

In September 2016, the Central Bank Communication “A” 6060 entered into force and established that when existing clients cannot comply with identification and know-your-customer procedures in accordance with applicable regulations, it will be necessary to carry out a risk analysis in order to evaluate whether to continue the relationship with the client. The criteria and procedures to be applied to this process must be described by the financial entities in their internal risk management manuals governing prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing. If it is necessary to begin the process of discontinuing a transaction, it will be necessary to observe the procedures and existing terms of the rules of the Central Bank applicable to the product(s) contracted by the client(s). The obligated parties must save, for a period of 10 years, the written procedures applied in each case regarding the discontinuation of the client transaction.

Non-compliance with the requirements established by the Central Bank to access the domestic exchange market for transactions of purchase and sale of values of all types constitute an infringement subject to the criminal foreign exchange regime.

Additionally, in November 2016, the Central Bank Communication “A” 6094 established that the regulations of the prevention of money laundering, terrorist financing and other illicit activities issued by the Central Bank must also be complied with by the foreign representatives of the financial entities that are not authorized to operate in Argentina.

Lastly, through Law No. 27,260 and Decree No. 895/2016, the UIF was granted the ability to communicate information to other public entities with intelligence or investigative capabilities, making it clear that it could only do so with a prior reasoned decision of the president of the UIF and only with precise and serious indications of the commission of any of the crimes contemplated in the Prevention of Money Laundering Law. The communications of the UIF will include the transfer of the confidentiality obligation established in Article 22 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Law, holding the officials of the entities receiving the confidential information who disclose such confidential information liable for the penalties established therein. It was made clear that the UIF does not exercise the ability referenced in cases related to voluntary and exception declarations made under Law No. 27,260.

TAXATION

The following summary contains a description of the principal Argentine 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 Argentina 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. Investors 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 Argentina 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 of common shares or ADSs.

Argentine Tax Considerations Capital gains tax

Resident individuals

The Law No. 26,893 provides for the taxation of resident individuals’ income resulting from the purchase and sale, exchange or other disposition of shares not listed on stock exchanges or securities markets as authorized by the CNV, irrespective of the frequency or regularity of such operations. This income is subject in all cases to the 15% tax rate.

Foreign beneficiaries

Pursuant to the Law No. 26,893, all income resulting from the purchase and sale, exchange or other disposition of shares and other securities earned by foreign beneficiaries will be subject to the Income Tax, whether they are listed on stock exchanges or securities markets and/or have an authorization for public offering or whether they do not meet such requirements. These provisions will apply to foreign individual and legal entities at a 15% rate on the net capital gain or at a 13.5% rate on the gross price.

Notwithstanding the above, based on certain tax precedents, there may be support to argue that gains obtained by foreign beneficiaries from the disposal of ADSs should be regarded as foreign source income and, therefore, not subject to Argentine income tax. As this is a controversial issue, a case by case analysis is required.

Local entities

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

Dividends tax

Dividends paid on our shares or ADSs in excess of the Company's taxable accumulated income for the previous fiscal period, whether in cash, property or other equity securities, and any other payment in kind, are subject to income tax withholding at the rate of 35% in respect of such excess ("Equalization Tax"). This is a final tax and it is not applicable if dividends are paid in shares (acciones liberadas).

With respect to dividends paid to shareholders residing abroad, such withholding may be reduced by a tax treaty between Argentina and their country of residence. See "Tax Treaties" below.

Capital reductions and other distributions

Capital reductions and redemptions of our shares and ADSs are not subject to income tax up to an amount equivalent to the contributed capital corresponding to the shares and ADSs to be redeemed. Any distribution exceeding this amount, however, will be considered as a dividend for tax purposes and subject to withholding tax at the rate of 35% (as described above).

