

This document is a fair English office translation of the continuous text of the articles of association of: **X5 Retail Group N.V.**, a public company ("*naamloze vennootschap*") incorporated under the laws of the Netherlands, having its official seat in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in which have been incorporated the amendments pursuant to a deed of amendment executed before Dr. H. ten Voorde, civil law notary at Amsterdam, the Netherlands, on August 14, 2025.

In this translation an attempt has been made to be as literal as possible without jeopardizing the overall continuity. Inevitably, differences may occur in translation, and if so, the Dutch text will govern.

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

CHAPTER I.

Definitions.

Article 1.

In these articles of association the following expressions shall have the following meanings:

- a. Accountant: a registered accountant or any other accountant referred to in article 2:393 of the Dutch Civil Code, as well as an organisation within which such accountants practice;
- b. Annual Accounts: the balance sheet and the profit and loss account with the explanatory notes and the consolidated annual accounts if the company draws up consolidated annual accounts;
- c. Annual Meeting: the General Meeting of Shareholders held for the purpose of discussion and adoption of the Annual Accounts;
- d. Annual Report: the annual report as referred to in article 2:391 of the Dutch Civil Code;
- e. Depositary Receipt Holders: holders of Depositary Receipts and those persons who, as a result of a life interest or a pledge in a share, enjoy the rights, which, by virtue of the law, accrue to holders of Depositary Receipts;
- f. Depositary Receipts: registered depositary receipts of shares in the capital of the company issued with the cooperation of the company;
- g. Distributable part of the net assets: that part of the company's net assets which exceeds the aggregate of the issued capital and the reserves which must be maintained by virtue of the law;
- h. General Meeting: the corporate body of the company formed by shareholders and other persons entitled to vote;
- i. General Meeting of Shareholders: the meeting of shareholders and other persons entitled to attend the general meetings of shareholders;
- j. Management Board: the corporate body of the company mentioned in chapter VI;
- k. Managing Director: a member of the Management Board;
- l. Supervisory Board: the corporate body of the company mentioned in chapter VII;
- m. Supervisory Director: a member of the Supervisory Board.

CHAPTER II.

Name. Seat. Objects.

Article 2. Name and seat.

- 1. The name of the company is: X5 Retail Group N.V.

2. The official seat of the company is in Amsterdam. It may establish branches in other places.

Article 3. Objects.

The objects of the company are:

- a. to incorporate, to participate in any way whatsoever, to manage, to supervise, to operate and to promote enterprises, businesses and companies;
- b. to finance businesses and companies;
- c. to supply advice and to render services to enterprises and companies with which the company forms a group and to third parties;
- d. to borrow, to lend and to raise funds, including the issue of bonds, promissory notes or other securities or evidence of indebtedness as well as to enter into agreement in connection with the aforementioned;
- e. to render guarantees, to bind the company and to pledge its assets for obligations of the companies and enterprises with which it forms a group and on behalf of third parties;
- f. to obtain, alienate, manage and exploit registered property and items of property in general;
- g. to trade and invest in currencies, securities and items of property in general;
- h. to develop and trade patent, trademarks, licenses, know-how and other industrial property rights;
- i. to perform any and all activity of industrial, financial or commercial nature, as well as everything pertaining the foregoing, relating thereto or conducive thereto, all in the widest sense of the word.

CHAPTER III.

Capital and shares. Register.

Article 4. Authorised capital.

1. The authorised capital amounts to one hundred and ninety million Euro (EUR 190,000,000).
2. The authorised capital is divided into one hundred and ninety million (190,000,000) shares with a nominal value of one Euro (EUR 1) each, numbered 1 up to and including 190,000,000.
3. All shares are to be registered shares. No share certificates shall be issued.

Article 5. Register of shareholders.

1. The Management Board shall keep a register in which the names and addresses of all holders of registered shares are recorded, showing the date on which they acquired the shares, the date of the acknowledgement or notification as well as the amount paid on each share.
2. The names and addresses of those with a right of usufruct ('life interest') or a pledge on the shares shall also be entered in the register, stating the date on which they acquired the right, and the date of acknowledgement or notification, and whether they have the voting right or the rights that accrue to Depositary Receipt Holders.
3. Each shareholder, each beneficiary of a life interest and each pledgee is required to give written notice of his address to the company.
4. The register shall be kept accurate and up to date.

5. All entries and notes in the register shall be signed by a Managing Director.
6. On application by a shareholder, a beneficiary of a life interest or a pledgee, the Management Board shall furnish an extract from the register, free of charge, insofar as it relates to his rights in a share. In the event that a life interest or pledge has been created on a share, the extract shall state to whom the voting rights attached to such share and to whom the rights of a Depositary Receipt Holder accrue.
7. The Management Board shall make the register available at the company's office for inspection by the shareholders and the Depositary Receipt Holders, without prejudice to the provisions of article 2:85 paragraph 4 second sentence of the Dutch Civil Code.

