

Foreword

Taxpayers can be classified in two extreme categories : those who plan each act according to its fiscal consequences and those who stoically bear the tax burden.

The former will insist on their inalienable right to use the law to their advantage, the latter focusing on the duty of each citizen to contribute to the good functioning of the state.

In practice, taxpayers will often under-estimate their legal tax saving possibilities. Who hasn't heard sayings such as "salaried employees have no influence over their tax liability" or "tax planning is only for companies" ?

This attitude is surely due to a lack of information.

The objective of this book is to define, by using simple terminology, the major tax planning principles illustrated by numerous historical and contemporary examples.

We do not intend to replace the tax advisor. This is impossible, were it only due to rapidly evolving legislations and tax practices. Furthermore, each situation requires a global study based on an interdisciplinary approach. In this respect financial planning has grown considerably over the past years and its evolution seems unavoidable. It has been promoted notably by banking institutions, chartered accountants, insurance companies and increasingly analysed by the media. All other factors being equal, it will lead to reduced State income and therefore probably to increased taxation. Consequently, taxpayers will become increasingly attracted to tax planning strategies, unless they advocate legal changes. We hope they will enjoy reading this book as much as the author enjoyed writing it.

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