

## E. Taxation

### Dutch Taxation

The statements below represent a summary of current Dutch tax laws, regulations and judicial interpretations thereof. The description is limited to the material tax implications for a holder of ordinary shares who is not, or is not deemed to be, a resident of the Netherlands for Dutch tax purposes (a “Non-resident Holder”). This summary does not address special rules that may apply to special classes of holders of ordinary shares and should not be read as extending by implication to matters not specifically referred to herein. As to individual tax consequences, each investor in ordinary shares should consult his or her tax counsel.

#### *General*

The acquisition of ordinary shares by a non-resident of the Netherlands should not be treated as a taxable event for Dutch tax purposes. The income consequences in connection with owning and disposing of our ordinary shares are discussed below.

#### *Substantial Interest*

A person that, (inter alia) directly or indirectly, owns 5.0 percent or more of our share capital, owns profit participating rights that correspond to at least 5.0 percent of the annual profits of a Dutch company or to at least 5.0 percent of the profits made on liquidation of such company, or who is entitled to 5.0 percent of the voting power in the shareholders meeting, or holds options to purchase 5.0 percent or more of our share capital, is deemed to have a substantial interest in our shares, or our options, as applicable. Specific rules apply in case the partner or certain family members of the Non-resident hold a substantial interest. A deemed substantial interest also exists if (part of) a substantial interest has been disposed of, or is deemed to be disposed of, in a transaction where no taxable gain has been recognized. Special attribution rules exist in determining the presence of a substantial interest.

#### *Income Tax Consequences for Individual Non-resident Holders on Owning and Disposing of the Ordinary Shares*

An individual who is a Non-resident Holder will not be subject to Dutch income tax on received income in respect of our ordinary shares or capital gains derived from the sale, exchange or other disposition of our ordinary shares, provided that such holder:

- Does not carry on and has not carried on a business in the Netherlands through a permanent establishment or a permanent representative to which the ordinary shares are attributable;
- Does not hold and has not held a (deemed) substantial interest in our share capital or, in the event the Non-resident Holder holds or has held a (deemed) substantial interest in our share capital, such interest is, or was, a business asset in the hands of the holder;
- Does not share and has not shared directly (through the beneficial ownership of ordinary shares or similar securities) in the profits of an enterprise managed and controlled in the Netherlands which (is deemed to) own(s), or (is deemed to have) has owned, our ordinary shares;
- Does not carry out and has not carried out any activities which generate taxable profit or taxable wages to which the holding of our ordinary shares was connected;
- Does not carry out and has not carried out employment activities in the Netherlands, does not serve and has not served as a director or board member of any entity resident in the Netherlands, and does not serve and has not served as a civil servant of a Dutch public entity with which the holding of our ordinary shares is or was connected; and
- Is not an individual that has elected to be taxed as a resident of the Netherlands.

#### *Corporate Income Tax Consequences for Corporate Non-resident Holders*

Income derived from ordinary shares or capital gains derived from the sale, exchange or disposition of ordinary shares by a corporate Non-resident Holder is taxable if:

- The holder carries on a business in the Netherlands through a permanent establishment or a permanent agent in the Netherlands (Dutch enterprise) and the ordinary shares are attributable to this permanent establishment or permanent agent, unless the participation exemption (discussed below) applies; or
- The holder has a substantial interest in our share capital, which is not attributable to his enterprise; or
- Certain assets of the holder are deemed to be treated as a Dutch enterprise under Dutch tax law and the ordinary shares are attributable to this Dutch enterprise.

To qualify for the Dutch participation exemption, the holder must generally hold at least 5.0 percent of our nominal paid-in capital and meet certain other requirements.

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### *Dividend Withholding Tax*

In general, a dividend distributed by us in respect of our ordinary shares will be subject to a withholding tax imposed by the Netherlands at the statutory rate of 15.0 percent.

Dividends include:

- Dividends in cash and in kind;
- Deemed and constructive dividends;
- Consideration for the repurchase or redemption of ordinary shares (including a purchase by a direct or indirect ASML subsidiary) in excess of qualifying average paid-in capital unless such repurchase is made for temporary investment purposes or is exempt by law;
- Stock dividends up to their nominal value (unless distributed out of qualifying paid-in capital);
- Any (partial) repayment of paid-in capital not qualifying as capital for Dutch dividend withholding tax purposes; and
- Liquidation proceeds in excess of qualifying average paid-in capital for Dutch dividend withholding tax purposes.