CHAPTER IV.

Issuance of shares. Own shares.

Article 6. Issuance of shares. Corporate body competent to issue shares.

1. The issuance of shares shall be effected pursuant to a resolution of the General Meeting, notwithstanding the provisions of article 2:96 of the Dutch Civil Code.
2. Shares are issued pursuant to a resolution of the Management Board if the Management Board has been designated to do so for a specific period by a resolution of the General Meeting in accordance with the applicable statutory provisions. This resolution of the General Meeting must state how many shares may be issued. The designation may be extended by specific consecutive periods in accordance with the applicable statutory provisions. Unless otherwise stipulated when it was made, the designation may not be withdrawn. A resolution of the Management Board to issue shares requires the approval of the Supervisory Board.
3. Issuance of shares shall be effected in accordance with article 2:86 or 2:86c respectively of the Dutch Civil Code.

Article 7. Conditions of issuance. Rights of pre-emption.

1. A resolution for the issuance of shares shall stipulate the price and further conditions of issuance.
2. Upon issuance of shares, each shareholder shall have a right of pre-emption to acquire shares to be issued in proportion to the aggregate nominal amount of his shares, in accordance with and subject to the limitations set out in article 2:96a of the Dutch Civil Code. Each shareholder shall also have a pre-emption right to acquire shares to be issued for a non-cash contribution. A shareholder shall have no pre-emption right to acquire shares to be issued to employees of the company or a group company.
3. Prior to each issuance, the right of pre-emption to acquire shares may be limited or excluded by a resolution of the General Meeting, notwithstanding the provisions of article 2:96a of the Dutch Civil Code.
4. The Management Board may resolve to restrict or exclude pre-emptive rights if and insofar as the Management Board has been designated to do so for a specific period by the General Meeting in accordance with the applicable statutory provisions. This designation may be extended by specific consecutive periods in accordance with the applicable statutory provisions. Unless otherwise stipulated when it was made, the designation may not be withdrawn. A resolution of the Management Board to restrict or exclude pre-emptive rights requires the approval of the Supervisory Board.

5. Within eight days after the end of each calendar quarter the company shall file a notice listing each issue of shares in the past calendar quarter with the trade register specifying the number and class of shares.
6. If rights to subscribe for shares are granted by the company, shareholders shall have a right of pre-emption to acquire such rights; the preceding paragraphs shall apply mutatis mutandis. Shareholders shall have no pre-emption right to acquire shares issued to a person who exercises a previously acquired right to subscribe for shares.

Article 8. Payment for shares. Financial assistance.

1. Upon the issue of each share at least the full nominal amount must be paid.
2. Payment for shares must be made in cash in so far as no other form of payment has been agreed. Payment in foreign currency can only take place with the approval of the company.
3. The company may not provide collateral, guarantee the price, otherwise act as surety or bind itself jointly and severally with or for third parties, for the purpose of the subscription or the acquisition by third parties of shares in its own capital or of Depositary Receipts issued therefore. This prohibition shall not apply if shares or Depositary Receipts are subscribed or acquired by or for employees of the company or of a group company as defined in article 2:24b of the Dutch Civil Code.
4. The Management Board shall, without the approval of the General Meeting but with the prior approval of the Supervisory Board, be authorised to perform legal acts referred to in article 2:94 paragraph 1 of the Dutch Civil Code.

Article 9. Own shares.

1. When issuing shares, the company shall not be entitled to subscribe for its own shares.
2. The company may acquire fully paid shares in its own capital or Depositary Receipts thereof, subject to due observance of the applicable legal provisions.
3. The General Meeting must have authorised the Management Board to make an acquisition other than for no value as mentioned in paragraph 2 of this article. Such authorisation shall be valid for a period not exceeding eighteen months. The General Meeting must specify in the authorisation the number of shares, which may be acquired, the manners in which they may be acquired and the limits within which the price must be set.
4. No authorisation shall be required if the company shall acquire shares in its share capital or Depositary Receipts thereof for the purpose of transferring these shares and Depositary Receipts to employees of the company or a group company under a scheme applicable to such employees. Such shares or Depositary Receipts must be included in the price list of a stock exchange.
5. The transfer of shares or Depositary Receipts thereof held by the company shall require a resolution of the Management Board.
6. No voting rights may be exercised in the General Meeting for any share held by the company or any of its subsidiaries, nor in respect of any share of which the company or any of its subsidiaries holds Depositary Receipts. Beneficiaries of a life interest and pledgees of shares which belong to the company and its subsidiaries are not excluded from exercising the voting rights, if the life interest or pledge was created before the share belonged to the company or any of its subsidiaries.