Personal assets tax

Argentine entities, such as us, have to pay the personal assets tax corresponding to Argentine and foreign individuals and foreign entities for the holding of our shares at December 31 of each year. The applicable tax rate is 0.5% and is levied on the equity value, or the book value, of the shares arising from the last balance sheet. Pursuant to the Personal Assets Tax Law, the Argentine company is entitled to seek reimbursement of such paid tax from the applicable Argentine individuals and/or foreign shareholders or by withholding dividend payments. However, our Company has obtained an exemption based on Law No. 27,260 applicable to personal assets tax from 2016 to 2018.

Tax on Minimum Notional Income (Impuesto a la Ganancia Mínima Presunta or ("IGMP))

Companies domiciled in Argentina, partnerships, foundations, sole proprietorships, trusts, certain mutual funds organized in Argentina, and permanent business establishments owned by foreign persons, among other taxpayers, shall apply a 1% rate to the total value of assets held by such persons, above an aggregate nominal amount of Ps.200,000. Nevertheless, common shares and ADSs issued by entities subject to such tax are exempt from the IGMP. The reform introduced by Law No. 27,260 establishes this tax will not be applicable from 2019.

Gross Income Tax

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

Value added tax

The sale, exchange or other disposition of our common shares or ADSs and the distribution of dividends are exempted from the value added tax.

Transfer taxes

The sale, exchange or other disposition of our common shares or ADSs is not subject to transfer taxes.

Stamp taxes

Stamp taxes may apply in the City of Buenos Aires and in certain Argentine provinces in case transfer of our common shares or ADSs is performed or executed in such jurisdictions by means of written agreements.

Other taxes

Commissions paid on brokerage transactions for the sale of our common shares on the BCBA are subject to VAT at a rate of 21%.

There is no inheritance, gift, succession or VAT applicable to the ownership, transfer, exchange or disposition of our common shares or ADSs, except for the inheritance tax applicable only to corporations or individuals with tax domicile in the Province of Buenos Aires and the Province of Entre Rios (the tax rate ranges between 4% and 22% depending on the relationship and the amount of inheritance).

Tax treaties

Argentina has signed tax treaties for the avoidance of double taxation with Australia, Belgium, Spain, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Swiss, Uruguay and the United Kingdom. There is currently no tax treaty or convention in effect between Argentina and the United States. It is not clear when, if ever, a treaty will be ratified or entered into effect. As a result, the Argentine tax consequences described in this section will apply, without modification, to a holder of our common shares or ADSs that is a U.S. resident. Foreign shareholders located in certain jurisdictions with a tax treaty in force with Argentina may be exempted from the payment of the personal asset tax.

United States Federal Income Tax Considerations

This summary describes certain U.S. federal income tax consequences for a U.S. holder (as defined below) of acquiring, owning, and disposing of ADSs. This summary applies to a holder only if such holder holds the ADSs as capital assets for tax purposes. This summary does not address the Medicare tax on net investment income and does not apply to investors that are members of a class of holders subject to special rules, such as:

- a dealer in securities or currencies;

- a trader in securities that elects to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for securities holdings;
- a bank;
- a life insurance company;
- a tax-exempt organization;
- an entity treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes, or a partner therein;
- a person that holds ADSs that are a hedge or that are hedged against interest rate or currency risks;
- a person that holds ADSs as part of a straddle or conversion transaction for tax purposes;
- a person who is liable for the alternative minimum tax;
- a person whose functional currency for U.S. tax purposes is not the U.S. Dollar; or
- a person that owns or is deemed to own 10% or more of any class of our stock.

This summary is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, its legislative history, existing and proposed regulations promulgated thereunder, published rulings and court decisions, all as currently in effect. These laws are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis. Investors should consult their own tax advisors concerning the consequences of purchasing, owning, and disposing of ADSs in their particular circumstances, including the possible application of state, local, non-U.S. or other tax laws. For purposes of this summary, an investor is a “U.S. holder” if such investor is a beneficial owner of an ADS and 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 with respect to income from the ADS.

In general, if an investor is the beneficial owner of ADSs, such investor will be treated as the beneficial owner of the common stock represented by those ADSs for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and no gain or loss will be recognized if such investor exchanges an ADS for the common stock represented by that ADS.

