

not sell its interests in Ordinary Shares to an EU national within the specified time period, the Company can then compel such a sale. As a result, non-EU nationals are effectively barred from purchasing Ordinary Shares for as long as these restrictions remain in place. There can be no assurance that these restrictions will ever be lifted.

As an additional measure to manage the Company's EU nationality requirements, at the EGM held on April 19, 2012 the Company obtained a repurchase authority to enable the repurchase of ADRs for up to 5% of the issued share capital of the Company traded on the NASDAQ. This authority (which in 2017 was increased to 10% of the issued share capital of the Company traded on the NASDAQ) was renewed at each subsequent Annual General Meeting up to and including the September 2020 meeting.

In order to protect the Company's operating license and ensure that the Company (and its subsidiary EU airlines) remain majority EU owned and controlled in the event of a no-deal or "hard" Brexit, on March 8, 2019 the Board resolved that with effect from the date on which U.K. nationals cease to qualify as nationals of Member States for the purposes of Article 4 of EU Regulation 1008/2008 all Ordinary Shares and Depositary Shares held by or on behalf of non-EU (including U.K.) shareholders would be treated as Restricted Shares.

In anticipation of the end of the Brexit transition period on December 31, 2020, on December 29, 2020 the Company announced that, with effect from January 1, 2021 U.K. nationals would cease to qualify as EU nationals and in accordance with the resolutions passed by the Board of the Company on March 8, 2019 all Ordinary Shares and Depositary Shares held by or on behalf of non-EU nationals (including U.K. nationals) would be treated as "Restricted Shares" (within the meaning of the Articles of Association). Restricted Share Notices were issued to the registered holder(s) of each Restricted Share specifying that the holder(s) of such shares are not entitled to attend, speak or vote at any general meeting of the Company for so long as those shares are treated as Restricted Shares pursuant to Article 41(J)(i) of the Articles of Association. U.K. nationals are not required to dispose of Ordinary Shares which they purchased prior to January 1, 2021.

In January 2021, the Company published a notice in the Financial Times, the Irish Times and the Wall Street Journal to again notify and confirm to shareholders that with effect from January 1, 2021 U.K. nationals ceased to qualify as EU nationals and in accordance with the resolutions passed by the Board of the Company on March 8, 2019, all Ordinary Shares and Depositary Shares held by or on behalf of non-EU nationals (including U.K. nationals) are treated as "Restricted Shares" (within the meaning of the Articles of Association).

Notwithstanding the powers vested in the chairman of general meetings of the Company pursuant to Article 41(J)(i) of the Articles of Association, the chairman will not vote any Restricted Shares at any meeting of the Company.

Concerns about the foreign ownership restrictions described above could result in the exclusion of Ryanair from certain stock tracking indices. Any such exclusion may adversely affect the market price of the Ordinary Shares and ADRs. See also "Item 3. Key Information-Risk Factors-Risks Related to Ownership of the Company's Ordinary Shares or ADRs-EU Rules Impose Restrictions on the Ownership of Ryanair Holdings' Ordinary Shares by Non-EU Nationals and the Company has Applied a Ban on the Purchase of Ordinary Shares by Non-EU Nationals since 2002" above.

As a result of the measures introduced by the Company at the beginning of 2021 to protect the Group's operating licenses under EU Regulation 1008/2008 following Brexit, as at March 31, 2021, EU nationals owned 100% of the Ryanair Holdings' Ordinary Shares with voting rights and approximately 32% of the Ryanair Holdings' Ordinary Shares with economic rights (in each case assuming conversion of all outstanding ADRs into Ordinary Shares).

## **TAXATION**

## Irish Tax Considerations

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

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

*Dividends.* If Ryanair Holdings pays dividends or makes other relevant distributions, the following is relevant:

*Withholding Tax.* Unless exempted, a withholding (currently 25%) will apply to dividends or other relevant distributions paid by an Irish resident company. The withholding tax requirement will not apply to distributions paid to certain categories of Irish resident stockholders or to distributions paid to certain categories of non-resident stockholders.

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

- Irish resident companies;
- Pension schemes approved by the Irish Revenue Commissioners ("Irish Revenue");
- Qualifying fund managers or qualifying savings managers in relation to approved retirement funds ("ARF"s) or approved minimum retirement funds ("AMRF"s);
- Personal Retirement Savings Account ("PRSA") administrators who receive the relevant distribution as income arising in respect of PRSA assets;
- Qualifying employee share ownership trusts;
- Collective investment undertakings;
- Tax-exempt charities;
- Designated brokers receiving the distribution for special portfolio investment accounts;
- Any person who is entitled to exemption from income tax under Schedule F on dividends in respect of an investment in whole or in part of payments received in respect of a civil action or from the Personal Injuries Assessment Board for damages in respect of mental or physical infirmity;
- Certain qualifying trusts established for the benefit of an incapacitated individual and/or persons in receipt of income from such a qualifying trust;
- Any person entitled to exemption to income tax under Schedule F by virtue of Section 192(2) Taxes Consolidation Act ("TCA") 1997;

- Unit trusts to which Section 731(5)(a) TCA 1997 applies; and
- Certain Irish Revenue-approved amateur and athletic sport bodies.

