Guidelines for managing taxes

Established by the Group Chief Executive on 9 July 2019

The following is a brief summary of the guidelines for managing taxes for the Handelsbanken Group.

Handelsbanken’s Policy for sustainability includes a section about tax, which is one of the starting points for work with tax-related matters in the Handelsbanken Group. The Handelsbanken Group’s actions regarding tax-related matters shall be responsible, transparent, and compliant with prevailing laws and regulations. High ethical standards must always be observed when providing products and services or performing transactions. These standards are explained in greater detail in the Group’s policies for sustainability and ethical standards.

The Bank must report and pay tax in accordance with local regulations in the countries where it has operations. As part of its transparent actions in tax-related matters, the Bank must prepare a country-by-country report showing the Group’s earnings and tax in the countries where it operates.

Internal and external transactions carried out by the Bank within the framework of the Bank’s own operations must always have a business purpose and must not be carried out for tax purposes only. Services and products provided by the Bank must always have a business purpose, and the Bank must not provide products or services where the primary purpose is to obtain tax advantages in conflict with the objective of the tax regulations.

The Bank must not, directly or indirectly, participate in transactions, through granting credits or otherwise with respect to customers, which constitute a step in tax evasion or in transactions with no business purpose, undertaken only to obtain tax advantages in conflict with the objective of the tax regulations. This also applies in relation to suppliers and other business partners. If there is any doubt, the Bank must refrain from participating.

Communication with tax authorities must be open and constructive with the objective of upholding good relations with the authorities.

The Bank’s Group Tax has the overall functional responsibility for all tax-related matters in the Group, including coordination of tax matters in the Group, issuing instructions and guidelines and follow-up. If significant tax risks arise within the Handelsbanken Group, the Head of Group Tax must immediately report these to the Bank’s CFO.

All other units within the Group have responsibility for tax-related matters in their own unit’s area of responsibility.