

ITPG

19-22 February 2015: GGI International Taxation Weekend

We love Marbella in Winter

By Santiago Lapausa
and Oliver Biernat

Travelling to sunny places is delightful at any time, but a chance to briefly escape the cold winter weather is particularly special. Those who were lucky enough to attend the GGI Practice Groups Weekend in Marbella for the Winter Meeting 2012 will remember having a great experience, and everyone was in agreement that it should definitely be repeated. The wait has not been too long. Just two years later, the decision has been made to meet at the seaside for a second time from **19 to 22 February 2015**.

We at JC&A Abogados, GGI member firm in Marbella, welcome the decision and are pleased to host the Winter Meeting again. Those who did not have the chance to come last time or who have never visited this part of Spain are cordially invited to beautiful Marbella. Situated along the Costa del Sol, this chic holiday resort is a favoured get-away for the rich and famous and it is not hard to see why.

There is no such thing as a foreigner in Marbella. With all the appeal of a large city and the charm of a convenient town, Marbella is without doubt one of the best places in the world to live.

Marbella is famous for its internationally renowned and exceptional climate due to its unique geographical location surrounded by mountains. The annual average temperature is around 18.5°C, with 320 days of sunshine a year.

Marbella has the largest number of golf courses in continental Europe. It is home to 15 of the best courses, which have hosted many international events and where golf can be played 365 days a year without the need of a sweater. It is a veritable golfing paradise.

Sunbathing, swimming in the tranquil Mediterranean waters, having lunch in a



Puerto Banus, marina of Marbella, Spain

beachside restaurant, enjoying a drink in an exclusive beach club – these are just some of the options open to those visiting the 27.9km of beaches stretching along Marbella’s coastline, which is the finest on the Costa del Sol.

Thursday 19 February is the day of arrival with no official agenda, although some participants have arranged private leisure programmes spending a few days more prior to the Conference. We could also organise a programme of activities for Thursday, if there is enough quorum or interest. The programme will start on Friday 20 February with the customary conferences in the morning, followed by an outdoor team-building activity if the weather allows during the afternoon (still to be confirmed). The ITPG will meet again for technical presentations throughout all of Saturday 21 February, ending with a nice dinner at local restaurant. The weekend will continue on Sunday with optional outdoor activities, which could perhaps include some golf lessons again as in 2012, if wished for by attendees.

The technical agenda includes a big case study on international holding and trade companies (U.S. corporations with two shareholders as natural persons, wishing to build up a group of trading

companies in Europe). Chaired by Prof. Robert Anthony from France this will involve splitting those attending into smaller groups to discuss various issues that have been covered by separate PG meetings in previous meetings (e.g. tax structuring, VAT, legal, expatriates). Another key focus will be a case study chaired by Klaus Küspert from Germany on base erosion and profit shifting of a German manufacturer distributing all over Europe.

Shorter presentations will be held on various tax topics such as “Cross-border Financing Using Hybrid Instruments” (Robert Worthington from Canada), “Transfer Pricing Litigation - Case History with Italian Tax Authority” (Matteo Bedogna from Italy) and the “golden visa” and notes about the tax reform or the possibility to claim for refund on inheritance tax further to the ECJ sentence (Santiago Lapausa, our host from Spain).

Ashish Bairagra from India and Huub Kapel from the Netherlands have also agreed to give presentations and will be choosing their subject matter in due course. Arlene Rochlin and Patrizia Giannini from Italy, who talked about why attorneys and accountants should interact at the last ITPG winter meeting, have also announced their attendance and

will be surprising visitors with a motivating non-tax topic. Of course there will be plenty of time to discuss internal topics, as well as for networking and cooperation between GGI's tax experts. If you would be interested in presenting a tax topic, please contact Oliver.

As usual we have decided to put special emphasis on working and networking together. We have chosen the same 4-star hotel as in 2012, located directly on the beach. This allows us to offer the meeting at a very favourable price, comparable to the costs of an EasyMeet, so that it should be possible to attend with two or even three people from your firm. Given that part of our meeting will be over the weekend, the time taken off from the office can be reduced to only one or one-and-a-half days. We will keep our fingers crossed that the weather will be as sunny as it was last time, allowing us to have lunch at the beach, which should act as an extra incentive to come and relax from hard work in February. Official invitations and registration forms will follow and be sent to all ITPG members. We are looking forward to seeing you in Marbella and are confident a great time will be had by all.



Plaza de los Naranjos in the center of old town of Marbella, Spain

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