

**VALLOUREC**

French limited liability company (*société anonyme*) with a Board of Directors  
with share capital of €4,773,996.76  
Registered office: 12, rue de la Verrerie – 92190 Meudon, France  
Registered on the Nanterre Trade and Companies Register under n°552 142 200

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**MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

**(STATUTS)**

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Updated on April 29, 2026

## **ARTICLE 1 – FORM**

This Company is a French limited liability company (*société anonyme*) with a Board of Directors. It shall be governed by the laws in force and by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

## **ARTICLE 2 – NAME**

The Company's name shall be "VALLOUREC".

## **ARTICLE 3 – OBJECT**

The Company has the following object in all countries, either on its own behalf or on behalf of third parties, or in direct or indirect joint ventures with third parties:

- all industrial and commercial operations relating to all methods of preparing and manufacturing metals and all materials that may replace them in all their uses, by all known processes and any that may subsequently be discovered;
- and, generally, all commercial, industrial and financial transactions, in real or personal property, directly or indirectly related to the above-mentioned company object.

## **ARTICLE 4 – REGISTERED OFFICE**

The registered office is located at 12, rue de la Verrerie – 92190 Meudon, France.

It may be transferred to any other location on French territory by the decision of the Board of Directors, subject to ratification of this decision by the next Ordinary Shareholders' Meeting.

When a transfer is decided by the Board of Directors, said Board shall be authorised to amend the Memorandum and Articles of Association accordingly.

## **ARTICLE 5 – LIFE**

The Company's life shall end on 17 June 2067 unless it is extended or the Company is dissolved early.

## **ARTICLE 6 – SHARE CAPITAL**

The share capital is set at four million seven hundred seventy-three thousand nine hundred ninety-six euros and seventy-six cents (4,773,996.76 €), divided into two hundred thirty-four million, six hundred fifty-one thousand, five hundred ninety-one (234,651,591) ordinary shares with a nominal value of €0.02 each ("Ordinary Shares") and four million, forty-eight thousand, two hundred forty-seven (4,048,247) preferred shares with a nominal value of €0.02 each ("Preferred Shares") convertible into Ordinary Shares and comprising:

- 29 023 T2 Shares;
- 3 407 894 T3 Shares; and
- 611 330 T4 Shares.

Preferred Shares confer on their holders the specific rights and obligations described in Article 8.3.2 of the Articles of Association. The terms "share" or "shares", unless otherwise specified, shall apply equally to the Ordinary Shares and the Preferred Shares, subject to the specific rights and obligations attached to the Preferred Shares pursuant to Article 8.3.2 of these Articles of Association.

## **ARTICLE 7 – CHANGES IN SHARE CAPITAL**

The share capital may be increased or reduced pursuant to a decision of an Extraordinary General Meeting of the shareholders under the conditions laid down by law.

The General Meeting may delegate to the Board of Directors the powers necessary for the purpose of increasing or reducing the capital.

Whenever it may be necessary to hold several shares in order to exercise a right, especially in the case of a reduction of capital, for any reason and in any manner whatsoever, the shareholders shall be personally responsible for grouping, and, if applicable, buying or selling the number of shares or rights required.

## **ARTICLE 8 – SHARES**

### **1. Form**

Shares may be registered or bearer shares, at the shareholder's choice, in the absence of legal provisions, regulations or bylaws stipulations which may provide, in certain cases, solely for registered shares.

The Company shall be entitled to request the identification of holders of securities that grant the right to vote at its own General Meetings, immediately or subsequently, as well as the quantities held, all the foregoing under conditions laid down by the laws in force.

### **2. Transfer of shares**

Shares may be traded freely in the absence of statutory or regulatory provisions or contrary agreement(s) between the Company and their holders to the contrary, in any form whatsoever.

They shall be transferred by account-to-account transfer.

### **3. Rights of shares**

#### **3.1 Rights of ordinary shares – Indivisibility**

Ownership of an ordinary share shall automatically entail acceptance of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and decisions taken by General Meetings of the shareholders.

Rights and obligations attached to an ordinary share shall remain with it regardless of the owner of said share.

The right to take part in General Meetings and to vote on resolutions shall be attached to each ordinary share under the conditions laid down by law and by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Each ordinary share shall give the right to ownership of the Company's assets and in the sharing of profits in proportion to the number of existing ordinary shares, taking into account the nominal value of the ordinary shares and the rights of different classes of shares, where applicable.

