting according the Money Laundering Law with respect to the confidentiality of the information obtained from the clients. For that purpose, each entity involved must appoint a officer responsible for the monitoring and control under the Money Laundering Law.

On May 8, 2005, the CNV enacted Resolution No. 554 which establishes that broker-dealers and other intermediaries who are subject to its supervision can only take part in securities transactions if they are ordered by parties that are registered or domiciled in jurisdictions that are not included in the list of tax heavens included in Executive Branch Decree No 1344/98. Furthermore, the Resolution provides that securities transactions made by parties registered or domiciled in jurisdictions that are not included in such list, but that act as intermediaries of securities' markets under the supervision of an agency similar to the CNV, are allowed only if such agency has signed a memorandum of mutual understanding with the CNV. Regarding the listed companies under the supervision of the CNV, the Resolution No. 554 states that they shall identify any entity or individual (whether or not a shareholder at that time), that makes a capital contribution or a significant loan, and comply with the same obligations established in the previous paragraph for the brokers-dealers and other intermediaries.

In connection with Resolution No. 554, the Central Bank issued Comunicación "A" 4940, as amended, which rules that non-residents of Argentina must obtain the prior approval of the Central Bank in order to purchase foreign currency in the exchange market to repatriate investments when the beneficiary of such repatriation is an individual or an entity registered or domiciled in a jurisdiction listed as a tax heaven in Executive Branch Decree No 1344/98.

## E. TAXATION

### United States Taxation

The following summary describes the material United States federal income tax consequences of the ownership of our common shares and ADSs as of the date hereof. The discussion set forth below is applicable to U.S. Holders (as defined below). Except where noted, this discussion deals only with U.S. Holders that hold our common shares or ADSs as capital assets. This summary does not represent a detailed description of the United States federal income tax consequences applicable to you if you are subject to special treatment under the United States federal income tax laws, including if you are:

- a bank;
- a dealer in securities or currencies;
- a financial institution;
- a regulated investment company;
- a real estate investment trust;
- an insurance company;
- a tax exempt organization;
- a person holding our common shares or ADSs as part of a hedging, integrated or conversion transaction, constructive sale or straddle;
- a trader in securities that has elected the mark-to-market method of accounting for your securities;
- a person liable for alternative minimum tax;
- a person who owns or is deemed to own 10% or more of the voting stock of our company;
- a partnership or other pass-through entity for United States federal income tax purposes; or
- a person whose "functional currency" is not the U.S. dollar.

Furthermore, the discussion below is based upon the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and regulations, rulings and judicial decisions thereunder as of the date hereof, and such authorities may be repealed, revoked or modified so as to result in United States federal income tax consequences different from those discussed below. In addition, this summary is based, in part, upon representations made by the depositary (the "Depositary") to us and assumes that the deposit agreement governing the ADSs, and all other related agreements, will be performed in accordance with their terms.

**IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING THE PURCHASE, OWNERSHIP OR DISPOSITION OF COMMON SHARES OR ADSS YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR OWN TAX ADVISOR CONCERNING THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES TO YOU AS WELL AS ANY CONSEQUENCES ARISING UNDER THE LAWS OF ANY OTHER TAXING JURISDICTION.**

As used herein, the term "U.S. Holder" means a beneficial owner of common shares or ADSs that is for United States federal income tax purposes:

- an individual citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;
- an estate the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- a trust if it (1) is subject to the primary supervision of a court within the United States and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) has a valid election in effect under applicable United States Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person.

If a partnership holds our common shares or ADSs, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend on the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner of a partnership holding our common shares or ADSs, you should consult your tax advisors.

### ADSS

In general, for United States federal income tax purposes, U.S. Holders of ADSs will be treated as the owners of the underlying common shares that are represented by the ADSs. Accordingly, deposits or withdrawals of our common shares by U.S. Holders for ADSs will not be subject to United States federal income tax.

### Distributions on Common Shares or ADSS

Subject to the discussion under "Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules" below, the gross amount of distributions on our common shares or ADSs (including amounts withheld to reflect Argentine withholding taxes, if any) will be taxable as dividends to the extent paid out of our current and accumulated earnings and profits (as determined under United States federal income tax principles). Such income (including withheld taxes) will be includable in your gross income as ordinary income on the day actually or constructively received by you, in the case of common shares, or by the Depositary, in the case of ADSs. Such dividends will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction allowed to corporations under the Code.

