

Comply or explain

The Dutch Corporate Governance Code (the "**Code**") provides that the company must explicitly state in a separate chapter of the management report or a publication on the company's website the extent to which the company complies with the principles and best practice provisions of the Code and, where it does not comply, why and to what extent it deviates from these. The Code recognizes that a one-size fits all approach does not work for a company's governance structure by definition and deviations can be justified. The comply-or-explain principle stresses that the boards are responsible for the company's governance structure and the compliance with the Code, and must provide a substantive and transparent explanation on a deviation.

The explanation of any deviations should in any event include the following elements:

- (i) how the company departed from the principle or the best practice provision;
- (ii) the reasons for the departure;
- (iii) if the departure is of a temporary nature and continues for more than one financial year, an indication of when the company intends to comply with the principle or the best practice provision again; and
- (iv) where applicable, a description of the alternative measure that was taken and either an explanation of how that measure attains the purpose of the principle or the best practice provision or a clarification of how the measure contributes to good corporate governance of the company.

In this overview, SBM Offshore (also referred to as the "Company") provides an explanation of compliance with the Code. Reference is also made to the management report for additional information on the Company's corporate governance structure.

February 2024

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non- applicability |
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| 1 | SUSTAINABLE LONG-TERM VALUE CREATION | | |
| 1.1 | <p>Sustainable Long-term value creation (principle)</p> <p>The management board is responsible for the continuity of the company and its affiliated enterprise and for sustainable long-term value creation by the company and its affiliated enterprise. The management board takes into account the impact the actions of the company and its affiliated enterprise have on people and the environment and to that end weighs the stakeholder interests that are relevant in this context. The supervisory board monitors the management board in this regard.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 1.1 Schedule 2 Management Board rules</p> <p>Clause 1.2 Schedule 3 Supervisory Board rules</p> |
| 1.1.1 | <p>Strategy for sustainable long-term value creation (best practice)</p> <p>The management board is responsible for the continuity of the company and its affiliated enterprise and for sustainable long-term value creation by the company and its affiliated enterprise. The management board takes into account the impact the actions of the company and its affiliated enterprise have on people and the environment and to that end weighs the stakeholder interests that are relevant in this context. The supervisory board monitors the management board in this regard. Depending on market dynamics, it may be necessary to make short-term adjustments to the strategy.</p> <p>When developing the strategy, attention should in any event be paid to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the strategy's implementation and feasibility; ii. the business model applied by the company and the market in which the company and its affiliated enterprise operate; iii. opportunities and risks for the company; iv. the company's operational and financial goals and their impact on its future position in relevant markets; v. the interests of the stakeholders; vi. the impact of the company and its affiliated enterprise in the field of sustainability, including the effects on people and the environment; vii. paying a fair share of tax to the countries in which the company operates; and viii. the impact of new technologies and changing business models. | Comply | <p>Clauses 1.2 and 1.6 Schedule 3 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 1.1 Schedule 2 Management Board rules</p> <p>Company website</p> |

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| 1.1.2 | <p>Involvement of the supervisory board (best practice)</p> <p>The management board should engage the supervisory board early on in formulating the strategy for realising sustainable long-term value creation. The management board accounts to the supervisory board for the strategy and the explanatory notes to that strategy.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 1.5 Schedule 2 Management Board rules</p> <p>Clause 1.4 Schedule 3 Supervisory Board rules</p> |
| 1.1.3 | <p>Role of the supervisory board (best practice)</p> <p>The supervisory board should supervise the manner in which the management board implements the strategy for sustainable long-term value creation. The supervisory board should regularly discuss the strategy, the implementation of the strategy and the principal risks associated with it. In the report drawn up by the supervisory board, an account is given of its involvement in the establishment of the strategy, and the way in which it monitors its implementation.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 1.6 Schedule 3 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Supervisory Board report</p> |
| 1.1.4 | <p>Reporting by the management board (best practice)</p> <p>In the management report, the management board should provide a more detailed explanation of its view on sustainable long-term value creation and the strategy to realise this and describe the contributions made to sustainable long-term value creation in the past financial year. In addition, it describes the formulated objectives, what effects the company's products, services and activities have had on people and the environment, how the interests of <i>stakeholders</i> have been considered, what action has been taken in that context and the extent to which the set objectives have been attained. The management board should report on both short-and the long-term developments.</p> | Comply | Management report |
| 1.1.5 | <p>Dialogue with stakeholders (best practice)</p> <p>To ensure that the interests of the relevant stakeholders of the company are considered when the sustainability aspects of the strategy are determined, the company should draw up an outline policy for effective dialogue with those stakeholders. The relevant stakeholders and the company should be prepared to engage in a dialogue. The company should facilitate this dialogue unless, in the opinion of the management board, this is not in the interests of the company and its affiliated enterprise. The company should publish the policy on its website.</p> | Comply | <p>Stakeholder engagement policy</p> <p>Company website</p> |
| 1.2 | <p>Risk management (principle)</p> <p>The company should have adequate internal risk management and control systems in place. The management board is responsible for identifying and managing the risks associated with the company's strategy and activities.</p> | Comply | Clauses 1.3(e) and 1.4 Schedule 2 Management Board rules |

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| 1.2.1 | <p>Risk assessment (best practice)</p> <p>The management board should identify and analyse the risks associated with the strategy and activities of the company and its affiliated enterprise. The identification and analysis should cover in any case the strategic, operational, compliance and reporting risks. The management board is responsible for establishing the risk appetite, and also the measures that are put in place in order to counter the risks being taken.</p> | Comply | Clauses 1.3(e) and 1.4 Schedule 2 Management Board rules |
| 1.2.2 | <p>Implementation (best practice)</p> <p>Based on the risk assessment, as referred to in best practice provision 1.2.1, the management board should design, implement and maintain adequate internal risk management and control systems. To the extent relevant, these systems should be integrated into the work processes within the company and its affiliated enterprise, and should be familiar to those whose work they are relevant to.</p> | Comply | Clauses 1.3(e) and 1.4 Schedule 2 Management Board rules |
| 1.2.3 | <p>Monitoring of design and operation (best practice)</p> <p>The management board should monitor the design and operation of the internal risk management and control systems and should carry out a systematic assessment of their design and operation at least once a year. Attention should be paid to observed weaknesses, instances of misconduct and irregularities, indications from whistleblowers, lessons learned and findings from the internal audit function and the external auditor. Where necessary, improvements should be made to internal risk management and control systems.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 1.4 Schedule 2 Management Board rules</p> <p>Management report</p> |
| 1.3 | <p>Internal audit function (principle)</p> <p>The task of the internal audit function is to assess the design and operation of the internal risk management and control systems. The management board is responsible for the internal audit function. The supervisory board oversees the internal audit function and maintains regular contact with the person fulfilling this function.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 2.2(h) Schedule 2 Management Board rules</p> <p>Clause 1.1 (f) and (g) Schedule 3 Management Board rules</p> <p>Clauses 1.2(a) and 1.3 Audit Committee rules</p> |
| 1.3.1 | <p>Appointment and dismissal (best practice)</p> <p>The management board both appoints and dismisses the senior internal auditor. Both the appointment and the dismissal of the senior internal auditor should be submitted to the supervisory board for approval, along with the recommendation of the audit committee.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 2.2(h) Schedule 2 Management Board rules</p> <p>Clause 1.1 (f) and (g) Schedule 3 Management Board rules</p> <p>Clause 1.3 Audit Committee rules</p> |

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| 1.3.2 | <p>Assessment of the internal audit function (best practice)</p> <p>The management board should assess annually the way in which the internal audit function fulfils its responsibility, after consultation with the audit committee. An independent third party should assess the performance of the internal audit function at least every five years.</p> | Comply | Clause 1.3 Audit Committee rules |
| 1.3.3 | <p>Internal audit plan (best practice)</p> <p>The internal audit function should draw up an audit plan after consultation with the management board, the audit committee and the external auditor. The audit plan should be submitted to the management board and then to the supervisory board for approval. In the internal audit plan, attention should be paid to interaction with the external auditor.</p> | Comply | Clause 1.3 Audit Committee rules |
| 1.3.4 | <p>Performance of work (best practice)</p> <p>The internal audit function should have sufficient resources to execute the internal audit plan and have access to information that is important for the performance of its work. The internal audit function should have direct access to the audit committee and the external auditor. Records should be kept of how the audit committee is informed by the internal audit function.</p> | Comply | Clause 1.3 Audit Committee rules |
| 1.3.5 | <p>Reports of findings (best practice)</p> <p>The internal audit function should report the audit results to the management board and the audit committee, and inform the external auditor. The findings of the internal audit function should, at least, include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. any flaws in the effectiveness of the internal risk management and control systems; ii. any findings and observations with a material impact on the risk profile of the company and its affiliated enterprise; and iii. any failings in the follow-up of recommendations made by the internal audit function. <p>The internal audit function should report hierarchically to a member of the management board, preferably to the CEO.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 1.3 Audit Committee rules</p> <p>Clause 7.5 Supervisory Board rules</p> |
| 1.3.6 | <p>Absence of an internal audit department (best practice)</p> <p>If there is no separate department for the internal audit function, the supervisory board will assess annually whether adequate alternative measures have been taken, partly on the basis of a recommendation issued by the audit committee, and will consider whether it is necessary to establish an internal audit department. The supervisory board should include the conclusions, along with any resulting recommendations and alternative measures, in the report of the supervisory board.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 1.3(c) Audit Committee rules</p> <p>The Company has an internal audit function.</p> <p>Supervisory Board report</p> |

