

Resolution No. 1,927 of the National Monetary Council provides for the issuance of depositary receipts in foreign markets in respect of shares of Brazilian issuers. The ADS program was approved under the Annex V Regulations by the Central Bank and the CVM prior to the issuance of the ADSs. Accordingly, the proceeds from the sale of ADSs by ADR holders outside Brazil are not subject to Brazilian foreign investment controls, and holders of the ADSs are entitled to favorable tax treatment under certain circumstances. See *“Item 3.D. Key Information–Risk Factors–Risks Relating to Our Common Shares and ADSs–Investors who exchange ADSs for common shares may lose their ability to remit foreign currency abroad and to obtain Brazilian tax advantages”* and *“Item 10.E. Taxation–Brazilian Tax Considerations.”*

10.E. Taxation

This summary contains a description of certain Brazilian and U.S. federal income tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of common shares or ADSs by a holder.

The summary is based upon the tax laws of Brazil and the federal income tax laws of the United States as in effect on the date of this annual report, which laws are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect, regarding the U.S. federal income tax, and to differing interpretations. Holders of common shares or ADSs should consult their own tax advisors as to the Brazilian, U.S. or other tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of common shares or ADSs, including, in particular, the effect of any non-Brazilian, non-U.S., state or local tax laws.

Although there presently is no income tax treaty between Brazil and the United States, the tax authorities of the two countries have had discussions in the past regarding such a treaty. No assurance can be given, however, as to if or when a treaty will enter into force or how it will affect the U.S. holders of common shares or ADSs.

The withholding tax applicable to interest on shareholders equity is retained and collected by us, and the shareholders are not grossed-up, although it is ultimately their responsibility to pay withholding taxes. See *“–Brazilian Tax Considerations.”*

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-Brazilian holder”). It is based on Brazilian laws and regulations as currently in effect, and, therefore, any change in such law may change the consequences described below. Each non-Brazilian holder should consult his or her own tax adviser concerning the Brazilian tax consequences of an investment in common shares or ADSs.

A non-Brazilian holder of ADSs may withdraw them in exchange for common shares in Brazil. Pursuant to Brazilian law, the non-Brazilian holder may invest in the common shares under Resolution 2,689, of January 26, 2000, of the National Monetary Council (“2,689 holder”).

Taxation of Dividends

As a result of the tax legislation adopted on December 26, 1995, dividends based on profits generated after January 1, 1996, including dividends paid in kind, payable by us in respect of common shares or ADSs, are exempt from withholding income tax. Dividends relating to profits generated prior to January 1, 1996 may be subject to Brazilian withholding income tax at varying rates, depending on the year the profits were generated.

Taxation of Gains

Gains realized outside Brazil by a non-Brazilian holder on the disposition of ADSs to another non-Brazilian holder are not currently subject to Brazilian tax. However, according to certain interpretations of Law no. 10,833 of December 2003, or Law No. 10,833, the disposition of assets located in Brazil by a non-Brazilian holder, whether to other non-Brazilian holder or Brazilian holders, may become subject to taxation in Brazil. Although we believe that the ADSs do not fall within the definition of assets located in Brazil for the purposes of Law no. 10,833, considering the general and unclear scope of it and the lack of definitive judicial court ruling to act as the leading case in respect thereto, we are unable to predict whether such understanding will ultimately prevail in the courts of Brazil.

Thus, the gain on disposition of ADSs by a non-Brazilian holder to a resident in Brazil (or even to a non-Brazilian resident in case the argument above does not prevail) may be subject to income tax in Brazil according to the rules described below for ADSs or the tax rules applicable to common shares, as applicable.

The withdrawal of ADSs in exchange for common shares is not subject to Brazilian income tax provided that the regulatory rules are appropriately observed in respect to the registration of the investment before the Central Bank of Brazil. The deposit of common shares in exchange for ADSs may be subject to Brazilian capital income tax at the rate of 15% or 25%, in case the non-Brazilian holder is located in a tax haven, if the acquisition cost of the common shares is lower than (1) the average price per common share on a Brazilian stock exchange on which the greatest number of such shares were sold on the day of deposit, or (2) if no common shares were sold on that day, the average price on the Brazilian stock exchange on which the greatest number of common shares were sold in the fifteen trading sessions immediately preceding such deposit. In this case, the difference between the acquisition cost and the average price of the common shares, calculated as above, shall be considered a capital gain.

