

**III SA / GI 912/18 - Judgment of the Provincial Administrative Court in Gliwice**

<b>Date of judgment</b>	2019-01-07	<i>the judgment is not final</i>
<b>Date of receipt</b>	2018-08-14	
<b>Court</b>	Provincial Administrative Court in Gliwice	
<b>referees</b>	Małgorzata Wieczków / chairman rapporteur /	
<b>Symbol with description</b>	6110 Tax on goods and services 6560	
<b>Thematic entries</b>	Tax on goods and services	
<b>The complained body</b>	Director of the National Treasury Information	
<b>Content of the result</b>	The contested individual interpretation was repealed	
<b>Regulations cited</b>	<a href="#">OJ 2017 item 1221</a> art. 28 b <i>Act of 11 March 2004 on tax on goods and services - consolidated text</i> Journal of Laws of the European Union 2006 L 347 item 1 art. 44 <i>Council Directive of 28 November 2006 No. 2006/112 / EC on the common system of value added tax,</i> Journal of Laws of the European Union 2011 No. 77 item 1 of Art. 11 <i>Council Implementing Regulation (EU) No 282/2011 of 15 March 2011 laying down implementing measures for Directive 2006/112 / EC on the common system of value added tax</i>	

**SENTENCE**

Provincial Administrative Court in Gliwice in the following composition: Chairman Judge of the Provincial Administrative Court Krzysztof Kandut, Judge of the Provincial Administrative Court Małgorzata Wieczków (prosecutor), Judge of the Provincial Administrative Court Iwona Wiesner, Specialist Protocol Protector Beata Mahlhofer, after examining the case from the complaint on December 18, 2018 "GmbH in H. (Germany) for an individual interpretation of the Director of the National Tax Information of [...] No. [...] regarding tax on goods and services 1. annuls the individual interpretation appealed against; 2. awards the Director of the National Tax Information to the applicant for PLN 457 (in words: four hundred and fifty-seven zlotys) as reimbursement of court costs.

**SUBSTANTIATION****1 U Z A S A D N I E N I E**

The contested individual interpretation of [...] No. [...], Director of the National Tax Information Office - after examining the application of "A" GmbH with its registered office in Germany (hereinafter referred to as: the Applicant or the Company) for an interpretation of the tax goods and services to identify a permanent place of business to determine the place of taxation - found the Company's position incorrect.

The justification presents the factual and legal status of the case.

The company applied for [...] for an individual interpretation. In the justification, she indicated that she was a business entity under German law for which the place of business activity and the seat of the company are Germany - [...]. He is currently registering for VAT in Poland, as he will be moving his own goods from the territory of other EU Member States to Poland, which, according to art. 11 paragraph 1 of the Act of 11 March 2004 on tax on goods and services (i.e., Journal of Laws of 2017, item 1221, hereinafter the VAT Act) constitutes in Poland intra-Community acquisition of goods (WNT) subject to taxation in Poland. The Company's core business is the production and distribution of footwear (PKD 47.72.Z - retail sale of footwear and leather goods in specialized stores).

It may happen that the Company purchases goods (footwear) from outside the EU, will conduct it in Poland and then show the import of goods in Poland and tax it in accordance with the provisions of the Polish VAT Act.

He can also move his own goods from another EU country (previously imported or produced in that other country) to the territory of Poland, then show WNT in Poland and tax it in accordance with the Polish VAT

Act.

And finally, there may be a situation in which the Company purchases goods (shoes previously imported or manufactured in another EU country) from that other EU country on the territory of Poland, and then it will recognize WNT in Poland and tax them in accordance with the Polish VAT Act.

The company is considering, in all three situations, that the transport of goods from a non-EU country or from an EU country to Poland should take place in the warehouse of a business partner (hereinafter the Partner) not related to it, having its registered office in Poland. In the Partner's warehouse, based on the concluded contract, the goods will be packed, packaged and stored. In other words, the Partner will be providing a German company with storage, packaging and packaging services on the material entrusted to it, which remains its property. The contract will not specify the sharing of all or a specific part of the warehouse, which will distinguish it from the warehouse service. The period of storage of the goods will not be specified either. The implementation of the contract will provide comprehensive logistical support for sales made by the Company through storage, packing and packaging of sales goods. The company does not have any own facilities necessary for conducting business activities (human, office, technical) in Poland, it will not purchase other services or goods. It will only verify the Partner's compliance with the contractual terms. Contacts with contractors, trade negotiations, conclusion of contracts will be conducted and implemented from Germany.