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

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

In the case of an individual non-resident stockholder resident in an EU member state or tax treaty country, the declaration must be accompanied by a current certificate of tax residence from the tax authorities in the stockholder’s country of residence. In the case of both an individual and corporate non-resident stockholder resident in an EU member state or tax treaty country, the declaration also must contain an undertaking by the individual or corporate non-resident stockholder that he, she or it will advise the Company accordingly if he, she or it ceases to meet the conditions to be entitled to the DWT exemption. No declaration is required if the stockholder is a 5% parent company in another EU member state in accordance with section 831 TCA 1997. Neither is a declaration required on the payment by a company resident in Ireland to another company so resident if the Company making the dividend is a 51% subsidiary of that other company.

The Irish Department of Finance had sought to introduce a Dividend Withholding Tax Real-Time Reporting system from January 1, 2021. Under this system, Irish resident companies would be required to obtain tax reference numbers from shareholders in advance of making a distribution. A public consultation process between stakeholders, shareholders and representative bodies with the Irish Revenue Commissioners ran between October 2019 and March 2020, the outcomes of which are to be published in due course. One of the main areas of concern raised was in regards the impracticability of managing such a system in respect of listed companies who have a large and diverse base of international investors. In May 2020, having regard to the scale of the challenge facing the industry in preparing for the transfer of the Irish equities market to a new settlement system by March 2021, and business challenges and disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Irish Revenue Commissioners postponed the planned introduction of the Real-Time Reporting System from January 1, 2021 until an undefined later date.

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

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

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

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

*Capital Gains Tax.* A person who is either resident or ordinarily resident in Ireland will generally be liable for Irish capital gains tax on any gain realized on the disposal of the Ordinary Shares or ADRs. The current capital gains tax rate is 33%. A person who is neither resident nor ordinarily resident in Ireland and who does not carry on a trade in Ireland through a branch or agency will not be subject to Irish capital gains tax on the disposal of the Ordinary Shares or ADRs.

*Irish Capital Acquisitions Tax.* A gift or inheritance of the Ordinary Shares or ADRs will be within the charge to Irish Capital Acquisitions Tax ("CAT") notwithstanding that the donor or the donee/successor in relation to such gift or inheritance is resident outside Ireland. CAT is charged at a rate of 33% above a tax-free threshold. This tax-free threshold is determined by the amount of the current benefit and of previous benefits taken since December 5, 1991, as relevant, within the charge to CAT and the relationship between the donor and the successor or donee. Gifts and inheritances between spouses (and in certain cases former spouses) are not subject to CAT.

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

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

The Irish Revenue treats a conversion of Ordinary Shares to ADRs made in contemplation of a sale or a change in beneficial ownership (under Irish law) as an event subject to stamp duty at a rate of 1%. The Irish Revenue has

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

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

#### **United States Federal Income Tax Considerations**

The following is a summary of certain U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to the purchase, ownership and disposition of Ordinary Shares or ADRs by a beneficial owner of the Ordinary Shares or ADRs who is a citizen or resident of the United States, a U.S. domestic corporation or otherwise subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis in respect of the Ordinary Shares or the ADRs (a "U.S. Holder"). This summary does not purport to be tax advice or a comprehensive description of all of the tax considerations that may be relevant to a decision to purchase, hold, or dispose of the Ordinary Shares or the ADRs. In particular, the summary deals only with U.S. Holders that will hold Ordinary Shares or ADRs as capital assets and generally does not address the tax treatment of U.S. Holders that may be subject to special tax rules such as banks, regulated investment companies, insurance companies, tax-exempt organizations dealers in securities or currencies, partnerships or partners therein, entities subject to the branch profits tax, traders in securities electing to mark to market, persons that own 10% or more of the stock of the Company (measured by vote or value), persons whose "functional currency" is not U.S. dollars or persons that hold the Ordinary Shares or the ADRs as a synthetic security or as part of an integrated investment (including a "straddle" or hedge) consisting of the Ordinary Shares or the ADRs and one or more other positions. Moreover, this summary does not address state, local or foreign taxes, the U.S. federal estate and gift taxes, the Medicare contribution tax on net investment income of certain non-corporate U.S. Holders, or alternative minimum tax consequences of acquiring, holding or disposing of Ordinary Shares or ADRs.

This summary is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), its legislative history, existing and proposed regulations promulgated thereunder, published rulings and court decisions, all as currently in effect. These authorities are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis. In addition, this summary assumes the deposit agreement, and all other related agreements, will be performed in accordance with their terms.