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| 1.4 | <p>Risk management accountability (principle)</p> <p>The management board should render account of the effectiveness of the design and the operation of the internal risk management and control systems.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 1.4 Schedule 2 Management Board rules</p> <p>Clause 1.3(e) Audit Committee rules</p> <p>Management report</p> |
| 1.4.1 | <p>Accountability to the supervisory board (best practice)</p> <p>The management board should discuss the effectiveness of the design and operation of the internal risk management and control systems referred to in best practice provisions 1.2.1 to 1.2.3 inclusive with the audit committee, and render account of this to the supervisory board.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 1.1 Audit Committee rules</p> <p>Clause 1.4 Schedule 2 Management Board rules</p> <p>Clause 1.3(e) Audit Committee rules</p> |
| 1.4.2 | <p>Reporting on risk management (best practice)</p> <p>In the management report, the management board should render account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the execution of the risk assessment, with a description of the principal risks facing the company in relation to its risk appetite, as referred to in best practice provision 1.2.1; ii. the design and operation of the internal risk management and control systems during the past financial year; iii. any major failings in the internal risk management and control systems which have been observed in the financial year, any significant changes made to these systems and any major improvements planned, along with a confirmation that these issues have been discussed with the audit committee and the supervisory board; and iv. the sensitivity of the results of the company to material changes in external factors | Comply | Management report |
| 1.4.3 | <p>Statement by the management board (best practice)</p> <p>The management board should state in the management report, with clear substantiation, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the report provides sufficient insights into any failings in the effectiveness of the internal risk management and control systems with regard to the risks as referred to in best practice provision 1.2.1; ii. the aforementioned systems provide reasonable assurance that the financial reporting does not contain any material inaccuracies; iii. based on the current state of affairs, it is justified that the financial reporting is prepared on a going concern basis; and iv. the report states the material risks, as referred to in best practice provision 1.2.1, and the uncertainties, to the extent that they are relevant to the expectation of the | Comply | Management report |

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| | company's continuity for the period of twelve months after the preparation of the report. | | |
| 1.5 | <p>Role of the supervisory board (principle)</p> <p>The supervisory board should supervise the policies carried out by the management board and the general affairs of the company and its affiliated enterprise. In so doing, the supervisory board should also focus on the effectiveness of the company's internal risk management and control systems and the integrity and quality of the financial and sustainability reporting.</p> | Comply | Clause 1 Schedule 3 Supervisory Board rules |
| 1.5.1 | <p>Duties and responsibilities of the audit committee (best practice)</p> <p>The audit committee undertakes preparatory work for the supervisory board's decision-making regarding the supervision of the integrity and quality of the company's financial and sustainability reporting and the effectiveness of the company's internal risk management and control systems, as referred to in best practice provisions 1.2.1 to 1.2.3 inclusive. It focuses among other things on the supervision of the management board with regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. relations with, and compliance with, recommendations and follow-up of comments by the internal and external auditors and any other external party involved in auditing the sustainability reporting; ii. the funding of the company; and iii. the company's tax policy. | Comply | Clauses 1.2 and 1.3 Audit Committee rules |
| 1.5.2 | <p>Attendance of the management board, internal auditor and external auditor at audit committee consultations (best practice)</p> <p>The chief financial officer, the internal auditor and the external auditor should attend the audit committee meetings, unless the audit committee determines otherwise. The audit committee should decide whether and, if so, when the chairman of the management board should attend its meetings.</p> | Comply | Clause 2 Audit Committee rules |
| 1.5.3 | <p>Audit committee report (best practice)</p> <p>The audit committee should report to the supervisory board on its deliberations and findings. This report must, at least, include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the methods used to assess the effectiveness of the design and operation of the internal risk management and control systems referred to in best practice provisions 1.2.1 to 1.2.3 inclusive; ii. the methods used to assess the effectiveness of the internal and external audit processes; iii. material considerations concerning financial and sustainability reporting; and | Comply | Clause 3 Audit Committee rules |

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| | <p>iv. the way in which the material risks and uncertainties, referred to in best practice provisions 1.4.2 and 1.4.3, have been analysed and discussed, along with a description of the most important findings of the audit committee.</p> | | |
| 1.5.4 | <p>Supervisory board (best practice) The supervisory board should discuss the items reported on by the audit committee on the basis of best practice provision 1.5.3.</p> | Comply | Clause 3.4 Supervisory Board rules |
| 1.6 | <p>Appointment and assessment of the functioning of the external auditor (principle) The supervisory board should submit the nomination for the appointment of the external auditor to the general meeting and should supervise the external auditor's functioning.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 1.5(h) Schedule 3 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 1.3 (i) Audit Committee rules</p> |
| 1.6.1 | <p>Functioning and appointment (best practice) The audit committee should report annually to the supervisory board on the functioning of, and the developments in, the relationship with the external auditor. The audit committee should advise the supervisory board regarding the external auditor's nomination for appointment/reappointment or dismissal and should prepare the selection of the external auditor. The audit committee should give due consideration to the management board's observations during the aforementioned work. Also on this basis, the supervisory board should determine its nomination for the appointment of the external auditor to the general meeting.</p> | Comply | Clause 1.3 (g) and (i) Audit Committee rules |
| 1.6.2 | <p>Informing the external auditor about its functioning (best practice) The supervisory board should give the external auditor a general idea of the content of the reports relating to its functioning.</p> | Comply | Clause 1.3 (i) Audit Committee rules |
| 1.6.3 | <p>Engagement (best practice) The audit committee should submit a proposal to the supervisory board for the external auditor's engagement to audit the annual accounts. The management board should play a facilitating role in this process. In formulating the terms of engagement, attention should be paid to the scope of the audit, the materiality to be applied and remuneration for the audit. The supervisory board should resolve on the engagement.</p> | Comply | Clause 1.3 (i) Audit Committee rules |
| 1.6.4 | <p>Accountability (best practice) The main conclusions of the supervisory board regarding the external auditor's nomination and the outcomes of the external auditor selection process should be communicated to the general meeting.</p> | Comply | Clause 1.3 (i) Audit Committee rules |

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| 1.6.5 | <p>Departure of the external auditor (best practice)</p> <p>The company should publish a press release in the event of the early termination of the relationship with the external audit firm. The press release should explain the reasons for this early termination.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 1.3 (i) Schedule 2 Management Board rules</p> <p>Clause 1.3 (i) Audit Committee rules</p> |
| 1.7 | <p>Performance of the external auditor's work (principle)</p> <p>The audit committee and the external auditor should discuss the audit plan and the findings of the external auditor based on the work the external auditor has undertaken. The management board and the supervisory board should maintain regular contact with the external auditor.</p> | Comply | Clause 1.3 (i) Audit Committee rules |
| 1.7.1 | <p>Provision of information to the external auditor (best practice)</p> <p>The management board should ensure that the external auditor will receive all information that is necessary for the performance of his work in a timely fashion. The management board should give the external auditor the opportunity to respond to the information that has been provided.</p> | Comply | Clause 1.3 (i) Audit Committee rules |
| 1.7.2 | <p>Audit plan and external auditor's findings (best practice)</p> <p>The external auditor should discuss the draft audit plan with the management board before presenting it to the audit committee. The audit committee should discuss annually with the external auditor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the scope and materiality of the audit plan and the principal risks of the annual reporting identified by the external auditor in the audit plan; and ii. based also on the documents from which the audit plan was developed, the findings and outcomes of the audit work on the annual accounts and the management letter. | Comply | Clause 1.3 (i) Audit Committee rules |
| 1.7.3 | <p>Publication of financial reports (best practice)</p> <p>The audit committee should determine whether and, if so, how the external auditor should be involved in the content and publication of financial reports other than the annual accounts.</p> | Comply | Clause 1.3 (i) Audit Committee rules |
| 1.7.4 | <p>Consultations with the external auditor outside the management board's presence (best practice)</p> <p>The audit committee should meet with the external auditor as often as it considers necessary, but at least once per year, without the presence of the management board.</p> | Comply | Clause 1.3 (i) Audit Committee rules |

