

E. Taxation

The following summary contains a description of certain Brazilian and U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of common shares or ADSs, but it does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all the tax considerations that may be relevant to a decision to purchase common shares or ADSs. The summary is based upon the tax laws of Brazil and regulations thereunder and on the tax laws of the United States and regulations thereunder as in effect on the date hereof, which are subject to change. Prospective purchasers of common shares or ADSs should consult their own tax advisors as to the tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of common shares or ADSs.

Although there is at present no income tax treaty between Brazil and the United States, the tax authorities of the two countries have had discussions that may culminate in such a treaty. No assurance can be given, however, as to whether or when a treaty will enter into force or how it will affect the U.S. Holders (as defined below) of common

shares or ADSs. Prospective holders of common shares or ADSs should consult their own tax advisors as to the tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of common shares or ADSs in their particular circumstances.

Brazilian Tax Considerations

The following discussion summarizes the principal Brazilian tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of common shares or ADSs by a holder that is not domiciled in Brazil for purposes of Brazilian taxation (a "Non-Resident holder"). It is based on Brazilian law as currently in effect. Any change in that law may change the consequences described below.

The following discussion summarizes the principal tax consequences applicable under Brazilian law to a Non-Resident holder of common shares or ADSs in general and, therefore, does not specifically address all of the Brazilian tax considerations applicable to any particular Non-Resident holder. Each Non-Resident holder should consult its own tax adviser concerning the Brazilian tax consequences of an investment in common shares or ADSs. The tax consequences described below do not take into account tax treaties entered into by Brazil and other countries. Nevertheless, please note that Brazil has not entered into any tax treaty with the United States.

Income tax

Dividends. Dividends paid by a Brazilian corporation, such as our company, including stock dividends and other dividends paid to a Non-Resident holder of common shares or ADSs, are currently not subject to withholding income tax in Brazil, as far as such amounts are related to profits generated after January 1, 1996.

Interest on Shareholders' Equity. Law No. 9,249, dated December 26, 1995, as amended, permits a Brazilian corporation, such as our company, to make distributions to shareholders of interest on shareholders' equity. These distributions may be paid in cash. For tax purposes, this interest is limited to the daily pro rata variation of the TJLP, as determined by the Central Bank from time to time, and may not exceed the greater of:

- 50% of net income (after the deduction of the provisions for social contribution on net profits but before taking into account the provision for income tax and the interest on shareholders' equity) for the period in respect of which the payment is made; and
- 50% of the sum of retained profits and profit reserves as of the date of the beginning of the period in respect of which the payment is made.

Payment of interest to a Non-Resident holder is subject to withholding income tax at the rate of 15%, or 25% if the Non-Resident holder is domiciled in a tax haven—that is, a country or location that does not impose income tax or where the income tax rate is lower than 20% or where the local legislation imposes restrictions on disclosing the shareholding composition or the ownership of the investment ("Tax Haven Residents"). These payments may be included, at their net value, as part of any mandatory dividend. To the extent payment of interest on shareholders' equity is so included, the corporation is required to distribute to shareholders an additional amount to ensure that the net amount received by them, after payment of the applicable withholding income tax, plus the amount of declared dividends is at least equal to the mandatory dividend.

Gains

According to Law No. 10,833/03, the disposition of assets located in Brazil by a Non-Resident holder, whether to another non-Brazilian resident or to a Brazilian resident, may be subject to capital gain taxes in Brazil.

With respect to the disposition of the common shares, as they are assets located in Brazil, the Non-Resident holder may be subject to income tax on the gains assessed, following the rules described below, regardless of whether the transactions are conducted in Brazil or with a Brazilian resident.

As to the ADSs, although the matter is not free from doubt, arguably the gains realized by a Non-Resident holder on the disposition of ADSs to another Non-Resident holder are not taxed in Brazil, based on the argument that ADSs would not constitute assets located in Brazil for purposes of Law No. 10,833/03. However, we cannot assure you of how Brazilian courts would interpret the definition of assets located in Brazil in connection with the taxation of gains realized by a Non-Resident holder on the disposition of ADSs to another Non-Resident holder. As a result, gains on a disposition of ADSs by a Non-Resident holder to Brazilian residents, or even to Non-Resident holders in case

courts determine that ADSs would constitute assets located in Brazil, may be subject to income tax in Brazil according to the rules applicable to a disposition of common shares.

As a general rule, gains realized as a result of a disposition transaction of common shares or ADSs are the positive difference between the amount in reais realized on the sale or exchange of the security and the acquisition cost measured in reais (without correction for inflation).

