

level could be reduced if it becomes necessary for the directors to exercise these powers in the circumstances described above. The decision to make any such reduction or to change the Permitted Maximum from time to time will be published in at least one national newspaper in Ireland and in any country in which the Ordinary Shares or ADRs are listed. The relevant notice will specify the provisions of the Articles that apply to Restricted Shares and the name of the person or persons who will answer queries relating to Restricted Shares on behalf of Ryanair Holdings. The directors shall publish information as to the number of shares held by EU nationals annually.

In an effort to increase the percentage of its share capital held by EU nationals, on June 26, 2001, Ryanair Holdings instructed The Bank of New York, the depository for its ADR program, to suspend the issuance of new ADSs in exchange for the deposit of Ordinary Shares until further notice to its shareholders. Holders of Ordinary Shares cannot convert their Ordinary Shares into ADRs during such suspension, and there can be no assurance that the suspension will ever be lifted.

As a further measure to increase the percentage of shares held by EU nationals, on February 7, 2002, the Company issued a notice to shareholders to the effect that any purchase of Ordinary Shares by a non-EU national after such date will immediately result in the issue of a Restricted Share Notice to such non-EU national Purchaser. The Restricted Share Notice compels the non-EU national purchaser to sell the Affected Shares to an EU national within 21 days of the date of issuance. In the event that any such non-EU national shareholder does not sell its shares to an EU national within the specified time period, the Company can then take legal action to compel such a sale. As a result, non-EU nationals are effectively barred from purchasing Ordinary Shares for as long as these restrictions remain in place. There can be no assurance that these restrictions will ever be lifted.

As of June 30, 2009, EU nationals owned at least 53.4% of Ryanair Holdings' Ordinary Shares (assuming conversion of all outstanding ADRs into Ordinary Shares). Ryanair continuously monitors the ownership status of its Ordinary Shares, which changes on a daily basis.

## **TAXATION**

### **Irish Tax Considerations**

The following is a discussion of certain Irish tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of Ordinary Shares or ADSs. This discussion is based upon tax laws and practice of Ireland at the date of this document, which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect. Particular rules may apply to certain classes of taxpayers (such as dealers in securities) and this discussion does not purport to deal with the tax consequences of purchase, ownership or disposition of the relevant securities for all categories of investors.

The discussion is intended only as a general guide based on current Irish law and practice and is not intended to be, nor should it be considered to be, legal or tax advice to any particular investor or stockholder. Accordingly, current stockholders or potential investors should satisfy themselves as to the overall tax consequences by consulting their own tax advisers.

*Dividends.* As discussed herein, it is not currently anticipated that Ryanair Holdings will pay dividends. However, if it does pay dividends or makes other relevant distributions, the following is relevant:

*Withholding Tax.* Unless exempted, a withholding at the standard rate of income tax (currently 20%) will apply to dividends or other relevant distributions paid by an Irish resident company. The withholding tax requirement will not apply to distributions paid to certain categories of Irish resident stockholders or to distributions paid to certain categories of non-resident stockholders.

The following Irish resident stockholders are exempt from withholding if they make to the Company, in advance of payment of any relevant distribution, an appropriate declaration of entitlement to exemption:

- Irish resident companies;
- Pension schemes approved by the Irish Revenue Commissioners ("Irish Revenue");
- Qualifying fund managers or qualifying savings managers;
- Personal Retirement Savings Account ("PRSA") administrators who receive the relevant distribution as income arising in respect of PRSA assets;
- Qualifying employee share ownership trusts;
- Collective investment undertakings;

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- Tax-exempt charities;
- Designated brokers receiving the distribution for special portfolio investment accounts;
- Any person who is entitled to exemption from income tax under Schedule F on dividends in respect of an investment in whole or in part of payments received in respect of a civil action or from the Personal Injuries Assessment Board for damages in respect of mental or physical infirmity;
- Certain qualifying trusts established for the benefit of an incapacitated individual and/or persons in receipt of income from such a qualifying trust;
- Any person entitled to exemption to income tax under Schedule F by virtue of Section 192(2) Taxes Consolidation Act ("TCA") 1997;
- Unit trusts to which Section 731(5)(a) TCA 1997 applies; and
- Certain Irish Revenue-approved amateur and athletic sport bodies.