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| 1.7.5 | <p>Examination of discussion points arising between the external auditor and the management board (best practice)</p> <p>The supervisory board should be permitted to examine the most important points of discussion arising between the external auditor and the management board based on the draft management letter or the draft audit report.</p> | Comply | Clause 1.3 (i) Audit Committee rules |
| 1.7.6 | <p>External auditor's attendance of supervisory board meetings (best practice)</p> <p>The external auditor should in any event attend the meeting of the supervisory board at which the report of the external auditor on the audit of the annual accounts is discussed.</p> | Comply | Clause 1.3 (i) Audit Committee rules |
| 2 | EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION | | |
| 2.1 | <p>Composition and size (principle)</p> <p>The management board, the supervisory board and the executive committee (if any) should be composed in such a way as to ensure a degree of diversity appropriate to the company with regard to expertise, experience, competencies, other personal qualities, sex or gender identity, age, nationality and cultural or other background.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 2 Schedule 2 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 2.3 Management Board rules</p> |
| 2.1.1 | <p>Profile (best practice)</p> <p>The supervisory board should prepare a profile, taking account of the nature and the activities of the enterprise affiliated with the company.</p> <p>The profile should address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the desired expertise and background of the supervisory board members; ii. the desired diverse composition of the supervisory board, referred to in best practice provision 2.1.5; iii. the size of the supervisory board; and iv. the independence of the supervisory board members. <p>The profile should be posted on the company's website.</p> | Comply | <p>Schedule 2 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Company website</p> |
| 2.1.2 | <p>Personal information (best practice)</p> <p>The following information about each supervisory board member should be included in the report of the supervisory board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. sex or, if desired by the person concerned, gender identity; ii. age; iii. nationality; iv. principal position (if appropriate); | Comply | Supervisory Board report |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v. other positions, insofar as they are relevant to the performance of the duties of the supervisory board member; vi. date of initial appointment; and vii. current term of office. | | |
| 2.1.3 | <p>Executive committee (best practice)</p> <p>If the management board works with an executive committee, the management board should take account of the checks and balances that are part of the two-tier system. This means, among other things, that the management board's expertise and responsibilities are safeguarded and the supervisory board is informed adequately. The supervisory board should supervise this while paying specific attention to the dynamics and the relationship between the management board and the executive committee.</p> <p>In the management report, account should be rendered of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the choice to work with an executive committee; ii. the role, duty and composition of the executive committee; and iii. how the contacts between the supervisory board and the executive committee have been given shape. | Comply | Clauses 8.10 and 8.11 Supervisory Board rules |
| 2.1.4 | <p>Expertise (best practice)</p> <p>Each supervisory board member and each management board member should have the specific expertise required for the fulfilment of his duties. Each supervisory board member should be capable of assessing the broad outline of the overall management.</p> | Comply | Clause 2.2 Schedule 2 Supervisory Board rules |
| 2.1.5 | <p>Policy on Diversity and Inclusion (D&I policy) (best practice)</p> <p>The company should have a D&I policy for the enterprise. The D&I policy should in any case set specific, appropriate and ambitious targets in order to achieve a good balance in gender diversity and the other D&I aspects of relevance to the company with regard to the composition of the management board, the supervisory board, the executive committee (if any) and a category of employees in managerial positions ("senior management") to be determined by the management board.</p> <p>The supervisory board adopt the D&I policy for the composition of the management board and the supervisory board. The management board should adopt the D&I policy for the executive committee (if applicable), the senior management and for the rest of the workforce with the prior approval of the supervisory board.</p> | Comply | <p>Clauses 2.5-2.8 Schedule 2 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 1.5(a) Schedule 3 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 1.1 (g) A&RC rules</p> <p>Company website</p> |

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| 2.1.6 | <p>Reporting on the D&I policy (best practice)</p> <p>The corporate governance statement should explain the D&I policy and the way in which it is implemented in practice. This includes the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the goals of the D&I policy; ii. the plan to achieve the goals of the D&I policy; iii. the results of the D&I policy in the past financial year and – where relevant and applicable – insight into the inflow, progression and retention of employees; and iv. the gender composition of the management board, the supervisory board, the executive committee (if any) and senior management at the end of the past financial year. <p>If one or more goals for the composition of the management board, the supervisory board, the executive committee (if any) and/or senior management are not achieved, an explanation of the reasons should be included in the corporate governance statement, along with an explanation as to which measures are being taken to attain the goals, and by when this is likely to be achieved.</p> | Comply | Management report |
| 2.1.7 | <p>Independence of the supervisory board (best practice)</p> <p>The composition of the supervisory board is such that the members are able to operate independently and critically <i>vis-à-vis</i> one another, the management board and any particular interests involved.</p> <p>In order to safeguard its independence, the supervisory board is composed in accordance with the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. any one of the criteria referred to in best practice provision 2.1.8, sections i to v inclusive, should be applicable to at most one supervisory board member; ii. the total number of supervisory board members to whom the criteria referred to in best practice provision 2.1.8 are applicable should account for less than half of the total number of supervisory board members; and iii. for each shareholder or group of affiliated shareholders directly or indirectly holding more than 10 per cent of the shares in the company, there is at most one supervisory board member who can be considered to be affiliated with or representing them as stipulated in best practice provision 2.1.8, sections vi and vii. | Comply | Clause 3 Schedule 2 Supervisory Board rules |
| 2.1.8 | <p>Independence of supervisory board members (best practice)</p> <p>Supervisory board members are not independent if they or their spouse, registered partner or life companion, foster child or relative by blood or marriage up to the second degree:</p> | Comply | Clause 3 Schedule 2 Supervisory Board rules |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. has been an employee or member of the management board of the company or an issuing institution associated with the company as referred to in Section 5:48 of the Financial Supervision Act (Wet op het financieel toezicht, Wft) in the five years prior to the appointment; ii. receives personal financial compensation from the company, or an entity associated with it, other than the compensation received for the work performed as a supervisory board member and insofar as this is not in keeping with the normal course of business; iii. has had an important business relationship with the company or an entity associated with it in the year prior to the appointment. This includes in any event the case where the supervisory board member, or the firm of which he is a shareholder, partner, associate or advisor, has acted as advisor to the company (consultant, external auditor, civil notary or lawyer) and the case where the supervisory board member has been a management board member or an employee of a bank with which the company has a lasting and significant relationship; iv. is a member of the management board of a company in which a member of the management board of the company which he supervises is a supervisory board member; v. has temporarily performed management duties during the previous twelve months in the absence or incapacity of management board members; vi. has a shareholding in the company of at least 10 per cent, taking into account the shareholding of natural persons or legal entities collaborating with him on the basis of an express or tacit verbal or written agreement; vii. is a member of the management board or supervisory board – or is a representative in some other way – of a legal entity which directly or indirectly holds at least 10 per cent of the shares in the company, unless the entity is a group company. | | |
| 2.1.9 | <p>Independence of the chairman of the supervisory board (best practice) The chairman of the supervisory board should not be a former member of the management board of the company and should be independent within the meaning of best practice provision 2.1.8.</p> | Comply | Clause 2.4 Supervisory Board rules |
| 2.1.10 | <p>Accountability regarding supervisory board member independence (best practice) The report of the supervisory board should state that, in the opinion of the supervisory board, the independence requirements referred to in best practice provisions 2.1.7 to 2.1.9</p> | Comply | Supervisory Board report |