For Brazilian purposes, as of January 2009, tax haven is considered a regime: (i) that does not impose income tax or when doing so at a rate of 20% or lower, (ii) that grants a tax benefit to a non-resident individual or entity: (a) without substantial requirements, and/or (b) dependent upon the carrying out of non-substantial economic activities; (iii) that does not impose tax on foreign income or when doing so at a rate of 20% or lower; (iv) that does not allow access to information regarding the corporate organization or structure of the resident entity or the ownership of its shares or stocks or to their economic activities. In this respect, it should be pointed out that the new concept of tax havens is applicable to transfer pricing rules and to laws that make express referral to this law. However, it is possible that the Brazilian IRS may apply the new concept to other laws which adopted the similar concept, but are not bound to the transfer pricing rules, such as the rule regarding non-residents resident in tax havens which trade in the local stock exchange. The Brazilian IRS has not yet issued regulations or a new black list based on this new concept.

Gains realized on disposition of common shares, are subject to income tax in Brazil, regardless of whether the sale or the disposition is made by the non-Brazilian holder to a resident or person domiciled in Brazil or not, based on the fact that the common shares could be considered as assets located in Brazil for purposes of Law No. 10,833.

Thus, for purposes of taxation of gains earned in a sale or 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 exempt from income tax when assessed by a 2,689 holder and is not a tax haven based holder; and
- are subject to income tax at a rate of 15% in any other case, including gains assessed by a non-Brazilian holder that (1) is not a 2,689 holder, or (2) is a 2,689 holder but is a tax haven based holder. In these cases, a withholding income tax of 0.005% shall be applicable and can be offset with the eventual income tax due on the capital gain.

Any other gains assessed on the disposition of the common shares that are not carried out on the Brazilian stock exchange are subject to income tax at a rate of 15%, except for tax haven holder which, in this case, is subject to income tax at a rate of 25%. In case 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 with the eventual income tax due on the capital gain.

In the case of redemption of securities or capital reduction by a Brazilian corporation, such as ourselves, the positive difference between the amount effectively received by the non-Brazilian holder and the corresponding acquisition cost is treated, for tax purposes, as capital gain derived from disposition of common 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 will not be subject to Brazilian income tax. Any gain on the sale or assignment of preemptive rights relating to the common shares by a non-Brazilian holder of common shares or ADSs will be subject to Brazilian taxation at the same rate applicable to the sale or disposition of common shares.

There is no assurance that the current preferential treatment for holders of ADSs and non-Brazilian holders of common shares under Resolution 2,689 will continue in the future or that it will not be changed in the future. Reductions in the rate of tax provided for by Brazil's tax treaties do not apply to the tax on gains realized on sales or exchange of common shares.

Interest Attributed to Shareholders' Equity

According to Brazilian laws and our bylaws, we may opt to distribute income as interest attributed to shareholders' equity as an alternative to the payment of dividends.

Distribution of an interest on equity charge attributed to shareholders' equity in respect of the common shares or ADSs as an alternative form of payment to shareholders, including non-Brazilian holders of common shares or ADSs, is subject to Brazilian withholding income tax at the rate of 15% or 25%, in case of a tax-haven based holder. Such payments, subject to certain limitations and requirements, are deductible for Brazilian income tax purposes.

Other Brazilian Taxes

There are no Brazilian inheritance, gift or succession taxes applicable to the ownership, transfer or disposition of common shares or ADSs by a non-Brazilian holder, except for gift and inheritance taxes, which are levied by some states of Brazil on gifts made or inheritances bestowed by a non-Brazilian holder to individuals or entities resident or domiciled within such states in Brazil. There are no Brazilian stamp, issue, registration, or similar taxes or duties payable by a non-Brazilian holder of common shares or ADSs.

Tax on Bank Account Transaction, or CPMF

Until December 31, 2007, any transaction carried out by a holder of securities in Brazil that results in the transfer of *reais* from an account maintained by such holder (or its custodian) with a Brazilian financial institution was subject to the CPMF tax, at the rate of 0.38%. The funds transferred for the acquisition of shares on a Brazilian stock exchange were exempt from the CPMF tax.

As of January 1, 2008, the CPMF tax was abolished, and should not be levied on any debit to bank accounts carried out after that. The Brazilian government may attempt to reestablish the CPMF tax.

Tax on Financial Transactions (Imposto sobre Operações Financeiras, or IOF)

The IOF is a tax on foreign exchange, securities, credit and insurance transactions. The IOF rate may be changed by an Presidential Decree (rather than a law). In addition, the IOF rate is not subject to the ex-post-facto principle, which provides that laws increasing the rate of or creating new taxes will only come into effect as of the latter of (i) the first day of the year following their publication, or (ii) ninety days after their publication, and therefore, any increase in the IOF rate has an immediate effect. A statute increasing the IOF rate will as a result only take effect from its publication date.