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

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

#### ***Taxation of Dividends***

The gross amount of any dividends (including any amount withheld in respect of Irish taxes) paid with respect to the Ordinary Shares, including Ordinary Shares represented by ADRs, will generally be includible in the taxable income of a U.S. Holder when the dividends are received by the holder, in the case of Ordinary Shares, or when received

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

Subject to certain exceptions for short-term and hedged positions, the U.S. dollar amount of dividends received by an individual with respect to the Ordinary Shares or ADRs will be taxable at the preferential rates for “qualified dividends” if (i) the Company is eligible for the benefits of a comprehensive income tax treaty with the United States that the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) has approved for the purposes of the qualified dividend rules and (ii) the Company was not, in the year prior to the year in which the dividend is paid, and is not, in the year in which the dividend is paid, a passive foreign investment company (a “PFIC”). The Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Ireland for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital Gains, dated as of July 28, 1999 (the “U.S.-Ireland Income Tax Treaty”) has been approved for the purposes of the qualified dividend rules. Based on the Company’s audited financial statements and relevant market data, the Company believes that it was not treated as a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes with respect to its 2020 and 2021 taxable years. In addition, based on the Company’s audited financial statements and its current expectations regarding the value and nature of its assets, the sources and nature of its income, and relevant market data, the Company does not anticipate becoming a PFIC for its 2022 taxable year.

Dividends received by U.S. Holders generally will constitute foreign source and “passive category” income for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes. Subject to limitations under U.S. federal income tax law concerning credits or deductions for foreign taxes, any Irish taxes withheld at the appropriate rate from cash dividends on the Ordinary Shares or ADRs may be treated as a foreign income tax eligible for credit against a U.S. Holder’s U.S. federal income tax liability (or at a U.S. Holder’s election, may be deducted in computing taxable income if the U.S. Holder has elected to deduct all foreign income taxes for the taxable year). The rules with respect to foreign tax credits are complex and U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors concerning the implications of these rules in light of their particular circumstances.

Distributions of Ordinary Shares that are made as part of a *pro rata* distribution to all stockholders generally should not be subject to U.S. federal income tax, unless the U.S. Holder has the right to receive cash or property instead, in which case the U.S. Holder will be treated as if it received cash equal to the fair market value of the distribution.

#### *Taxation of Capital Gains*

Upon a sale or other disposition of the Ordinary Shares or ADRs, U.S. Holders will recognize a 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 on the disposition and the U.S. Holder’s tax basis, determined in U.S. dollars, in the Ordinary Shares or ADRs. Generally, such gains or losses will be capital gains or losses, and will be long-term capital gains or losses if the Ordinary Shares or ADRs have been held for more than one year. Short-term capital gains are subject to U.S. federal income taxation at ordinary income rates, while long-term capital gains realized by a U.S. Holder that is an individual generally are subject to taxation at preferential rates. Gains realized by a U.S. Holder generally should constitute income from sources within the United States for foreign tax credit purposes and generally should constitute “passive category” income for such purposes. The deductibility of capital losses, in excess of capital gains, is subject to limitations.

Deposits and withdrawals of Ordinary Shares by U.S. Holders in exchange for ADRs should not result in the realization of gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

### *Foreign Financial Asset Reporting*

Certain U.S. Holders that own “specified foreign financial assets” with an aggregate value in excess of U.S.\$50,000 on the last day of the taxable year or U.S.\$75,000 at any time during the taxable year are generally required to file an information statement along with their tax returns, currently on IRS 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. The understatement of income attributable to “specified foreign financial assets” in excess of U.S.\$5,000 extends the statute of limitations with respect to the tax return to six years after the return was filed. U.S. Holders who fail to report the required information could be subject to substantial penalties. Holders are encouraged to consult with their own tax advisors regarding the possible application of these rules, including the application of the rules to their particular circumstances.

### *Information Reporting and Backup Withholding*

Dividends paid on, and proceeds from, the sale or other disposition of the Ordinary Shares or ADRs that are made within the United States or through certain U.S. related financial intermediaries generally will be subject to information reporting and may also be subject to backup withholding unless the holder (i) provides a correct taxpayer identification number and certifies that it is not subject to backup withholding or (ii) otherwise establish an exemption from backup withholding. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld may be allowed as a refund or credit against a U.S. Holder’s U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

### **DOCUMENTS ON DISPLAY**

Copies of Ryanair Holdings’ Articles may be examined at its registered office and principal place of business at Dublin Office, Airside Business Park, Swords, County Dublin, K67 NY94, Ireland and are also available on the Ryanair website.

Ryanair Holdings also files reports, including Annual Reports on Form 20-F, periodic reports on Form 6-K and other information, with the SEC pursuant to the rules and regulations of the SEC that apply to foreign private issuers. You may read and copy any materials filed with the SEC at its 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.