With respect to non-corporate United States investors, certain dividends received before January 1, 2013 from a qualified foreign corporation may be subject to reduced rates of taxation. A foreign corporation is treated as a qualified foreign corporation with respect to dividends received from that corporation on shares (or ADSs backed by such shares) that are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. United States Treasury Department guidance indicates that our ADSs (which are listed on the NASDAQ), but not our common shares, are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States. Thus, we do not believe that dividends that we pay on our common shares that are not backed by ADSs currently meet the conditions required for these reduced tax rates. Non-corporate holders that do not meet a minimum holding period requirement during which they are not protected from the risk of loss or that elect to treat the dividend income as "investment income" pursuant to Section 163(d)(4) of the Code will not be eligible for the reduced rates of taxation regardless of our status as a qualified foreign corporation. In addition, the rate reduction will not apply to dividends if the recipient of a dividend is obligated to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property. This disallowance applies even if the minimum holding period has been met.

The amount of any dividend paid in Pesos will equal the U.S. Dollar value of the Pesos received calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the date the dividend is actually or constructively received by you in the case of common shares, or by the Depositary, in the case of ADSs, regardless of whether the Pesos are converted into U.S. Dollars. If the Pesos received are not converted into U.S. Dollars on the day of receipt, you will have a basis in the Pesos equal to their U.S. Dollar value on the date of receipt. Any gain or loss you realize on a subsequent conversion or other disposition of the Pesos will be treated as United States source ordinary income or loss.

Subject to certain significant conditions and limitations, Argentine tax withheld from dividends, if any, may be treated as foreign income tax eligible for credit or deduction against your United States federal income tax liability. For purposes of the foreign tax credit, dividends paid on the common shares or ADSs will be treated as income from sources outside the United States and will generally constitute passive category income. Further, in certain circumstances, if you have held ADSs or common shares for less than a specified minimum period during which you are not protected from risk of loss, or are obligated to make payments related to the dividends, you will not be allowed a foreign tax credit for foreign taxes imposed on dividends paid on ADSs or common shares. The rules governing the foreign tax credit are complex. Investors are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the availability of the foreign tax credit under their particular circumstances.

To the extent that the amount of any distribution (including amounts withheld to reflect Argentine withholding taxes, if any) exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits for a taxable year, as determined under United States federal income tax principles, the distribution will first be treated as a tax-free return of capital, causing a reduction in the adjusted basis of the ADSs or common shares, and the balance in excess of adjusted basis will be taxed as capital gain recognized on a sale or exchange. However, we do not expect to keep earnings and profits in accordance with United States federal income tax principles. Therefore, you should expect that a distribution will generally be treated as a dividend (as discussed above).

## **Taxation of Capital Gains**

Subject to the discussion under “Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules” below, upon the sale, exchange or other disposition of common shares or ADSs, you generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference between the U.S. Dollar value of the amount realized upon the sale, exchange or other disposition and the adjusted tax basis of the common shares or ADSs, determined in U.S. Dollars. The capital gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if at the time of sale, exchange or other disposition you have held the common shares or ADSs for more than one year. Capital gains of individuals derived with respect to capital assets held for more than one year are eligible for reduced rates of taxation. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations. Any gain or loss you recognize will generally be treated as United States source gain or loss. Consequently, you may not be able to use the foreign tax credit arising from any Argentine tax imposed on the disposition of a common share or ADS unless such credit can be applied (subject to applicable limitations) against tax due on other income treated as derived from foreign sources.

## **Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules**

Based on the current composition of our income and the valuation of our assets, including goodwill, we do not believe we were a passive foreign investment company (“PFIC”) for United States federal income tax purposes for the taxable year ending June 30, 2012, and we do not currently expect to become a PFIC, although there can be no assurance in this regard. The determination of whether we are a PFIC is made annually. Accordingly, it is possible that we may be a PFIC in the current or any future taxable year due to changes in our asset or income composition or if our projections are not accurate. The volatility and instability of Argentina’s economic and financial system may substantially affect the composition of our income and assets. In addition, this determination is based on the interpretation of certain U.S. Treasury regulations relating to rental income, which regulations are potentially subject to differing interpretation.

In general, we will be a PFIC for any taxable year in which, either (i) at least 75% of the gross income of our company for the taxable year is passive income or (ii) at least 50% of the value (determined on the basis of a quarterly average) of our assets is attributable to assets that produce or are held for the production of passive income. For this purpose, passive income generally includes dividends, interest, royalties and rents (other than royalties and rents derived in the active conduct of a trade or business and not derived from a related person), annuities and gains from assets that produce passive income. If we own at least 25% by value of the stock of another corporation, we will be treated for purposes of the PFIC tests as owning a proportionate share of the assets of the other corporation, and as receiving directly a proportionate share of the other corporation’s income.