After the service is performed by the Partner, the goods will be: sold to end users: in Poland, which will be settled as domestic delivery and subject to VAT; delivered to an EU country other than Poland and recognized as mail order and taxed in accordance with art. 23 clause 1 and 2 of the VAT Act; the company will transfer its own goods from Poland to Germany as a WDT taxed in Poland and then make a delivery to a consumer in Germany and treat it as delivery on German territory; will make a delivery to the buzz of a consumer from outside the EU and then recognize the transaction as export taxed in Poland, in accordance with art. 41 section 6 of the VAT Act.

In connection with the above, she asked the question:

Is it due to the lack of a permanent place of business in Poland within the meaning of Art. 11 of Regulation No 282/2011 of 15 March 2011 establishing implementing measures to Directive 2006/112 / EC on a common system of value added tax, storage, confectioning and packaging services purchased in Poland from the Partner - will be taxed in Germany (state the seat of the Applicant) in accordance with art. 28b of the VAT Act?

In the Company's opinion, it will not have permanent business operations in Poland and in accordance with art. 28b paragraph 1 of the VAT Act will pay VAT on services purchased in Poland in Germany, where the recipient has its registered office. The Company further cited the wording of Art. 28b paragraph 1-3 of the VAT Act and stated that the essence of the dispute boils down to the correct interpretation of the provisions of para. 2 of this provision in the context of the definition of a permanent place of business, which is located elsewhere than the taxpayer's seat. The company emphasized that the VAT Act and Directive 2006/112 / EC do not define this concept, which means that the case law of the CJEU and Regulation No. 282/211, which in Art. 11 defines a permanent place of business for the purposes of applying Art. 44 of the above directive. It is any place - other than the place of business of the taxpayer, which is characterized by sufficient stability and an appropriate structure in terms of personnel and technical facilities to enable him to provide the services he performs (...). The fact of having a VAT identification number is not sufficient in itself to consider that a taxable person has a permanent place of business. This definition was developed on the basis of case-law, which shows that this term should be understood as a place that is characterized by minimal durability by accumulating both permanent human and technical resources necessary to provide specific services or the delivery of specific goods. It is necessary that this permanent character and the personnel and technical infrastructure ensure that the entity is able to provide services independently (judgment in Case C-73/06 or C-190/95, C-260/95) and be minimally durable. These conditions must be met cumulatively.

In other words, an entity has a permanent place of business in a given country, if it meets the criteria of: stability and independence of its operations, constant presence of human resources (has personnel resources), constant presence of technical resources (has technical facilities) for its operations (e.g. buildings, warehouses, devices). Activities should also be understood broadly, in accordance with art. 15 paragraph 2 of the VAT Act. A certain minimum scale of activity is needed, which is an external sign that the activity in this place is carried out constantly and independently of the main activity carried out by the entity. It is not enough to register for VAT purposes in Poland, because you cannot identify these terms.

Thus, a permanent place of business of an entity within the territory of a given country is created if, with the use of infrastructure and personnel in this territory, in an organized and continuous manner, that entity conducts activities under which it performs activities subject to VAT. The personnel and technical facilities need not be own but must be closely related to the performance of taxable activities, and the taxpayer must have control comparable to control over permanent facilities. The company emphasized that the services provided by the Partner are ancillary and are not the subject of its main activity. They are not characterized by a certain separateness, because the Company will not keep separate books or other documents related to operations in Poland: it will not have: own real estate or movable property (except for goods), intangible goods (industrial or proprietary property), claims, rights from securities and cash; will not rent real estate, which precludes the fulfillment of the conditions for recognition of having a permanent place of business. This will not result in purchasing services in Poland or registration for VAT purposes, which is only connected with selling goods in Poland. The company has no intention to conduct business in a continuous, continuous, uninterrupted, regular or cyclical manner. Its deliveries are made by an external entity (Partner). The company also cited numerous individual interpretations issued by the tax authority regarding a permanent place of business, which confirm the correctness of its position. intangible goods (industrial or proprietary ownership), claims, rights from securities and cash; will not rent real estate, which precludes the fulfillment of the conditions for recognition of having a permanent place of business. This will not result in purchasing services in Poland or registration for VAT purposes, which is only connected with the sale of goods in Poland. The company has no intention to conduct business in a continuous, continuous, uninterrupted, regular or cyclical manner. Its deliveries are carried out by an external entity (Partner). The company also cited numerous individual interpretations issued by the tax authority regarding a permanent place of business, which confirm the correctness of its position. rights from securities and cash; will not rent real estate, which precludes the fulfillment of the conditions for recognition of having a permanent place of business. This will not result in purchasing services in Poland or registration for VAT purposes, which is only connected with the sale of goods in Poland. The company has no intention to conduct business in a continuous, continuous, uninterrupted, regular or cyclical manner. Its deliveries are carried out by an external entity (Partner). The company also cited numerous individual interpretations issued by the tax authority regarding a permanent place of business, which confirm the correctness of its position. This will not result in purchasing services in Poland or registration for VAT purposes, which is only connected with the sale of goods in Poland. The company has no intention to

