

effecting such transactions on behalf of residents or non-residents of Italy are required to maintain records of such transactions for five years, which records may be inspected at any time by Italian tax and judicial authorities. Non-compliance with these reporting and record-keeping requirements may result in administrative fines or, in the case of false reporting and in certain cases of incomplete reporting, criminal penalties. The Ufficio Italiano Cambi will maintain reports for a period of ten years and may use them, directly or through other government offices, to police money laundering, tax evasion and any other crime or violation.

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## Taxation

*The information set forth below is a summary only, and Italian, United States and other tax laws may change from time to time. Holders of shares and ADSs should consult with their professional advisors as to the tax consequences of their ownership and disposition of the shares and ADRs, including, in particular, the effect of tax laws of any other jurisdiction.*

### Italian Taxation

The following is a summary of the material Italian tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of shares or ADRs as at the date hereof and does not purport to be a complete analysis of all potential tax effects relevant to the ownership or disposition of shares or ADRs.

#### Income tax

Dividends received by Italian resident individuals in relation to participations exceeding 2% of the voting rights or 5% of the share capital ("substantial participations") are included in the taxable income subject to personal income tax to the extent of 40% of their amount. Personal income tax applies at progressive rates ranging from 23% to 45% plus local surtaxes. Dividends received by Italian resident individuals in relation to non-substantial participations not related to the conduct of a business are subject to a substitute tax of 12.5% withheld at the source by the dividend paying agent. This being the case, the dividend is not to be included in the individual's tax return. If the non-substantial participations are related to the conduct of a business, dividends received are included in the taxable business income to the extent of 40% of their amount.

Dividends received by Italian pension funds are included in the overall result of the pension funds subject to a 11% substitute tax. Dividends received by Italian collective investment funds are included in the overall result of the collective investment funds subject to a 12.5% substitute tax. Dividends received by Italian real estate investment funds are not subject to tax in the hands of the real estate investment funds. Entities exempt from IRES (company income tax) are subject to the substitute tax at the rate of 27%.

Dividend paid to non Italian residents are subject to the same substitute tax levied at source by the dividend paying agent at the rate of 27%, provided that the participations are not connected to an Italian permanent establishment. Up to four-ninths of the substitute tax withheld might be recovered by the non-resident shareholder from the Italian Tax Authorities upon provision of evidence of full payment of income tax on such dividend in his/her country of residence in an amount at least equal to the total refund claimed.

The substitute tax may be reduced under the tax treaty in force between Italy and the country of residence of the Beneficial Owner of the dividend. Italy has executed income tax treaties with approximately 70 foreign countries, including all EU member states, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, the United States and some countries in Africa, the Middle East and the Far East. Generally speaking, it should be noted that tax treaties are not applicable where the holder is a tax-exempt entity or, with few exceptions, a partnership or a trust.

In order to obtain the treaty benefit (reduced substitute tax rate) at the same time of payment, the Beneficial Owner must file an application to the dividend paying agent chosen by the Depositary stating the existence of the conditions for the applicability of the treaty benefit, together with a certification issued by the foreign Tax Authorities stating that the shareholder is a resident of that country for treaty purposes.

Under the tax treaty between the United States and Italy, dividends derived and beneficially owned by a U.S. resident who holds less than 10% of the Company's shares are subject to an Italian withholding or substitute tax at a reduced rate of 15%, provided that the participations are not effectively connected with a permanent establishment in Italy through which the U.S. resident carries on a business or a fixed establishment in Italy through which such U.S. resident performs independent personal services (for further details please refer to the relevant provisions set forth in the Italy-U.S. Tax Treaty). In the absence of such conditions, the dividend paying agent will deduct from the gross amount of the dividend the substitute tax at the statutory rate of 27%.

Based on the certification procedure required by the Italian Tax Authorities, to benefit from the direct application of the 15% substitute tax the U.S. shareholder must provide the dividend paying agent with a certificate obtained from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") with respect to each dividend payment. The request for that certificate must include a statement, signed under penalties for perjury, to the effect that the shareholder is a U.S. resident individual or corporation, and does not maintain a permanent establishment in Italy, and must set forth other required information. The normal time for processing requests for certification by the IRS is normally about six to eight weeks.

Where the Beneficial Owner has not provided the above mentioned documentation, the dividend paying agent will deduct from the gross amount of the dividend the substitute tax at the statutory rate of 27%. The U.S. recipient will then be entitled to claim from the Italian Tax Authorities the difference ("treaty refund") between the domestic rate and the treaty one by filing specific forms (certificate) with the Italian Tax Authorities.

According to the Italian tax law as reflected in the Deposit Agreement, the Company is not involved (i) in withholding amounts due by holders of ADSs to relevant taxing authorities in connection with any distributions relating to ADSs or (ii) in the procedures through which certain holders of ADSs may obtain tax rebates, credits, refunds or other similar benefits. Pursuant to the Deposit Agreement, the custodian and the Depositary have undertaken to use reasonable efforts to make and maintain arrangements to enable persons that are considered United States residents for purposes of applicable law to receive any rebates or tax credits (pursuant to treaty or otherwise) relating to distributions on the ADSs to which such persons are entitled. In addition, the Depositary has agreed to establish procedures to enable all holders to take advantage of any rebates or tax credits (pursuant to treaty or otherwise) relating to distributions on the ADSs to which such holders are entitled and to provide, at least annually, a written notice, in a form previously agreed to by the Company, to the holders of ADSs of any necessary actions to be undertaken by such Holders.