The following non-resident stockholders are exempt from withholding if they make to the Company, in advance of payment of any dividend, an appropriate declaration of entitlement to exemption:

- Persons (other than a company) who (i) are neither resident nor ordinarily resident in Ireland and (ii) are resident for tax purposes in (a) a country which has signed a tax treaty with Ireland (a "tax treaty country") or (b) an EU member state other than Ireland;
- Companies not resident in Ireland which are resident in an EU member state or a tax treaty country, by virtue of the law of a tax treaty country or an EU member state, and are not controlled, directly or indirectly, by Irish residents;
- Companies not resident in Ireland which are directly or indirectly controlled by a person or persons who are, by virtue of the law of a tax treaty country or an EU member state, resident for tax purposes in a tax treaty country or an EU member state other than Ireland and which are not controlled directly or indirectly by persons who are not resident for tax purposes in a tax treaty country or EU member state;
- Companies not resident in Ireland the principal class of shares of which is substantially and regularly traded on a recognized stock exchange in a tax treaty country or an EU member state including Ireland or on an approved stock exchange; or
- Companies not resident in Ireland that are 75% subsidiaries of a single company, or are wholly-owned by two or more companies, in either case the principal classes of shares of which is or are substantially and regularly traded on a recognized stock exchange in a tax treaty country or an EU member state including Ireland or on an approved stock exchange.

In the case of a non-resident stockholder resident in an EU member state or tax treaty country, the declaration must be accompanied by a current certificate of tax residence from the tax authorities in the stockholder's country of residence. In addition, in the case of non-resident companies that are tax residents of an EU member state other than Ireland or a tax treaty country or non-resident companies controlled by residents of an EU member state including Ireland or of a tax treaty country or the shares of which are substantially and regularly traded on a stock exchange in an EU member state other than Ireland or a tax treaty country, certain certification by their auditors is required. The declaration also must contain an undertaking by the non-resident or non-ordinarily resident person that he, she or it will advise the relevant person accordingly if he, she or it ceases to be a non-resident or non-ordinary resident. No declaration is required if the stockholder is a 5% parent company in another EU member state pursuant to the EC Parents-Subsidiary Directive. Neither is a declaration required on the payment by a company resident in Ireland to another company so resident if the company making the dividend is a 51% subsidiary of that other company.

*American Depositary Receipts.* Special arrangements with regard to the dividend withholding tax obligation apply in the case of Irish companies using ADRs through U.S. depositary banks that have been authorized by the Irish Revenue. Such banks, which receive dividends from the company and pass them on to the U.S. ADS holders beneficially entitled to such dividends, will be allowed to receive and pass on the gross dividends (i.e., before withholding) based on an "address system" where the recorded addresses of such holder, as listed in the depositary bank's register of depositary receipts, is in the United States.

*Taxation on Dividends.* Companies resident in Ireland other than those taxable on receipt of dividends as trading income are exempt from corporation tax on distributions received on Ordinary Shares from other Irish resident companies. Stockholders that are "close" companies for Irish taxation purposes may, however, be subject to a 20% corporation tax surcharge on undistributed investment income.

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Individual stockholders who are resident or ordinarily resident in Ireland are subject to income tax on the gross dividend at their marginal tax rate, but are entitled to a credit for the tax withheld by the company paying the dividend. The dividend will also be subject to the new income tax levy. An individual stockholder who is not liable or not fully liable for income tax by reason of exemption or otherwise may be entitled to receive an appropriate refund of tax withheld. A charge to Irish social security taxes/levies can also arise for such individuals on the amount of any dividend received from the Company.

