Global Tax Policy

eBay has a strong focus on corporate responsibility, and we see responsible administration and payment of taxation as an important duty of our business. Compliance with our tax obligations is key to managing our tax risk. We understand the importance of tax in the wider context of business decisions and have processes in place to ensure tax matters are addressed appropriately as part of our decision-making process.

Our Principles

eBay is committed to complying with all applicable tax laws, and as such aims to comply with the spirit as well as the letter of the law in all countries where we operate. The company is also guided by relevant international standards, including the OECD Guidelines. eBay has a low risk appetite in relation to tax matters and assessing tax risk, and making such decisions against the backdrop of our reputation and integrity.

Management and Governance

We evaluate tax matters as part of our overall business strategy. Our employees are trained on the importance of compliance, including how to detect and evaluate potential compliance issues and take appropriate actions to mitigate risks. We also provide sellers with tax resources to support our requirement that they must pay taxes associated with using eBay, in accordance with all applicable laws.

In addition to our internal audit function and independent external auditors, eBay’s Board of Directors’ Audit Committee assists with the governance and oversight on tax matters: the charter of which can be found on our Investor Relations website.

The Audit Committee meets with our independent auditors to review the results of the annual audit and to discuss our financial statements, including the independent auditors’ judgment about the quality of accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant judgments, the clarity of the disclosures in our financial statements.

We respect the tax laws applicable in each country.

We employ tax professionals with relevant qualifications and technical experience to ensure our tax risk is effectively managed within our risk tolerance threshold.

We interact with tax authorities in an honest and transparent manner. When it is relevant and feasible, we have upfront conversations with the tax authorities in countries where we operate in order to minimize uncertainty on both sides. In this context and in order to provide certainty and transparency regarding the tax treatment of business transactions, eBay may enter into agreements with the tax authorities or participate in business risk review or similar programs with tax authorities so that key tax issues and business changes can be discussed in an open and real time manner.

We adhere to the philosophy that profits should be taxed where value is created, in accordance with the OECD guidelines on transfer pricing. eBay also respects and follows the regulations of the countries in which our subsidiaries are located when determining the prices of inter-company transactions. eBay conducts its inter-company transactions at prices consistent with the arm’s length standard and prepares transfer pricing documentation to support the transfer pricing methods applied, consistent with both OECD and local requirements. eBay believes that following the arm’s length principle ensures that parties to the intra-group transactions are appropriately remunerated, that accountability and transparency of transactions are ensured.

We do not use secrecy jurisdictions or “tax-havens”, as defined by the OECD, for tax avoidance or savings.

Sellers are encouraged to follow all tax regulations that apply to eBay sales.
statements, and any other matters required to be communicated to the Audit Committee by the Independent auditors under generally accepted auditing standards.

The Risk Committee receives reports from our Chief Compliance Officer regarding eBay’s compliance risk management program; and reviews management actions to support eBay’s compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

In our most recent financial statements, income taxes were a critical accounting matter that was required to be communicated to the Audit Committee. Our external auditor performed specific procedures which included testing the effectiveness of controls relating to income taxes, including controls over uncertain tax positions and the provision for income taxes. These procedures also included, among others, evaluating tax positions taken by management, including evaluating the reasonableness of management’s determination of the probability of sustaining the position under tax examination, evaluating communications with the relevant tax authorities, testing applicable tax rates applied by management, and evaluating the impact of taxes on foreign earnings.

This policy has been reviewed and approved by eBay’s Board of Directors’ Audit Committee.