Regarding foreign exchange transactions, in spite of the maximum rate of IOF being 25%, the inflow and outflow of funds are generally subject to IOF at a rate of 0.38%; however, the inflow and outflow of funds from portfolio investors located outside Brazil are not taxed. The conversion of Brazilian currency into foreign currency for purposes of paying dividends on preferred shares and ADS is currently not taxed.

The IOF may also be imposed on any transactions involving bonds and securities, including those carried out on Brazilian futures and commodities stock exchanges. As a general rule, the rate of this tax for transactions involving common shares or ADSs is currently zero, although the executive branch, also by a Presidential Decree, may increase such rate up to 1.5% per day, but only with respect to future transactions.

United States Tax Considerations

The summary discussion below is applicable to you only if you are a “U.S. holder” (as defined below) that is not domiciled in Brazil (or domiciled or resident in a tax haven jurisdiction) for purposes of Brazilian taxation and, in the case of a holder of common shares, that has registered its investment in common shares with the Central Bank as a U.S. dollar investment. A U.S. holder is a beneficial owner of a common share or ADS that, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, is:

- an individual who is a 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 U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) has a valid election in effect under applicable U.S. Treasury Department regulations to be treated as a U.S. person.

Except where noted, this summary deals only with common shares or ADSs held as capital assets within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code, and does not deal with special situations, such as those of banks, dealers in securities or currencies, traders in securities that elect to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for their securities holdings, financial institutions, tax-exempt organizations, insurance companies, real estate investment trusts, regulated investment companies, persons holding common shares or ADSs as part of a hedging, integrated, conversion or constructive sale transaction or a straddle, persons liable for alternative minimum tax, pass-through entities and investors in a pass-through entity, persons owning 10% or more of our voting stock, or persons whose “functional currency” is not the U.S. dollar. Furthermore, this discussion is based upon the provisions of the Code, and existing and proposed U.S. Treasury Department regulations, administrative pronouncements of the Internal Revenue Service, or the IRS, and judicial decisions as of the date hereof. Such authorities may be repealed, revoked or modified so as to result in U.S. federal income tax consequences different from those discussed below, possibly with retroactive effect. In addition, this discussion is based, in part, upon representations made by the Depositary to us and assumes that the deposit agreement, and all other related agreements, will be performed in accordance with their terms.

Except as specifically described below, this discussion assumes that we are not a passive foreign investment company, or PFIC, for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Please see the discussion under “-Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules” below. Further, this discussion does not address the U.S. federal estate and gift, alternative minimum tax, state, local or non-U.S. tax consequences of holding common shares or ADSs.

If a partnership (or other entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds 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 common shares or ADSs, you should consult your tax advisors.

ADSs

In general, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, U.S. holders of ADSs will be treated as the owners of the underlying common shares that are represented by such ADSs. Deposits or withdrawals of common shares by U.S. holders for ADSs will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax. However, the U.S. Treasury Department has expressed concerns that parties involved in transactions wherein depositary shares are pre-released may be taking actions that are inconsistent with the claiming of foreign tax credits by the holders of ADSs. Accordingly, the analysis of the creditability of Brazilian income taxes described herein could be affected by future actions that may be taken by the U.S. Treasury Department.

Taxation of Dividends

The gross amount of distributions paid to you (including amounts withheld by the Brazilian taxing authority, if any, and any payments of interest on shareholders' equity, as described above under "Brazilian Tax Considerations") will be treated as dividend income to the extent paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles. Such income may be included in your gross income as ordinary income when actually or constructively received by you, in the case of common shares, or when actually or constructively received 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. To the extent that the amount of any distribution exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits for a taxable year, the distribution will first be treated as a tax-free return of capital to the extent of the U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in the common shares or ADS, causing a reduction in such adjusted tax basis (and thereby increasing the amount of gain, or decreasing the amount of loss, to be recognized on a subsequent disposition of our common shares or ADSs), and thereafter as capital gain recognized on a sale or exchange. Because we do not expect to keep earnings and profits in accordance with U.S. federal income tax principles, U.S. holders should expect that a distribution will generally be treated as a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Distributions of additional common shares or ADSs to U.S. holders that are part of a pro rata distribution to all of our shareholders generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax.

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 Depositary, 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 tax 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 foreign currency gain or loss that is treated as U.S. source ordinary income or loss. If dividends paid in *reais* are converted into U.S. dollars on the day they are received by the U.S. holder or the Depositary, as the case may be, U.S. holders generally should not be required to recognize foreign currency gain or loss in respect of the dividend income. U.S. holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the treatment of any foreign currency gain or loss if any *reais* received by the U.S. holder or the Depositary or its agent are not converted into U.S. dollars on the date of receipt.