All existing or future ordinary shares making up the share capital shall be treated identically for tax purposes. As a result, and apart from the effect of the date as from which dividends can be paid or how far the shares have been paid up, all the ordinary shares shall give the right, during the Company's life and in the event of liquidation, to payment of the same net amount in any allocation or redemption, such that all ordinary shares shall be considered together, where applicable, regardless of any tax exemptions or of any other taxes to which this allocation or redemption could give rise.

Shareholders shall only bear the Company's losses up to the amount of their contributions.

Ordinary shares shall be indivisible as regards the Company. All joint owners of undivided ordinary shares must arrange to be represented, as regards the Company, by only one of them or by a lawful joint representative, subject to statutory or regulatory provisions relating to the exercise of the right to receive information.

Heirs, representatives or creditors of a shareholder may not, under any pretext whatsoever, cause seals to be placed on the Company's property or securities or take proceedings as regards said assets and securities, request the sharing or the public sale of property held in common (*licitation*) or interfere in acts by the Company's management in any way whatsoever. They shall rely on the Company's statements of assets and liabilities and decisions taken by General Meetings.

#### **3.2 Rights of the preferred shares**

The preferred shares are preferred shares within the meaning of Article L.228-11 of the French Commercial Code.

Ownership of a preference share automatically entails adherence to the Articles of Association.

The specific rights and obligations attached to each category of preferred shares are set out in the terms and conditions of the preferred shares appended as Schedule 1 to the Articles of Association (the “Terms and Conditions”).

In accordance with their Terms and Conditions, the preferred shares shall have no voting rights in the General Meetings of the Company, nor shall they have any financial rights, in particular to any distributable or distributed income or to any net liquidation proceeds.

Subject to these Articles of Association and the Terms and Conditions, the preferred shares shall confer the same rights to and obligations on their holders as the ordinary shares.

#### **4. Crossing of statutory thresholds**

In addition to the thresholds provided for by the applicable legal and regulatory provisions, any individual or legal entity, acting alone or in concert, that comes to hold, directly or indirectly, a fraction equal to or greater than three (3), four (4), six (6), seven (7), eight (8), nine (9) and twelve and a half (12.5) percent of the Company’s share capital or voting rights, must inform the Company of the total number of shares and voting rights that it owns as well as the securities giving access to the capital and voting rights potentially attached thereto by means of a registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt, sent to the registered office (place of general management) no later than the close of the fourth trading day following the day on which the threshold is crossed.

The information referred to in the previous paragraph is also given within the same deadlines and under the same conditions, when the shareholding falls below the thresholds mentioned in that paragraph.

In determining the thresholds referred to in the preceding paragraphs, account is also taken of shares or voting rights held indirectly and shares or voting rights assimilated to shares or voting rights owned as defined by the provisions of Articles L.233-7 *et seq.* of the French Commercial Code.

In the event of failure to comply with the provisions set out above, the penalties provided for by law in the event of failure to comply with the requirement to declare the crossing of legal thresholds will apply to the statutory thresholds only at the request, recorded in the minutes of the General Meeting, of one or more shareholders holding at least five percent (5%) of the Company’s capital or voting rights.

The Company reserves the right to inform the public and shareholders either of the information notified to it or of any failure by the person concerned to comply with the aforementioned obligation.

### **ARTICLE 9 – COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Subject to exceptions provided for by law, the Company shall be managed by a Board of Directors comprising a minimum of three (3) members and a maximum of eighteen (18) members, appointed by the General Meeting under the conditions provided for by law.

#### **1. Appointment**

Directors are appointed by the Ordinary General Meeting under the conditions provided for by law.

However, in the event of one or more vacancies, the Board of Directors may, between two General Meetings, appoint temporary members.

Temporary appointments made by the Board of Directors are subject to ratification by the next Ordinary Shareholders’ Meeting. A member appointed to replace another shall stay in office only for the remaining term of his or her predecessor.

#### **2. Age limit**

When a Director reaches the age of 70, he or she shall remain member of the Board until the normal expiry of his or her term of office. He or she may then be re-elected once, for a term of two (2) years. However,

these provisions cannot result in the number of Directors aged 70 or older exceed one-third of the Directors (natural persons or representatives of legal entities) in office.

If the aforementioned one-third threshold is exceeded, in the absence of voluntary resignation of a Director aged 70 or older, the oldest Director will be deemed to have resigned automatically.