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| | inclusive have been fulfilled and, if applicable, should also state which supervisory board member (or members), if any, it does not consider to be independent. | | |
| 2.2 | <p>Appointment, succession and evaluation (principle)</p> <p>The supervisory board should ensure that a formal and transparent procedure is in place for the appointment and reappointment of management board and supervisory board members, as well as a sound plan for the succession of management board and supervisory board members, in accordance with the D&I policy. The functioning of the management board and the supervisory board as a collective and the functioning of individual members should be evaluated on a regular basis.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 2.2 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clauses 8.7 and 9 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 1.5(b) and (d) Schedule 3 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 1 A&RC rules</p> |
| 2.2.1 | <p>Appointment and reappointment periods – management board members (best practice)</p> <p>A management board member is appointed for a maximum period of four years. A member may be reappointed for a term of not more than four years at a time, which reappointment should be prepared in a timely fashion. The D&I objectives from best practice provision 2.1.5 should be considered in the preparation of the appointment or reappointment.</p> | Comply | <p>Article 17 Articles of Association</p> <p>Clause 1.1(g) A&RC rules</p> |
| 2.2.2 | <p>Appointment and reappointment periods – supervisory board members (best practice)</p> <p>A supervisory board member is appointed for a period of four years and may then be reappointed once for another four-year period. The supervisory board member may then be reappointed again for a period of two years, which appointment may be extended by at most two years. In the event of reappointment after an eight-year period, reasons should be given in the report of the supervisory board. At any appointment or reappointment, the profile referred to in best practice provision 2.1.1 should be observed.</p> | Comply | <p>Article 23 Articles of Association</p> <p>Clause 2.2 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 1.1(g) A&RC rules</p> <p>Supervisory Board report</p> |
| 2.2.3 | <p>Early retirement (best practice)</p> <p>A member of the supervisory board or the management board should retire early in the event of inadequate performance, structural incompatibility of interests, and in other instances in which this is deemed necessary by the supervisory board.</p> <p>In the event of the early retirement of a member of the management board or the supervisory board, the company should issue a press release mentioning the reasons for the departure.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 2.2 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 2.3 Management Board rules</p> |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| 2.2.4 | <p>Succession (best practice)</p> <p>The supervisory board should ensure that the company has a sound plan in place for the succession of management board and supervisory board members that is aimed at retaining the balance in the requisite expertise, experience and diversity. Due regard should be given to the profile referred to in best practice provision 2.1.1 in drawing up the plan for supervisory board members. The supervisory board should also draw up a retirement schedule in order to avoid, as much as possible, supervisory board members retiring simultaneously. The retirement schedule should be published on the company's website.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 2.2 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 1.1(d) A&RC rules</p> <p>Company website</p> |
| 2.2.5 | <p>Duties of the selection and appointment committee (best practice)</p> <p>The selection and appointment committee should prepare the supervisory board's decision-making and report to the supervisory board on its deliberations and findings.</p> <p>The selection and appointment committee should in any event focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. drawing up selection criteria and appointment procedures for management board members and supervisory board members; ii. periodically assessing the size and composition of the management board and the supervisory board, and making a proposal for a composition profile of the supervisory board; iii. periodically assessing the functioning of individual management board members and supervisory board members, and reporting on this to the supervisory board; iv. drawing up a plan for the succession of management board members and supervisory board members; v. making proposals for appointments and reappointments; and vi. supervising the policy of the management board regarding the selection criteria and appointment procedures for senior management. | Comply | Clause 1 A&RC rules |
| 2.2.6 | <p>Evaluation by the supervisory board (best practice)</p> <p>At least once per year, outside the presence of the management board, the supervisory board should evaluate its own functioning, the functioning of the various committees of the supervisory board and of the individual supervisory board members, and discuss the conclusions of this evaluation. In doing so, attention should be paid to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. substantive aspects, conduct and culture, the mutual interaction and collaboration, and the interaction with the management board; ii. events that occurred in practice from which lessons may be learned; and | Comply | Clause 9.2 Supervisory Board rules |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| | <p>iii. the desired profile, composition, competencies and expertise of the supervisory board.</p> <p>The evaluation should take place periodically under the supervision of an external expert.</p> | | |
| 2.2.7 | <p>Evaluation of the management board (best practice)</p> <p>At least once per year, outside the presence of the management board, the supervisory board should evaluate both the functioning of the management board as a whole and that of the individual management board members, and should discuss the conclusions that must be attached to the evaluation, such also in light of the succession of management board members. At least once annually, the management board should also evaluate its own functioning as a whole and that of the individual management board members.</p> | Comply | <p>Clauses 8.7 and 9 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 8.1 Management Board rules</p> |
| 2.2.8 | <p>Evaluation accountability (best practice)</p> <p>The supervisory board's report should state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. how the evaluation of the supervisory board, the various committees and the individual supervisory board members has been carried out; ii. how the evaluation of the management board and the individual management board members has been carried out; iii. the main findings and conclusions of the evaluations; and iv. what has been or will be done with the conclusions from the evaluations | Comply | Supervisory Board report |
| 2.3 | <p>Organisation of the supervisory board and reports (principle)</p> <p>The supervisory board should ensure that it functions effectively. The supervisory board should establish committees to prepare the supervisory board's decision-making. The foregoing does not affect the responsibility of the supervisory board as an organ and of the individual members of the supervisory board for obtaining information and forming an independent opinion.</p> | Comply | Clause 3 Supervisory Board rules |
| 2.3.1 | <p>Supervisory board's terms of reference (best practice)</p> <p>The division of duties within the supervisory board and the procedures of the supervisory board should be laid down in terms of reference. The supervisory board's terms of reference should include a paragraph dealing with its relations with the management board, the general meeting, the employee participation body (if any) and the executive committee (if any). The terms of reference should be posted on the company's website.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 3 and 8 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Company website</p> |
| 2.3.2 | <p>Establishment of committees (best practice)</p> <p>If the supervisory board consists of more than four members, it should appoint from among its members an audit committee, a remuneration committee and a selection and</p> | Comply | Clause 3 Supervisory Board rules |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| | <p>appointment committee. Without prejudice to the collegiate responsibility of the supervisory board, the duty of these committees is to prepare the decision-making of the supervisory board. If the supervisory board decides not to establish an audit committee, a remuneration committee or a selection and appointment committee, the best practice provisions applicable to such committees should apply to the entire supervisory board.</p> | | |
| 2.3.3 | <p>Committees' terms of reference (best practice) The supervisory board should draw up terms of reference for the audit committee, the remuneration committee and the selection and appointment committee. The terms of reference should indicate the role and responsibility of the committee concerned, its composition and the manner in which it discharges its duties. The terms of reference should be posted on the company's website.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 3 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Schedules 4, 5 and 6 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Company website</p> |
| 2.3.4 | <p>Composition of the committees (best practice) The audit committee or the remuneration committee should not be chaired by the chairman of the supervisory board or by a former member of the management board of the company. More than half of the members of the committees should be independent within the meaning of best practice provision 2.1.8.</p> | Comply | <p>Clauses 1.5 and 1.6 Audit Committee rules</p> <p>Clauses 4.7 and 4.9 A&RC rules</p> |
| 2.3.5 | <p>Committee reports (best practice) The supervisory board should receive from each of the committees a report of their deliberations and findings. In the report of the supervisory board it should comment on how the duties of the committees were carried out in the financial year. In this report, the composition of the committees, the number of committee meetings and the main items discussed at the meetings should be mentioned.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 3.4 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Supervisory Board report</p> |
| 2.3.6 | <p>Chairman of the supervisory board (best practice) The chairman of the supervisory board should in any case ensure that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the supervisory board has proper contact with the management board, the employee participation body (if any) and the general meeting; ii. the supervisory board elects a vice-chairman; iii. there is sufficient time for deliberation and decision-making by the supervisory board; iv. the supervisory board members receive all information that is necessary for the proper performance of their duties in a timely fashion; v. the supervisory board and its committees function properly; vi. the functioning of individual management board members and supervisory board members is assessed at least annually; | Comply | <p>Clause 2.5 Supervisory Board rules</p> |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vii. the supervisory board members and management board members follow their induction programme; viii. the supervisory board members and management board members follow their education or training programme; ix. the management board performs activities in respect of culture; x. the supervisory board recognises signs from the enterprise affiliated with the company and ensures that any actual or suspected material misconduct and irregularities are reported to the supervisory board without delay; xi. the general meeting proceeds in an orderly and efficient manner; xii. effective communication with shareholders is assured; and xiii. the supervisory board is involved closely, and at an early stage, in any merger or acquisition processes. <p>The chairman of the supervisory board should consult regularly with the chairman of the management board.</p> | | |
| 2.3.7 | <p>Vice-chairman of the supervisory board (best practice) The vice-chairman of the supervisory board should deputise for the chairman when the occasion arises.</p> | Comply | Clause 2.7 Supervisory Board rules |
| 2.3.8 | <p>Delegated supervisory board member (best practice) A delegated supervisory board member is a supervisory board member who has a special duty. The delegation must not extend beyond the duties of the supervisory board itself and must not include the management of the company. Its purpose is more intensive supervision and advice and more regular consultation with the management board. The delegation should only be of a temporary nature. The delegation must not detract from the duties and powers of the supervisory board. The delegated supervisory board member continues to be a member of the supervisory board and should report regularly on the execution of his special duty to the plenary supervisory board.</p> | Comply | Clause 2.9 Supervisory Board rules |
| 2.3.9 | <p>Temporary management board function of a supervisory board member (best practice) A supervisory board member who temporarily takes on the management of the company, where the management board members are absent or unable to fulfil their duties, should resign from the supervisory board.</p> | Comply | Clause 2.10 Supervisory Board rules |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| 2.3.10 | <p>Company secretary (best practice) The supervisory board should be supported by the company secretary.</p> <p>The secretary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. should ensure that the proper procedures are followed and that the statutory obligations and obligations under the articles of association are complied with; ii. should facilitate the provision of information of the management board and the supervisory board; and iii. should support the chairman of the supervisory board in the organisation of the affairs of the supervisory board, including the provision of information, meeting agendas, evaluations and training programmes. <p>The company secretary should, either on the initiative of the supervisory board or otherwise, be appointed and dismissed by the management board, after the approval of the supervisory board has been obtained.</p> <p>If the secretary also undertakes work for the management board and notes that the interests of the management board and the supervisory board diverge, as a result of which it is unclear which interests the secretary should represent, the secretary should report this to the chairman of the supervisory board.</p> | Comply | Clause 4 Supervisory Board rules Clause 3 Management Board rules |
| 2.3.11 | <p>Report of the supervisory board (best practice) The annual statements of the company include a report by the supervisory board. In this report, the supervisory board should render account of the supervision conducted in the past financial year, reporting in any event on the items referred to in best practice provisions 1.1.3, 2.1.2, 2.1.10, 2.2.8, 2.3.5 and 2.4.4 and, if applicable, the items referred to in best practice provisions 1.3.6 and 2.2.2.</p> | Comply | Supervisory Board report |
| 2.4 | <p>Decision-making and functioning (principle) The management board and the supervisory board should ensure that decisions are made in a balanced and effective manner while taking account of the interests of <i>stakeholders</i>. The management board should ensure that information is provided in a timely and sound manner. The management board and the supervisory board should keep their knowledge and skills up to date and devote sufficient time to their duties and responsibilities. They should ensure that, in performing their duties, they have the information that is required for effective decision-making.</p> | Comply | Article 22.2 Articles of Association Clause 1.3(n) Schedule 2 Management Board rules Clause 2.5(h) Supervisory Board rules |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| 2.4.1 | <p>Stimulating openness and accountability (best practice)</p> <p>The management board and the supervisory board are each responsible for stimulating openness and accountability within the body of which they form part, and between the different bodies within the company.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 1.1 Schedule 2 Management Board rules</p> <p>Clause 1.3 Schedule 3 Supervisory Board rules</p> |