A reduction of Dutch dividend withholding tax can be obtained if:

- The participation exemption applies and the ordinary shares are attributable to a business carried out in the Netherlands;
- The dividends are distributed to a qualifying EU corporate holder satisfying the conditions of the EU Parent-Subsidiary Directive; or
- The rate is reduced by a Tax Treaty.

A Non-resident Holder of ordinary shares can be eligible for a partial or complete exemption or refund of all or a portion of the above withholding tax under a Tax Treaty that is in effect between the Netherlands and the Non-resident Holder's country of residence. The Netherlands has concluded such treaties with the United States, Canada, Switzerland, Japan, most European Union member states, as well as many other countries. Under the Treaty between the United States and the Netherlands for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income (the "Tax Treaty"), dividends paid by us to a Non-resident Holder that is a resident of the United States as defined in the Tax Treaty (other than an exempt organization or exempt pension trust, as discussed below) are generally liable to 15.0 percent Dutch withholding tax or, in the case of certain United States corporate shareholders owning at least 10.0 percent of our voting power, a reduction to 5.0 percent, provided that the Holder does not have an enterprise or an interest in an enterprise that is, in whole or in part, carried on through a permanent establishment or permanent representative in the Netherlands to which the dividends are attributable. The Tax Treaty also provides for a dividend withholding tax exemption on dividends, but only for an 80.0 percent shareholder meeting all other requirements. The Tax Treaty provides for a complete exemption from tax on dividends received by exempt pension trusts and exempt organizations, as defined therein. Except in the case of exempt organizations, the reduced dividend withholding tax rate (or exemption from withholding) can be applied at the source upon payment of the dividends, provided that the proper forms have been filed in advance of the payment. Exempt organizations remain subject to the statutory withholding rate of 15.0 percent and are required to file for a refund of such withholding.

A Non-resident Holder may not claim the benefits of the Tax Treaty unless (i) he/she is a resident of the United States as defined therein, or (ii) he/she is deemed to be a resident on the basis of the provisions of article 24(4) of the Tax Treaty, and (iii) his or her entitlement to those benefits is not limited by the provisions of article 26 (limitation on benefits) of the Tax Treaty.

### *Dividend Stripping Rules*

Under Dutch tax legislation regarding anti-dividend stripping, no exemption from, or refund of, Dutch dividend withholding tax is granted if the recipient of dividends paid by us is not considered the beneficial owner of such dividends.

### *Gift or Inheritance Taxes*

Dutch gift or inheritance taxes will not be levied on the transfer of ordinary shares by way of gift, or upon the death of a Non-resident Holder, unless:

- (1) The transfer is construed as an inheritance or as a gift made by or on behalf of a person who, at the time of the gift or death, is deemed to be, resident of the Netherlands; or
- (2) The ordinary shares are attributable to an enterprise or part thereof that is carried on through a permanent establishment or a permanent representative in the Netherlands.

Gift tax and inheritance tax are levied on the beneficiary. For purposes of Dutch gift and inheritance tax, an individual of Dutch nationality is deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands if he has been a resident thereof at any time during

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the ten years preceding the time of the gift or death. For purposes of Dutch gift tax, a person not possessing Dutch nationality is deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands if he/she has resided therein at any time in the twelve months preceding the gift.

### *Value Added Tax*

No Dutch value added tax is imposed on dividends in respect of our ordinary shares or on the transfer of our shares.

### *Residence*

A Non-resident Holder will not become resident, or be deemed to be resident, in the Netherlands solely as a result of holding our ordinary shares or of the execution, performance, delivery and/or enforcement of rights in respect of our ordinary shares.

### *United States Taxation*

The following is a discussion of the material United States federal income tax consequences relating to the acquisition, ownership and disposition of ordinary shares by a United States Holder (as defined below) acting in the capacity of a beneficial owner who is not a tax resident of the Netherlands. This discussion deals only with ordinary shares held as capital assets and does not deal with the tax consequences applicable to all categories of investors, some of which (such as tax-exempt entities, financial institutions, regulated investment companies, dealers in securities/traders in securities that elect a mark-to-market method of accounting for securities holdings, insurance companies, investors owning directly, indirectly or constructively 10.0 percent or more of our outstanding voting shares, investors who hold ordinary shares as part of hedging or conversion transactions and investors whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar) may be subject to special rules. In addition, the discussion does not address any alternative minimum tax or any state, local, FIRPTA related United States federal income tax consequences, or non-United States tax consequences.