### **3. Term of office**

The term of office of the Directors is four (4) years. They may be re-elected. The duties of a Director terminate at the end of the Ordinary Shareholders' Meeting convened to approve the Company's financial statements for the preceding fiscal year and held in the year during which his or her term of office expires. Notwithstanding the above, in order to provide for a staggered renewal of the Board, the members of the first Board of Directors who would have served as of 20 April 2021 as members of the Supervisory Board of the Company under its former governance structure, and who would have been appointed as Directors by the Ordinary Shareholders' Meeting, would serve as Directors for a duration of one, two, three or four years, equal to the remaining duration of their term of office as Supervisory Board's member.

### **4. Dismissal**

Directors may be dismissed at any time upon decision of the Ordinary Shareholder's Meeting.

### **5. Number of shares of the Company that each Director shall own**

During his or her term of office, each Director must own at least twelve (12) registered shares of the Company.

If, on the date of his or her appointment, a Director does not own the required number of shares or if, during his or her term of office, he or she ceases to own such shares, he or she shall be deemed to have resigned automatically if he or she has not regularised his or her situation within six months.

### **6. Director representing employee shareholders**

When the report presented by the Board of Directors to the General Meeting pursuant to Article L.225-102 of the French Commercial Code establishes that the shares held by the employees of the Company and by employees of the companies related to it within the meaning of Article L.225-180 of said Code, represent more than three percent (3%) of the share capital, a Director representing the employee shareholders shall be elected by the Ordinary Shareholders' Meeting from among the two candidates proposed by the employee shareholders referred to in the aforementioned Article L.225-102, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth by the regulations in force and by these bylaws.

The two candidates for election to the position of member of the Board of Directors employee shareholder are appointed under the following conditions:

- a) if the shares held by the employees referred to in Article L.225-102 of the French Commercial Code are held through a company mutual fund ("FCPE"), all of the Supervisory Boards of these FCPEs, specially convened for this purpose, shall jointly designate a candidate.

At the meetings of the Supervisory Boards of the aforementioned FCPEs, each member of these Supervisory Boards has one vote for the appointment of a candidate for election to the position of member of the Supervisory Board representing employee shareholders. This candidate is appointed by a majority of the votes cast by the members of the Supervisory Boards present or represented at the aforementioned meeting or having cast a vote via mail;

- b) if the shares are held directly by the employees referred to in Article L.225-102 of the French Commercial Code, the employees shall nominate a candidate. The appointment of the candidate will be made by the employee shareholders through an electronic voting procedure. Under this voting procedure, each employee shareholder will have a number of votes equal to the number of shares he or she holds directly. The candidate is nominated by a majority of the votes cast by the employee shareholder voters;

c) if all of the shares held by the employees referred to in Article L.225-102 of the French Commercial Code are held under the conditions referred to in a) of this paragraph 6, the two candidates referred to in the first paragraph of this paragraph 6 shall be appointed by the Supervisory Boards of the FCPEs in accordance with the procedures described in a) of this paragraph 6. Reciprocally, the provisions of b) of this paragraph 6 shall apply to the appointment of the two candidates referred to in the first paragraph of this paragraph 6 in the event that all the shares held by the employees referred to in Article L.225-102 of the French Commercial Code are held under the conditions referred to in b) of this paragraph.

Prior to the appointment of the two candidates for the position of Director representing employee shareholders, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, with the ability to sub-delegate such adoption, shall adopt a Regulation for the Appointment of Candidates (the “**Regulation**”) specifying the timetable and organization of the appointment procedures provided for in a) and b) of this paragraph 6.

The Regulation will be brought to the attention of the members of the FCPE Supervisory Boards, as part of the appointment procedure provided for in a) of this paragraph 6, and to the attention of employee shareholders, as part of the appointment procedure provided for in b) of this paragraph 6, by any means that the Chairman of the Board of Directors deems appropriate and adequate, in particular, and without limitation, by means of posters and/or individual mail and/or electronic communication.

The Regulation must be communicated at least two months (i) before the actual meeting of the FCPE Supervisory Boards following the procedure provided for in paragraph 6 a) and (ii) before the opening of the voting period provided for in paragraph 6 b).