#### Transfer tax

In general terms, no Italian transfer tax is payable in the following cases:

- contracts executed on regulated financial markets;

- contracts concerning shares of non-listed companies, executed between non-resident persons and banks or other authorised intermediaries (provided that certain conditions are met);
- contracts concerning listed shares even if not executed on regulated financial markets, between non-resident persons and banks or other authorized intermediaries or investment funds.

The mentioned exemption from transfer tax does not entail the application of stamp duty or registration tax.

To provide a more complete picture, transfer tax is currently payable at the following rates:

- Euro 0.072 for euro 51.65 (or fraction thereof) of the price at which the Shares or ADRs are transferred, when the transfer occurs directly between the contracting parties or through intermediaries other than those listed below.
- Euro 0.025 for euro 51.65 (or fraction thereof) of the price at which the Shares or ADRs are transferred, when the transfer occurs between private individuals and a bank or between private individuals through an intermediary, such as an exchange agent, a bank, a stock broker, or a SIM.
- Euro 0.0061 for euro 51.65 (or fraction thereof) of the price at which the Shares or ADRs are transferred, when the transfer occurs between banks, exchange agents or SIMs.

#### *Capital Gains Tax*

This paragraph applies with respect to capital gains out of the scope of a business activity carried out in Italy.

Gains realized by Italian resident individuals upon the sale of substantial participations are included in the taxable base subject to personal income tax to the extent of 40% of their amount, while gains realized upon the sale of non substantial participations are subject to a substitute tax at a 12.5% rate.

For gains deriving from the sale of non substantial participations, two different systems may be applied at the option of the shareholder as an alternative to the filing of the tax return:

the so-called “administered savings” tax regime (*risparmio amministrato*), based on which intermediaries acting as shares depositaries shall apply a substitute tax (12.5%) on each gain, on a cash basis. If the sale of shares generated a loss, said loss may be carried forward up to the fourth following year; and

the so-called “portfolio management” tax regime (*risparmio gestito*) which is applicable when the shares form part of a portfolio managed by an Italian asset management company. The accrued net profit of the portfolio is subject to a 12.5% substitute tax to be applied by the portfolio.

Gains realized by non residents from non substantial participations in listed companies are deemed not to be realized in Italy and consequently are not subject to the capital gains tax.

On the contrary, gains realized by non-residents from substantial participations even in listed companies are deemed to be realized in Italy and consequently they are subject to the capital gains tax.

However double taxation treaties may eliminate the capital gains tax. Under the income tax convention between the United States and Italy, a U.S. resident will not be subject to the capital gains tax unless the shares or ADRs form part of the business property of a permanent establishment of the holder in Italy or pertain to a fixed establishment available to a shareholder in Italy for the purposes of performing independent personal services. U.S. residents who sell shares may be required to produce appropriate documentation establishing that the above-mentioned conditions of non-taxability pursuant to the convention have been satisfied.

#### *Inheritance and Gift Tax.*

No inheritance tax applies in Italy to the transfer of shares or ADRs by reason of death. Transfer of shares or ADRs, even if held outside Italy, by reason of donation are subject to the ordinary Italian transfer tax on the value of the gift exceeding 180.759,91 euro, only if the donee is not the spouse, a direct descendant or a relative up to the fourth degree of the donor. However, tax applies in the fixed amount of 129.11 euro.

An anti avoidance rule applies to gift of assets (such as shares) which, if sold for consideration, would give rise to capital gain subject to substitute tax as per Decree No. 461 of November 21, 1997. In particular if the donee sells the shares for consideration within five years from the receipt thereof as gift, the substitute tax will apply on the capital gain determined as if the gift had never been given.

#### **United States Taxation**

The following is a summary of certain U.S. federal income tax consequences to U.S. Holders (as defined below) of the ownership and disposition of Shares or ADRs. This summary is addressed to U.S. Holders that hold Shares or ADSs as capital assets, and does not purport to address all material tax consequences of the ownership of Shares or ADSs. The summary does not deal with special classes of investors, such as tax-exempt entities, dealers in securities, traders in securities that elect to mark to market, certain insurance companies, broker-dealers, investors liable for alternative minimum tax, investors that actually or constructively own 10% or more of Eni SpA's Shares, investors that hold Shares or ADSs as part of a straddle or a hedging or conversion transaction and investors whose “functional currency” is not the U.S. dollar.

This summary is based on the tax laws of the United States (including the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, (the “Code”) its legislative history, existing and proposed regulations thereunder, published rulings and court decisions) as in effect on the date hereof, and which are subject to change (or changes in interpretation), possibly with retroactive effect. The summary is based in part on representations of the Depositary and assumes that each obligation in the Deposit Agreement and any related agreement will be performed in accordance with its terms. U.S. Holders should consult their own tax advisors to determine the U.S. federal, state and local and foreign tax consequences to them of the ownership and disposition of Shares or ADSs.