Certain dividends received by certain non-corporate U.S. holders may be subject to preferential tax rates (the "qualified dividend income") so long as (1) specified holding period requirements are met, (2) the U.S. holder is not under an obligation (whether pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property, (3) the company paying the dividend is a "qualified foreign corporation" and (4) the company is not a passive foreign investment company for U.S. federal income tax purposes or a PFIC, in the year of distribution or the prior year. We do not believe that we were classified as a PFIC for our prior taxable year nor do we expect to be classified as a PFIC for the current taxable year. We generally will be treated as a qualified foreign corporation with respect to our ADSs so long as the ADS remain listed on the NYSE. Based on existing guidance, it is not entirely clear whether dividends received with respect to the common shares (to the extent not represented by ADSs) will be treated as qualified dividend income, because the common shares are not themselves listed on a U.S. exchange. You should consult your own advisor about the application of this rate to dividends paid directly on common shares.

Subject to certain complex limitations and conditions (including a minimum holding period requirement), Brazilian income taxes withheld on dividends, if any, may be treated as foreign income taxes eligible for credit against a U.S. holder's U.S. federal income tax liability. Alternatively, at a U.S. holder's election if it does not elect to claim a foreign tax credit for any foreign taxes paid during the taxable year, all foreign income taxes paid may instead be deducted in computing such U.S. holder's taxable income. For purposes of calculating the foreign tax credit, dividends paid on our common shares will be treated as income from sources outside the United States. The limitation on foreign income taxes eligible for credit is calculated separately with respect to specific classes of income. For the purposes of the U.S. foreign tax credit limitations, the dividends paid by us should generally constitute "passive category income." The rules governing the foreign tax credit are complex. You should consult your tax advisors regarding the availability of the foreign tax credit under your particular circumstances.

Taxation of Capital Gains

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, you generally will recognize taxable gain or loss on any sale, exchange or other disposition of a common share or ADS in an amount equal to the difference between the U.S. dollar value of the amount realized for the common share or ADS and your adjusted tax basis in the common share or ADS, determined in U.S. dollars. Such gain or loss will be capital gain or loss. 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 our 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 recognized by you will generally be treated as U.S. source gain or loss. Consequently, a U.S. holder may not be able to use the foreign tax credit arising from Brazilian income tax imposed, if any, on the disposition of a common share or ADS unless such credit can be applied (subject to applicable limitations) against U.S. federal income tax due on other income treated as derived from foreign sources.

Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules

Based upon our current and projected income, assets and activities, we do not expect the common shares or ADSs to be considered shares of a PFIC for our current fiscal year or for future fiscal years. However, because the determination of whether the common shares or ADSs constitute shares of a PFIC will be based upon the composition of our income, assets and the nature of our business, as well as the income, assets and business of entities in which we hold at least a 25% interest, from time to time, and because there are uncertainties in the application of the relevant rules, there can be no assurance that the common shares or ADSs will not be considered shares of a PFIC for any fiscal year. If the common shares or ADSs were shares of a PFIC for any fiscal year, U.S. holders (including certain indirect U.S. holders) may be subject to adverse tax consequences, including the possible imposition of an interest charge on gains or “excess distributions” allocable to prior years in the U.S. holder’s holding period during which we were determined to be a PFIC. If we are deemed to be a PFIC for a taxable year, dividends on our ADSs would not be qualified dividend income subject to preferential rates of U.S. federal income taxation. U.S. holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the application of the PFIC rules to the common shares or ADSs.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

In general, information reporting requirements will apply to dividends in respect of our common shares or ADSs or the proceeds received on the sale, exchange, or redemption of our ADSs, in each case to the extent treated as being paid within the United States (and in certain cases, outside of the United States) to you unless you establish you are an exempt recipient (such as a corporation), and backup withholding may apply to such amounts if you do not establish you are an exempt recipient and you fail to provide a correct taxpayer identification number. The amount of any backup withholding from a payment to you will be allowed as a refund or credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability provided you timely furnish the required information to the IRS.

In addition, U.S. holders should be aware that recently enacted legislation imposes new reporting requirements with respect to the holding of foreign financial assets, including stock of foreign issuers, if the aggregate value of all of such assets exceeds \$50,000. U.S. holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the application of the information reporting rules to our common shares and ADSs and the application of the recently enacted legislation to their particular situation.

10.F. Dividends and Payments Agents

Not applicable.

10.G. Statements by Experts

Not applicable.

10.H. Documents on Display