Under Brazilian law, however, income tax rules on such gains can vary, depending on the domicile of the Non-Resident holder, the type of registration of the investment by the Non-Resident holder with the Central Bank and how the disposition is carried out, as described below.

Gains assessed by Non-Resident holders on a disposition of common shares carried out on the Brazilian stock exchange (which includes the transactions carried out on the organized over-the-counter market) are subject to the following rules:

- Gains are exempt from income tax when assessed by a Non-Resident holder that (1) has registered its investment in Brazil with the Central Bank under rules of Resolution No. 2,689/01 ("2,689 Holder") and (2) is not a Tax Haven Resident; or
- Gains are subject to income tax at a rate of 15% in any other case, including a case of gains assessed by a Non-Resident holder that is not a 2,689 Holder, or is a Tax Haven Resident. In these cases, a withholding income tax of 0.005% of the sale value will be applicable and can be later offset with the eventual income tax due on the capital gain.

Any other gains assessed on a disposition of the common shares that is not carried out on a Brazilian stock exchange are subject to income tax at the rate of 15%, except for Tax Haven Residents which, in this case, are subject to income tax at the rate of 25%. In the case that these gains are related to transactions conducted on the Brazilian non-organized over-the-counter market with intermediation, the withholding income tax of 0.005% shall also be applicable and can be offset against the eventual income tax due on the capital gain.

In the case of a redemption of common shares or ADSs or a capital reduction by a Brazilian corporation, such as our company, the positive difference between the amount received by the Non-Resident holder and the acquisition cost of the common shares or ADSs redeemed in reais is treated as capital gain derived from the sale or exchange of shares not carried out on a Brazilian stock exchange market and is therefore subject to income tax at the rate of 15%, or 25%, as the case may be.

Any exercise of preemptive rights relating to the common shares or ADSs will not be subject to Brazilian income tax. Gains realized by a Non-Resident holder on the disposition of preemptive rights in Brazil will be subject to Brazilian income tax according to the same rules applicable to the sale or disposition of common shares. As a Non-Resident holder of ADSs, you may cancel your ADSs and exchange them for common shares and no income tax may be levied on such exchange, as long as the appropriate rules are complied with in connection with the registration of the investment with the Central Bank.

The deposit of common shares by the Non-Resident holders in exchange for ADSs may be subject to Brazilian income tax if the acquisition cost of the common shares is lower than (a) the average price per common share on a Brazilian stock exchange on which the greatest number of such common shares were sold on the day of deposit; or (b) if no common shares were sold on that day, the average price on a Brazilian stock exchange on which the greatest number of common shares were sold in the 15 trading sessions immediately preceding such deposit. The difference between the acquisition cost and the average price of the common shares will be considered to be a capital gain subject to income tax at a rate of 15% or 25%, as the case may be. In some circumstances, there may be arguments to claim that this taxation is not applicable in the case of a Non-Resident holder that is a 2,689 Holder and is not a Tax Haven Resident.

There can be no assurance that the current favorable treatment of 2,689 Holders will continue in the future.

Tax on Foreign Exchange and Financial Transactions

Foreign Exchange Transactions. Brazilian law imposes a Tax on Foreign Exchange Transactions, or "IOF/Exchange Tax", on the conversion of reais into foreign currency and on the conversion of foreign currency into reais. Although the current applicable rate for almost all foreign currency exchange transactions is zero, the Ministry

of Finance is permitted to increase the rate at any time up to 25% on the foreign exchange transaction amount. However, any increase in rates is only authorized to apply to future transactions.

Tax on Transactions Involving Bonds and Securities. Brazilian law imposes a Tax on Transactions

Involving Bonds and Securities, or "IOF/Bonds Tax", due on transactions involving bonds and securities, including those carried out on a Brazilian stock exchange. The rate of IOF/Bonds Tax applicable to transactions involving common shares is currently zero, although the Minister of Finance is permitted to increase such rate at any time up to 1.5% of the transaction amount per day, but only in respect of future transactions.

Temporary Contribution on Financial Transactions

As a general rule, transactions carried out in Brazil that result in the transfer of reais from an account maintained with a Brazilian financial institution are subject to the Temporary Contribution on Financial Transactions, or "CPMF tax", at the rate of 0.38%. Therefore, transactions carried out by the depository or by a holder of common shares which involve the transfer of Brazilian currency through Brazilian financial institutions could be subject to the CPMF. Currently, funds transferred for the acquisition of shares on the Brazilian stock exchange and the remittance abroad of the proceeds earned from the disposition of shares in Brazil are exempt from the CPMF. The CPMF will be in effect until December 31, 2007. However, it may be extended. When applicable, the CPMF tax must be withheld from the amounts transferred from such account and must be collected in favor of the Brazilian government by the financial institution that carries out the relevant financial transaction.

