MAKING A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CROSS-BORDER GIFT FROM BELGIUM

The purpose of this note is to provide practical guidance to Belgian residents on how to make a tax-deductible gift to St Peter’s.

Summary

Making a cross-border gift from Belgium in a tax-deductible manner is subject to complex legislation and success is not guaranteed. On the other hand, donating via Transnational Giving Europe is both simple and certain in terms of outcome.

The situation in Belgium

In principle, donations made to a beneficiary in another EU member state are tax-deductible if two conditions are satisfied:

1. The foreign recipient institution can be considered as similar to one of the types of institution listed in Belgian law as being eligible for receiving tax-deductible gifts.
2. It has also been recognised in its own country for the same purpose.

In practice, each case is judged on its merits and the burden of proof lies with the donor. It is not clear what is meant by similar or on which documents might constitute proof. Furthermore, the final decision lies with the tax inspector of the donor’s local jurisdiction. In other words, the process is not well-defined and the outcome is subject to the interpretation of one individual.

Practical Next Steps

To start the process of making a gift to St Peter’s College, call the King Baudouin Foundation, the local TGE partner in Belgium. The people working there speak excellent English and are very helpful. The college is known to the Charities Aid Foundation, the TGE partner in the UK, and is already a qualified beneficiary. The elapsed time between making a domestic bank transfer and the receipt of funds in the UK is about two weeks. The King Baudouin Foundation will register your gift with the tax authorities and provide a certificate to attach to your tax return.

The contact details for the King Baudouin Foundation are:

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1000 Brussels
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