Article 10. Reduction of capital.

1. The General Meeting can resolve to reduce the issued share capital, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the law, either by cancelling shares held by the company or by reducing the par value of shares in its own capital by an amendment to the articles of association.
2. The notice of the General Meeting at which any resolution referred to in this article shall be proposed, shall mention the purpose of the capital reduction and the manner in which it is to be achieved.

CHAPTER V.

Transfer of shares. Issuance of Depositary Receipts.

Article 11. Transfer of shares. Issuance of Depositary Receipts.

1. Shares must be transferred in accordance with article 2:86 and 2:86c respectively of the Dutch Civil Code.
2. The company may lend its cooperation to the issuance of Depositary Receipts.

CHAPTER VI.

Management.

Article 12. Management Board.

1. The management of the company shall be constituted by a Management Board consisting of two or more Managing Directors. The number of Managing Directors shall be determined by the Supervisory Board, with due observance of the preceding sentence.
2. The General Meeting shall appoint the Managing Directors from a binding nomination, to be drawn up by the Supervisory Board. If the nomination contains one candidate, the resolution regarding the nomination will result in the appointment of such candidate, unless the General Meeting overrules the binding nomination in accordance with paragraph 3 of this article 12.
3. If a Managing Director is to be appointed, the Supervisory Board shall, after consultation with the Management Board, make a binding nomination. The General Meeting may overrule the binding nomination at all times by a resolution adopted by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast, provided that the majority represents more than half of the issued share capital. If a majority of the votes are cast in favour of overruling the binding nomination, but that majority does not represent more than half of the issued share capital, a new General Meeting may be convened at which the resolution to overrule the binding nomination may be adopted by a simple majority of the votes cast, regardless of the issued share capital represented by that majority. If the Supervisory Board does not make a binding nomination, the General Meeting will be authorised to appoint the Managing Directors at its own discretion.

Article 13. Suspension and dismissal.

1. Each Managing Director may at any time be suspended or dismissed by the General Meeting.
2. Each Managing Director may at any time be suspended by the Supervisory Board. Such suspension may be discontinued by the General Meeting at any time.

3. Any suspension may be extended one or more times, but may not last longer than three months in the aggregate. If at the end of that period no decision has been taken on termination of the suspension, or on dismissal, the suspension shall cease.

Article 14. Remuneration.

1. The Supervisory Board shall determine the remuneration for each Managing Director.

Article 15. Duties of the Management Board. Board Rules. Decision-making process.

Allocation of duties. Company Secretary.

1. Subject to the restrictions imposed by the articles of association, the Management Board shall be entrusted with the management of the company.
2. The Management Board may adopt a set of rules, regarding, amongst other things, the allocation of duties of the Managing Directors, the decision-making of the Management Board, informing the Supervisory Board and conflicts of interest between the company and the Managing Directors. The board rules are subject to the approval of the Supervisory Board.
3. The Management Board shall determine the duties with which each Managing Director will be charged in particular. This allocation of duties shall require the approval of the Supervisory Board.
4. In addition to physical meetings, Management Board meetings can also be held by conference call or video conference.
5. The Management Board shall appoint one of the Managing Directors as the chairman for that meeting.
6. The chairman of the meeting of the Management Board shall appoint a secretary of the meeting, who does not need to be a Managing Director. That secretary shall keep minutes of the proceedings at the meeting of the Management Board. The minutes shall be adopted in the same meeting or in a following meeting of the Management Board and shall be signed by the chairman and the secretary as evidence thereof. Each Managing Director shall have the right to cast one vote.
8. The Management Board shall adopt resolutions with a simple majority of the votes cast in a meeting in which more than fifty (50) percent of all the Managing Directors in office are present or represented provided that any Managing Director with a conflict of interest as referred to in article 15 paragraph 13, is not taken into account when establishing this quorum. If there is a tie vote, the Supervisory Board shall decide.
9. If within half an hour of the time appointed for a meeting the quorum set out in the previous paragraph is not present or represented a new meeting will be convened.
10. A Managing Director may be represented by another Managing Director authorised in writing. The expression: "in writing" shall include any message transmitted by current means of communication and received in writing. A Managing Director may not act as representative for more than one Managing Director.
11. Resolutions of the Management Board may also be adopted in writing without recourse to a Management Board meeting.
12. A Managing Director shall not participate in the deliberation and decision-making process if that Managing Director has a direct or indirect personal interest which conflicts with the interest of the company. If, as a result hereof, no Management Board resolution can be adopted, the resolution shall be adopted by the Supervisory Board.

Article 16. Representation.

1. The Management Board is authorised to represent the company. This power is also vested in two Managing Directors acting jointly.
2. The Management Board may appoint authorised representatives with a general or limited power to represent the company (procuratiehouders). Each of these representatives shall be able to represent the company with due observance of any restrictions imposed on him. The Management Board shall determine the title of such representative. .