Other Brazilian Taxes

There are no Brazilian inheritance, gift or succession taxes applicable to the ownership, transfer or disposition of common shares or ADSs, except for gift and inheritance taxes imposed by some Brazilian states on gifts or bequests by individuals or entities not domiciled or residing in Brazil to individuals or entities domiciled or residing within such states. There are no Brazilian stamp, issue, registration, or similar taxes or duties payable by holders of common shares or ADSs.

U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations

The following summary describes the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of our common shares and ADSs as of the date hereof. Except where noted, this summary deals only with U.S. Holders (as defined below) that hold our common shares or ADSs as capital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes (generally, property held for investment). As used in this summary, the term "U.S. Holder" means a beneficial holder of our common shares or ADSs that is for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- an individual citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation (or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) 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 U.S. 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.

For purposes of this discussion, a “non-U.S. Holder” means a beneficial holder of our common shares or ADSs that is neither a U.S. Holder nor a partnership or other pass-through entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

This summary does not represent a detailed description of the U.S. federal income tax consequences applicable to you if you are subject to special treatment under the U.S. federal income tax laws, including if you are:

- a broker-dealer;
- a bank or other financial institution;
- a regulated investment company;

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

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

If a partnership holds our common shares or ADSs, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon 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.

This summary does not contain a detailed description of all the U.S. federal income tax consequences to you in light of your particular circumstances and does not address the effects of any state, local or non- United States tax laws. If you are considering the purchase, ownership or disposition of our common shares or ADSs, you should consult your own tax advisors concerning the U.S. federal income tax consequences to you in light of your particular situation, as well as any consequences arising under the laws of any other taxing jurisdiction.

The U.S. Treasury has expressed concerns that parties to whom ADSs are released may be taking actions that are inconsistent with the claiming of foreign tax credits for United States holders of ADSs. These actions would also be inconsistent with the claiming of the reduced rate of tax (described below) applicable to dividends received by certain non-corporate holders. Accordingly, the analysis of the creditability of Brazilian taxes and the availability of the reduced tax rate for dividends received by certain non-corporate holders, each described below, could be affected by actions taken by parties to whom the ADSs are released.

Nature of ADSs for U.S. Federal Income Tax Purposes

If you hold ADSs, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, you generally will be treated as the owner of the underlying common shares that are represented by the ADSs. Accordingly, deposits or withdrawals of common shares for ADSs will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax.

Taxation of Dividends

U.S. Holders. Subject to the discussion under “—Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules” below, the gross amount of distributions on the ADSs or our common shares (including amounts withheld to reflect Brazilian withholding taxes and distributions of interest on shareholders’ equity, as described above under “—Brazilian Tax Considerations”) will be taxable as dividends, to the extent paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under U.S. 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 our common shares, or by the depository, 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

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received before January 1, 2011 from a qualified foreign corporation may be subject to reduced rates of taxation. Subject to certain limitations, 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, provided that the corporation was not, in the year prior to the year the dividend was paid, and is not, in the year the dividend is paid, a passive foreign investment company. The ADSs are listed on the New York Stock Exchange and will qualify as readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States, so long as they are so listed. We cannot assure you that the ADSs will be considered readily tradable on an established securities market in later years. Based on existing guidance, it is not entirely clear whether a dividend on a common share will be treated as a qualified dividend, because the common shares themselves are not listed on a U.S. exchange. Based on our audited financial statements, relevant market and shareholder data, and the projected composition of our income and valuation of our assets, including

goodwill, for 2008, we do not believe that we would be classified as a passive foreign investment company for U.S. federal income tax purposes for our 2006 or 2008 taxable years and we do not anticipate being classified as a passive foreign investment company for our 2008 taxable year. Given that the determination of passive foreign investment company status involves the application of complex tax rules, and that it is based on the nature of our income and assets from time to time, no assurances can be provided that we will not be considered a PFIC for the current (or any past or future) taxable year. 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 a dividend if the recipient of the 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 U.S. Treasury Department has announced its intention to promulgate rules pursuant to which holders of stock of non-U.S. corporations, and intermediaries through whom the stock is held, will be permitted to rely on certifications from issuers to establish that dividends are treated as qualified dividends. Because those procedures have not yet been issued, it is not clear whether we will be able to comply with them. Special limitations on foreign tax credits apply to qualified dividends subject to the reduced rate of tax. You should consult your own tax advisors regarding the application of the qualified dividend rules given your particular circumstances.

