



**METRO AG**

**Articles of Association**

Resolution of the General Meeting of 24 February 2023

**Non-binding convenience translation**

**I.**  
**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**§ 1**  
**Name, Registered Office, Financial Year**

- (1) The name of the Company is Firma METRO AG.
- (2) The registered office is located in Düsseldorf.
- (3) The financial year commences on 1 October and ends on 30 September of the following calendar year.

**§ 2**  
**Purpose of the Company**

- (1) The purpose of the Company encompasses the management and promotion of trading and service enterprises engaging particularly in the following areas:
  - Trading businesses of all kinds related to the operation of retailing enterprises, mail order, wholesale trade and sales channels based on new electronic media;
  - Manufacturing and development of products that may be the object of commerce and of services;
  - Execution of real-estate transactions of all kinds including property development;
  - Services, in particular in connection with trading, the restaurant and catering business, consumer goods and logistics as well as trade-related digital business models;
  - Brokering of financial services for, through or by affiliates and subsidiaries;
  - Asset management.
- (2) The Company may perform all and any acts and actions, and transact any businesses, which appear or are deemed expedient to the Company's purpose or are directly or indirectly related thereto. The Company may also itself directly engage in any of the business areas stated in para. 1 herein above. Any such business as requires specific governmental permits, licenses or approvals may not be transacted until after such permits, licenses or approvals have been granted. The Company may establish, form, acquire, manage or purchase equity interests, whether by minority shareholding or otherwise, in, or sell or dispose of, any such enterprises in Germany and abroad active

in the business areas specified in para. 1 herein above. The Company may group its shareholdings under its uniform control or confine itself to the management of such affiliates/shareholdings.

### **§ 3**

#### **Notices**

Notices of the Company will be published in the Federal Gazette [*"Bundesanzeiger"*].

## **II.**

### **CAPITAL STOCK AND SHARES**

#### **§ 4 Capital Stock and Shares**

- (1) The capital stock amounts to 363,097,253 euros.
- (2) The capital stock is divided into 360,121,736 ordinary shares and 2,975,517 non-voting preference shares.
- (3) The ordinary shares and the preference shares are made out to the bearer.
- (4) The non-voting preference shares have preference in the payment of dividends pursuant to § 21 of these Articles of Association.
- (5) The Company reserves to itself the right to resolve on the issuance of further preference shares which, in respect of the distribution of profits or the Company's assets, may rank prior to, or *pari passu* with, the already existent non-voting preference shares.
- (6) The form of physical share certificates, dividend warrants and renewal coupons shall be determined by the Management Board with the Supervisory Board's approval. The Company may issue multiple share certificates evidencing several shares (global certificates). The shareholders right to demand issuance of certificates for their shares in the Company and the dividend warrants and renewal coupons shall be excluded, except to the extent that the issuance of such certificates is required under the rules of a stock exchange on which the Company's shares are listed.
- (7) The Management Board is authorised, with the consent of the Supervisory Board, to increase the share capital of the Company on one or more occasions on or before 10 February 2027 by issuing new ordinary bearer shares in exchange for contributions in cash up to a maximum amount of 108,929,175 euros (authorised capital). As a general rule, the shareholders shall have subscription rights for these shares. The new shares

may also be assumed by credit institutions, or by enterprises that are equivalent pursuant to § 186 (5) sent. 1 German Stock Corporation Act, that are designated by the Management Board, subject to the obligation to offer them to the shareholders for subscription.

However, the Management Board is authorised, with the consent of the Supervisory Board, to exclude the shareholders' subscription right for the compensation of fractional amounts.

The Management Board is authorised, with the consent of the Supervisory Board, to determine further details of the capital increases.

- (8) The capital stock is conditionally increased by up to Euro 50,000,000, divided into up to 50,000,000 ordinary bearer shares (contingent capital). The contingent capital increase shall only be executed insofar as the holders of warrant or conversion rights or those with conversion or warrant obligations arising from warrant or convertible bonds issued or guaranteed by the Company or an affiliate of the Company in terms of § 18 German Stock Corporation Act, in which the Company holds at least 90 percent of the shares, directly or indirectly, based on the authorisation adopted by the General Meeting of 16 February 2018, exercise their warrant or conversion rights or, insofar as they are obligated for conversion or to exercise warrants, fulfil their obligation for conversion or for exercise of warrants, or insofar as the Company exercises an option to provide ordinary shares of the Company in lieu of paying the cash amount due, in whole or in part. The contingent capital increase shall not be executed insofar as a cash settlement is provided or treasury shares or shares of another listed company are used for the fulfilment.