Article 17. Approval of decisions of the Management Board.

1. Resolutions of the Management Board having an important impact on the identity or nature of the company or its business shall be subject to the prior approval of the General Meeting. Without prejudice to the provisions of article 2:107a of the Dutch Civil Code such resolutions include in any event:
 - a. to transfer the business of the company or substantially the entire business of the company to a third party;
 - b. to enter into or to terminate a lasting co-operation by the company as general partner with full liability in a limited partnership or general partnership, if such co-operation or the termination thereof is of far-reaching significance to the company; and
 - c. the entering into any transaction or a number of related transactions with a value in excess of thirty-three (33) per cent of the assets as shown in the consolidated balance sheet of the company including its subsidiaries according to the most recently adopted Annual Accounts, which also includes undervalue transactions whereby the underlying value exceeds thirty-three (33) per cent of the assets as shown in the consolidated balance sheet of the company including its subsidiaries according to the most recently adopted Annual Accounts. Any transaction within the scope of this subsection c between the company and its direct or indirect wholly owned subsidiaries or between two or more direct or indirect wholly owned subsidiaries of the company will not require the approval of the General Meeting.
2. The following resolutions of the Management Board are subject to the prior approval of the Supervisory Board:
 - a. decisions on the (strategic) priorities of the company, confirmation of the strategy of the company, deciding on the indication for the achievement of strategic priorities and the adoption of a finance and production plan for the company and any changes thereto;
 - b. the establishment of branch offices and representative offices of the company and the discontinuation of such activities;
 - c. any agreements between the company on the one side and a Managing Director or his management company on the other side;
 - d. the entering into any transaction or a number of related transactions with a value in excess of ten million Euro (EUR 10,000,000), which also includes undervalue transactions whereby the underlying value of the assets exceeds ten million Euro (EUR 10,000,000), provided that no approval of the Supervisory Board shall be required;

- I. if the company enters into any transaction or a number of related transactions with any of its direct or indirect wholly owned subsidiaries;
 - II. in case of any transaction between two or more direct or indirect wholly owned subsidiaries of the company; and
 - III. in the case of an acquisition or disposal of shares in the share capital of the company or of Depositary Receipts as referred to in article 9;
 - e. the approval of internal documents regulating the activities of the company's corporate bodies;
 - f. decisions to grant share schemes or option schemes to persons other than the Managing Directors.
3. Furthermore, the Supervisory Board is entitled to require additional resolutions of the Management Board to be subject to its approval. These resolutions shall be clearly specified and notified to the Management Board in writing.
 4. The lack of approval referred to in paragraphs 1 through 3 of this article 17 does not affect the authority of the Management Board or its Managing Director to represent the company.

Article 18. Absence or prevention.

1. In the event that one or Managing Directors are prevented from acting, or in the case of a vacancy or vacancies for one or more Managing Directors, the remaining Managing Directors or the only remaining Managing Directors will temporarily be in charge of the management and the Supervisory Board will have the right to designate one or more temporary Managing Directors.
In the event that all Managing Directors are prevented from acting or there are vacancies for all Managing Directors, the Supervisory Board will temporarily be in charge of the management, unless the Supervisory Board designates one or more temporary Managing Directors. In the event that all Managing Directors are prevented from acting or there are vacancies for all Managing Directors, the Supervisory Board shall take the necessary measures to make a definitive arrangement.
The term prevented from acting means:
 - (i) suspension;
 - (ii) illness; and
 - (iii) inaccessibility,
 in the events referred to under sub (ii) and (iii) without the possibility of contact for a period of five (5) days between the Managing Director concerned and the Company, unless the Supervisory board sets a different period.
2. If one or more of the Managing Directors is/are absent or prevented from performing his/their duties, all actions of, and the adoption of all resolutions by, the Management Board shall require the prior approval of the Supervisory Board.

CHAPTER VII.

Supervisory Board.

Article 19. Number of members.

The company shall have a Supervisory Board consisting of one or more individuals. The Supervisory Board shall determine the number of Supervisory Directors.

Article 20. Appointment.

