

10.6 TAXATION

Unless otherwise indicated, for purposes of the following discussion regarding taxation the Shares and the Savings Shares are collectively referred to as the “Telecom Italia Shares”.

Italian Taxation

The following is a summary of certain Italian tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of Shares, Savings Shares or ADRs as at the date hereof. It does not purport to be a complete analysis of all potential tax matters relevant to a decision to hold Shares, Savings Shares or ADRs. For purposes of Italian law and the Italian-U.S. income tax convention (the “Treaty”), holders of American Depositary Shares which are evidenced by ADRs will be treated as holders of the underlying Shares or Savings Shares, as the case may be.

Income Tax

Under Italian law, dividends paid to holders of Savings Shares and applicable ADRs who are not Italian residents and do not have a permanent establishment in Italy to which dividends are connected are subject to a 12.5% withholding tax.

Under Italian law, dividends paid to holders of Shares and applicable ADRs who are not Italian residents and do not have a permanent establishment in Italy to which dividends are connected are subject to a 27% withholding tax.

Under Italian law, all shares of Italian listed companies have to be registered in a centralized deposit system. With respect to dividends paid in connection with shares held in the centralized deposit system managed by Monte Titoli, such as Telecom Italia Shares, instead of the 27% or 12.5% withholding taxes mentioned above, a substitute income tax will apply at the same tax rates as the above-mentioned withholding taxes. This substitute income tax is levied by the Italian authorized intermediaries participating in the Monte Titoli system and with whom the securities are deposited and also by non-Italian authorized intermediaries participating, directly or through a non-Italian centralized deposit system, in the Monte Titoli system.

Non-resident holders of Shares and ADRs have the right to recover within 48 months from the date of payment of the Italian substitute income tax, up to four-ninths of such 27% substitute tax on their dividend income, upon providing adequate evidence, certified by the tax authorities in their home country, that they paid a corresponding amount of income tax in their home country on the same dividend income.

These refunds are normally subject to extensive delays. In addition, these refunds are an alternative to seeking any relief from double taxation under an income tax treaty, including the Treaty.

U.S. resident owners of Shares and ADRs may be entitled to reduced rates of tax on their dividends under the Treaty. Under circumstances where a U.S. resident owner is the actual beneficiary of the dividends and the dividends paid are not connected with a permanent establishment in Italy through which the U.S. resident owner carries on a business or with a fixed base in Italy through which the U.S. resident owner performs independent personal services, the Treaty provides that Italian taxes cannot exceed 15% of gross dividends.

To qualify for the reduced tax rate afforded by the Treaty, a beneficial owner of Shares or ADRs must provide, before the dividend is paid (usually, according to the intermediary instructions), the intermediary with which the shares are deposited and which participates in the Monte Titoli system with the following:

- (i) a declaration by the beneficial owner containing all the data identifying such person as the beneficial owner and establishing the existence of all the conditions necessary for the application of the Treaty; and
- (ii) a certification (Form 6166) issued by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service that states that the beneficial owner is a U.S. resident for tax purposes. The certification is valid until March 31 of the year following the submission.

The processing of requests for certification by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service may take a substantial period of time. Accordingly, in order to be eligible for the procedure described below, eligible ADR holders should begin the process of obtaining Form 6166 as soon as possible after receiving instructions from the Depositary on how to claim the reduced rate provided by the Treaty.

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The Depositary's instructions, which will be sent to all ADR holders before the dividend payment date, will specify certain deadlines for delivering to the Depositary any documentation required to obtain the reduced rate provided by the Treaty, including the certification that the eligible ADR holders must obtain from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. In the case of ADRs held through a broker or other financial intermediary, the required documentation should be delivered to such financial intermediary for transmission to the Depositary. In all other cases, the eligible ADR holders should deliver the required documentation directly to the Depositary.

If the holder of Shares or ADRs fails to obtain the reduced rate provided by the Treaty at the time the dividend is paid, a refund equal to the difference between the Treaty rate and the Italian 27% substitute tax, applied at the payment of dividends, may be claimed directly from the Italian tax authorities. Extensive delays have been encountered by U.S. residents seeking payments directly from the Italian authorities.

In the case of dividends derived by a U.S. partnership, the reduction of the tax rate under the Treaty is only available to the extent such dividends are subject to U.S. tax in the hands of the partners.

Transfer Tax

Transfer tax is not payable upon the transfer of Telecom Italia Shares or ADRs through Telematico or any other regulated financial market. Transfers of Telecom Italia Shares or ADRs which occur outside a regulated financial market are exempted from the payment of transfer tax provided that the parties entering into the agreement pursuant to which the transfer takes place are all non-residents of Italy and the relevant Telecom Italia Shares or ADRs are not deposited at an Italian intermediary. Other types of transfers of shares listed on Telematico or any other regulated financial market which occur outside a regulated financial market are also exempted from the payment of transfer tax provided that the parties entering into the agreement pursuant to which the transfer taxes take place are (i) banks, Italian securities dealing firms ("SIMs") or exchange agents or (ii) banks, SIMs or exchange agents on the one hand, and non-residents on the other hand or (iii) banks, SIMs or resident or non-resident exchange agents, on the one hand, and investment funds on the other hand. In any other case, transfer tax is currently payable at the following rates:

- €0.072 per €51.65 (or any fraction) of the price at which the Telecom Italia Shares or ADRs are transferred when the transfer is made directly between the parties or through an intermediary that is not a bank, SIM or broker; and
- €0.0258 per €51.65 (or any fraction) of the price at which the Telecom Italia Shares or ADRs are transferred when the transfer is made either (i) between a bank, SIM or broker and a private party or (ii) between private parties through a bank, SIM or broker.