The respective warrant or conversion price to be determined for each ordinary share must, also in the case of a variable conversion ratio/warrant or conversion price, either equal at least 80 percent of the average closing price of the ordinary shares of the Company in Xetra trading on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (or a functionally comparable successor system to the Xetra system) on the ten exchange trading days prior to the date the resolution is adopted by the Management Board regarding the issuance of the warrant or convertible bonds or – in the event subscription rights are granted – at least 80 percent of the average closing price of the ordinary shares of the Company in Xetra trading on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (or a functionally comparable successor system to the Xetra system) during the subscription period, with the exception of the days of the subscription period required for timely announcement of the warrant or conversion price pursuant to § 186 (2) sent. 2 German Stock Corporation Act.

The new ordinary shares take part in profit from the beginning of the financial year in which they are created based on the exercise of warrant or conversion rights or the

fulfilment of warrant or conversion obligations. The Management Board is authorised, with the consent of the Supervisory Board, to define further details of the implementation of the contingent capital increase.

### **III. MANAGEMENT BOARD**

#### **§ 5 Composition**

- (1) The Management Board shall have not less than two members.
- (2) The actual number of Management Board members will be determined by the Supervisory Board.

#### **§ 6 Business Management and Representation**

- (1) The members of the Management Board shall conduct and manage the business of the Company in accordance with the law, these Articles of Association and the Management Board's Code of Procedure.
- (2) The company shall be legally represented by two management board members or by one management board member jointly with an executive holding a general power of attorney (*Prokurist*).
- (3) The Supervisory Board may release individual members of the Management Board from the prohibition of multiple representation pursuant to § 181 2nd alt. German Civil Code in individual cases.

### **IV. SUPERVISORY BOARD**

#### **§ 7 Composition, Term of Office**

- (1) The Supervisory Board shall have 20 members, 10 of whom will be elected by the employees.
- (2) The Supervisory Board members are elected for the period up to that General Meeting which votes on the formal approval of the actions of the members of the Supervisory Board in the fourth financial year after commencement of the Supervisory Board's term of office. The financial year in which the term of office commences is not included in

this count. Supervisory Board members may be re-elected. The General Meeting may also determine a shorter term of office at the elections.

- (3) Any member of the Supervisory Board may at any time step down from office by giving one month's written notice to the Chairman of the Supervisory Board or to the Management Board without stating grounds or reasons. The Chairman of the Supervisory Board – or the Vice Chairman in the event of the Chairman of the Supervisory Board stepping down from office – may consent to a shortening of this period or a waiver of the observance of the period. This shall not affect the right to step down from office for good cause.

## **§ 8**

### **Chairman and Vice Chairman**

- (1) The Supervisory Board will elect a Supervisory Board Chairman and Vice Chairman from among its members with the majority prescribed by law.
- (2) Should the Chairman or his deputy (Vice Chairman) step down from the Supervisory Board or resign from office, the Supervisory Board shall promptly proceed to the election of a successor to this office.

## **§ 9**

### **Convocation of Meetings of the Supervisory Board**

- (1) Supervisory Board meetings shall be convened by the Chairman at 14 days' notice in writing, by telex, cable, fax or by means of electronic or other media. In urgent cases, the Chairman may reduce the term of notice and convene a meeting orally or by telephone.
- (2) The invitation shall be accompanied by an itemised agenda. Agenda items not communicated in due time may effectively be resolved at the meeting as long as no Supervisory Board member objects to such procedure.

## **§ 10**

### **Resolutions of the Supervisory Board**

- (1) Resolutions shall be adopted by the Supervisory Board at meetings. The Chairman may accept the participation of Supervisory Board members in a meeting and adoption of resolutions by way of a telephone or video conference. If ordered by the Chairman of the Supervisory Board, resolutions may also be passed outside of meetings by submitting votes in writing, by telephone, fax, electronically or in an equivalent form. For the adoption of resolutions outside of meetings, the following provisions shall apply analogously.

- (2) The Supervisory Board shall be deemed to have a quorum if, after inviting all its members, not less than one half of all its mandatory members participate in the adoption of the resolution. Members who are joining by way of telephone or video conference shall be deemed to be attending. A member shall also be deemed to participate in the adoption of a resolution if it abstains from a vote. At any rate, not less than three members shall participate in a vote.
- (3) Absent Supervisory Board members may participate in the passing of resolutions by submitting votes through other Supervisory Board members that were transmitted in writing, by fax, electronically or in a comparable form (voting messages).
- (4) Resolutions of the Supervisory Board are adopted with a simple majority of the votes cast, unless otherwise stipulated by mandatory law. An abstention shall not be deemed a vote.
- (5) The Chairman will determine the order in which the agenda items shall be dealt with, as well as the mode and order of voting.
- (6) Minutes shall be prepared of the meetings and resolutions of the supervisory board which are to be signed by the chairman of the meeting or - in the case of adoptions of resolutions outside of meetings - by the person overseeing the adoption of the resolution.