1. The General Meeting shall appoint the Supervisory Directors from a binding nomination, to be drawn up by the Supervisory Board. If the nomination contains one candidate, the resolution regarding the nomination will result in the appointment of such candidate, unless the General Meeting overrules the nomination of its binding character in accordance with paragraph 2 of this article 20.
2. If a Supervisory Director is to be appointed, the Supervisory Board shall make a binding nomination. The General Meeting may at all times overrule the binding nomination by a resolution adopted by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast, provided that the majority represents more than half of the issued share capital. If a majority of the votes are cast in favour of overruling the binding nomination, but that majority does not represent more than half of the issued share capital, a new General Meeting may be convened at which the resolution to overrule the binding nomination may be adopted by a simple majority of the votes cast, regardless of the issued share capital represented by that majority. If the Supervisory Board does not make a binding nomination, the General Meeting shall be authorised to appoint the Supervisory Directors at its own discretion.
3. A Supervisory Director shall be appointed for a period ending at the time of closing of the Annual Meeting to be held in the year to be determined by the General Meeting at the appointment of that Supervisory Director, which shall not exceed the fourth year after the year in which that Supervisory Director was appointed. At the appointment of a Supervisory Director, the General Meeting may decide that such Supervisory Director shall be appointed for a shorter period of time. A Supervisory Director may be reappointed for any term by virtue of this article 20 paragraph 3.

Article 21. Suspension and dismissal.

Each Supervisory Director may be suspended or dismissed by the General Meeting.

Article 22. Remuneration.

The General Meeting shall determine the remuneration for each Supervisory Director.

Article 23. Duties and powers.

1. It shall be the duty of the Supervisory Board to supervise the management of the Management Board and the general course of affairs in the company and in the business connected with it. It shall assist the Management Board with advice. In performing their duties, the Supervisory Directors shall act in accordance with the interests of the company and of the business connected with it.
2. The Management Board shall supply the Supervisory Board in due time with the information required for the performance of its duties. At least once per year, the Management Board shall inform the Supervisory Board in writing in respect of the company's strategic policy, the general and financial risks and the management and control system of the company.
3. The Supervisory Board shall have access to the buildings and premises of the company and its subsidiaries and shall be authorised to inspect the books and records of the company and its subsidiaries. The Supervisory Board may designate one or more persons from among its members or an expert to exercise these powers. The Supervisory Board may also in other instances be assisted by experts.

Article 24. Proceedings and decision-making process.

1. The Supervisory Board shall elect a chairman from among its members. The chairman shall appoint a secretary, who does not need to be a Supervisory Director, and make arrangements for his substitution in case of absence.
2. In the absence of the chairman at a meeting, the meeting shall itself designate a chairman.
3. The Supervisory Board shall meet whenever, any one or more Supervisory Directors, or the Management Board deem(s) such necessary.
4. In addition to physical meetings, Supervisory Board meetings can also be held by conference calls or video conference.
5. The secretary shall keep minutes of the proceedings at meetings of the Supervisory Board. The minutes shall be adopted in the same meeting or in a following meeting of the Supervisory Board and shall be signed by the chairman and the secretary as evidence thereof.
6. Without prejudice to the provisions of these articles of association and/or Dutch law, all resolutions of the Supervisory Board shall be adopted by a simple majority of the votes cast in a meeting in which at least half of the Supervisory Directors in office are present or represented, provided that any Supervisory Director with a conflict of interest as referred to in article 24 paragraph 11, is not taken into account when establishing this quorum.
7. If the quorum requirements set out in paragraphs 6 is not met in a meeting, a new meeting will be convened.
8. A Supervisory Director may be represented by another Supervisory Director authorised in writing. The expression: "in writing" for the purpose of this article shall mean a written proxy, which may be transmitted by way of electronic means of communication. A Supervisory Director may not act as representative for more than one Supervisory Director.
9. The Supervisory Board may also adopt resolutions in writing without holding a meeting.
10. The Supervisory Board shall meet together with the Management Board as often as any Supervisory Director or any Managing Director deems necessary.
11. A Supervisory Director shall not participate in the deliberation and decision- making process if that Supervisory Director has a direct or indirect personal interest which conflicts with the interest of the company. If, as a result hereof, no Supervisory Board resolution can be adopted, the resolution shall be adopted by the General Meeting.
12. The Supervisory Board may adopt a set of rules, regarding, amongst other things, the allocation of duties of the Supervisory Directors, the decision- making of the Supervisory Board and the relationship with the Management Board and the General Meeting.

Article 25. Absence or prevention.

1. In the event that one or more Supervisory Directors are prevented from acting, or in the case of a vacancy or vacancies for one or more Supervisory Directors, the remaining Supervisory Directors or the only remaining member of the Supervisory Board will temporarily be in charge of the supervision and the Supervisory Board will have the right to designate one or more temporary Supervisory Directors.
In the event that all Supervisory Directors are prevented from acting or there are vacancies for all Supervisory Directors, the Management Board shall designate one or more temporary Supervisory Directors. In the event that all Supervisory Directors are prevented from acting or there are vacancies for all Supervisory Directors, the temporary Supervisory Directors shall take the necessary measures to make a definitive arrangement.

The term prevented from acting means:

- (i) suspension;
- (ii) illness; and
- (iii) inaccessibility,

in the events referred to under sub (ii) and (iii) without the possibility of contact for a period of five (5) days between the Supervisory Director concerned and the Company, unless the Supervisory Board sets a different period.