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In the summary, she stated that the place of providing storage, packaging and confectioning services to which Art. 28b paragraph 1 of the VAT Act, purchased for the needs of the Company from a Partner in Poland, will be the country of the Company's seat, i.e. Germany. In the circumstances described above, it cannot be considered that it has a permanent place of business in Poland within the meaning of the VAT Act.

By the impugned interpretation, the authority found the Company's position incorrect. Analyzing tax regulations and case law, he pointed out, among others In connection with the activity conducted in Poland, the company will have a permanent place of business in the territory of the country. The criteria for having a minimum size of activity characterized by a certain level of stability are met, in which there is a continuous presence of human and technical resources necessary to conduct and allow the taxable person to conduct business. The criterion for the existence of a close relationship between technical infrastructure and personnel and performing VAT-taxable activities, which proves that the Company has a permanent place of business in Poland, will also be met.

According to the authority, it is sufficient that the entity uses both the personnel and technical facilities of other entities in such a way that it enables it to receive and use services provided for its own needs in this permanent place of business. Only the organizational structure necessary to conduct a given type of activity is necessary, while the human resources necessary for its performance can be obtained from external resources. Also, technical resources do not have to belong to the taxpayer. The presented circumstances show that the Company in the scope of distribution of goods, carried out on the basis of the Partner's personal and material infrastructure, as well as the services of storage, packaging and packaging of goods provided by it, meets the conditions for recognizing that it has a permanent place of business in Poland, which is characterized by sufficient stability and appropriate structure in terms of personnel and technical facilities. It intends to operate permanently, using a warehouse and services purchased from a partner, which are comprehensive sales logistic support. The Company's operations in Poland will include the activities of buying (as part of WNT and import) and selling (as part of WNT, export and mail order sales, domestic deliveries) of goods continuously for commercial purposes. The services purchased will be consumed in Poland and are closely related to taxable activities. using a warehouse and services purchased from a partner that provide comprehensive sales logistics support. The Company's operations in Poland will include the activities of buying (as part of WNT and import) and selling (as part of WNT, export and mail order sales, domestic deliveries) of goods continuously for commercial purposes. The services purchased will be consumed in Poland and are closely related to taxable activities. using a warehouse and services purchased from a partner that provide comprehensive sales logistics support. The Company's operations in Poland will include the activities of buying (as part of WNT and import) and selling (as part of WNT, export and mail order sales, domestic deliveries) of goods continuously for commercial purposes. The services purchased will be consumed in Poland and are closely related to taxable activities.

It does not matter that the Company is not the owner of the warehouses or that contracts and contacts with consumers will be concluded in Germany. This only indicates the place of establishment and does not decide on a permanent establishment. Hence, in the case art. 28b paragraph 2 of the VAT Act and the Company will pay VAT on purchased services in Poland. The authority also ruled out that the acquired services were related to real estate, as they do not constitute the lease of warehouse space, and also emphasized that the

interpretations cited were issued in individual cases and confirm the evaluation of the concept of a permanent place of business.