| 2.4.2 | <p>Other positions (best practice)</p> <p>Management board members and supervisory board members should report any other positions they may hold to the supervisory board in advance and, at least annually, the other positions should be discussed at the supervisory board meeting. The acceptance of membership of a supervisory board by a management board member requires the approval of the supervisory board.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 10 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 9 Management Board rules</p> <p>Management report</p> <p>Supervisory Board report</p> |
| 2.4.3 | <p>Point of contact for the functioning of supervisory board and management board members (best practice)</p> <p>The chairman of the supervisory board should act on behalf of the supervisory board as the main contact for the management board, supervisory board members and shareholders regarding the functioning of management board members and supervisory board members. The vice-chairman should act as a contact for individual supervisory board members and management board members regarding the functioning of the chairman.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 2.6 and 2.8 Supervisory Board rules</p> |
| 2.4.4 | <p>Attendance at supervisory board meetings (best practice)</p> <p>Supervisory board members should attend supervisory board meetings and the meetings of the committees of which they are a part. If supervisory board members are frequently absent from these meetings, they should be held to account on this. The report of the supervisory board should state the absenteeism rate from supervisory board and committee meetings of each supervisory board member.</p> | Comply | <p>Supervisory Board report</p> |
| 2.4.5 | <p>Induction programme for supervisory board members (best practice)</p> <p>All supervisory board members should follow an induction programme geared to their role. The induction programme should in any event cover general financial, social and legal affairs, financial and sustainability reporting by the company, any specific aspects that are unique to the relevant company and its business activities, the company culture and the relationship with the employee participation body (if any), and the responsibilities of a supervisory board member.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 2.5(g) Supervisory Board rules</p> |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| 2.4.6 | <p>Development (best practice)</p> <p>The management board and the supervisory board should each conduct an annual review for their own body to identify any aspects with regard to which the supervisory board members and management board members require training or education.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 2.5(h) Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 8.1 Management Board rules</p> |
| 2.4.7 | <p>Information safeguards (best practice)</p> <p>The management board should ensure that internal procedures are established and maintained which safeguard that all relevant information is known to the management board and the supervisory board in a timely fashion. The supervisory board should supervise the establishment and implementation of these procedures.</p> | Comply | Clause 1.4(m) Schedule 3 Supervisory Board rules |
| 2.4.8 | <p>Supervisory board members' responsibility for obtaining information (best practice)</p> <p>The supervisory board and each individual supervisory board member have their own responsibility for obtaining the information from the management board, the internal audit function, the external auditor and the employee participation body (if any) that the supervisory board needs in order to be able to carry out its duties properly as a supervisory body.</p> | Comply | Clause 1.4 (m) Schedule 3 Supervisory Board rules |
| 2.4.9 | <p>Obtaining information from officers and external parties (best practice)</p> <p>If the supervisory board considers it necessary, it may obtain information from officers and external advisors of the company. The company should provide the necessary means to this end. The supervisory board may require that certain officers and external advisors attend its meetings.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 1.3(n) Schedule 2 Management Board rules</p> <p>Clause 5.5 Supervisory Board rules</p> |
| 2.5 | <p>Culture (principle)</p> <p>The management board is responsible for creating a culture aimed at sustainable long-term value creation for the company and its affiliated enterprise. The supervisory board should supervise the activities of the management board in this regard.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 6.1 Management Board rules</p> <p>Clause 2.5(i) Supervisory Board rules</p> |
| 2.5.1 | <p>Management board's responsibility for culture (best practice)</p> <p>The management board should adopt values for the company and its affiliated enterprise that contribute to a culture focused on sustainable long-term value creation, and discuss these with the supervisory board. The management board is responsible for the incorporation and maintenance of these values within the company and its affiliated enterprise. The management board should encourage behaviour that is in keeping with the values and propagate these values through leading by example. Attention must be paid to the following, among other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the strategy and the business model; ii. the environment in which the enterprise operates; | Comply | Clause 6.1 Management Board rules |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. the existing culture within the enterprise, and whether it is desirable to implement any changes in this; and iv. the social safety within the enterprise and the ability to discuss and report actual or suspected misconduct or irregularities. | | |
| 2.5.2 | <p>Code of conduct (best practice)</p> <p>The management board should draw up a code of conduct and monitor its effectiveness and compliance with this code, on the part of both itself and the employees of the company. The management board should inform the supervisory board of its findings and observations with regard to the effectiveness of and compliance with the code. The code of conduct should be posted on the company's website.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 7.1 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 6.2 Management Board rules</p> <p>Code of Conduct</p> <p>Company website</p> |
| 2.5.3 | <p>Employee participation (best practice)</p> <p>If the company has established an employee participation body, the following should also be discussed in the consultations between the management board, the supervisory board and such employee participation body:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the conduct and culture in the company and its affiliated enterprise; ii. the values adopted by the management board on the basis of best practice provision 2.5.1, and iii. the company's D&I policy. | Comply | <p>Clause 8.12 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>The Company has no Works Council or Central Works Council. The relationship with works councils or employee representation organisations is maintained at the level of the entities which employ the staff in the different jurisdictions where the Group operates.</p> |
| 2.5.4 | <p>Reporting on culture (best practice)</p> <p>In the management report, the management board should provide explanatory notes on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the culture within the enterprise, and whether it is desirable to implement any changes in this; ii. how the culture, the underlying values and conduct promoted within the enterprise contribute to sustainable long-term value creation and, if it is considered desirable to amend these, which initiatives are taken to further increase this contribution; and iii. the effectiveness of, and compliance with, the code of conduct. | Comply | Management report |
| 2.6 | <p>Misconduct and irregularities (principle)</p> <p>The management board and the supervisory board should be alert to signs of actual or suspected misconduct or irregularities. The management board should establish a procedure for reporting actual or suspected misconduct or irregularities, and take appropriate follow-up action on the basis of these reports. The supervisory board monitors the management board in this regard.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 2.5(i) and 7.3 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 6.3 through 6.5 Management Board rules</p> |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| 2.6.1 | <p>Procedure for reporting actual or suspected misconduct or irregularities (best practice)</p> <p>The management board should establish a procedure for reporting actual or suspected misconduct or irregularities within the company and its affiliated enterprise. The procedure should be posted on the company's website. The management board should ensure that employees have the opportunity to file such a report without jeopardising their legal position.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 6 Management Board rules</p> <p>Company website</p> |
| 2.6.2 | <p>Informing the chairman of the supervisory board (best practice)</p> <p>The management board should inform the chairman of the supervisory board without delay of any signs of actual or suspected material misconduct or irregularities within the company and its affiliated enterprise.</p> <p>If the actual or suspected misconduct or irregularity pertains to the functioning of a management board member, employees can report this directly to the chairman of the supervisory board.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 2.5(j) and clause 7.3 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 6.5 Management Board rules</p> |
| 2.6.3 | <p>Notification by the external auditor (best practice)</p> <p>The external auditor should inform the management board and the chairman of the audit committee without delay if, during the performance of his duties, he discovers or suspects an instance of misconduct or irregularity. If the actual or suspected misconduct or irregularity pertains to the functioning of one or more management board members, the external auditor should report this directly to the chairman of the supervisory board.</p> | Comply | Clause 7.4 Supervisory Board rules |
| 2.6.4 | <p>Notification by the internal audit function</p> <p>The internal audit function should inform the management board and the chairman of the audit committee without delay if, during the performance of his duties, he discovers or suspects an instance of material misconduct or irregularity. If the actual or suspected material misconduct or irregularity pertains to the functioning of one or more management board members, the internal audit function should report this to the chairman of the supervisory board.</p> | Comply | Clause 7.5 Supervisory Board rules |
| 2.6 | <p>Oversight by the supervisory board (best practice)</p> <p>The supervisory board monitors the operation of the procedure for reporting actual or suspected misconduct or irregularities, appropriate and independent investigations into signs of misconduct or irregularities, and, if an instance of misconduct or irregularity has been discovered, an adequate follow-up of any recommendations for remedial actions.</p> | Comply | Clause 7.3 Supervisory Board rules |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| | In order to safeguard the independence of the investigation in cases where the management board itself is involved, the supervisory board should have the option of initiating its own investigation into any signs of misconduct or irregularities and to coordinate this investigation. | | |
| 2.7 | <p>Preventing conflicts of interest (principle)</p> <p>Any form of conflict of interest between the company and the members of its management board or supervisory board should be prevented. To avoid conflicts of interest, adequate measures should be taken. The supervisory board is responsible for the decision-making on dealing with conflicts of interest regarding management board members, supervisory board members and majority shareholders in relation to the company.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 5 Management Board rules</p> <p>Clause 6 Supervisory Board rules</p> |
| 2.7.1 | <p>Preventing conflicts of interest (best practice)</p> <p>Management board members and supervisory board members are alert to conflicts of interest and should in any case refrain from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. competing with the company; ii. demanding or accepting substantial gifts from the company for themselves or their spouse, registered partner or other life companion, foster child or relative by blood or marriage up to the second degree; iii. providing unjustified advantages to third parties at the company's expense; iv. taking advantage of business opportunities to which the company is entitled for themselves or for their spouse, registered partner or other life companion, foster child or relative by blood or marriage up to the second degree. | Comply | <p>Clause 5 Management Board rules</p> <p>Clause 6 Supervisory Board rules</p> |
| 2.7.2 | <p>Terms of reference (best practice)</p> <p>The terms of reference of the supervisory board should contain rules on dealing with conflicts of interest, including conflicting interests between management board members and supervisory board members on the one hand and the company on the other. The terms of reference should also stipulate which transactions require the approval of the supervisory board. The company should draw up regulations governing ownership of, and transactions in, securities by management or supervisory board members, other than securities issued by the company.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 5 Management Board rules</p> <p>Clause 6 Supervisory Board rules</p> |
| 2.7.3 | <p>Reporting (best practice)</p> <p>A conflict of interest may exist if the company intends to enter into a transaction with a legal entity:</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 5 Management Board rules</p> <p>Clause 6 Supervisory Board rules</p> |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| | <p>i. in which a member of the management board or the supervisory board personally has a material financial interest; or</p> <p>ii. which has a member of its management board or supervisory board who is related under family law to a member of the management board or the supervisory board of the company.</p> <p>A management board member should report any potential conflict of interest in a transaction that is of material significance to the company and/or to such management board member to the chairman of the supervisory board and to the other members of the management board without delay. The management board member should provide all relevant information on this subject, including information relevant to the situation regarding his spouse, registered partner or life companion, foster child or relative by blood or marriage up to the second degree.</p> <p>A supervisory board member should report any potential conflict of interest in a transaction that is of material significance to the company and/or to such supervisory board member to the chairman of the supervisory board without delay and provide all relevant information on this subject, including information relevant to the situation regarding his spouse, registered partner or life companion, foster child or relative by blood or marriage up to the second degree. If the chairman of the supervisory board has a potential conflict of interest, he must report this to the vice-chairman of the supervisory board without delay.</p> <p>The supervisory board should decide, outside the presence of the management board member or supervisory board member concerned, whether there is a conflict of interest.</p> | | |
