

## DOING BUSINESS IN SPAIN

Spain is the largest country in Southern Europe and the fourth-largest country in the European continent. It's geographical location, bordering with France, Portugal and the Mediterranean Sea, is seen as an ideal location for investors wanting to set up a business.

Many see Spain as the gateway for doing business in northern Africa and to Latin America. A major developed country and high-income jurisdiction, this combined with its historical, cultural, and economic links with Latin America, and the several double taxation and bilateral investments treaties signed, makes this jurisdiction the natural gateway to Europe for any Latin American country.

# BENEFITS OF DOING BUSINESS IN SPAIN

With a population of nearly 47 million people, more than 80 million tourists visit Spain annually, with an income from tourists of 92,337 million euros. With its solid industrial and food business presence, it offers a great deal of opportunities for foreign investors to do business in the country.

#### **KEY ADVANTAGES**

- Common historical, cultural, and linguistic roots with Latin America
- Institutional network relationships
- Strong economic and business ties
- A hub between Latin America and Europe, Middle East and Asia
- Latin American legal systems are based on Spanish civil law
- Spain is the second investor in Latin America, right behind the US
- A special tax regime for foreigners coming to work in Spain which lasts up to five years

With a revived economy, an innovative start-up ecosystem, conveniently located between Europe and Africa and strong trade links, the opportunities for your business are endless: ICT, energy, finance, renewable energy, infrastructures, tourism, or services.

#### **SPANISH STRUCTURES**

**Limited companies –** The Limited Company or the Limited Liability Company (S.L./S.R.L.) is a closely held company that limits the responsibility of the shareholder to its contribution to the capital of the company. It has to be incorporated by Public Deed to get its legal status. There

is no share certificate, but every contribution to capital in exchange for shares will be recorded in the book of shareholders.

**ETVE** – is a special regime granted to a Spanish company holding foreign investments. The corporate vehicle is a limited company (S.L.) It is an ideal vehicle for investments in Europe, Latin America, North America, Middle East, and Asia. It is a regular legal entity subject to the standard corporate tax rate applicable in Spain (25%), with the sole distinction of providing an exemption for qualified dividends and capital gains deriving from foreign subsidiaries. The ETVE is protected by E.U. Directives such as the Parent-Subsidiary Directives and the Merger Directive. It is regarded as a Spanish resident for tax purposes regarding the application of Spain's tax treaties.

**Patent Box –** Spanish Corporate Income Tax (CIT) Law, and especially the Basque Country's Autonomous Law, provides a special Patent Box incentive consisting of a partial exemption of income arising from licensing qualifying Intellectual Property rights.

#### **LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

Spain has a secular parliamentary democracy and a parliamentary monarchy. It is a major developed country and a high-income jurisdiction, with the world's fourteenthlargest economy by nominal GDP and the sixteenth-largest by PPP. It is a member of the United Nations (U.N.), the European Union (E.U.), the Eurozone, the Council of Europe (CoE), the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI), the Union for the Mediterranean, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Schengen Area, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and many other international organizations. While not an official member, Spain has a "Permanent Invitation" to the G20 summits, participating in every summit, making it a de facto member of the group.

#### SETTING UP AN ENTITY IN SPAIN

In Spain, foreign investors are accorded the same treatment as Spanish investors, with no discrimination with regards to the type or size of the investment. In principle, foreign investments in Spain do not require any prior authorization, nor do they require any administrative verification.

Setting up a business in Spain can be complex, nevertheless, there are a wide range of possibilities to match the needs of the different types of investors who wish to invest in or from Spain. An international investor is free to choose between the numerous alternatives the Spanish law offers.

#### WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU

Amicorp de España, S.L., operational in Barcelona and Madrid since 2001, offers services to both private and corporate clients, primarily assisting with setting up international corporate structures for companies and private investors who wish to establish or expand their presence in Europe.

Nowadays, there is an increasing interest from European and U.S. clients to invest in Spain.

#### **OUR SERVICES INCLUDE**

**Immigration -** We can assist clients wishing to relocate to Spain in finding the best option for a residency visa, and we coordinate all the necessary paperwork. We also assist clients wishing to relocate to Andorra and Portugal.

**Structuring -** We can set up all legal vehicles and business requirements the client might need. We can assist with the day-to-day business management of the companies, prepare the legal documentation, financial statements, and tax fillings. We keep the companies in good standing by fulfilling all government obligations and requirements. We are in charge of the bookkeeping and the filling.

**Real Estate Investments –** We have relationships with property agencies who can advise the clients on the best property option to acquire. We will coordinate with them and the client for the structuring and maintenance of the real estate. We also coordinate the rental activities.

**Additional services –** Through our office in Spain include a full range of financial, tax and accounting, legal, and compliance solutions, offering clients options to outsource their non-core activities or to establish their business in Spain.

### **AMICORP GROUP**

#### YOUR BUSINESS IS OUR BUSINESS

Amicorp is a boutique service provider with a dedicated network of international experts and specialists. We offer a wide range of customized solutions to help businesses grow and be successful. Our innovative solutions include cross-border structuring, corporate assurance and regulatory compliance support, and multi-facet business support alternatives for companies wanting to invest or expand locally or globally. In addition, we offer fund administration, financial services and global family office solutions, all addressing the distinct needs of our clients. We collaborate with and support clients in over 100 countries worldwide; we offer them solutions that they are looking for in today's ever-changing macro environment.

> International networking and global experience by a team of 700+ knowledgeable experts



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