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CEE Vienna International Tax Law Summer School 2013

Vienna, 14 July 2013 – Thirty students from various Central European countries were learning more about basic principles and problems of international double taxation and the double taxation within the European Union. The most interesting of all facts connected to our one week meeting was that we could be law students, economy students, PhD students or just tax law sympathizers and that still would not have mattered much – we are capable of spending one week discussing just taxes while on the opposite, at the Faculty of Law (University of Zagreb) it is almost impossible to find a person who knows more than mere basics on the subject of taxation. I am not sure why is that so because in Vienna I met many people who are not interested strictly in taxes and finance, but also in completely different branches of law and still ready to spend a week resolving tax law issues. Some of them were PhD students of criminal law, economy and management but still interested in learning more about taxes. I must say that the main reason for writing this brief review of the CEE Vienna International Tax Law Summer School 2013 is to recommend this great event to other students from Croatia and to show them that tax law can be as much or even more interesting than other branches of law, such as company and commercial law. I cannot say I knew a lot about double taxation issue before visiting Vienna and participating in this summer school but after one week of lectures and plenty of great debates and discussions on this subject, I can say I gained motivation to continue my education concerning this matter.

Beyond the fact we met 30 incredible people from our neighboring countries and spending an incredible week with them, I have to emphasize that we were all very surprised with the quality of organization of this event, the level of professionalism of our lecturers who were mainly PhD and LL.M. students at the University of Vienna who came to Vienna from all parts of the world and incredible spirit and the welcome of the organizer of the whole project - professor Michael Lang. The program of the Vienna Summer School was divided into two parts, the double taxation issue on the international level with the emphasis on the OECD model of double taxation and the other part, taxation within the European Union. I was surprised with the flawlessness of Austrian organization and their infinite punctuality that made me conclude why the Austrian economy functions so well – they are incredibly accurate, professional and pragmatic. One of the greatest distinctions between this summer school and similar schools in Croatia is a successful participation and support of tax auditing firms from Austria and other countries in organizing this event. All the participants of the Vienna Summer School were exempt of paying participation tuition, traveling costs and costs of accommodation. Beyond that, all the participants and lecturers were invited to dinners and events organized by sponsors. Some of the participants found their

working place in tax auditing firms during this summer school and some of the others got information for the future employment.

During the Vienna Tax Law Summer School I have seen that there are education systems that function differently from Croatian system. Those systems are much better organized and give an opportunity to young ambitious people interested in education and their personal improvement. Mainly for that reason I deeply recommend you to apply for the CEE Vienna Tax Law Summer School 2014 - it is an unforgettable experience.