This discussion is based on the U.S.-Dutch Income Tax Treaty ("Treaty") and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended to the date hereof, final, temporary and proposed Treasury Department regulations promulgated, and administrative and judicial interpretations thereof, changes to any of which subsequent to the date hereof, possibly with retroactive effect, may affect the tax consequences described herein. In addition, there can be no assurance that the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") will not challenge one or more of the tax consequences described herein, and we have not obtained, nor do we intend to obtain, a ruling from the IRS or an opinion of counsel with respect to the United States federal income tax consequences of acquiring or holding shares. Prospective purchasers of ordinary shares are advised to consult their tax advisers with respect to their particular circumstances and with respect to the effects of United States federal, state, local or non-United States tax laws to which they may be subject.

As used herein, the term "United States Holder" means a beneficial owner of ordinary shares that for United States federal income tax purposes whose holding of ordinary shares does not form part of the business property or assets of a permanent establishment or fixed base in the Netherlands; who is fully entitled to the benefits of the Treaty in respect of such ordinary shares; and is:

- an individual citizen or tax resident of the United States;
- a corporation or other entity treated as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or of any political subdivision thereof;
- an estate of which the income is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- a trust whose administration is subject to the primary supervision of a court within the United States and which has one or more United States persons who have the authority to control all of its substantial decisions.

If an entity treated as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes owns ordinary shares, the United States federal income tax treatment of a partner in such partnership will generally depend upon the status and tax residency of the partner and the activities of the partnership. A partnership that owns ordinary shares and the partners in such partnership should consult their tax advisors about the United States federal income tax consequences of holding and disposing of the ordinary shares.

### *Passive Foreign Investment Company Considerations*

ASML believes it was not a Passive Foreign Investment Company ("PFIC") for U.S. federal income tax purposes in 2011 and that it will not be a PFIC in 2012. However, as PFIC status is a factual matter that must be determined annually at the close of each taxable year, there can be no certainty as to our actual PFIC status in any particular year until the close of the taxable year in question. ASML has not conducted a detailed study at this time to confirm its non- PFIC status. If ASML were treated as a PFIC in any year during which a United States Holder owns common shares, certain adverse tax consequences could apply. Investors should consult their tax advisors with respect to any PFIC considerations.

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### Taxation of Dividends

United States Holders should generally include in gross income as foreign-source dividend income the gross amount of any non-liquidating distribution (before reduction for Dutch withholding taxes) ASML makes out of its current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined for United States federal income tax purposes) when the distribution is actually or constructively received by the United States Holder. Distributions will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction generally allowed to United States corporations in respect of dividends received from other United States corporations. The amount of the dividend distribution includible in income of a United States Holder should be the U.S. dollar value of the foreign currency (e.g. euros) paid, determined by the spot rate of exchange on the date of the distribution, regardless of whether the payment is in fact converted into U.S. dollars. Distributions in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits, as determined for United States federal income tax purposes, will be treated as a non-taxable return of capital to the extent of the United States Holder's U.S. tax basis in the ordinary shares and thereafter as taxable capital gain. ASML presently does not maintain calculations of its earnings and profits under United States federal income tax principles. If ASML does not report to a United States Holder the portion of a distribution that exceeds earnings and profits, the distribution will generally be taxable as a dividend even if that distribution would otherwise be treated as a non-taxable return of capital or as capital gain under the rules described above.

Subject to limitations provided in the United States Internal Revenue Code, a United States Holder may generally deduct from its United States federal taxable income, or credit against its United States federal income tax liability, the amount of qualified Dutch withholding taxes. However, Dutch withholding tax may be credited only if the United States Holder does not claim a deduction for any Dutch or other non-United States taxes paid or accrued in that year. In addition, Dutch dividend withholding taxes will likely not be creditable against the United States Holder's United States tax liability to the extent ASML is not required to pay over the amount withheld to the Dutch Tax Administration. Currently, a Dutch corporation that receives dividends from qualifying non-Dutch subsidiaries may credit source country tax withheld from those dividends against Dutch withholding tax imposed on a dividend paid by a Dutch corporation, up to a maximum of 3.0 percent of the dividend paid by the Dutch corporation. The credit reduces the amount of dividend withholding that ASML is required to pay to the Dutch Tax Administration but does not reduce the amount of tax ASML is required to withhold from dividends.

For U.S. foreign tax credit purposes, dividends paid by ASML generally will be treated as foreign-source income and as "passive category income" (or in the case of certain holders, as "general category income"). Gains or losses realized by a United States Holder on the sale or exchange of ordinary shares generally will be treated as U.S.-source gain or loss. The rules governing the foreign tax credit are complex and we suggest that each United States Holder consult his or her own tax advisor to determine whether, and to what extent, a foreign tax credit will be available.

