

Customer information regarding the automatic exchange of information according to the OECD standard in Austria

The Austrian bank package encompasses a number of individual new laws and accompanying amendments to existing laws which, in particular, stipulate extensive reporting obligations for Austrian banks vis-à-vis the Federal Ministry of Finance. Overall, the Austrian bank package results in a limitation of the existing banking secrecy provisions for both domestic and foreign bank customers.

One component of the package is the federal law implementing the common reporting standard for the automatic international exchange of information on financial accounts, the Common Reporting Standard Act (Gemeinsamer Meldestandard-Gesetz; GMSG). This law defines the exchange of information according to the OECD standard as well as the appropriate implementation of the EU Administrative Cooperation Directive in Austrian law.

Therefore, the GMSG affects EU and non-EU non-residents equally.

The legal reporting obligation pertains to bank accounts/securities accounts and savings deposits of natural persons and certain legal entities, subject to specified value limits.

The reportable information for natural persons pursuant to Section 3 GMSG includes the following:

- the name, address, country/countries of residence, Taxpayer Identification Number(s), place of birth, and date of birth of the bank customer

In addition to the account number and the name of the Austrian bank, banks must not only report the account/securities account balance as of the end of the given calendar year, but must also provide information about the opening and closure of accounts/securities accounts/savings deposits during the year. Depending on the account type, additional information (e.g. total gross earnings from interest and dividend income, account credits, total gross proceeds from the sale of financial assets, etc.) must be reported.

Pursuant to the GMSG, the bank must submit the required information electronically by 30 June of the following year for the previous reporting period (1 January–31 December). The data are then exchanged between the national tax authority and the tax authority in the customer's country of residence on 30 September each year.

Information that is submitted to Austria from abroad under this same process is forwarded to the competent tax authorities by the Federal Ministry of Finance on an annual basis.

The first reporting period for existing accounts starts on 1 January 2017. The information will be submitted to the national tax authority by 30 June 2018. The exchange of information between the tax authorities will occur on 30 September 2018.

In the case of new accounts (opened on or after 1 October 2016), information will already be collected for the period between 1 October 2016 and 31 December 2016. In this case, the earliest date for reporting to foreign tax authorities is 30 September 2017 or additional details, please refer to our brochure about all of the legal regulations connected with the adoption of the Austrian bank package. Your personal relationship manager at Schoellerbank will also be happy to provide you with information.