If we are a PFIC for any taxable year during which you hold common shares or ADSs in our company, unless you make the mark-to-market election discussed below, you will be subject to special tax rules discussed below.

If we are a PFIC for any taxable year during which you hold our common shares or ADSs, you will be subject to special tax rules with respect to any “excess distribution” received and any gain realized from a sale or other disposition, including a pledge, of such common shares or ADSs. Distributions received in a taxable year that are greater than 125% of the average annual distributions received during the shorter of the three preceding taxable years or your holding period for the common shares or ADSs will be treated as excess distributions. Under these special tax rules (i) the excess distribution or gain will be allocated ratably over your holding period for the common shares or ADSs, (ii) the amount allocated to the current taxable year, and any taxable year prior to the first taxable year in which we were a PFIC, will be treated as ordinary income, and (iii) the amount allocated to each other year will be subject to tax at the highest tax rate in effect for that year and the interest charge generally applicable to underpayments of tax will be imposed on the resulting tax attributable to each such year.

If we are a PFIC for any taxable year during which you hold our common shares or ADSs and any of our non-United States subsidiaries is also a PFIC, a U.S. Holder would be treated as owning a proportionate amount (by value) of the common shares of the lower tier PFIC for purposes of the application of these rules. You are urged to consult your tax advisors about the application of the PFIC rules to any of our subsidiaries.

In addition, non-corporate U.S. Holders will not be eligible for reduced rates of taxation on any dividends received from us before January 1, 2013, if we are a PFIC in the taxable year in which such dividends are paid or in the preceding taxable year.

In certain circumstances, in lieu of being subject to the excess distribution rules discussed above, you may make an election to include gain on the stock of a PFIC as ordinary income under a mark-to-market method provided that such stock is regularly traded on a qualified exchange. Under current law, the mark-to-market election is only available for stock traded on certain designated United States exchanges and foreign exchanges which meet certain trading, listing, financial disclosure and other requirements to be treated as a qualified exchange under applicable United States Treasury regulations. Consequently, the mark-to-market election may be available to you with respect to the ADSs because the ADSs are listed on the NASDAQ, which constitutes a qualified exchange under the regulations, although there can be no assurance that the ADSs will be regularly traded. You should note that only the ADSs and not the common shares are listed on the NASDAQ. The common shares are listed on the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange. Consequently, the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange would also need to meet the trading, listing, financial disclosure and other requirements of the United States Treasury regulations. The ADSs or common shares would also need to be regularly traded on such exchanges in order for the ADSs or common shares to be potentially eligible for the mark-to-market election.

If we are a PFIC in any taxable year in which you hold our common shares or ADSs, but you do not make a mark-to-market election until a subsequent taxable year, you will be subject to special rules in the taxable year of the election. You should consult your own tax advisors regarding the application of the mark-to-market election in your particular situation.

If you make an effective mark-to-market election, you will include in income each year that we are a PFIC as ordinary income, rather than capital gain, the excess, if any, of the fair market value of your common shares or ADSs at the end of the taxable year over your adjusted tax basis in the common shares or ADSs and will be permitted an ordinary loss in respect of the excess, if any, of the adjusted basis of such common shares or ADSs over their fair market value at the end of each such taxable year, but only to the extent of the net amount previously included in income as a result of the mark-to-market election. Your basis in the common shares or ADSs will be adjusted to reflect any such income or loss amounts. Any gain or loss on the sale of the common shares or ADSs will be ordinary income or loss, except that such loss will be ordinary loss only to the extent of the previously included net mark-to-market gain.

If you make a mark-to-market election it will be effective for the taxable year for which the election is made and all subsequent taxable years unless the common shares or ADSs are no longer regularly traded on a qualified exchange or the Internal Revenue Service consents to the revocation of the election. Under proposed Treasury regulations, mark-to-market inclusions and deductions will be suspended during taxable years in which we are not a PFIC, but would resume if we subsequently become a PFIC. You are urged to consult your own tax advisor about the availability of making such a mark-to-market election.

Alternatively, a United States Holder of common shares or ADSs in a PFIC can sometimes avoid the rules described above by electing to treat the company as a “qualified electing fund” under Section 1295 of the Code. This option is not available to you because we do not intend to comply with the requirements necessary to permit you to make this election.

A United States Holder who owns common shares or ADSs during any year that we are a PFIC must file IRS Form 8621.

You should consult your own tax advisors concerning the United States federal income tax consequences of holding the common shares or ADSs if we are considered a PFIC in any taxable year.