The mere change of a depositary (e.g., Euroclear, Clearstream, Monte Titoli, DTC or the Depositary) not involving a transfer of the ownership of the transferred Telecom Italia Shares will not trigger the Italian transfer tax.

In general, with respect to U.S. holders, the transfer tax will not be applicable on transfers of Telecom Italia Shares or ADRs through regulated financial markets. However, in the case of transfers which are not executed on a regulated financial market and are entered into with an Italian counterparty other than a bank or authorized financial intermediary or an investment fund, it is advisable that U.S. holders consult their own tax advisors concerning the applicability of this transfer tax. Deposits and withdrawals of Telecom Italia Shares in return for ADRs by non-Italian residents will not be subject to the transfer tax.

Capital Gains Tax

Under Italian law, capital gains tax ("CGT") is levied on capital gains realized by non-residents from the disposition of shares in companies resident in Italy for tax purposes even if those shares are held outside of Italy. For the purposes of CGT, the exchange of shares under a merger or demerger of Italian companies does not constitute a disposition of shares. In such transactions, the tax value and the holding period of the exchanged shares is carried over to the shares received in the exchange. Capital gains realized by non-resident holders on the sale of non-qualified shareholdings (as defined below) in companies listed on a stock exchange and resident in Italy for tax purposes (as is Telecom Italia's case) are not subject to CGT.

A "qualified shareholding" consists of securities (except for Saving Shares and applicable ADR's) that (i) entitle the holder to exercise more than 2% of the voting rights of a company with shares listed on a stock exchange (as

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is Telecom Italia's case) or 20% of the voting rights of other companies, in each case in the ordinary meeting of the shareholders or (ii) represent more than 5% of the share capital of a company with shares listed on a stock exchange (as is Telecom Italia's case) or 25% of the share capital of other companies. A "non-qualified shareholding" is any shareholding that does not meet the above mentioned interest rights to be qualified as a "qualified shareholding".

The relevant percentage is calculated taking into account the holdings sold during the prior 12-month period.

Pursuant to the Treaty, a U.S. resident will not be subject to Italian CGT on a sale of qualified shareholdings unless the Telecom Italia Shares or ADRs form part of the business property of a permanent establishment of the holder in Italy or pertain to a fixed base available to a holder in Italy for the purpose of performing independent personal services. U.S. residents who sell Telecom Italia Shares or ADRs may be required to produce appropriate documentation establishing that the above mentioned conditions of non-taxability pursuant to the Treaty have been satisfied if CGT would otherwise be applicable.

Inheritance and Gift Tax

According to Law No. 383 of October 18, 2001 ("Law No. 383"), Italian inheritance and gift tax, previously payable on transfer of securities on death or by gift, has been abolished as of October 25, 2001.

However, for grantees other than spouses, direct descendants or ancestors and other relatives within the fourth degree, if and to the extent that the value of the gift to any such grantee exceeds €180.759,91, the gift of shares may be subject to the ordinary transfer taxes that would apply if the shares had been transferred for consideration (i.e., registration tax at the flat rate of €168).

Moreover, an anti-avoidance rule is provided by Law No. 383 for any gift of assets (such as shares) which, if sold for consideration, would give rise to capital gains subject to CGT. In particular, if the grantee sells shares received as a gift for consideration within 5 years from receipt, the grantee will be required to pay the relevant CGT, where applicable, as if the gift had never taken place.

There is currently no gift tax convention between Italy and the United States.

United States Federal Income Taxation

The following summary describes the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and sale of Telecom Italia Shares, including Telecom Italia Shares represented by American Depositary Shares evidenced by ADRs, that are generally applicable to the U.S. holders described herein who own Telecom Italia Shares or ADRs as capital assets for U.S. federal income tax purposes. For these purposes, you are a U.S. holder if you are for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- a citizen or resident of the United States;
- a corporation, or other entity taxable as a corporation, created or organized under the laws of the United States or of any political subdivision of the United States; or
- an estate or trust the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source.

This discussion is based on the tax laws of the United States currently in effect, including the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, Treasury regulations, administrative announcements, and judicial decisions, as well as the Italian-U.S. income tax convention (the "Treaty"). These laws may change, possibly with retroactive effect. This discussion does not address U.S. state, local or non-U.S. tax consequences.