| 2.7.4 | <p>Accountability regarding transactions: management board and supervisory board members (best practice)</p> <p>All transactions in which there are conflicts of interest with management board members or supervisory board members should be agreed on terms that are customary in the market. Decisions to enter into transactions in which there are conflicts of interest with management board members or supervisory board members that are of material significance to the company and/or to the relevant management board members or supervisory board members should require the approval of the supervisory board. Such transactions should be published in the management report, together with a statement of the conflict of interest and a declaration that best practice provisions 2.7.3 and 2.7.4 have been complied with.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 5 Management Board rules</p> <p>Clause 6 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Management report</p> |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| 2.7.5 | <p>Accountability regarding transactions: majority shareholders (best practice)</p> <p>All transactions between the company and legal or natural persons who hold at least ten per cent of the shares in the company should be agreed on terms that are customary in the market. Decisions to enter into transactions with such persons that are of material significance to the company and/or to such persons should require the approval of the supervisory board. Such transactions should be published in the management report, together with a declaration that best practice provision 2.7.5 has been complied with.</p> | Comply | <p>Clauses 8.8 and 8.9 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 3.2(c) Schedule 2 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Management report</p> |
| 2.7.6 | <p>Personal loans (best practice)</p> <p>The company should not grant its management board members and supervisory board members any personal loans, guarantees or the like unless in the normal course of business and on terms applicable to the personnel as a whole, and after approval of the supervisory board. Loans should not be forgiven.</p> | Comply | Remuneration Policy |
| 2.8 | <p>Takeover situations (principle)</p> <p>In the event of a takeover bid for the company's shares, or for the depositary receipts for the company's shares, if it concerns a private bid for a business unit or a participating interest, where the value of the bid exceeds the threshold referred to in Article 2:107a(1)(c) of the Dutch Civil Code, and/or involves other substantial changes in the structure of the company, both the management board and the supervisory board should ensure that the stakeholder interests concerned are carefully weighed and any conflict of interest for supervisory board members or management board members is avoided. The management board and the supervisory board should be guided in their actions by the interests of the company and its affiliated enterprise.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 7 Management Board rules</p> <p>Clause 1.1 Schedule 2 Management Board rules</p> <p>Clause 2.5(m) Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 1.3. Schedule 3</p> <p>Supervisory Board rules</p> |
| 2.8.1 | <p>Supervisory board involvement (best practice)</p> <p>When a takeover bid for the company's shares or for the depositary receipts for the company's shares is being prepared, in the event of a private bid for a business unit or a participating interest, where the value of the bid exceeds the threshold referred to in Article 2:107a(1)(c) of the Dutch Civil Code, and/or in the event of other substantial changes in the structure of the company, the management board should ensure that the supervisory board is involved in the takeover process and/or the change in the structure closely and in a timely fashion.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 7 Management Board rules</p> <p>Clause 2.5(m) Supervisory Board rules</p> |
| 2.8.2 | <p>Informing the supervisory board about a request for inspection by a competing bidder (best practice)</p> <p>If a takeover bid has been announced for the shares, or depositary receipts for shares, in the company, and the management board receives a request from a competing bidder to</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 7 Management Board rules</p> <p>Clause 2.5(m) Supervisory Board rules</p> |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| | inspect the company's records, the management board should discuss this request with the supervisory board without delay. | | |
| 2.8.3 | <p>Management board's position on a private bid (best practice)</p> <p>If a private bid for a business unit or a participating interest has been made public, where the value of the bid exceeds the threshold referred to in Article 2:107a(1)(c) of the Dutch Civil Code, the management board of the company should as soon as possible make public its position on the bid and the reasons for this position.</p> | Comply | Clause 1.3(i) Schedule 2 Management Board rules |
| 3 | REMUNERATION | | |
| 3.1 | <p>Remuneration policy – management board (principle)</p> <p>The remuneration policy applicable to management board members should be clear and easy to understand, should focus on sustainable long-term value creation for the company and its affiliated enterprise, and take into account the internal pay ratios within the enterprise. The remuneration policy should not encourage management board members to act in their own interest, nor to take risks that are not in keeping with the strategy formulated and the risk appetite that has been established. The supervisory board is responsible for formulating the remuneration policy and its implementation.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 1.5(c) Schedule 3 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 4.2 A&RC rules</p> <p>Remuneration Policy</p> |
| 3.1.1 | <p>Remuneration policy proposal (best practice)</p> <p>The remuneration committee should submit a clear and understandable proposal to the supervisory board concerning the remuneration policy to be pursued with regard to the management board. The supervisory board should present the policy to the general meeting for adoption.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 1.5(c) Schedule 3 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 4.2 A&RC rules</p> |
| 3.1.2 | <p>Remuneration policy (best practice)</p> <p>The following aspects should in any event be taken into consideration when formulating the remuneration policy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the objectives of the strategy for the implementation of sustainable long-term value creation within the meaning of best practice provision 1.1.1; ii. the scenario analyses carried out in advance; iii. the pay ratios within the company and its affiliated enterprise; iv. the development of the market price of the shares; v. an appropriate ratio between the variable and fixed remuneration components. The variable remuneration component is linked to measurable performance criteria determined in advance, which are predominantly long-term in character; | Comply | <p>Remuneration Policy</p> <p>Clause 4.2 A&RC rules</p> |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vi. if shares are being awarded, the terms and conditions governing this. Shares should be held for at least five years after they are awarded; and vii. if share options are being awarded, the terms and conditions governing this and the terms and conditions subject to which the share options can be exercised. In any case, share options cannot be exercised during the first three years after they are awarded. | | |
| 3.1.3 | <p>Remuneration – executive committee (best practice) If the management board has an executive committee, the management board should inform the supervisory board about the remuneration of the members of the executive committee who are not management board members. The management board should discuss this remuneration with the supervisory board annually.</p> | Comply | Clause 8.10 and 8.11 Supervisory Board rules |
| 3.2 | <p>Determination of management board remuneration (principle) The supervisory board should determine the remuneration of the individual members of the management board, within the limits of the remuneration policy adopted by the general meeting. The remuneration committee should prepare the supervisory board’s decision-making regarding the determination of remuneration. Inadequate performance of duties should not be rewarded.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 1.5(c) of Schedule 3 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 4 A&RC rules Remuneration Policy</p> |
| 3.2.1 | <p>Remuneration committee’s proposal (best practice) The remuneration committee should submit a proposal to the supervisory board concerning the remuneration of individual members of the management board. The proposal is drawn up in accordance with the remuneration policy that has been established and will, in any event, cover the remuneration structure, the amount of the fixed and variable remuneration components, the performance criteria used, the scenario analyses that are carried out and the pay ratios within the company and its affiliated enterprise.</p> | Comply | Clause 4 A&RC rules |
| 3.2.2 | <p>Management board members’ views on their own remuneration (best practice) When drafting the proposal for the remuneration of management board members, the remuneration committee should take note of individual management board members’ views with regard to the amount and structure of their own remuneration. The remuneration committee should ask the members of the management board to pay attention to the aspects referred to in best practice provision 3.1.2.</p> | Comply | Clause 4 A&RC rules |
| 3.2.3 | <p>Severance payments (best practice) The remuneration in the event of dismissal should not exceed one year’s salary (the “fixed” remuneration component). Severance pay will not be awarded if the agreement is</p> | Comply | Remuneration Policy |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| | terminated early at the initiative of the management board member, or in the event of seriously culpable or negligent behaviour on the part of the management board member. | | |
| 3.3 | <p>Remuneration – supervisory board (principle)</p> <p>The supervisory board should submit a clear and understandable proposal for its own appropriate remuneration to the general meeting. The remuneration of supervisory board members should promote an adequate performance of their role and should not be dependent on the results of the company.</p> | Comply | <p>Clause 1.5(e) Schedule 3 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 4.4 A&RC rules</p> |
| 3.3.1 | <p>Time spent and responsibility (best practice)</p> <p>The remuneration of the supervisory board members should reflect the time spent and the responsibilities of their role.</p> | Comply | Clause 4.4 A&RC rules |
| 3.3.2 | <p>Remuneration of supervisory board members (best practice)</p> <p>Supervisory board members must not be awarded remuneration in the form of shares and/or rights to shares.</p> | Comply | Clause 4.4 A&RC rules |
| 3.3.3 | <p>Share ownership (best practice)</p> <p>Shares held by a supervisory board member in the company on whose supervisory board they serve should be long-term investments.</p> | Comply | Clause 4.4 A&RC rules |
| 3.4 | <p>Accountability for implementation of remuneration policy (principle)</p> <p>In the remuneration report, the supervisory board should render account of the implementation of the remuneration policy in a transparent manner. The report should be published on the company's website.</p> | Comply | Remuneration Report |
| 3.4.1 | <p>Remuneration report (best practice)</p> <p>The remuneration committee should prepare the remuneration report. This report should in any event describe, in a transparent manner, in addition to the matters required by law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. how the remuneration policy has been implemented in the past financial year; ii. how implementation of the remuneration policy contributes to sustainable long-term value creation; iii. how scenario analyses have been taken into consideration; iv. the pay ratios within the company and its affiliated enterprise and, if applicable, any changes in these ratios compared to at least five previous financial years; v. in the event a management board member receives variable remuneration, how this remuneration contributes to sustainable long-term value creation, the measurable performance criteria determined in advance on which the variable remuneration depends, and the relationship between the remuneration and performance; and | Comply | Remuneration Report |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| | <p>vi. in the event that a current or former management board member receives a severance payment, the reason for this payment.</p> | | |
| 3.4.2 | <p>Agreement of management board member (best practice) The main elements of the agreement of a management board member with the company should be published on the company's website in a transparent overview after the agreement has been concluded, and in any event no later than the date of the notice calling the general meeting at which the appointment of the management board member will be proposed.</p> | Comply | <p>AGM agenda and explanatory notes</p> <p>Remuneration Policy</p> |
| 4 | THE GENERAL MEETING | | |
| 4.1 | <p>The general meeting (principle) The general meeting should be able to exert such influence on the policies of the management board and the supervisory board of the company that it plays a fully-fledged role in the system of checks and balances in the company. Good corporate governance requires the fully-fledged participation of shareholders in the decision-making in the general meeting.</p> | Comply | <p>Clauses 2.5(a), 2.5(l), 2.6, 8.1 through 8.4 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 1.4(k) Schedule 3 Supervisory Board rules</p> |
| 4.1.1 | <p>Supervisory board supervision (best practice) The supervisory board's supervision of the management board should include the supervision of relations with shareholders.</p> | Comply | <p>Clauses 2.5(l) and 2.6 Supervisory Board rules</p> <p>Clause 1.4(k) Schedule 3 Supervisory Board rules</p> |
| 4.1.2 | <p>Proper conduct of business at meetings (best practice) The chairman of the general meeting is responsible for ensuring the proper conduct of business at meetings in order to promote a meaningful discussion at the meeting.</p> | Comply | <p>Article 33.2 Articles of Association</p> <p>Clause 2.5(l) Supervisory Board rules</p> |
| 4.1.3 | <p>Agenda (best practice) The agenda of the general meeting should list which items are up for discussion and which items are to be voted on. The following items should be dealt with as separate agenda items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. material changes to the articles of association; ii. proposals relating to the appointment of management board and supervisory board members; iii. the policy of the company on additions to reserves and on dividends (the level and purpose of the addition to reserves, the amount of the dividend and the type of dividend); iv. any proposal to pay out dividend; v. resolutions to approve the management conducted by the management board (discharge of management board members from liability); | Comply | <p>Agenda AGM and explanatory notes</p> |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vi. resolutions to approve the supervision exercised by the supervisory board (discharge of supervisory board members from liability); vii. any substantial change in the corporate governance structure of the company and in the compliance with this Code; and viii. the appointment of the external auditor. | | |
| 4.1.4 | <p>Proposal for approval or authorisation (best practice)</p> <p>A proposal for approval or authorisation by the general meeting should be explained in writing. In its explanation the management board should deal with all facts and circumstances relevant to the approval or authorisation to be granted. The notes to the agenda should be posted on the company's website.</p> | Comply | Agenda AGM and explanatory notes |
| 4.1.5 | <p>Shareholder's explanation when exercising the right to put items on the agenda (best practice)</p> <p>If a shareholder has arranged for an item to be put on the agenda, he should explain this at the meeting and, if necessary, answer questions about it.</p> | Comply | Shareholder obligation |
| 4.1.6 | <p>Placing of items on the agenda by shareholders (best practice)</p> <p>A shareholder should only exercise the right to put items on the agenda after having consulted the management board. If one or more shareholders intend to request that an item be put on the agenda that may result in a change in the company's strategy, for example as a result of the dismissal of one or more management board or supervisory board members, the management board should be given the opportunity to stipulate a reasonable period in which to respond (the response time). The opportunity to stipulate the response time should also apply to an intention as referred to above for judicial leave to call a general meeting pursuant to Article 2:110 of the Dutch Civil Code. The relevant shareholder should respect the response time stipulated by the management board, within the meaning of best practice provision 4.1.7.</p> | Comply | Clause 8.3 Supervisory Board rules |