The Director representing employee shareholders shall be elected by the Ordinary Shareholders’ Meeting from among the two candidates nominated, respectively, pursuant to the provisions of a) and b) of this paragraph 6, under the conditions applicable to any appointment as Director. The Board of Directors presents the two candidates to the Shareholders’ Meeting by means of two separate resolutions, and approves, if applicable, the resolution concerning the preferred candidate. The candidate referred to above who receives the highest number of votes from the shareholders present or represented at the Ordinary Shareholders’ Meeting shall be elected as Director representing employee shareholders.

This Director is not taken into account in determining the maximum number of Directors provided for in Article L.225-17 of the French Commercial Code.

In accordance with the above provisions, the term of office of the Director representing employee shareholders is set at four (4) years and ends in accordance with the aforementioned provisions.

However, his or her term of office shall automatically terminate and the Director representing employee shareholders shall be deemed to have resigned automatically in the event of loss of the status of employee of the Company (or of a company or economic interest grouping related to it within the meaning of Article L.225-180 of the French Commercial Code). The renewal of the term of office as Director representing employee shareholders shall be carried out under the conditions provided for in this Article.

The provisions of these bylaws relating to the number of shares that each Director must hold throughout his or her term of office are not applicable to this Director representing employee shareholders. However, the Director representing employee shareholders must hold, either individually or through an FCPE governed by Article L.214-40 of the French Monetary and Financial Code, at least one share or a number of units of said fund equivalent to at least one share. Failing this, they shall be deemed to have resigned automatically on the date on which they cease to hold a share of the Company or a number of units of the FCPE representing at least one share of the Company.

In the event of a vacancy in the position of Director representing employee shareholders for any reason whatsoever, the appointment of candidates to replace such member shall be made in accordance with the conditions set forth in this Article at the latest prior to the next Ordinary Shareholders’ Meeting or, if such meeting is held less than four (4) months after the position becomes vacant, prior to the following Ordinary Shareholders’ Meeting. Such Director will be elected by the Ordinary Shareholders’ Meeting for a further period of four (4) years. Until the date of replacement of the Director representing employee shareholders, the Board of Directors may validly meet and deliberate.

The provisions of this Article shall cease to apply when, at the end of a fiscal year, the percentage of the Company's share capital held by the employees of the Company and its affiliates within the meaning of the aforementioned Article L.225-180, within the framework provided by the provisions of the aforementioned Article L.225-102, represents less than 3% of such share capital, provided that the term of office of any member of the Director appointed pursuant to this Article shall expire at the end of such term.

## **7. Director representing employees**

The Board of Directors also includes, as the case may be, one or two Directors representing employees, in accordance with Article L.225-27-1 of the French Commercial Code.

When during a fiscal year, the number of Directors, calculated in accordance with Article L.225-27-1 II of the French Commercial Code, is less than or equal to eight (8), the Group Committee (*Comité de Groupe*), as provided for in Article L.2331-1 of the French Labor Code, shall appoint a single Director representing the employees, by majority vote.

When during a fiscal year, the number of Directors, calculated in accordance with Article L.225-27-1 II of the French Commercial Code, exceeds eight (8), and provided that this criteria is still satisfied on the date of appointment, the European Works Council (*Comité d'Entreprise Européen*), provided for in Article L.2342-9 of the French Labor Code, appoints a second Director representing the employees.

The term of office of the Directors representing employees is set at four (4) years from the date of their appointment. They may be re-elected.

If the number of Directors, calculated pursuant to Article L.225-27-1 II of the French Commercial Code, initially greater than eight (8) members, becomes less than or equal to eight (8) members, the terms of office of the Directors representing employees are maintained until they expire.

The non-appointment of one or more Directors representing employees pursuant to the law and these Articles of Association shall not affect the validity of the meetings and deliberations of the Board of Directors.

The functions of the Directors representing the employees terminate at the end of the meeting of the Ordinary General Meeting convened to approve the financial statements for the preceding fiscal year, and held in the year during which their term of office expires. However, their term of office ends automatically under the conditions provided for by law and by this Article, and the Director representing the employees is deemed to have resigned automatically in the event of loss of the status of employee of the Company or of a company controlled by it, within the meaning of Article L.233-3 of the French Commercial Code. Similarly, if the conditions for the application of Article L.225-27-1 of the French Commercial Code are no longer met, the term of office of the Director(s) shall end at the earlier of the following dates: (i) at the end of the current term of office, or (ii) at the end of the Board of Directors' Meeting at which the Board of Directors acknowledges that the Company is outside of the scope of application of the law.