Article 26. Indemnity.

1. Unless Dutch law provides otherwise, current and former Managing Directors and Supervisory Directors are reimbursed for:
 - a. the reasonable costs of conducting a defence against claims resulting from an act or omission in performing their duties or in performing other duties the company has asked them to fulfil;
 - b. any compensation or financial penalties they owe as a result of an act or omission as referred to in a;
 - c. any amounts they owe under settlements they have reasonably entered into in connection with an act or omission as referred to in a;
 - d. the reasonable costs of other proceedings in which they are involved as a current or former Managing Director or Supervisory Director, except for proceedings in which they are primarily asserting their own claims;
 - e. tax damage due to reimbursements in accordance with this article.
2. An indemnified person is not entitled to the reimbursement referred to in article 26 paragraph 1 insofar as:
 - a. it has been established in a final and non-appealable decision of the competent court or, in the event of arbitration, of an arbitrator, that the act or omission of the indemnified person can be described as deliberate (*opzettelijk*), wilfully reckless (*bewust roekeloos*) or seriously culpable. In that case, the indemnified person must immediately repay the sums reimbursed by the company, unless Dutch law provides otherwise or this would, in the given circumstances, be unacceptable according to standards of reasonableness and fairness; or
 - b. the costs or the capital losses of the indemnified person are covered by an insurance policy and the insurer has paid out these costs or capital losses.
3. The company shall reimburse costs and capital losses immediately on receipt of an invoice or another document showing the costs or capital losses incurred by the indemnified person, on the condition that the indemnified person has undertaken in writing to repay these costs and reimbursements if a repayment obligation as referred to in article 26 paragraph 2 arises.
4. The indemnified person shall comply with the company's instructions regarding the defence strategy and coordinate the defence strategy with the company beforehand. The indemnified person requires the company's prior written consent for: (i) acknowledging personal liability, (ii) deciding not to put up a defence, and (iii) entering into a settlement.
5. The company may take out liability insurance for the benefit of the indemnified persons.
6. The Management Board may, with the Supervisory Board's approval, further implement this article 26.

7. This article may be amended without the consent of the indemnified persons, but the indemnity granted in this article will remain in force for claims for the reimbursement of costs and other payments as referred to in this article that resulted from an act or omission by the indemnified person in the period when the indemnity was in effect.

CHAPTER VIII.

Annual Accounts. Profits.

Article 27. Financial year. Drawing up of the Annual Accounts. Deposition for inspection. Accountant.

1. The financial year of the company shall be the calendar year.
2. The Management Board shall draw up Annual Accounts and shall make these available for inspection to the shareholders and the Depositary Receipt Holders not later than five months after the end of the financial year, which period can be extended by not more than five months by the General Meeting in case of extraordinary circumstances.
3. Within the period mentioned in paragraph 2 the Management Board shall also make the Annual Report available for inspection by the shareholders and the Depositary Receipt Holders, unless Section 2:396, subsection 7 or Section 2:403 of the Dutch Civil Code applies to the Company.
4. The Annual Accounts shall be signed by all the members of the Management Board and the Supervisory Board; if the signature of one or more of them is lacking, this shall be stated and reasons therefore shall be given.

Article 28. Accountant.

1. The company may, and if the law so requires shall, appoint an Accountant to audit the Annual Accounts. Such appointment shall be made by the General Meeting. If the General Meeting fails to appoint an Accountant, the Supervisory Board is authorized to do so..

Article 29. Adoption.

1. The company shall ensure that the Annual Accounts, the Annual Report and the information to be added by virtue of the law are held at its office as from the day on which the Annual Meeting is convened. Shareholders and the Depositary Receipts Holders may inspect the documents at that place and obtain a copy thereof, free of charge.
2. The General Meeting shall adopt the Annual Accounts.

Article 30. Profits.

1. The General Meeting shall determine the allocation of the profits.
2. Distributions can only take place up to the amount of the Distributable part of the net assets.
3. Distribution of profits shall take place after the adoption of the Annual Accounts from which it appears it is approved.
4. No distributions are made on shares held by the company, unless those shares are subject to a right of usufruct or a right of pledge.
5. Subject to approval of the Supervisory Board, the Management Board may resolve to pay an interim distribution with due observance of paragraph 2 as appears from interim financial statements to be signed by all Managing Directors. If the signature of one or more of them is lacking, this shall be stated and the reasons given. The company shall deposit

the interim financial statements within eight days after the resolution to pay interim distribution is announced.

6. On proposal of the Supervisory Board, the General Meeting may, subject to due observance of paragraph 2, resolve to make payments to the charge of any reserve which need not to be maintained by virtue of the law.
7. A claim of a shareholder for payment of a distribution shall be barred after five years have elapsed.