| 4.1.7 | <p>Stipulation of the response time (best practice)</p> <p>If the management board stipulates a response time, it should be a reasonable period that does not exceed 180 days from the moment the management board is informed by one or more shareholders of their intention to put an item on the agenda to the day of the general meeting at which the item is to be dealt with. The management board should use the response time for further deliberation and constructive consultation, in any event with the relevant shareholder (or shareholders), and should explore the alternatives. At the end of the response time, the management board should report on this consultation and the exploration to the general meeting. This should be monitored by the supervisory board.</p> | Comply | Clause 8.3 Supervisory Board rules |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| | <p>The response time may be stipulated only once for any given general meeting and should not apply to an item in respect of which a response time or a statutory reflection period as referred to in Article 2:114b of the Dutch Civil Code has already been stipulated, or to meetings where a shareholder holds at least three-quarters of the issued capital as a consequence of a successful public bid.</p> | | |
| 4.1.8 | <p>Attendance of members nominated for the management board or supervisory board (best practice) Management board and supervisory board members nominated for appointment should attend the general meeting at which votes will be cast on their nomination.</p> | Comply | Clause 8.4 Supervisory Board rules |
| 4.1.9 | <p>External auditor's attendance (best practice) The external auditor may be questioned by the general meeting in relation to his report on the fairness of the financial statements. The external auditor should attend and be entitled to address the meeting for this purpose.</p> | Comply | Clause 8.4 Supervisory Board rules |
| 4.1.10 | <p>Report of the general meeting (best practice) The report of the general meeting should be made available on request to the shareholders no later than three months after the end of the meeting, after which shareholders should have the opportunity to react to the report in the following three months. The report should then be adopted in the manner provided for in the articles of association.</p> | Comply | Company website |
| 4.2 | <p>Provision of information (principle) The management board and the supervisory board should ensure that the general meeting is adequately provided with information.</p> | Comply | Clause 8.2 Supervisory Board rules |
| 4.2.1 | <p>Substantiation of invocation of overriding interest (best practice) If the management board and the supervisory board do not provide the general meeting with all information desired with the invocation of an overriding interest on the part of the company, they must give reasons for this.</p> | Comply | Clause 8.3 Supervisory Board rules |
| 4.2.2 | <p>Contacts and dialogue with shareholders (best practice) The company should formulate an outline policy on bilateral contacts with the shareholders and should post this policy on its website. Shareholders and the company should be prepared to enter into a dialogue, where appropriate and at their own discretion.</p> <p>The company is expected to facilitate the dialogue unless, in the opinion of the management board, this is not in the interests of the company and its affiliated enterprise.</p> | Comply | Company website |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| | Shareholders are expected to be prepared to enter into a constructive dialogue with the company. If a shareholder enters into a dialogue with the company outside the context of a general meeting, the shareholder shall disclose his full share position (long and short and through derivatives) at the request of the company. | | |
| 4.2.3 | Meetings and presentations (best practice) Analyst meetings, analyst presentations, presentations to institutional or other investors and press conferences should be announced in advance on the company's website and by means of press releases. Analyst meetings and presentations to investors should not take place shortly before the publication of the regular financial information. All shareholders should be able to follow these meetings and presentations in real time, by means of webcasting, telephone or otherwise. After the meetings, the presentations should be posted on the company's website. | Comply | Company website |
| 4.2.4 | Posting information in a separate section of the website (best practice) The company should post and update information which is relevant to the shareholders and which it is required to publish or submit pursuant to the provisions of company law and securities law applicable to it in a separate section of its website. | Comply | Company website |
| 4.2.5 | Management board contacts with press and analysts (best practice) The contacts between the management board on the one hand and the press and financial analysts on the other should be handled and structured carefully and with due observance of the applicable laws and regulations. The company should not do anything that might compromise the independence of analysts in relation to the company and vice versa. | Comply | Clause 1.4(g) Schedule 3 Supervisory Board rules Clause 1.3(g) Schedule 2 Management Board rules |
| 4.2.6 | Outline of anti-takeover measures (best practice) The management board should outline all existing or potential anti-takeover measures in the management report and should also indicate in what circumstances and by whom these measures may likely be used. | Comply | Management report |
| 4.3 | Casting votes (principle) Participation of as many shareholders as possible in the general meeting's decision-making is in the interest of the company's checks and balances. The company should, as far as possible, give shareholders the opportunity to vote by proxy and to communicate with all other shareholders. | Comply | Article 34.3 Articles of Association |
| 4.3.1 | Voting as deemed fit (best practice) Shareholders, including institutional investors (pension funds, insurance companies, investment institutions and asset managers), should exercise their voting rights on an informed basis and as they deem fit. Institutional investors that use the services of proxy | Comply | Stipulation for shareholders |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| | advisors (i) should encourage those proxy advisors to be prepared to enter into a dialogue with the company regarding their voting policy, voting guidelines and voting recommendations, and (ii) ensure that their votes are cast in line with their own voting policy. | | |
| 4.3.2 | <p>Providing voting proxies or voting instructions (best practice)</p> <p>The company should give shareholders and other persons entitled to vote the possibility of issuing voting proxies or voting instructions to an independent third party prior to the general meeting.</p> | Comply | Article 34.3 Articles of Association Notice AGM |
| 4.3.3 | <p>Cancelling the binding nature of a nomination or dismissal (best practice)</p> <p>The general meeting of shareholders of a company not having statutory two-tier status (“<i>structuurregime</i>”) may adopt a resolution to cancel the binding nature of a nomination for the appointment of a member of the management board or of the supervisory board and/or a resolution to dismiss a member of the management board or of the supervisory board by an absolute majority of the votes cast. It may be provided that this majority should represent a given proportion of the issued capital, which proportion must not be set higher than one-third. If this proportion of the capital is not represented at the meeting, but an absolute majority of the votes cast is in favour of a resolution to cancel the binding nature of a nomination, or to dismiss a board member, a new meeting may be convened at which the resolution may be adopted by an absolute majority of the votes cast, regardless of the proportion of the capital represented at the meeting.</p> | Comply | Article 17.2 Articles of Association |
| 4.3.4 | <p>Voting right on financing preference shares (best practice)</p> <p>The voting right attaching to financing preference shares should be based on the fair value of the capital contribution.</p> | N/A | The Company has no financing preference shares |
| 4.3.5 | <p>Publication of institutional investors’ engagement policy (best practice)</p> <p>Institutional investors should implement principle 4.4 when drawing up their engagement policy. Institutional investors should publish their engagement policy on their website.</p> | N/A | Stipulation for institutional investors |
| 4.3.6 | <p>Report on the implementation of the institutional investors’ voting policy (best practice)</p> <p>Institutional investors should report at least annually, on their website, on how they implemented their engagement policy. The report should provide in any case a general description of their voting behaviour, as well as an explanation of the most significant votes and the use of the services of proxy advisors.</p> <p>“Most significant votes” should be understood in any event to mean:</p> | N/A | Stipulation for institutional investors |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. votes on matters that have received substantive media attention or votes on items that are regarded by institutional investors as a priority in of the run-up to the general meeting season; ii. votes on a resolution on the agenda of a general meeting (a) that are of strategic importance, or (b) where the institutional investor disagrees with the resolution of the company’s management board; or iii. votes in general meetings of companies in which the institutional investor has a large holding compared to the institutional investor’s holding in other investee companies. <p>In addition, institutional investors should report on their website at least once per quarter on whether and, if so, how they have voted as shareholders for each company and voting item. In the report, institutional investors should disclose the key points of the dialogues they have conducted with companies.</p> <p>If an institutional investor votes against a resolution of the management board or abstains from voting on a resolution of the management board, the institutional investor should explain the reasons for its voting behaviour to the management board either pro-actively or at the company’s request.</p> | | |
| 4.3.7 | <p>Abstaining from voting in the event of a larger short position than long position</p> <p>Shareholders will abstain from voting if their short position in the company is larger than their long position.</p> | N/A | Stipulation for shareholders |
| 4.3.8 | <p>Share lending</p> <p>Shareholders should recall their lent shares before the voting record date for a general meeting of the company if the agenda for that meeting includes one or more significant matters.</p> <p>The shareholder should determine what is regarded as a significant matter, but this will include, in any event, resolutions on the agenda of a general meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. that is of strategic importance; ii. where the shareholder disagrees with the resolution of the management board. | N/A | Stipulation for shareholders |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| 4.4 | <p>Recognising the importance of company strategy</p> <p>Shareholders, including institutional investors, recognise the importance of a strategy focused on sustainable long-term value creation for the company and its affiliated enterprise.</p> | N/A | Stipulation for shareholders |
| 4.5 | <p>Issuing depositary receipts for shares (principle)</p> <p>Depositary receipts for shares can be a means of preventing a majority (including a chance majority) of shareholders from controlling the decision-making process as a result of absenteeism at a general meeting. Depositary receipts for shares should not be issued as an anti-takeover protective measure. The board of the trust office should issue voting proxies under all circumstances and without limitations to all depositary receipt holders who request this. The holders of depositary receipts so authorised can exercise the voting right at their discretion. The board of the trust office should have the confidence of the holders of depositary receipts. Depositary receipt holders should have the possibility of recommending candidates for the board of the trust office. The company should not disclose to the trust office information which has not been made public.</p> | N/A | No depositary receipts for shares are issued |
| 4.5.1 | <p>Trust office board (best practice)</p> <p>The board of the trust office should have the confidence of the holders of depositary receipts and operate independently of the company that has issued the depositary receipts. The trust conditions should specify in what cases and subject to what conditions holders of depositary receipts may request the trust office to call a meeting of holders of depositary receipts.</p> | N/A | No depositary receipts for shares are issued |
| 4.5.2 | <p>Appointment of board members (best practice)</p> <p>The board members of the trust office should be appointed by the board of the trust office, after the vacancy has been announced on the website of the trust office. The meeting of holders of depositary receipts may make recommendations to the board of the trust office for the appointment of persons to the position of board member. No management board members or former management board members, supervisory board members or former supervisory board members, employees or permanent advisors of the company should be a member of the board of the trust office.</p> | N/A | No depositary receipts for shares are issued |
| 4.5.3 | <p>Board appointment period (best practice)</p> <p>A person may be appointed to the board of the trust office for a maximum of two four-year terms, followed by a maximum of two two-year terms. In the event of a reappointment after an eight-year period, reasons should be given in the report of the board of the trust office.</p> | N/A | No depositary receipts for shares are issued |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| 4.5.4 | <p>Attendance of the general meeting (best practice) The board of the trust office should attend the general meeting and should, if desired, make a statement about how it proposes to vote at the meeting.</p> | N/A | No depository receipts for shares are issued |
| 4.5.5 | <p>Exercise of voting rights (best practice) In exercising its voting rights, the trust office should be guided primarily by the interests of the depository receipt holders, taking the interests of the company and the enterprise affiliated with it into account.</p> | N/A | No depository receipts for shares are issued |
| 4.5.6 | <p>Periodic reports (best practice) The trust office should report periodically, but at least once per year, on its activities. The report should be posted on the company's website.</p> | N/A | No depository receipts for shares are issued |
| 4.5.7 | <p>Contents of the reports (best practice) The report referred to in best practice provision 4.5.6 should in any event set out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the number of shares for which depository receipts have been issued and an explanation of changes to this number; ii. the work carried out in the financial year; iii. the voting behaviour in the general meetings held in the financial year; iv. the percentage of votes represented by the trust office during the meetings referred to in section iii; v. the remuneration of the members of the board of the trust office; vi. the number of meetings held by the board and the main items dealt with in them; vii. the costs of the activities of the trust office; viii. any external advice obtained by the trust office; ix. the positions or ancillary positions held by the board members of the trust office; and x. the contact details of the trust office. | N/A | No depository receipts for shares are issued |
| 4.5.8 | <p>Voting proxies (best practice) The board of the trust office should issue voting proxies under all circumstances and without limitations to all depository receipt holders who request this. Each depository receipt holder may also issue binding voting instructions to the trust office in respect of the shares which the trust office holds on his behalf.</p> | N/A | No depository receipts for shares are issued |