The amount of any dividend paid in reais will equal the U.S. dollar value of the reais received calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the date the dividend is received by you, in the case of common shares, or by the depository, in the case of ADSs, regardless of whether the reais are converted into U.S. dollars. If the reais received as a dividend are not converted into U.S. dollars on the date of receipt, you will have a basis in the reais equal to their U.S. dollar value on the date of receipt. Any gain or loss realized on a subsequent conversion or other disposition of the reais will be treated as U.S. source ordinary income or loss.

Subject to certain conditions and limitations, Brazilian withholding taxes on dividends will be treated as foreign taxes eligible for credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability. For purposes of calculating the foreign tax credit, dividends paid on the ADSs or our common shares will be treated as income from sources outside the United States and will generally constitute passive category income. In addition, 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 the ADSs or common shares. The rules governing the foreign tax credit are complex. You are urged to consult your tax advisors regarding the availability of the foreign tax credit under your particular circumstances. Instead of claiming a credit, you may, at your election, deduct such otherwise creditable Brazilian withholding taxes in computing your taxable income, subject to generally applicable limitations under U.S. law.

To the extent that the amount of any distribution (including amounts withheld to reflect Brazilian withholding taxes and distributions of interest on shareholders' equity, as described above under "Brazilian Tax Considerations") exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits for a taxable year, as determined under U.S. 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 (thereby increasing the amount of gain, or decreasing the amount of loss, to be recognized by you on a subsequent disposition 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 (as discussed below under "Taxation of Capital Gains"). Consequently, any distributions in excess of our current and accumulated earnings and profits would generally not give rise to income from sources outside the United States and you would

generally not be able to use the foreign tax credit arising from any Brazilian withholding tax imposed on such distributions unless such credit could be applied (subject to applicable limitations) against U.S. federal income tax due on other income from sources outside the United States in the appropriate category for foreign tax credit purposes. However, we do not expect to calculate earnings and profits in accordance with U.S. federal income tax principles. Therefore, you should assume that a distribution will generally be treated as a dividend (as discussed above).

Distributions of common shares or ADSs, or rights to subscribe for common shares or ADSs, that are received as part of a pro rata distribution to all of our shareholders generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax.

Non-U.S. Holders. A dividend paid to a Non-U.S. Holder on an ADS or common share will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax unless the dividend is effectively connected with the conduct of trade or business by the Non-U.S. Holder within the United States (and is attributable to a permanent establishment or fixed base the Non-U.S. Holder maintains in the United States if an applicable income tax treaty so requires as a condition for the Non-U.S. Holder to be subject to U.S. taxation on a net income basis on income from the ADS or common share). A Non-U.S. Holder generally will be subject to tax on an effectively connected dividend in the same manner as a U.S. holder. A corporate Non-U.S. Holder may also be subject under certain circumstances to an additional "branch profits tax," the rate of which may be reduced pursuant to an applicable income tax treaty.

Taxation of Capital Gains

U.S. Holders. For U.S. federal income tax purposes and subject to the discussion under "Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules" below, you will recognize taxable gain or loss on any sale, exchange or redemption of common shares or ADSs in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized for the common shares or ADSs and your tax basis in the common shares or ADSs, both determined in U.S. dollars. If a Brazilian tax is withheld on a sale or other disposition of a common share or ADS, the amount realized for U.S. federal income tax purposes will include the gross amount of the proceeds of that sale or disposition before deduction of the Brazilian tax. Such gain or loss will generally be capital gain or loss. Capital gains of non-corporate holders 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 recognized by you will generally be treated as U.S. source gain or loss. Consequently, you may not be able to use the foreign tax credit arising from any Brazilian tax imposed on the disposition of our common shares or ADSs unless such credit can be applied (subject to applicable limitations) against tax due on other income treated as derived from sources outside the United States in the appropriate category for foreign tax credit purposes.