Dividends received by a United States Holder will generally be taxed at ordinary income tax rates. However, the Jobs and Growth Tax Reconciliation Act of 2003 and subsequently the Tax Increase and Prevention Act of 2006 reduce to 15.0 percent the maximum tax rate for certain dividends received by individuals through taxable years beginning on or before December 31, 2011, so long as the stock has been held for at least 60 days during the 121 day period beginning 60 days before the ex-dividend date. Dividends received from "qualified foreign corporations" generally qualify for the reduced rate. A non-United States corporation (other than a foreign personal holding company, foreign investment company, or passive foreign investment company) generally will be considered to be a qualified foreign corporation if: (i) the shares of the non-United States corporation are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States or (ii) the non-United States corporation is eligible for the benefits of a comprehensive income tax treaty with the United States that has been identified as a qualifying treaty and contains an exchange of information program. Individual United States Holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the impact of this provision on their particular situations.

Dividends paid by ASML generally will constitute "portfolio income" for purposes of the limitations on the use of passive activity losses (and, therefore, generally may not be offset by passive activity losses) and as "investment income" for purposes of the limitation on the deduction of investment interest expense.

### Taxation on Sale or Other Disposition of Ordinary Shares

Upon a sale or other disposition of ordinary shares, a United States Holder will generally recognize capital gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized, if paid in U.S. dollars, or the U.S. dollar value of the amount realized (determined at the spot rate on the settlement date of the sale) if proceeds are paid in currency other than the U.S. dollar, as the case may be, and the United States Holder's U.S. tax basis (determined in U.S. dollars) in such ordinary shares. Generally, the capital gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the holding period of the United States Holder in the ordinary shares exceeds one year at the time of the sale or other disposition. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations for United States federal income tax purposes. Gain or loss from the sale or other disposition of ordinary shares generally will be treated as United States source income or loss for United States foreign tax credit purposes. Generally, any gain or loss resulting from currency

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fluctuations during the period between the date of the sale of the ordinary shares and the date the sale proceeds are converted into U.S. dollars will be treated as ordinary income or loss from sources within the United States. Each United States Holder should consult his or her tax advisor with regard to the translation rules applicable when computing its adjusted U.S. tax basis and the amount realized upon a sale or other disposition of its ordinary shares if purchased in, or sold or disposed of for, a currency other than U.S. dollar.

### Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

Information returns may be filed with the IRS in connection with payments on the ordinary shares or proceeds from a sale, redemption or other disposition of the ordinary shares. A "backup withholding" tax may be applied to, and withheld from, these payments if the beneficial owner fails to provide a correct taxpayer identification number to the paying agent and to comply with certain certification procedures or otherwise establish an exemption from backup withholding. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules might be refunded (or credited against the beneficial owner's United States federal income tax liability, if any) depending on the facts and provided that the required information is furnished to the IRS.

The discussion set out above is included for general information only and may not be applicable depending upon a holder's particular situation. Holders should consult their tax advisors with respect to the tax consequences to them of the purchase, ownership and disposition of shares including the tax consequences under state, local and other tax laws and the possible effects of changes in United States federal and other tax laws.

## **F. Dividends and Paying Agents**

Not applicable.

## **G. Statement by Experts**

Not applicable.

## **H. Documents on Display**

We are subject to certain reporting requirements of the US Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"). As a "foreign private issuer", we are exempt from the rules under the Exchange Act prescribing certain disclosure and procedural requirements for proxy solicitations, and our officers, directors and principal shareholders are exempt from the reporting and "short-swing" profit recovery provisions contained in Section 16 of the Exchange Act, with respect to their purchases and sales of shares. In addition, we are not required to file reports and financial statements with the Commission as frequently or as promptly as companies that are not foreign private issuers whose securities are registered under the Exchange Act. However, we are required to file with the Commission, within four months after the end of each fiscal year, an annual report on Form 20-F containing financial statements audited by an independent accounting firm and interactive data comprising financial statements in extensible business reporting language which, with respect to our annual report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2011, should be furnished within 30 days [check timing requirements] of filing our annual report on Form 20-F. We publish unaudited interim financial information after the end of each quarter. We furnish this quarterly financial information to the Commission under cover of a Form 6-K.

Documents we file with the Commission are publicly available at its public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20549. The Commission also maintains a website that contains reports and other information regarding registrants that are required to file electronically with the Commission. The address of this website is [http:// www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). Please call the Commission at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference facilities.

## **I. Subsidiary Information**

See Item 4.C. "Organizational Structure".