Should a position of Director representing the employees become vacant for any reason, his or her substitute shall be designated following the same modalities as the Director whose position became vacant and shall keep this position for the remaining of his or her predecessor's term of office. Until the date of replacement of the Director (or, where applicable, Directors) representing the employees, the Board of Directors validly meets and deliberates.

The provisions of paragraph 5, relating to the number of shares to be held by a Director, are not applicable to Directors representing employees.

Directors representing employees are not taken into account in determining the minimum and maximum number of members of the Board of Directors provided for in Article L.225-17 of the French Commercial Code.

## **ARTICLE 10 – ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **1. Chairman of the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors elects from among its members a Chairman, who is a natural person, for a term that may not exceed his or her term of office as a director. He or she may be re-elected.

For the performance of his or her duties as Chairman, the age limit is set at 75 years whether or not he or she simultaneously serves as Chief Executive Officer of the Company (Chairman and Chief Executive Officer). The Chairman and Chief Executive Officer shall be deemed to have resigned automatically at the end of the General Meeting following the date he or she reaches the age of 75.

The Chairman shall exercise the assignments and powers vested by law. He or she chairs over the meetings of the Board and sets the agenda thereof. He or she organizes and directs its works and reports to the General Shareholders' Meeting. He or she ensures the proper operations of the Company's bodies, and that the directors are capable of fulfilling their duties. He or she chairs the General Shareholders' Meetings and draws up the reports required by law.

When the Chairman of the Board of Directors is also responsible for the executive management of the Company, all the legal and regulatory provisions applying to the Chief Executive Officer will apply to him or her.

### **2. Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors and Lead Independent Director**

The Board of Directors may also appoint a Vice-Chairman and/or a Lead Independent Director from among its natural person members, for whom it will determine the term of office, within the limit of that of his or her term of office as Director.

The Vice-Chairman or the Lead Independent Director chairs Board and Shareholders' Meetings in the absence of the Chairman. The other powers of the Vice-Chairman and of the Lead Independent Director, if any, shall be set forth in the internal regulations of the Board of Directors.

### **3. Dismissal**

The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors may be dismissed at any time by the Board of Directors.

### **4. Meetings of the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors meets on a notice of meeting issued by its Chairman, as often as the interests of the Company require, and at least five (5) times a year. Directors are called to Board Meetings by any means, including orally. The agenda may be set as late as the time of the meeting.

Meetings take place at the Company's registered office or any other place specified in the notice of meeting. They are chaired by the Chairman of the Board of Directors, and in the event of the absence of the Chairman, by the Vice-Chairman or the Lead Independent Director. Upon the initiative of the convening author, the decisions of the Board of Directors may also be taken by written consultation of the Directors, including by electronic means, in accordance with applicable law and the terms of the notice, subject to the opposition right on the written consultation which may be exercised by a Director in accordance with the internal regulation of the Board of Directors.

An attendance register is kept, which is signed by the Directors participating in the Board of Directors' Meeting, and which mentions, where applicable, the names of Directors participating in the meeting by videoconference or by the use of telecommunication means.

Members of the Board of Directors, as well as any person called upon to attend Board Meetings, are bound by a duty of discretion with regard to the deliberations of the Board of Directors as well as with regard to information of a confidential nature or presented as such by the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

## **5. Quorum and majority**

The Board of Directors can only deliberate validly if at least half of its members are present or have participated in the written consultation.

Decisions are taken by a majority of the members present or represented (including those having voted remotely). In the event of a tie vote, no Director has a casting vote. For the calculation of the quorum and required majority, Directors participating in the Board Meetings by any telecommunication means that allows them to be identified and guarantees their effective participation are considered present, under the terms and conditions provided for by the applicable laws. The internal regulations of the Board of Directors may provide that certain decisions cannot be taken at a Board meeting held under these conditions.

Failing any response in writing (including by electronic means) to the written consultation within the deadline and in accordance with the terms stipulated by the author of the request, the Directors concerned will be deemed to be absent and not to have participated in the decision.

## **6. Internal regulations**

The Board of Directors establishes internal regulations, which notably provide for the procedure according to which the decisions of the Board of Directors may be taken by written consultation of the Directors, including by electronic means, or, where applicable, by means of a voting form under the conditions provided for by law.

## **7. Minutes**

The minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors are prepared and copies or extracts thereof are delivered and certified in accordance with the law.