As used in this section, the term “U.S. Holder” means a beneficial owner of Shares or ADSs who or that is (i) a citizen or resident of the United States, (ii) a domestic corporation, (iii) an estate the income of which is subject to United States federal income tax without regard to its source or (iv) a trust if a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

The discussion does not address any aspects of United States taxation other than federal income taxation. In particular, U.S. Holders are urged to confirm their eligibility for benefits under the income tax convention between the United States and Italy with their advisors and to discuss with their advisors any possible consequences of their failure to qualify for such benefits.

In general, and taking into account the earlier assumptions, for the United States federal income tax purposes, U.S. Holders who own ADRs evidencing ADSs will be treated as owners of the underlying Shares. Exchanges of Shares for ADSs, and ADSs for shares, generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax.

### *Dividends*

Distributions paid on the shares generally will be treated as dividends for U.S. federal income tax purposes to the extent paid out of Eni SpA's current or accumulated earnings and profits as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes, but will not be eligible for the dividends received-deduction generally allowed to corporations. To the extent that a distribution exceeds Eni SpA's earnings and profits, it will be treated, first, as a non-taxable return of capital to the extent of the U.S. Holder's tax basis in the shares or ADSs, and thereafter as a taxable gain on the sale or exchange of shares or ADSs. A U.S. Holder will be subject to U.S. federal taxation, on the date of actual or constructive receipt by the U.S. Holder (in the case of Shares) or by the Depositary (in the case of ADSs) with respect to the gross amount of any dividends, including any Italian tax withheld therefrom, without regard to whether any portion of such tax may be refunded to the U.S. Holder by the Italian tax authorities. If you are a noncorporate U.S. Holder, dividends paid to you before January 1, 2009 that constitute qualified dividend income will be taxable to you at a maximum tax rate of 15% provided that you hold the Shares or ADSs for more than 60 days during the 120-day period beginning 60 days before the ex-dividend date and meet other holding period requirements. The U.S. Internal Revenue Service has announced that it will permit taxpayers to apply a proposed legislative change to the holding period requirement described in the preceding sentence as if such change were already effective. This legislative "technical correction" would change the minimum required holding period, retroactive to January 1, 2003, to more than 60 days during the 121-day period beginning 60 days before the ex-dividend date. Dividends we pay with respect to the shares or ADSs will be qualified dividend income. The amount of any dividend paid in lire will equal the U.S. dollar value of the lire received, calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the date the distribution is includible in income, regardless of whether the lire are converted into U.S. dollars and U.S. Holders may recognize foreign currency gain or loss upon the disposition of such lire measured by the differences between such U.S. dollar value and the amount realized on such disposition. Such gain or loss will be treated as ordinary income or loss and will not be eligible for the special tax rate applicable to qualified dividend income.

Subject to certain conditions and limitations, Italian tax withheld from dividends will be treated as a foreign income tax eligible for credit against the U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability. Special rules apply in determining the foreign tax credit limitation with respect to dividends that are subject to the maximum 15% tax rate. To the extent a refund of the tax withheld is available to a U.S. Holder under Italian law or under the income tax convention, the amount of tax withheld that is refundable will not be eligible for credit against your United States federal income tax liability. See "Italian Taxation-Income Tax," above, for the procedures for obtaining a tax refund. For the purposes of computing the foreign tax credit, dividends paid on the Shares will be treated as income from sources outside the United States, but generally will be grouped separately, together with other items of "passive" or "financial services" income.

### *Sale or Exchange of Shares*

In general, a U.S. Holder will recognize gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes on the sale or exchange of Shares or ADSs equal to the difference between the U.S. Holder's adjusted basis in the shares or ADSs (determined in U.S. dollars), as the case may be, and the amount realized on the sale or exchange (or if the amount realized is denominated in a foreign currency its U.S. dollar equivalent, determined at the spot rate on the date of disposition). Generally, such gain or loss will be treated as capital gain or loss if the Shares or ADSs are held as capital assets and will be a long-term capital gain or loss if the shares or ADSs have been held for more than one year on the date of such sale or exchange. Long-term capital gain of a non-corporate U.S. Holder that is recognized on or after May 6, 2003 and before January 1, 2009 is generally subject to a maximum tax rate of 15% in respect of property held for more than one year. In addition, any such gain or loss realized by a U.S. Holder generally will be treated as U.S. source income or loss for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes.

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### **Documents on Display**

It is possible to read and copy documents referred to in this annual report on Form 20-F that have been filed with the SEC at the SEC's public reference room located at 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549 and at the SEC's other public reference rooms in New York City and Chicago. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference rooms and their copy charges. The SEC filings are also available to the public from commercial document retrieval services and in the website maintained by the SEC at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). It is also possible to read and copy documents referred to in this annual report on Form 20-F at the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, 17<sup>th</sup> floor, New York.