| Ref | Principle or best practice | Comply, deviate or n/a | Explanation of compliance, deviation or non-applicability |
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| 5 | ONE-TIER GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE | | |
| 5.1 | <p>One-tier governance structure (principle) The composition and functioning of a board of directors comprising both executive and non-executive directors must be such that the supervision by non-executive directors can be properly carried out and independent supervision is assured.</p> | N/A | The Company has a two tier structure |
| 5.1.1 | <p>Composition of the board of directors (best practice) The majority of the board of directors is made up of non-executive directors. The requirements for independence stipulated in best practice provisions 2.1.7 and 2.1.8 apply to the non-executive directors.</p> | N/A | The Company has a two tier structure |
| 5.1.2 | <p>Chairman of the board of directors (best practice) The chairman of the board of directors chairs the meetings of the board. The chairman of the board of directors should ensure that the board collectively and its committees have a balanced composition and function properly.</p> | N/A | The Company has a two tier structure |
| 5.1.3 | <p>Independence of the chairman of the board of directors (best practice) The chairman of the board of directors should not be an executive director or former executive director of the company, and should be independent within the meaning of best practice provision 2.1.8.</p> | N/A | The Company has a two tier structure |
| 5.1.4 | <p>Composition of committees (best practice) The committees referred to in best practice provision 2.3.2 should comprise exclusively non-executive directors. Neither the audit committee nor the remuneration committee can be chaired by the chairman of the board of directors or by a former executive director of the company.</p> | N/A | The Company has a two tier structure |
| 5.1.5 | <p>Reporting on supervision by non-executive directors (best practice) The non-executive directors render account of the supervision exercised in the past financial year. They should, as a minimum, report on the items referred to in best practice provisions 1.1.3, 2.1.2, 2.1.10, 2.2.8, 2.3.5 and 2.4.4 and, if applicable, the items referred to in best practice provisions 1.3.6 and 2.2.2.</p> | N/A | The Company has a two tier structure |
