

BMCE Bank International plc - Tax Strategy

Our Tax Principles guide how we manage our tax affairs, for ourselves, our staff, suppliers, market counterparts and on behalf of our clients. We take in to account our stakeholders, including governments and communities, when making decisions related to our tax affairs. Crucially, we play an important role on behalf of governments as collector of taxes in relation to payments made to our customers and staff.

BMCE Bank International Plc ("BBI"), inclusive of the other UK Group components, namely our holding company, BMCE International Holdings Plc ("BIH") provides as its core businesses Treasury and Capital Markets, Corporate Banking, Commodities Trade Finance, and Retail Services to its clients. BBI operate through its offices in London and its Paris branch.

The publication of these Tax Principles along with our Overall Tax Management approach is to fulfil the duty under paragraph 16(2) of Schedule 19 of the Finance Act 2016.

Tax Principles

We are signatories to HMRC's Code of Practice on Taxation for Banks and our Tax Principles are framed in the spirit thereof.

1. Taxation is a fundamental part of our Finance function and the responsibilities for taxation matters are defined within our Tax Risk and Controls Framework.
2. Our taxation approach is aligned with our purpose and values, having regard to building long-term shareholder value and maintaining our reputation as a responsible taxpayer.
3. We ensure that our activities are led in accordance with the relevant tax regulations and laws in the jurisdictions in which we operate.
4. We ensure that the tax risk appetite remains low and that any inherent tax risks are appropriately mitigated. Where necessary, we pursue a consultation with tax authorities regarding uncertain tax positions to resolve any potential risks or issues.
5. We do not engage in tax planning other than that which supports our genuine commercial activity, aiming to balance our responsibility to shareholders with our responsibility to pay an appropriate amount of tax in the jurisdictions in which we operate. We may utilise tax incentives or opportunities to obtain tax efficiencies in alignment with our relationship with the tax authorities and the intended policy objectives of the relevant governments.

Overall Tax Management

The following apply in respect of the way BBI attends to its tax affairs, the risks associated with its tax affairs and the management of our relationship with HMRC.

1. The Board of Directors are accountable for the above Tax Principles and governance.
2. The Board of Directors and Senior Management are responsible for establishing and maintaining appropriate processes to ensure adherence with the Tax Principles in business decision-making.
3. We maintain adequate internal controls over our tax affairs and ensure an appropriate level of corporate governance to provide adequate oversight on our tax management processes. To support our Tax Principles, we have an articulated Tax Risk and Controls Framework.
4. Neither BBI, nor persons we associate with undertake, or facilitate transactions which are designed to achieve tax results that are contrary the intention of tax legislation. We are committed to combatting financial crime including money laundering arising from tax evasion.
5. We foster a culture of transparency and are transparent in our interaction with taxation authorities in the jurisdictions in which we operate. We are open and honest in our relationship and act with fairness and integrity. Issues with taxation authorities are resolved in a timely manner, and where a difference of opinion arises, we seek to resolve such matters quickly and efficiently.