The company, disagreeing with the position of the tax authority, lodged a complaint accusing the contested interpretation of an incorrect interpretation of substantive law, art. 28b paragraph 1 and 2 of the VAT Act in connection from art. 11 paragraph 1 and 2 of Council Implementing Regulation (EU) No 282/2011, by their misinterpretation and recognition that the Company has a permanent place of business in Poland, and therefore the place of taxation of services rendered to it will be Poland; Art. 1 clause 2 of Council Directive 2006/112 / EC and the principle of neutrality expressed in it by bringing about a situation of double VAT taxation in Poland and Germany, as well as procedural provisions, i.e. 2a, art. 14c § 1 and 2, art. 121, art. 120 and art. 14h of the Act of August 29, 1997 Tax Code (i.e., Journal of Laws of 2018, item 800 as amended,

In connection with the above, the Company applied for the annulment of the contested interpretation in its entirety and for the award of reimbursement of the costs of the proceedings.

In response to the complaint, the authority requested that it be dismissed and upheld its position, stating that the complaint had no legitimate grounds.

The Provincial Administrative Court in Gliwice considered the following:

the complaint was founded.

In accordance with art. 57a of the Act of 30 August 2002 Law on proceedings before administrative courts (i.e., Journal of Laws of 2018, item 1302, as amended; hereinafter: ppsa) a complaint about a written interpretation of tax law issued in an individual case, ( ...) can be based solely on the allegation of violation of the rules of procedure, error of interpretation or wrong assessment as to the application of the substantive law. The administrative court is bound by the charges of the complaint and the legal basis invoked. Thus, the court examines the correctness of the individual interpretation complained of only from the point of view of the complaint and the legal basis indicated therein. In particular, the court may not take any action to determine other than the violations indicated in the complaint.

The subject of the dispute in this case is the question whether the Company has a permanent place of business in Poland within the meaning of art. 28b paragraph 2 of the VAT Act and art. 11 of EU Council Regulation No. 282/2011 (implementing regulation) and art. 44 of Directive 2006/112 / EC and thus whether the services purchased from the Partner (packaging, storage and packaging of goods) are taxable in Poland.

In the Company's opinion, the interpretative body incorrectly found that it has a permanent place of business in Poland, which has violated Art. 28b paragraph 1 and 2 of the VAT Act in connection with from art. 11 of Regulation No. 282/2011, because its activity does not meet the criterion of stability of its operations, does not have any human resources or technical facilities, will use the services of another entity, i.e. the Partner. It will not meet the requirements of independence.

In accordance with art. 15 of the VAT Act, the taxpayers are legal persons, organizational units without legal personality and natural persons who independently carry out the economic activity referred to in paragraph 2. regardless of the purpose or result of such activity. Taxpayers are also legal persons, organizational units without legal personality and natural persons purchasing goods, if the person making their delivery within the territory of the country is a taxpayer without a registered office or permanent establishment in the territory of the country (Article 17 (1) (5) of this Act) . Whereas in art. 17 clause 2 states that in the cases referred to in para. 1 points 4, 5.7 and 8. the service provider or the supplier of goods does not settle the tax due. According to art. 17 clause 5 point 1 of the Act, the provision of para. 1 point 5 shall apply. if the purchaser is a taxpayer referred to in art. 15, having a registered office or a permanent place of business in the territory of the country, or a legal person who is not a taxable person referred to in art. 15, having its registered office on the territory of the country, subject to paragraph 6.

From the provision of art. 11 paragraph 1 of the Implementing Regulation shows that a permanent place of business means any place that is characterized by sufficient stability and an appropriate structure in terms of personnel and technical resources to enable it to receive and use services provided for its own needs of this permanent place of business.

As the applicant pointed out, the issue of determining the conditions for recognition of what should be understood as a permanent place of business has been the subject of many national and EU judgments which have evolved in subsequent judgments over the years taking into account the conditions and mechanisms of commercial trading. However, there are still many doubts as evidenced by the next preliminary question of the Provincial Administrative Court in Wrocław of June 6, 2018, reference number I SA / Wr 286/18. It concerns the fact that a company having its registered office outside the EU, a subsidiary in Poland and the possibility of deriving from this fact that it has a permanent place of business in Poland, but it concerns the interpretation of Art. 28b paragraph 2 of the VAT Act.