Non-U.S. holders. A Non-U.S. Holder will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a gain recognized on a sale or other disposition of an ADS or common share unless (i) the gain is effectively connected with the conduct of trade or business by the Non-U.S. Holder within the United States (and is attributable to a permanent establishment or fixed base that the Non-U.S. Holder maintains in the United States if an applicable income tax treaty so requires as a condition for the Non-U.S. Holder to be subject to U.S. taxation on a net income basis on income from the ADS or common share), or (ii) in the case of a Non-U.S. Holder who is an individual, the holder is present in the United States for 183 or more days in the taxable year of the sale or other disposition and certain other conditions apply. Any effectively connected gain of a corporate Non-U.S. Holder may also be subject under certain circumstances to an additional "branch profits tax", the rate of which may be

reduced pursuant to an applicable income tax treaty.

Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules

A special set of U.S. federal income tax rules applies to U.S. Holders that hold shares in a passive foreign investment company ("PFIC"). As noted above, based on our audited financial statements, relevant market and shareholder data, and the projected composition of our income and valuation of our assets, including goodwill, for 2008, we do not believe that we would be classified as a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes for our 2006 or 2007 taxable years and we do not anticipate being classified as a PFIC for our 2008 taxable year. Given that the determination of passive foreign investment company status involves the application of complex tax rules, and that it is based on the nature of our income and assets from time to time, no assurances can be provided that we will not be considered a PFIC for the current (or any past or future) taxable year.

In general, we will be a PFIC for any taxable year in which:

- at least 75% of our gross income is passive income, or

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- at least 50% of the value (determined on a quarterly basis) of our assets is attributable to assets that produce or are held for the production of passive income.

For this purpose, cash is a passive asset and 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). 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 our proportionate share of the other corporation's assets and receiving our proportionate share of the other corporation's income.

The determination of whether we are a PFIC must be made annually. Accordingly, it is possible that we may become a PFIC in the current or any future taxable year due to changes in our income or asset composition. In addition, the composition of our income and assets will be affected by how, and how quickly, we invest the proceeds from any past or future equity or debt offerings. Because we have valued our goodwill based on the market value of our equity, a decrease in the price of our ADSs or common shares may also result in our becoming a PFIC. If we are a PFIC for any taxable year during which you hold our ADSs or common shares, you will be subject to special tax rules discussed below.

If we are a PFIC for any taxable year during which you hold our ADSs or common shares, U.S. Holders will be subject to special tax rules with respect to any "excess distributions" received and any gain realized from a sale or other disposition, including a pledge, of ADSs or common shares. 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 ADSs or common shares will be treated as excess distributions. Under these special tax rules:

- the excess distribution or gain will be allocated ratably over your holding period for the ADSs or common shares,
- 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
- 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.

In addition, non-corporate U.S. Holders will not be eligible for reduced rates of taxation on any dividends received from us prior to January 1, 2011, if we are a PFIC in the taxable year in which such dividends are paid or in the preceding taxable year. You will be required to file Internal Revenue Service Form 8621 if you hold our ADSs or common shares in any year in which we are classified as a PFIC.

If we are a PFIC for any taxable year and any of our foreign 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 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 may be available to holders of ADSs because the ADSs are listed on the NYSE, which constitutes a qualified exchange, although there can be no assurance that the ADSs will be "regularly traded" for purposes of the mark-to-market election. It should also be noted that only the ADSs and not the common shares are listed on the NYSE. Our common shares are listed on the Novo Mercado (New Market) of the São Paulo Stock Exchange, which must meet certain trading, listing, financial disclosure and other requirements to be treated as a qualified exchange under applicable Treasury regulations for purposes of the mark-to-market election, and no assurance can be given that the common shares will be "regularly traded" for purposes of the mark-to-market election.

If you make an effective mark-to-market election, you will include in each year as ordinary income the excess of the fair market value of your ADSs or common shares at the end of the year over your adjusted tax basis in the ADSs or common shares. You will be entitled to deduct as an ordinary loss each year the excess of your adjusted tax basis in the ADSs or common shares over their fair market value at the end of the year, but only to the extent of the net amount previously included in income as a result of the mark-to-market election.

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Your adjusted tax basis in the ADSs or common shares will be increased by the amount of any income inclusion and decreased by the amount of any deductions under the mark-to-market rules. 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 ADSs or common shares are no longer regularly traded on a qualified exchange or the Internal Revenue Service consents to the revocation of the election. You are urged to consult your tax advisor about the availability of the mark-to-market election, and whether making the election would be advisable in your particular circumstances.

U.S. Holders of shares in a PFIC can sometimes avoid the rules described above by electing to treat the PFIC 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. You are urged to consult your tax advisors concerning the United States federal income tax consequences of holding ADSs or common shares if we are considered a PFIC in any taxable year.