This discussion is based in part upon representations of the Depositary and assumes that each obligation provided for in, or otherwise contemplated by, the Deposit Agreement and any related agreement will be performed in accordance with its respective terms. The U.S. Treasury has expressed concerns that parties to whom ADRs are pre-released may be taking actions that are inconsistent with the claiming, by U.S. holders of ADRs, of foreign tax credits for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Such actions would also be inconsistent with the claiming of the reduced rate of tax applicable to dividends received by certain noncorporate U.S. holders. Accordingly, the

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analysis of the creditability of Italian taxes by ADR holders and the availability of the reduced tax rate on dividends received by certain noncorporate U.S. holders, both discussed below, could be affected by actions that may be taken by parties to whom ADRs are pre-released.

This discussion does not address all of the tax consequences that may be relevant in light of your particular circumstances. In particular, it does not address purchasers subject to special rules, including:

- partnerships;
- persons subject to the alternative minimum tax;
- tax-exempt entities;
- dealers and traders in securities or foreign currencies;
- insurance companies;
- financial institutions;
- persons who own the Telecom Italia Shares or ADRs as part of an integrated investment, including a straddle, hedging or conversion transaction, comprised of the Telecom Italia Shares or ADRs and one or more other positions for tax purposes;
- persons whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar for U.S. federal income tax purposes; or
- persons who actually or constructively own 10% or more of the Company's voting stock.

Please consult your tax advisor with regard to the application of U.S. federal income tax laws to the Telecom Italia Shares or ADRs, and any tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or non-U.S. taxing jurisdiction. For U.S. federal income tax purposes, holders of ADRs evidencing American Depositary Shares will be treated as owners of the underlying Shares or Savings Shares, as the case may be, represented by those American Depositary Shares.

This discussion assumes that the Company was not a passive foreign investment company for 2004 (as discussed below).

Taxation of dividends

Distributions made with respect to the Telecom Italia Shares or ADRs (other than certain pro rata distributions of Telecom Italia Shares or ADRs), including any Italian tax withheld, will generally constitute foreign source dividend income for U.S. federal income tax purposes to the extent such distributions are made from the Company's current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined in accordance with U.S. federal income tax principles. Subject to applicable limitations that may vary depending on a U.S. holder's individual circumstances and the discussion above regarding concerns expressed by the U.S. Treasury, dividends paid to certain noncorporate U.S. holders in taxable years beginning before January 1, 2009 will be taxable at a maximum tax rate of 15%. Noncorporate U.S. holders should consult their own tax advisors to determine whether they are subject to any special rules that may limit their ability to be taxed at this favorable rate.

You will not be entitled to claim a dividends-received deduction for dividends paid on the Telecom Italia Shares or ADRs. The amount of any cash distribution paid in euros, including the amount of any Italian tax withheld, will be equal to the U.S. dollar value of such euros on the date of receipt by the Depositary in the case of U.S. holders of ADRs, or by the U.S. holder in the case of U.S. holders of Telecom Italia Shares, regardless of whether the payment is in fact converted into U.S. dollars. Gain or loss, if any, recognized on the sale or other disposition of such euros will be U.S. source ordinary income or loss. The amount of any distribution of property other than cash will be the fair market value of such property on the date of distribution.

Subject to certain limitations and restrictions and the discussion above regarding concerns expressed by the U.S. Treasury, Italian taxes withheld from distributions at a rate not in excess of that provided in the Treaty will be eligible for credit against a U.S. holder's U.S. federal income tax liability. Italian taxes withheld in excess of the rate provided in the Treaty will generally not be eligible for credit against a U.S. holder's U.S. federal income tax

liability. The limitation on foreign taxes eligible for credit is calculated separately with respect to specific classes of income. You should consult your tax advisor concerning the foreign tax credit implications of the payment of any Italian withholding taxes.

Taxation of capital gains

You will generally recognize U.S. source capital gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes on the sale or exchange of Telecom Italia Shares or ADRs, which will be long-term capital gain or loss if the Telecom Italia Shares or ADRs were held for more than one year. The amount of gain or loss will be equal to the difference between the amount realized and your adjusted basis in the Telecom Italia Shares or ADRs. You should consult your own tax advisor about the treatment of capital gains, which may be taxed at lower rates than ordinary income for non-corporate taxpayers, and capital losses, the deductibility of which may be limited.

Passive Foreign Investment Company Rules

The Company believes that it was not a “passive foreign investment company” (“PFIC”) for U.S. federal income tax purposes for 2004. However, since PFIC status depends upon the composition of the Company’s income and assets and the market value of the Company’s assets (including, among others, less than 25% owned equity investments) from time to time, there can be no assurance that the Company will not be considered a PFIC for any taxable year. If the Company were treated as a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. holder held Telecom Italia Shares or ADRs, certain adverse tax consequences could apply to the U.S. holder.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

You may, under certain circumstances, be subject to information reporting and backup withholding with respect to dividends or the proceeds of any sale, exchange or redemption of ADRs or Telecom Italia Shares unless you:

- are a corporation or come within certain other exempt categories, and, when required, demonstrate this fact, or
- in the case of back up withholding, provide a correct taxpayer identification number, certify that you are not subject to backup withholding and otherwise comply with applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules.

Any amount withheld under these rules will be creditable against your U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle you to a refund; provided that the required information is furnished to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. If you are required to and do not provide a correct taxpayer identification number, you may be subject to penalties imposed by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.