## **ARTICLE 11 – POWERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors performs the duties assigned to it by law. In particular, it sets out the Company's business policies and ensures their implementation, in accordance with its corporate interest, by taking into consideration the social and environmental issues relating to its activity.

Subject to the powers expressly granted to General Meetings of Shareholders and within the limit of the corporate purpose of the Company, it addresses any issues relating to the proper functioning of the Company and, through its deliberations, resolves any matters concerning the Company.

The Board of Directors carries out or causes to be carried out such controls and verifications as it deems appropriate.

The Board of Directors may decide to set up committees to study questions that it or its Chairman submits for their consideration. It determines the composition and powers of these committees, which perform their activities under its responsibility.

## **ARTICLE 12 – COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The General Meeting may allocate to the Directors, as remuneration for their duties, an annual fixed sum.

The Board of Directors divides the total sum allocated among its members. The Board of Directors may also allocate exceptional compensation in the cases and under the terms set forth by law.

## **ARTICLE 13 – EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT**

### **1. Method of exercising executive management**

Executive management of the Company is fulfilled under his or her responsibility, either by the Chairman of the Board of Directors, in which case referred to as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, or by another natural person appointed by the Board of Directors and in such a case referred to as Chief Executive Officer.

Provided that the question is included in the agenda, the Board of Directors may chose between the two options for performing the executive management function, ruling under the quorum and majority conditions set forth in paragraph 5 of Article 10. This choice shall remain valid until the Board of Directors otherwise decides under the same conditions. Shareholders and third persons shall be informed of this choice pursuant to applicable legal and regulatory provisions.

In the event of a separation of the functions of Chairman and that of Chief Executive Officer, he or she – who is not necessarily a director – is appointed for a term freely determined by the Board of Directors. However, if the Chief Executive Officer is also a Director, his or her term may not exceed that of his or her term of office as director.

The Chief Executive Officer may be reappointed.

When the functions of Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer are separated, the Chief Executive Officer shall be deemed to have resigned automatically at the end of the Ordinary General Meeting following the date he or she reaches the age of 70.

## **2. Powers of the Chief Executive Officer**

The Chairman and Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Executive Officer, as the case may be, is vested with the broadest powers to act on behalf of the Company in accordance with applicable laws. He or she exercises these powers within the scope of the corporate purpose, and subject to the powers expressly assigned by law to the Shareholders' Meetings and the Board of Directors.

He or she shall represent the Company *vis-à-vis* third parties.

## **3. Deputy Chief Executive Officers**

The Board of Directors may, upon proposal of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Executive Officer, as applicable, may appoint, from among its members or otherwise, one or more natural persons to assist the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer with the title of Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

The number of Deputy Chief Executive Officers may not exceed two (2). The Board of Directors shall determine the scope and term of the powers granted to the Deputy Chief Executive Officers, in agreement with the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Executive Officer. With respect to third parties, the Deputy Chief Executive Officers have the same powers as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Executive Officer.

For the performance of the duties as Deputy Chief Executive Officer, the age limit is set at 70. Deputy Chief Executive Officers shall be deemed to have resigned automatically at the end of the Ordinary General Meeting following the date they reach the age of 70.

## **ARTICLE 14 – CENSORS**

The Board of Directors may appoint and dismiss Censors, who may be natural or legal persons, chosen from among the Shareholders or outside them.

The number of Censors may not exceed two.

Censors shall be appointed for a term that may not exceed four (4) years. They shall be eligible for re-election.

The main role of the Censors is to ensure the strict application of the By-laws. They shall be called to meetings of the Board of Directors and take part in discussions in an advisory capacity.

Censors may receive a remuneration withdrawn from the remuneration allocated to the Board of Directors by the Ordinary General Meeting of shareholders.

## **ARTICLE 15 – STATUTORY AUDITORS**

The Ordinary General Meeting of the shareholders shall appoint at least two Statutory Auditors for the term, under the conditions and with the mission laid down by law.

Alternative Auditors shall also be appointed in accordance with the law.

Statutory Auditors and Alternative Auditors shall be eligible for re-election.

## **ARTICLE 16 – GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE SHAREHOLDERS**

### **1. Effect of decisions**

Duly convened General Meetings of shareholders shall represent all shareholders. Decisions taken by it in accordance with the law and with the Memorandum and Articles of Association shall be binding on all shareholders, even those who were absent from the meeting in question, unable to act or who voted against the resolution in question.