Dividends

The gross amount of distributions that investors receive (prior to deduction of Argentine taxes) generally will be subject to U.S. federal income taxation as foreign source dividend income, to the extent paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles. Dividends paid in Argentine Pesos will be included in an investor’s income in a U.S. Dollar amount calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the date of the depositary’s receipt of the dividend, regardless of whether the payment is in fact converted into U.S. Dollars. A U.S. holder will have a tax basis in such Pesos for U.S. federal income tax purposes equal to the U.S. Dollar value on the date of such receipt. Any subsequent gain or loss in respect of such Pesos arising from exchange rate fluctuations will be ordinary income or loss and will be treated as income from U.S. sources for foreign tax credit purposes. If such a dividend is converted into U.S. Dollars on the date of receipt, investors generally should not be required to recognize foreign currency gain or loss in respect of the dividend income. Subject to certain exceptions for short-term (60 days or less) positions, the U.S. Dollar amount of dividends received by an individual U.S. holder in respect of ADSs generally will be subject to taxation at a maximum rate of 20% if the dividends are “qualified dividends.” Dividends paid on the ADSs will be treated as qualified dividends if (1) the ADSs are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States and (2) we were not, in the year prior to the year in which the dividend was paid, and are not, in the year in which the dividend is paid, a passive foreign investment company (a “PFIC”). 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. Based on our Consolidated Financial Statements and relevant market and shareholder data, we believe that we were not treated as a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes with respect to our 2016 taxable year. In addition, based on our current expectations regarding the value and nature of our assets, the sources and nature of our income, and relevant market and shareholder data, we do not anticipate becoming a PFIC for our 2017 taxable year.

Because the common shares are not themselves listed on a U.S. exchange, dividends received with respect to the common shares may not be treated as qualified dividends. U.S. holders of ADSs should consult their own tax advisors regarding the availability of the reduced dividend tax rate in the light of their own particular circumstances.

Distributions of additional shares in respect of ADSs that are made as part of a pro-rata distribution to all of our shareholders generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax.

Sale or other disposition

Upon a sale or other disposition of ADSs, an investor will recognize gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes in an amount equal to the difference between the U.S. Dollar value of the amount realized and such investor's tax basis, determined in U.S. Dollars, in the ADSs. Generally, such gain or loss realized on the sale or other disposition of ADSs will be treated as U.S. source capital gain or loss, and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the ADSs were held for more than one year. The ability to offset capital losses against ordinary income is limited. Long-term capital gain recognized by an individual U.S. holder, generally is subject to taxation at a reduced rate.

Foreign tax credit considerations

Investors should consult their own tax advisors to determine whether they are subject to any special rules that limit their ability to make effective use of foreign tax credits. If no such rules apply, investors may claim a credit against their U.S. federal income tax liability for Argentine taxes withheld from cash dividends on the ADSs, so long as they have owned the ADSs (and not entered into specified kinds of hedging transactions) for at least a 16-day period that includes the ex-dividend date. It is unclear whether the Argentine personal assets tax (as described in "Argentine Tax Considerations") is treated as an income tax for U.S. federal income tax purposes. If the Argentine personal assets tax is not treated as an income tax for U.S. federal income tax purposes, a U.S. holder would be unable to claim a foreign tax credit for any Argentine personal assets tax withheld. A U.S. holder may be able to deduct such tax in computing its U.S. federal income tax liability, subject to applicable limitations. The calculation of foreign tax credits and, in the case of a U.S. holder that elects to deduct foreign taxes, the availability of deductions, involve the application of complex rules that depend on a U.S. holder's particular circumstances. Investors should consult their own tax advisors regarding the creditability or deductibility of such taxes.