Except in certain circumstances, a person who is neither resident nor ordinarily resident in Ireland and is entitled to receive dividends without deductions is not liable for Irish tax on the dividends. Where a person who is neither resident nor ordinarily resident in Ireland is subject to withholding tax on the dividend received due to not benefiting from any exemption from such withholding, the amount of that withholding will generally satisfy such person's liability for Irish tax.

**Capital Gains Tax.** A person who is either resident or ordinarily resident in Ireland will generally be liable for Irish capital gains tax on any gain realized on the disposal of the Ordinary Shares or ADSs. The current capital gains tax rate is 25%. A person who is neither resident nor ordinarily resident in Ireland and who does not carry on a trade in Ireland through a branch or agency will not be subject to Irish capital gains tax on the disposal of the Ordinary Shares or ADSs.

**Irish Capital Acquisitions Tax.** A gift or inheritance of the Ordinary Shares or ADSs will be within the charge to Irish Capital Acquisitions Tax ("CAT") notwithstanding that the disposer (e.g., a donor) or the donee/successor in relation to such gift or inheritance is resident outside Ireland. CAT is charged at a rate of 25% above a tax-free threshold. This tax-free threshold is determined by the amount of the current benefit and of previous benefits taken since December 5, 1991, as relevant, within the charge to CAT and the relationship between the donor and the successor or donee. Gifts and inheritances between spouses (and in certain cases former spouses) are not subject to CAT.

In a case where an inheritance or gift of the Ordinary Shares or ADSs is subject to both Irish CAT and foreign tax of a similar character, the foreign tax paid may in certain circumstances be credited in whole or in part against the Irish tax.

**Irish Stamp Duty.** It is assumed for the purposes of this paragraph that ADSs are dealt in on a recognized stock exchange in the United States (the Nasdaq is a recognized stock exchange in the United States for this purpose). Under current Irish law, no stamp duty will be payable on the acquisition of ADSs by persons purchasing such ADSs or on any subsequent transfer of ADSs. A transfer of Ordinary Shares (including transfers effected through Euroclear U.K. & Ireland Limited) wherever executed and whether on sale, in contemplation of a sale or by way of a gift, will be subject to duty at the rate of 1% of the consideration given or, in the case of a gift or if the purchase price is inadequate or unascertainable, on the market value of the Ordinary Shares. Transfers of Ordinary Shares that are not liable for duty at the rate of 1% (e.g., transfers under which there is no change in beneficial ownership) may be subject to a fixed duty of €12.50.

The Irish Revenue treats a conversion of Ordinary Shares to ADSs made in contemplation of a sale or a change in beneficial ownership (under Irish law) as an event subject to stamp duty at a rate of 1%. The Irish Revenue has indicated that a re-conversion of ADSs to Ordinary Shares made in contemplation of a sale or a change in beneficial ownership (under Irish law) will not be subject to a stamp duty. However, the subsequent sale of the re-converted Ordinary Shares will give rise to Irish stamp duty at the 1% rate. If the transfer of the Ordinary Shares is a transfer under which there is no change in the beneficial ownership (under Irish law) of the Ordinary Shares being transferred, nominal stamp duty only will be payable on the transfer. Under Irish law, it is not clear whether the mere deposit of Ordinary Shares for ADSs or ADSs for Ordinary Shares would be deemed to constitute a change in beneficial ownership. Accordingly, it is possible that holders would be subject to stamp duty at the 1% rate when merely depositing Ordinary Shares for ADSs or ADSs for Ordinary Shares and, consequently, the Depositary reserves the right in such circumstances to require payment of stamp duty at the rate of 1% from the holders.

The person accountable for payment of stamp duty is the transferee or, in the case of a transfer by way of a gift or for a consideration less than the market value, all parties to the transfer. Stamp duty is normally payable within 30 days after the date of execution of the transfer. Late or inadequate payment of stamp duty will result in liability for interest, penalties and fines.