The judgment of the Provincial Administrative Court in Olsztyn from September 30, 2009, reference number file I SA / OI 563/09, (CBOSA), in which the Court stated that an entity has a permanent place of business in the territory of the country, if it uses its infrastructure and personnel in the territory of the country in an organized and continuous manner, conducting operations under which carries out activities subject to value added tax. Technical infrastructure and personal involvement must be closely related to the performance of activities subject to value added tax.

Also in the judgment of 16 October 2014 in the **Welmory** case C-605/12, EU: C: 2014: 2298, the Court has stated that "The first taxpayer established in one Member State who uses the services of a second taxpayer established in another Member State should be considered as having in that other Member State a "permanent establishment" within the meaning of Article 44 of Directive 2006/12 / EC, to determine the place of taxation of those services, if that permanent place is characterized by sufficient stability and an appropriate structure in terms of personnel and technical facilities to enable him to receive the services and use them for the purposes of his business, which is for the referring court to examine. " The ruling was about a Cypriot company, which organizes auctions on the online sales platform. I sell "BID" packages (rates), or rights to submit bids for auctioned goods by offering a higher price than the one last proposed. This company has concluded a cooperation agreement with a Polish company consisting in making it available exclusively to the auction website under the domain [www.za.10.groszy.pl](http://www.za.10.groszy.pl) along with associated services (advertising, service, information provision and data processing services). The Polish company generated revenues from sales at online auctions on the Cypriot company's website and part of the profit of the Cypriot company from the sale of BIDs, which are used by clients in Poland to submit an auction on this page. that is, the rights to submit bids for the auctioned item by offering a higher price than the one last proposed. This company has concluded a cooperation agreement with a Polish company consisting in making it available exclusively to the auction website under the domain [www.za.10.groszy.pl](http://www.za.10.groszy.pl) along with associated services (advertising, service, information provision and data processing services). The Polish company generated revenues from sales at online auctions on the Cypriot company's website and part of the profit of the Cypriot company from the sale of BIDs, which are used by clients in Poland to submit an auction on this page. that is, the rights to submit bids for the auctioned item by offering a higher price than the one last proposed. This company has concluded a cooperation agreement with a Polish company consisting in making it available exclusively to the auction website under the domain [www.za.10.groszy.pl](http://www.za.10.groszy.pl) along with associated services (advertising, service, information provision and data processing services). The Polish company generated revenues from sales at online auctions on the Cypriot company's website and part of the profit of the Cypriot company from the sale of BIDs, which are used by clients in Poland to submit an auction on this page. pl along with associated services (advertising, service, information provision and data processing services). The Polish company generated revenues from sales at online auctions on the Cypriot company's website and part of the profit of the Cypriot company from the sale of BIDs, which are used by clients in Poland to submit an auction on this page. pl along

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The Court emphasized that the question concerns the interpretation of Art. 44 of Directive 2006/112 from the recipient's point of view and the previous case-law has taken into account the point of view of the service provider, which means that when interpreting, one should take into account the wording of the provision, its context and the objectives of the regulation which part of that provision constitutes (avoiding double taxation or non-taxation of revenues).

"The most useful connecting factor to determine the place of supply of services from a tax point of view, and therefore the main connecting factor, is the place where the taxpayer is established business. (...). Including a different place only comes into play when recognition as the connecting point of that head office does not lead to a rational solution or creates a conflict with respect to another Member State. "

The Tribunal also indicated that in art. 44 of the Directive, the seat of business comes first, and only the second place of permanent establishment, which is a derogation from the general rule. Hence the indication of own personal and technical facilities, or the availability of other facilities comparable to the availability of own facilities (personal, technical), exercising control over this facilities, the possibility of receiving and using the purchased services for own needs - conducting the contractor's business. A distinction should be made between services rendered by a Polish company to Cyprus and services provided by the latter to consumers in Poland.

In the opinion of the Court, the abovementioned judgment of the CJEU, although it does not correspond to the facts of the present case, provides important guidance on the definition of the concept of a permanent place of business.