U.S. information reporting and backup withholding rules

Payments of dividends and sales proceeds that are made within the United States or through certain U.S.-related financial intermediaries are subject to information reporting unless the holder is an exempt recipient and may also be subject to backup withholding unless the holder (1) provides its taxpayer identification number and certifies that it is not subject to backup withholding or (2) otherwise establishes an exemption from backup withholding. Investors may obtain a refund of any excess amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules by timely filing the appropriate claim or refund with the Internal Revenue Service and filing any required information.

Specified Foreign Financial Assets

Certain U.S. holders that own “specified foreign financial assets” with an aggregate value in excess of USD 50,000 are generally required to file an information statement along with their tax returns, currently on Form 8938, with respect to such assets. “Specified foreign financial assets” include any financial accounts held at a non-U.S. financial institution, as well as securities issued by a non-U.S. issuer that are not held in accounts maintained by financial institutions. Higher reporting thresholds apply to certain individuals living abroad and to certain married individuals. Regulations extend this reporting requirement to certain entities that are treated as formed or availed of to hold direct or indirect interests in specified foreign financial assets based on certain objective criteria. U.S. holders who fail to report the required information could be subject to substantial penalties. In addition, the statute of limitations for assessment of tax would be suspended, in whole or part. Investors should consult their own tax advisors concerning the application of these rules to their particular circumstances.

DIVIDENDS AND PAYING AGENTS

The holders of ADSs are entitled to receive dividends to the same extent as the owners of our common shares. We have not paid any dividends in the last three fiscal years. See “Item 8. Dividends.” However, we could decide to pay dividends in the future in accordance with applicable law and based on various factors then existing, including:

- our financial condition, operating results and current and anticipated cash needs;
- general economic and business conditions;
- our strategic plans and business prospects;
- legal, contractual and regulatory restrictions on our ability to pay dividends; and
- other factors that our board of directors may consider to be relevant.

Under the BCL, the declaration and payment of annual dividends, to the extent that the company presents retained earnings in accordance with IFRS and CNV regulations, are determined by shareholders at the annual ordinary shareholders’ meeting. In addition, under the BCL, 5% of the net income for the fiscal year calculated in accordance with IFRS and CNV regulations must be appropriated by resolution adopted at shareholders’ meetings to a legal reserve until such reserve equals 20% of the capital stock. This legal reserve is not available for distribution.

Amount Available for Distribution

Dividends may be lawfully declared and paid only out of our earnings stated in our annual financial statements approved by the annual ordinary shareholders’ meeting. Under the BCL, listed companies (such as ourselves) may distribute provisional dividends or dividends in advance resulting from interim audited financial statements.

Under the BCL and our by-laws, our annual net income (as adjusted to reflect changes in prior years’ results) is allocated in the following order: (1) to comply with our legal reserve requirement of 5% of our net income until such reserve equals 20% of the capital stock; (2) for voluntary or contingent reserves, as may be resolved from time to time by our shareholders at the annual ordinary shareholders’ meeting; (3) the remainder of the net income for the year may be distributed as dividends on common shares, and/or (4) as otherwise decided by our shareholders at the annual ordinary shareholders’ meeting.

The board of directors submits our financial statements for the preceding fiscal year, together with reports thereon by the supervisory committee and the independent accountants, at the annual ordinary shareholders' meeting for approval. Within four months of the end of each fiscal year, an ordinary shareholders' meeting must be held to approve our annual financial statements and determine the appropriation of our net income for such year.

Under applicable CNV regulations, cash dividends must be paid to shareholders within 30 days of the shareholders' meeting approving such dividends. In the case of stock dividends, shares are required to be delivered within three months of our receipt of notice of the authorization by the CNV for the public offering of the shares relating to such dividends. The statute of limitations in respect of the right of any shareholder to receive dividends declared by the shareholders' meeting is three years from the date on which it has been made available to the shareholder.

DOCUMENTS ON DISPLAY

The materials included in this annual report in Form F-20, and exhibits therein, may be inspected and copied at the Securities and Exchange Commission's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. Any SEC filings we make are also available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website: www.sec.gov.