#### **Argentine Personal Assets Tax**

Amounts paid on account of the Argentine Personal Assets Tax, if any, will not be eligible as a credit against your United States federal income tax liability, but may be deductible subject to applicable limitations in the Code.

#### **Information Reporting and Backup Withholding**

In general, information reporting requirements will apply to distributions on common shares or ADSs and to the proceeds of sale of a common share or ADS paid to you within the United States (and in certain cases, outside the United States), unless you are an exempt recipient. Backup withholding may apply to such payments if you fail to provide a correct taxpayer identification number or certification of other exempt status or fail to report in full dividend and interest income.

Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules will be allowed as a refund or a credit against your United States federal income tax liability provided you furnish the required information to the Internal Revenue Service.

#### **Argentine Taxation**

The following discussion is a summary of certain Argentine tax considerations associated with an investment in, ownership or disposition of, the common share rights, the ADS rights, the common shares, or the ADSs by (i) an individual holder that is resident in Argentina, (ii) an individual holder that is neither domiciled nor resident in Argentina, (iii) a legal entity organized under the laws of Argentina, (iv) a permanent establishment in Argentina of a foreign entity and (v) a legal entity that is not organized under the laws of Argentina that does not have a permanent establishment in Argentina and is not otherwise doing business in Argentina on a regular basis. The discussion is for general information only and is based on current Argentine tax laws. Moreover, while this summary is considered to be a correct interpretation of existing laws in force as of the date of this filing, no assurance can be given that the courts or administrative authorities responsible for the administration of such laws will agree with this interpretation or that changes in such laws or interpretations will not occur.

#### **PROSPECTIVE INVESTORS ARE URGED TO CONSULT THEIR OWN TAX ADVISOR REGARDING THE PARTICULAR TAX CONSEQUENCES ARISING UNDER ANY TAXING JURISDICTION.**

#### **Taxation of Dividends**

Dividends, either in cash, common shares, or kind approved by our shareholders are currently exempt from Argentine withholding or other taxes.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, according to Argentine law, income tax will be applied to the amount of dividends distributed in excess of a company's net taxable income determined in accordance with general income tax regulations for the fiscal years preceding the date of the distribution of such dividends. The legislation requires that companies withhold 35% of the amount of distributed dividends in excess of the net taxable income of such distribution, as determined in accordance with the income tax law. The withholding would not be applied to the payment of future dividends derived out of retained earnings obtained in the fiscal years ended prior to December 30, 1998. Dividends distributed by an Argentine company are not subject to this tax to the extent that those dividends arise from dividend income or other distributions received by such company from other Argentine companies.

#### **Taxation of Capital Gains**

Due to certain amendments made to the Argentine Income Tax Law, it is not entirely clear whether certain amendments concerning payment of income tax on capital gains arising from the sale, exchange, or other disposition of common shares are in effect or not. Although Opinion No. 351 of the National Treasury General Attorney Office clarified the legal status of certain matters affecting the tax treatment of capital gains certain issues still remain unclear.

Decree No. 2284/1991 establishes that foreign holders without a permanent establishment in Argentina are not subject to taxation on capital gains derived from the sale or other form of disposition of the shares.

#### **Resident individuals**

Under what we believe to be a reasonable interpretation of existing applicable tax laws and regulations: (i) income derived from the sale, exchange or other disposition of common share rights, ADS rights, common shares, or ADSs by resident individuals who do not sell or dispose of Argentine common shares on a regular basis would not be subject to Argentine income tax, and (ii) although there still exists uncertainty regarding this issue, income derived from the sale, exchange or other disposition of common share rights, ADS rights, common shares, or ADSs by resident individuals who sell or disposes of Argentine common shares on a regular basis should be exempt from Argentine Income Tax.

#### **Foreign beneficiaries**

Capital gains obtained by nonresidents or foreign entities from the sale, exchange or other disposition of common share rights, ADS rights, common shares or ADSs are exempt from income tax. Pursuant to a reasonable interpretation of existing applicable laws and regulations, and although the matter is not completely free from doubt, such treatment should also apply to those foreign beneficiaries that qualify as "offshore entities" for Argentine tax law purposes. For this purpose, an offshore entity is any foreign legal entity which pursuant to its by-laws or to the applicable regulatory framework: (i) its principal activity is to invest outside the jurisdiction of its incorporation and/or (ii) cannot perform in such jurisdiction certain transactions.