### **2. Convening General Meetings**

General Meetings of shareholders shall be convened under the conditions laid down by law.

### **3. Participation**

The Shareholders' Meeting is open to all shareholders, regardless of the number of shares they hold.

Every shareholder has the right to participate in the Shareholders' Meetings in the manner provided for by law and regulations.

By decision of the Board of Directors, shareholders may vote by all means of telecommunication and data transmission, including the internet, as provided by the regulations applicable at the time of use. If applicable, this decision shall be communicated in the Notice of Meeting (*Avis de réunion*) published in the *Bulletin des Annonces Légales Obligatoires* (French journal of legal announcements).

Shareholders voting remotely are considered to be present or represented when they vote by the required deadline using the electronic voting form containing the information stipulated by regulations, which is provided on the website set up by the centralizing agent for the Shareholders' Meeting. If the Board of Directors so decides at the time the meeting is called, the electronic form may be completed and signed directly on the website set up by the centralizing agent of the Shareholders' Meeting by any procedure decided by the Board of Directors that meets the conditions laid down in the first sentence of the second paragraph of Article 1367 of the French Civil Code, and may include a username and password. The proxy or vote cast electronically before the Shareholders' Meeting, as well as the acknowledgment that is given, shall be considered irrevocable and binding on all, it being specified that in case of a transfer of share ownership before midnight, Paris time, on the fifth business day preceding the meeting, the Company shall invalidate or amend, as appropriate, the proxy or vote cast before that date and time.

Holders of shares for which called payments, duly made and claimable, have not been made within 30 days of receiving formal notice from the Company, may not participate in Shareholders' Meetings. Such shares shall be deducted in calculating the quorum. When the shares are subject to usufruct, the voting right is exercised by the beneficial owner at all Shareholders' Meetings, whether ordinary, extraordinary or special.

Shareholders' Meetings may be held at corporate headquarters or any other place in mainland France.

### **4. Holding of Shareholder's Meetings**

Each member of a General Meeting shall have as many votes as ordinary shares he or she owns or represents, in the absence of legal provisions to the contrary.

As an exception to the provisions of Article L.22-10-46 of the French Commercial Code, no double voting rights are attached to the Company's shares.

General Meetings shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Board of Directors or the Lead Independent Director or, in his or her absence, by the Vice-Chairman or, failing this, by the oldest member of the Board of Directors.

In principle, the agenda shall be drawn up by the person who issues the convening notice.

The duties of scrutineers shall be performed by the two members of the General Meeting who are present and who accept these duties who have the largest number of votes.

The officers of the meeting shall appoint the secretary, who may but need not be a shareholder. A presence sheet is established under the conditions provided for by the law.

Deliberations shall be recorded in minutes drawn up in a special register, on numbered and initialled pages held at the registered office, or on loose sheets which shall be numbered and initialled without any discontinuity.

These minutes shall be signed by the officers of the meeting. Copies or excerpts therefrom shall be validly certified by the Chairman of the Board of Directors, the Vice-Chairman, the Chief Executive Officer if he or she is also a Director, or by the secretary of the General Meeting.

## **ARTICLE 17 – ORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE SHAREHOLDERS**

### **1. Quorums and majorities**

When Ordinary General Meetings of the shareholders are held the first time the General Meeting is convened, they may only take valid decisions if the shareholders present or represented own at least one-fifth of the voting shares.

When such a meeting is convened for the second time, its deliberations shall be valid regardless of the number of shares represented.

Decisions shall be taken under the conditions of majority provided for by law.

### **2. Powers**

Ordinary General Meetings of the shareholders shall hear the reports of the Board of Directors and of the Statutory Auditors and shall review the annual financial statements.

General Meetings shall discuss, approve, adjust or reject the financial statements and shall fix dividends to be distributed and the amount of the retained earnings to be carried forward.

They shall decide on the creation of any reserve funds. They shall fix the withdrawals to be made therefrom and shall decide on the distribution thereof.

They shall determine the amount of the remuneration allocated to the Directors.

They shall appoint, replace or re-elect members of the Board of Directors or remove them from office. They shall ratify provisional appointments of members of the Board of Directors made by said Board of Directors.

They shall appoint the Statutory Auditors and shall vote, if applicable, on the special report issued by said Auditors in accordance with the law.