Based on the above guidelines and other judgments of the CJEU regarding the establishment of a permanent place of business, a certain minimum scale of activity is necessary, which is an external hallmark that the activity in this place is conducted constantly (judgment C-231/94), i.e. in a permanent manner, repetitive and timeless (judgment 168/84), requires minimum durability, by accumulating permanent human and technical resources necessary to provide certain services independently (C-73/06 or C-260/95). It should be noted that it is not disputed that the Company's seat is in Germany and the principal place of business and payment of VAT-EU. It is also not disputed that the Company is involved in the production of footwear outside of Poland and the distribution of footwear manufactured outside of Poland, both in EU and non-EU countries. Goods are sold in specialized stores. In Poland, the goods purchased or produced by the applicant are stored, packed and put up for sale as part of the services purchased from a Polish company - a Partner, which has the appropriate warehouses and staff to perform them. The Partner's activities on behalf of the applicant are only part of its activities without the applicant being able to supervise the services purchased. Commercial negotiations, signing contracts, orders for implementation, contacts with contractors are conducted only from Germany or in Germany. The company itself in Poland has no personnel or any technical facilities for its production and distribution activities. packed and ready for sale as part of the services purchased from a Polish company - a Partner, which has adequate warehouses and staff to perform them. The Partner's activities on behalf of the applicant are only part of its activities without the applicant being able to supervise the services purchased. Commercial negotiations, signing contracts, orders for implementation, contacts with contractors are conducted only from Germany or Germany. The company itself in Poland has no personnel or any technical facilities for its production and distribution activities. packed and ready for sale as part of the services purchased from a Polish company - a Partner, which has adequate warehouses and staff to perform them. The Partner's activities on behalf of the applicant are only part of its activities without the applicant being able to supervise the services purchased. Commercial negotiations, signing contracts, orders for implementation, contacts with contractors are conducted only from Germany or in Germany. The company itself in Poland has no personnel or any technical facilities for its production and distribution activities. Commercial negotiations,

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Therefore, taking into account the indicated premises for establishing a permanent place of business and the facts presented by the Company, it should be stated that the services purchased by it from the Partner will be taxed in Germany, as there are no reasons justifying a departure from the general principle of taxation according to the place of business of the service purchaser. The company does not produce footwear in Poland, but only imports finished goods for resale directly to consumers or distributors. I buy ancillary services for the main activity conducted outside Poland. Therefore, it is not an independent and independent activity. In other words, without shoes manufactured or purchased in a country other than Poland, there will be no need to purchase services from a Partner - a Polish company.

The interpretative body wrongly accepted that the applicant had sufficient technical and personnel facilities in the country to be considered as having a permanent place of business. By purchasing the indicated services of storage, packaging and confectioning of goods, the applicant did not create a place of business in Poland. The employees are employed by the service provider and do not act on behalf of the applicant or on her behalf; they did not have any freedom of action or right of decision; they only performed (technical) tasks ordered by the applicant. In the warehouse, the Company does not have a designated, separate area only for its own disposal and for storing only its goods; could not affect the storage location and conditions; did not have any authority over the manner of storage services or exclusivity. She was not the only contractor of the service provider. Also, the fact of establishing a tax representative in a given country or registering as a VAT-EU taxpayer does not result in automatic recognition that the given entity will have its registered office or permanent place of business in that country (C-323/12).

It was faulty to accept in the case by the authority that the company carries out activities in Poland characterized by stability that fulfills the features of a permanent place of business. In the facts presented, contrary to the case described in the judgment of 23 November 2017, I FSK 160/16, the applicant does not conduct its production activity using the personnel and technical facilities of the Partner's company. It should be agreed that it has no back office in Poland, a permanent structure that would allow it to be assumed that it has a permanent place of business in the country, independent of its headquarters in Germany.

Thus, the Court did not share the position of the authority expressed in the contested interpretation and, considering the complaint alleged to be well founded, annulled it on the basis of art. 146 § 1 ppsa. In reviewing the applicant's request, the authority should take into account the above considerations of the Court and the legal assessment provided in the statement of reasons for the judgment.

The reimbursement of the costs of the procedure was decided on the basis of art. 200 and art. 205 § 2 and 4 ppsa. The awarded amount of PLN 457 consisted of the equivalent of a court fee (PLN 200) and tax adviser's remuneration (PLN 240) determined in accordance with § 3 para. 1 point 2 of the Regulation of the Minister of Justice of 31 January 2011 on remuneration for acts of a tax adviser in proceedings before administrative courts and detailed rules for bearing the costs of legal aid granted ex officio by a tax adviser (Journal of Laws of 2011 No. 31, item 153) and the fee from the power of attorney paid.