## United States Tax Considerations

Except as described below under the heading “Non-U.S. Holders,” the following is a summary of certain U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to the purchase, ownership and disposition of Ordinary Shares or ADRs by a holder that is a citizen or resident of the United States, a U.S. domestic corporation or otherwise subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis in respect of the Ordinary Shares or the ADRs (“U.S. Holders”). This summary does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all of the tax considerations that may be relevant to a decision to purchase the Ordinary Shares or the ADRs. In particular, the summary deals only with U.S. Holders that will hold Ordinary Shares or ADRs as capital assets and generally does not address the tax treatment of U.S. Holders that may be subject to special tax rules such as banks, insurance companies, dealers in securities or currencies, traders in securities electing to mark to market, persons that own 10% or more of the stock of the Company, U.S. Holders whose “functional currency” is not U.S. dollars or persons that hold the Ordinary Shares or the ADRs as part of an integrated investment (including a “straddle”) consisting of the Ordinary Shares or the ADRs and one or more other positions.

Holders of the Ordinary Shares or the ADRs should consult their own tax advisors as to the U.S. or other tax consequences of the purchase, ownership, and disposition of the Ordinary Shares or the ADRs in light of their particular circumstances, including, in particular, the effect of any foreign, state or local tax laws.

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, holders of the ADRs will be treated as the owners of the Ordinary Shares represented by those ADRs.

**Taxation of Dividends.** Dividends, if any, paid with respect to the Ordinary Shares, including Ordinary Shares represented by ADRs, will be included in the gross income of a U.S. Holder when the dividends are received by the holder or the Depositary. Such dividends will not be eligible for the “dividends received” deduction allowed to U.S. corporations in respect of dividends from a domestic corporation. Dividends paid in Euro will be includible in the income of a U.S. Holder in a U.S. dollar amount calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the day they are received by the holder or the Depositary. U.S. Holders generally should not be required to recognize any foreign currency gain or loss to the extent such dividends paid in Euro are converted into U.S. dollars immediately upon receipt.

Subject to certain exceptions for short-term and hedged positions, the U.S. dollar amount of dividends received by an individual prior to January 1, 2011 with respect to the Ordinary Shares or ADRs will be subject to taxation at a maximum rate of 15% if the dividends are “qualified dividends.” Dividends paid on the Ordinary Shares or ADRs will be treated as qualified dividends if (i) the issuer is eligible for the benefits of a comprehensive income tax treaty with the United States that the Internal Revenue Service has approved for the purposes of the qualified dividend rules and (ii) the Company was not, in the year prior to the year in which the dividend was paid, and is not, in the year in which the dividend is paid, a passive foreign investment company (a “PFIC”). The income tax treaty between Ireland and the United States has been approved for the purposes of the qualified dividend rules. Based on the Company’s audited financial statements and relevant market data, the Company believes that it was not treated as a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes with respect to its 2008/9 taxable year. In addition, based on the Company’s audited financial statements and its current expectations regarding the value and nature of its assets, the sources and nature of its income, and relevant market data, the Company does not anticipate becoming a PFIC for its 2009/10 taxable year.

Under the U.S.-Ireland Income Tax Treaty currently in effect, in the event the Company were to pay any dividend, the tax credit attaching to the dividend (as used herein the “Tax Credit”; see “—Irish Tax Considerations”) generally will be treated as a foreign income tax eligible for credit against such U.S. Holder’s United States federal income tax liability, subject to generally applicable limitations and conditions. Any such dividend paid by the Company to such U.S. Holder will constitute income from sources outside the United States for foreign tax credit purposes, and generally will constitute “passive category” income for such purposes.

Foreign tax credits may not be allowed for withholding taxes imposed in respect of certain short-term or hedged positions in securities.

U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors concerning the implications of these rules in light of their particular circumstances.

Distributions of Ordinary Shares that are made as part of a *pro rata* distribution to all stockholders generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax.