



## **B Lab Statement on Coffra Group's B Corp Certification**

B Lab's independent Standards Advisory Council has rendered the following decision and guidance regarding eligibility for B Corp Certification for companies providing tax advisory services:

*"Companies in the tax advisory industry are eligible for B Corp Certification if they are able to confirm that their tax philosophy, used to provide services and recommendations to clients, aligns with the company-specific principles listed in B Lab's framework, specifically, 1) the tax advice provided appropriately reflects the actual amount of income generated by the client over time; and, 2) the tax advice provided to a client for a jurisdiction appropriately reflects the actual operations of the client in that jurisdiction."*

Coffra Group is required to disclose a summary of how it complies with the above requirements as a part of its B Corp Certification. For more information on the review process, please refer to B Lab's position statement on Companies that Provide Tax Advisory Services and B Corp Certification [here](#).

## **Summary of Company**

Coffra Group provides expert tax compliance services, tax litigation assistance, and tax advisory mainly for legal entities. The company provides the following tax advisory:

- Analysis of tax impacts due to a group or corporate merger, acquisition, or reorganization, and recommendations
- Analysis of tax impacts due to a new operative transaction (sale of goods or services, logistic flow, etc.), and recommendations
- Analysis of accounting and tax impacts due to an IT transformation, and recommendations
- Analysis of tax impacts in case of refinancing, and recommendations.

The company serves corporate customers (French and international SME and MNE), but also, to a much lesser extent, private customers (expatriates and HNWI). 15% of the company's revenue is linked to tax services, and less than 10% of this revenue is purely related to tax litigation assistance and tax advisory services. Fees are flat-rate for the simplest tasks, or based on an hourly rate depending on the complexity of the practice and have no relation to the possible tax savings.

## **Coffra Group's Policies and Practices**

In alignment with the requirements and principles stated in B Lab's position statement for companies that provide tax advisory services, Coffra Group has a philosophy statement for the tax advice that they provide to their clients and their own engagement with governments and tax regulators, which has been shared with all their employees. The philosophy statement reads as follows:



*“As part of Coffra group’s commitment and in recognition of the role that taxes play in contributing to a healthy society, we use our professional judgment to provide advice regarding tax positions with multiple potential interpretations that accurately reflect the income and operations of the client in each jurisdiction for which the client seeks our advice based on the details of the client’s income and operations provided to us, and do not advise clients to take a position unless we believe it has at least a reasonable basis for being sustained by applicable tax authorities. If a client takes a tax position despite our advice to the contrary, we reserve the right to stop work for and terminate such client. In accordance with this tax philosophy, we engage with government and tax authorities on a collaborative basis and limit our advocacy activities with such authorities to (a) work for specific clients in need of regulatory compliance assistance and (b) providing limited financial support to the OEC (Ordre des Experts-Comptables) which advocates for the interests of the accounting industry as a whole (which may sometimes include limited tax advocacy). We maintain compliance with this policy through regular training of our employees and partners, internal policies on conduct, engagement documentation with our clients, and client retention reviews.”*

Coffra Group, being a partnership of chartered accountants and attorneys, must comply with the professional standards set by the OEC (Ordre des Experts-Comptables), the CNB (Conseil National des Barreaux) and H2A (Haute Autorité de l’Audit, formerly H3C). The company provides fiscal and tax consultancy according to the principles of its Ethical Code of Conduct and the deontological principles approved by the OEC, CNB, and H2A. They guide clients to adopt conduct inspired by the principles of loyalty to the state and observance of the law. The company is not involved in the development and marketing of tax avoidance schemes for its clients.

The company has a code of professional and ethical conduct which is enforced by communication and training to Partners and staff. When working with clients, the company also signs and agrees with the client’s ethical code as well. Coffra Group has a [tax service disclosure](#) published on its website.

The company does not offer services for operations in low-tax jurisdictions.

Coffra Group has a conflict-of-interest policy to check for conflicts of interest and independence related to client relations. The company does not employ former employees from government agencies. Any such employee hired would be (a) because of its professional qualities and not its former employment and (b) the general conflict-of-interest policy would apply.



The regulatory environment in France provides the country's tax authorities with numerous mechanisms to combat tax fraud and any arrangement or practice that would erode a company's tax base. Consultancy firms can be penalized if they are complicit in these arrangements. In addition, Coffra Group firm is subject to all the rules applicable in the European Union (in particular the obligation to declare potentially aggressive tax planning arrangements falling within the scope of the European Directive DAC6).

The company is not involved in any lobbying for reforming or developing tax legislation.