CHAPTER IX.

General meetings of shareholders.

Article 31. Annual Meeting.

1. The Annual Meeting shall be held annually, and no later than six months after the end of the financial year.
2. The agenda for that meeting shall contain inter alia the following points for discussion:
 - a. the Annual Report (unless Section 2:396, subsection 7 or Section 2:403 of the Dutch Civil Code applies to the Company);
 - b. adoption of the Annual Accounts;
 - c. determination of accrued profits;
 - d. granting of discharge to the Managing Directors for their management during the financial year concerned and to the Supervisory Directors for their supervision thereon;
 - e. other proposals brought up for discussion by the Management Board or the Supervisory Board, or by shareholders or Depositary Receipt Holders in accordance with the provisions of article 32 paragraph 2."

Article 32. Other General Meetings of Shareholders.

1. Other General Meetings of Shareholders shall be held as often as the Management Board or the Supervisory Board deems such necessary.
2. Shareholders and/or Depositary Receipt Holders, representing in the aggregate at least one tenth of the issued capital, may request the Management Board or the Supervisory Board to convene a General Meeting of Shareholders, stating the subjects to be discussed. If the Management Board or the Supervisory Board has not convened a meeting within the relevant period as required by law, the persons who made the request shall be authorised to convene a meeting themselves, subject to the applicable Dutch Civil Code provisions.

Article 33. Convocation. Agenda.

1. General Meetings of Shareholders shall be convened by the Management Board or the Supervisory Board.
2. The convocation of the General Meeting of Shareholders shall take place taking into account the relevant notice period set out in article 2:115 of the Dutch Civil Code.
3. The convocation of shareholders and Depositary Receipt Holders to the General Meeting of Shareholders shall be made by convocation letters sent to the addresses listed in the register of shareholders or an announcement in a national and an international newspaper. If a shareholder or a Depositary Receipt Holder has consented to electronic sending, a notice of the meeting may be sent to the electronic address which the shareholder or Depositary Receipt Holder has notified to the company for that purpose. A notice convening a General Meeting of Shareholders may simultaneously serve as a meeting of

Depository Receipt Holders to be held prior to that General Meeting of Shareholders, of which the date will be included in the convocation notice.

4. The notice of convocation to the General Meeting of Shareholders shall specify:

- a. the subjects to be discussed;
- b. the place and time of the meeting;
- c. the procedure for participating in the meeting;
- d. the procedure for participating in the meeting through an attorney authorised in writing;
- e. the website address of the company.

Subjects which were not specified in the notice of convocation may be announced at a later date with due observance of the provisions of this article.

5. Shareholders or Depository Receipt Holders who are authorized thereto according to article 2:114a of the Dutch Civil Code, may request the company in writing that an item shall be included in the convocation of the General Meeting or shall be announced in the same manner, if the company has received the request setting forth the reasons for the request not later than on the sixtieth day before the day of the General Meeting of Shareholders.

Article 34. Place of meetings.

The General Meetings of Shareholders shall be held in Amsterdam, Haarlemmermeer (Schiphol Airport) or The Hague.

Article 35. Waiver of formalities.

As long as the entire issued capital and all Depository Receipts Holders are represented at a General Meeting of Shareholders valid resolutions can be adopted on all subjects brought up for discussion, even if the formalities prescribed by law or by the articles of association for the convocation and holding of meetings have not been complied with, provided such resolutions are adopted unanimously.

Article 36. Chairman.

1. Unless the Supervisory Board has designated another person to act as chairman of a General Meetings of Shareholders, the General Meetings of Shareholders shall be presided over by the chairman of the Supervisory Board or, in his absence, any other Supervisory Director.
2. If the chairman has not been appointed in accordance with paragraph 1, the meeting shall itself choose a chairman. Until that moment a Managing Director designated by the Management Board shall act as chairman and in the absence of such a Managing Director the eldest person present at the meeting shall act as chairman.

Article 37. Minutes. Records.

1. Minutes shall be kept of the proceedings at every General Meeting of Shareholders by a secretary to be designated by the chairman. The minutes shall be adopted by the chairman and the secretary of the General Meeting of Shareholders and as evidence thereof shall be signed by them.
2. The chairman or the person who has convened the meeting may determine that notarial minutes shall be drawn up of the proceedings of the meeting.
3. The Management Board shall keep a record of the resolutions made. The record shall be deposited at the offices of the company for inspection by the shareholders and the

Depository Receipt Holders. Upon request each of them shall be provided with a copy or an extract of such record at not more than the actual costs.

Article 38. Rights at meetings. Admittance.