They shall decide on all proposals which do not need to be decided solely by Extraordinary General Meetings of the shareholders.

## **ARTICLE 18 – EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE SHAREHOLDERS**

### **1. Powers**

Extraordinary General Meetings of the shareholders may amend all the provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association and may also decide to convert the Company into a company of any other form.

They may only increase shareholders' commitments or undermine the equality of shareholders' rights by a unanimous vote of the shareholders.

## **2. Quorums and majorities**

a) Extraordinary General Meeting may only take valid decisions the first time the General Meeting is convened if the shareholders present or represented own at least one-quarter of the voting shares or, the second time the General Meeting is convened, one-fifth of the voting shares.

Decisions shall be taken under the conditions of majority provided for by law.

b) In the event of a capital increase by incorporation of reserves, profits or share premiums, the capital increase shall be decided under the quorum and majority conditions applicable to Ordinary General Meetings.

c) Where the General Meeting is deliberating on approving a contribution in kind or the granting of a special benefit, the contributor or the beneficiary shall not have a vote and nor shall his or her proxy. His or her shares shall not be taken into account in the calculation of the majority.

## **ARTICLE 19 – SPECIAL MEETINGS**

Holders of preferred shares of each category are consulted in accordance with the conditions provided by the applicable statutory provisions, regulations and bylaws in force, on matters within their competence.

Holders of preferred shares of each class are convened to a special meeting to decide on any modification of their rights.

Special meeting of holders of each class of preferred shares validly deliberate if the shareholders present or represented own at least one-third of the preferred shares of such category upon the first convening, and one-fifth on the second convening. If not, the second meeting may be postponed to a date not more than two months after the date on which it was convened.

## **ARTICLE 20 – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The financial year shall start on 1 January and end on 31 December.

The distributable profit, as defined by law, shall be available to General Meetings of the shareholders. Unless there is an exception due to statutory provisions, General Meetings of the shareholders shall decide on the appropriation of this profit at their discretion.

General Meetings of the shareholders may also decide to grant each shareholder, for all or some of the dividends to be distributed, a choice between payment of the dividend in cash or in shares, in accordance with statutory and regulatory provisions in force.

## **ARTICLE 21 – EARLY DISSOLUTION - EXTENSION**

Extraordinary General Meetings of the shareholders may at any time decide to dissolve the Company early or decide to extend the Company's life when it ends.

At least one year before the end of the Company's life, the Board of Director shall arrange for an Extraordinary General Meeting of the shareholders to take place for the purpose of deciding whether the Company's life should be extended.

## **ARTICLE 22 – SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY LESS THAN HALF THE SHARE CAPITAL**

If, due to losses recorded in accounting documents, the Company's shareholders' equity (*capitaux propres*) falls to less than half the share capital, the Board of Directors must convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of the shareholders within four months following the approval of the financial statements that showed this loss, for the purpose of deciding whether the Company should be dissolved early.

If it is not dissolved, the Company must reduce its capital by an amount at least equal to that of losses which it has not been possible to offset against reserves no later than at the close of the second financial year after the year in which the losses were recorded, and subject to the statutory provisions relating to the minimum amount of share capital if, within this time, the shareholders' equity has not been rebuilt to an amount at least equal to half the share capital.

In both these cases, the resolution adopted by the Extraordinary General Meeting of the shareholders shall be published in accordance with the law.

#### **ARTICLE 23 – LIQUIDATION**

When the Company's life ends or if it is dissolved early, the General Meeting of the shareholders shall decide on the method of liquidation and shall appoint one or several liquidators whose powers it shall also determine.

Throughout the time the Company is being liquidated, the General Meeting of the shareholders shall retain the same powers.

The net proceeds from liquidation after payment of liabilities shall be used first to repay the paid up and unredeemed amount of the ordinary shares. The remainder shall be divided between all the ordinary shares.

Shareholders shall be invited to a General Meeting at the end of liquidation to decide on the final financial statements, the release to be given to the liquidators for their management, release from their mandate and to record the close of liquidation. These decisions shall be published in accordance with the law.

#### **ARTICLE 24 – DISPUTES – CHOICE OF ADDRESS FOR SERVICE**

All disputes on the subject of Company matters which may arise during the Company's life or when it is liquidated, either between the Company's shareholders and the Company or between the shareholders themselves, shall be referred to the courts with jurisdiction in the place where the registered office is located.