#### **Local entities**

Capital gains obtained by Argentine entities (generally entities organized or incorporated under Argentine law, certain traders and intermediaries, local branches of non-Argentine entities, sole proprietorships and individuals carrying on certain commercial activities in Argentina) derived from the sale, exchange or other disposition of common share rights, ADS rights, common shares or ADSs are subject to income tax at the rate of 35%. Losses arising from the sale of common share rights, ADS rights, common shares, or ADSs can be applied only to offset such capital gains arising from sales of common share rights, ADS rights, common shares or ADSs.

#### **WE RECOMMEND PROSPECTIVE INVESTORS TO CONSULT THEIR OWN TAX ADVISOR REGARDING THE PARTICULAR TAX CONSEQUENCES CONCERNING THE SALE OR OTHER DISPOSITIONS OF THE COMMON SHARES OR ADSs.**

#### **Value Added Tax**

The sale, exchange, disposition, or transfer of common share rights, ADS rights, common shares, or ADSs is not subject to Value Added Tax.

#### **Personal Assets Tax**

Law No. 25,585 issued on April 24, 2002 and published in the Official Gazette on May 15, 2002 (and applicable to personal assets held as of December 31, 2002) introduces amendments to Law No. 23,966 and imposes the personal assets tax on common shares and ADSs held by individuals and undivided estates domiciled or located in Argentina or abroad and legal entities not domiciled in Argentina, separately from other assets.

This amendment imposes the obligation to pay the personal assets tax on the Argentine private issuer of the common shares and ADSs, and authorizes it to seek recovery of the amount so paid, without limitation, by way of withholding or by foreclosing on the assets that gave rise to such payment. The tax is levied on the proportional equity value of the common shares as reflected in the most recent balance sheet closed as of December 31 of the taxable year, at the rate of 0.5% without any non-taxable minimum being applicable.

Our shareholders approved the absorption of personal asset tax by us for the years 2002 to 2011. There can be no assurance that in the future this tax will be absorbed by us.

#### **Tax on Minimum Notional Income (*Impuesto a la Ganancia Mínima Presunta, "IGMP"*)**

Companies domiciled in Argentina, partnerships, foundations, sole proprietorships, trusts, certain mutual funds organized in Argentina, and permanent business establishments owned by foreign persons, among other taxpayers, shall apply a 1% rate to the total value of assets held by such persons, above an aggregate nominal amount of Ps.200,000. Nevertheless, common shares and ADSs issued by entities subject to such tax are exempt from paying the IGMP.

#### **Gross Income Tax**

The gross income tax is a local tax; therefore, the rules of the relevant provincial jurisdiction should be considered, which may levy this tax on the purchase and sale, exchange or other disposition of common share rights, ADS rights, common shares, or ADSs, and/or the collection of dividends at an average rate of 6%, unless an exemption is applicable. In the particular case of the City of Buenos Aires, any transaction involving common shares and/or the collection of dividends and revaluations is exempt from this tax.

There is no gross profit tax withholding system applicable to the payments made to foreign beneficiaries.

#### **Stamp Tax**

The stamp tax is a local tax that is generally levied on the instrumentation of onerous acts executed within a certain provincial jurisdiction or outside a certain provincial jurisdiction but with effects in such jurisdiction; therefor, the rules of the relevant provincial jurisdiction should be considered for the issuance of instruments which implement onerous transactions (including issuance, subscription, placement and transfer) involving the common share rights, ADS rights, common shares or ADSs, executed in those jurisdictions, or with effects in those jurisdictions.

Notwithstanding, for the City of Buenos Aires, any instrument related to the transfer of shares which public offering is authorized by Comision Nacional de Valores is exempt from this tax.

#### **Tax on Credits and Debits in Bank Accounts**

This tax is levied upon debits and credits in bank accounts and upon other transactions which, due to their special nature and characteristics, are similar or could be used in substitution for a checking account, such as payments on behalf of or in the name of third parties, procedures for the collection of securities or documents, drafts and transfers of funds made by any means, when these transactions are performed by local banks.

The tax law and its regulations provide several exemptions to this tax. For example, it does not apply to entities recognized as exempt from income tax, to debits and credits relating to salaries, to retirement and pension emoluments credited directly by banking means and withdrawals made in connection with such credits and to credits in checking accounts originating from bank loans.

The general rate of the tax is 0.6%. An increased rate of 1.2% applies in cases in which there has been a substitution for the use of a checking account.

Pursuant to Argentine Regulatory Executive Branch Decree 380/2001, as amended, 34% of the tax paid on credits levied at the 0.6% rate and 17% of the tax paid on transactions levied at the 1.2% rate can be used, to its exhaustion, as a credit against income tax, tax on minimum notional income and/or the special contribution on cooperative capital.