1. Each shareholder and Depository Receipt Holder shall be entitled to attend the General Meeting of Shareholders, to address the meeting and, to the extent that the voting rights accrue to a shareholder, to exercise his/her voting rights.
2. Each share confers the right to cast one vote.
3. Each person entitled to vote or his proxy shall sign the attendance list.
4. The right to take part in the meeting in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article may be exercised on the basis of a written or electronic power of attorney, duly executed and legalised in accordance with the laws applicable to the power of attorney. The company shall be authorised (i) to admit to the General Meeting of Shareholders an attorney whose power of attorney has not been legalised in accordance with the laws applicable to the power of attorney and does not meet the requirements set out in the previous sentence and (ii) to allow such attorney to exercise the meeting rights in accordance with paragraph 1. The company shall allow the shareholders and the Depository Receipts Holders to present the power of attorney to the company by electronic means of communication.
5. The Managing Directors and the Supervisory Board shall, as such, have the right to give advice in the General Meeting of Shareholders.
6. The chairman of the General Meeting of Shareholders shall decide on the admittance of persons other than those mentioned above in this article.

Article 39. Voting Rights.

1. Resolutions of the General Meeting shall be adopted by a simple majority of the votes cast in the meeting, unless the law or the articles of association explicitly require a greater majority. The General Meeting can only adopt valid resolutions, if in the meeting more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the issued share capital is present or represented. If in a meeting not more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the share capital is represented, a second meeting shall be convened, to be held no later than six weeks after the first meeting.
2. In the second meeting valid resolutions can be adopted with respect to the proposals placed on the agenda for the first meeting, regardless the amount of share capital represented in the second meeting. The notice convening the second meeting shall indicate and set forth the reasons why at such second meeting a resolution may be adopted irrespective of the share capital represented at the meeting.
3. If in an election of persons a majority is not obtained, a second vote shall be taken. If votes in such second vote are equal in an election between two persons, it shall be decided by lot who is elected.
4. If there is a tie of votes in a vote other than a vote for the election of persons, the proposal is thus rejected.
5. All votes may be cast orally. If it concerns an election of persons, a person present at the meeting and entitled to vote, can demand a vote by a secret ballot. Voting by secret ballot shall take place by means of secret, unsigned ballot papers.
6. Abstentions and invalid votes shall not be counted as votes.

7. Voting by acclamation shall be possible if none of the persons present and entitled to vote objects against it.
8. The chairman's decision at the General Meeting of Shareholders on the result of a vote shall be final and binding. The same shall apply to the contents of an adopted resolution insofar as the same arises out of an unwritten proposal. If, however, the correctness of that decision is challenged immediately after its pronouncement, a new vote shall be taken if either the majority of the persons present and entitled to vote, or, if the original vote was not taken by roll call or in writing, any person present and entitled to vote, so desires. The original vote shall have no legal consequences as a result of the new vote.

Article 40. Resolutions outside of meetings. Records.

1. Resolutions of shareholders may also be adopted in writing without recourse to a General Meeting of Shareholders, provided they are adopted by unanimous vote representing the entire issued capital.
2. The provision of article 38 paragraph 5 shall apply correspondingly to the adoption of resolutions outside a meeting as referred to in paragraph 1.
3. The Management Board shall keep a record of the resolutions thus made. Each of the shareholders must procure that the Management Board is informed in writing of the resolutions made in accordance with paragraph 1 as soon as possible. The records shall be deposited at the offices of the company for inspection by the shareholders. Upon request each of them shall be provided with a copy or an extract of such record at not more than the actual costs.
4. The aforementioned decision making process shall not be permissible in the event that there are Depositary Receipts Holders.

CHAPTER X.

Legal merger, legal de-merger, amendment of the articles of association and dissolution.

Liquidation.

Article 41. Legal merger, legal de-merger, amendment of the articles of association and dissolution.

When a proposal of the Management Board to merge, demerge, amend the articles of association or to dissolve the company is to be made to the General Meeting, this must be mentioned in the notification of the General Meeting of Shareholders and if it regards an amendment of the articles of association, a copy of the proposal including the text of the proposed amendment must at the same time be deposited and held available at the company's office for inspection by the shareholders and the Depositary Receipt Holders until the end of the meeting. Such copy will also be available for inspection at the General Meeting of Shareholders. The General Meeting can only resolve to a merger or demerger with a majority of at least two-thirds of the votes cast, if less than fifty percent of the issued share capital is represented in that meeting.

Article 42. Liquidation.

1. In the event of dissolution of the company by virtue of a resolution of the General Meeting the Managing Directors shall be charged with the liquidation of the business of the company and the Supervisory Board with the supervision thereof.
2. During liquidation, the provisions of these articles of association shall remain in force as far as possible.

3. The balance of the company remaining after payment of debts shall be transferred to the shareholders in proportion to the aggregate nominal amount of their shares.