## **§ 11**

### **Committees**

- (1) The Supervisory Board may establish one or more committees from among its members. To the extent permitted by law, certain Supervisory Board powers of decision may be delegated to such committees.
- (2) Each committee may appoint a Chairman from among its members unless such Chairman is appointed by the Supervisory Board itself.
- (3) For the procedures to be adopted by the committees, the provisions of §§ 9, 10 shall apply analogously. Should any voting result in a tie, the Chairman shall have two votes in a second ballot on the same item if it again results in a tie. Such second vote, too, may be cast in writing analogously to § 10 (3).

## **§ 12**

### **Code of Procedure, Declarations of Intent**

- (1) The Supervisory Board shall establish its own Code of Procedure in accordance with the law and these Articles of Association.

- (2) The Chairman or, should he be unable to do so, the Vice Chairman, shall be authorised to make the declarations of intent on behalf of the Supervisory Board that are necessary to implement the resolutions of the Supervisory Board and its committees.

### **§ 13**

#### **Remuneration of the Supervisory Board**

- (1) The members of the Supervisory Board shall receive a fixed annual remuneration. This fixed remuneration shall amount to 80,000 euros for each member.
- (2) The Chairman of the Supervisory Board shall receive two and a half times, his Deputy one and a half times the amount stipulated in para. (1).
- (3) The members of the Audit Committee shall receive an additional committee remuneration of 40,000 euros, the members of the Presidential Committee 30,000 euros, the members of the Nomination Committee 10,000 euros and the members of possible future committees 20,000 euros. The chairman of each of these committees shall receive twice the amount determined for such committee in sentence 1. No additional committee remuneration is paid for membership in and chairmanship of the committee pursuant to § 27 para. 3 MitbestG. The additional committee remuneration for a membership in or the chairmanship of a committee shall only be paid if at least two meetings or other adoptions of resolutions of this committee have taken place in the respective financial year.
- (4) The remuneration shall be payable at the end of the respective financial year.
- (5) Members of the Supervisory Board who served on the Supervisory Board only for part of the financial year, shall receive one twelfth of the remuneration for each month of service or any part of such month. This shall apply accordingly with regard to memberships in a committee, the chairmanship or the deputy chairmanship in the Supervisory Board or the chairmanship of a committee.
- (6) The Company shall reimburse to the members of the Supervisory Board the expenses incurred from their holding of the office as well as any VAT payable on the remuneration and the reimbursement of expenses.
- (7) The provisions in paragraphs 1 to 6 shall apply for the first time to the financial year beginning on 1 October 2021

### **§ 14**

#### **Amendments, Confidentiality**

- (1) The Supervisory Board is authorised to decide on such amendments to these Articles of Association as relate to their wording only.



- (2) Even after their resignation from office, Supervisory Board members shall not disclose to third parties any of the confidential information, data and secrets of the Company that may have come to their attention during their term of office. In the event that a Supervisory Board member intends to pass on to a third party any information for which it cannot be safely precluded that such information is confidential or relates to secrets of the Company, such member will be obligated prior to any disclosure to consult the Chairman for comment thereon.

**V.**  
**GENERAL MEETING**

**§ 15**  
**Venue, Convening**

- (1) The General Meeting shall be held at the Company's registered office, at the location of a German stock exchange or in another city in the Federal Republic of Germany with more than 500,000 inhabitants.
- (2) The convening must be made public at least 30 days prior to the date by the end of which the shareholders have to register for attendance (§ 16 (1)). In this regard, the day of publication shall not be included in the calculation.

**§ 16**  
**Right to Attend**

- (1) Holders of ordinary shares are entitled to attend the General Meeting and to exercise their voting rights, holders of preference shares are entitled to attend the General Meeting – and, in the cases provided for by statutory law, also to exercise their voting rights – if they have registered for the General Meeting in advance. The Company must receive the registration at the address specified in the invitation to the General Meeting in text form, and in the German or English language, at least six days prior to the General Meeting, not including the date of receipt and the date of the General Meeting.
- (2) The right to attend the General Meeting or to exercise voting rights must be verified. For this purpose, a proof of share ownership in text form issued by the last intermediary according to § 67c (3) German Stock Corporation is required. The verification of share ownership must relate to the beginning of the twenty-first day prior to the date of the General Meeting and must be received by the Company at the address therefore specified in the invitation to the General Meeting at least six days prior to the General Meeting, not including the date of receipt and the date of the General Meeting. Only persons/entities who have provided such verification will be regarded as shareholders vis-à-vis the Company for attendance at the General Meeting and the exercise of voting rights.

- (3) The Management Board may allow and define procedures for shareholders to participate in the General Meeting even without attending or appointing a proxy, and to exercise all or some of their rights in whole or in part by means of electronic communication.
- (4) The Management Board is authorised to provide for a meeting to be held without the physical presence of shareholders or their proxies at the venue of the General Meeting (virtual General Meeting) if the meeting is held within five years of the registration of this provision of the Articles of Association in the commercial register.
- (5) The members of the Supervisory Board may, in agreement with the Chairman of the Supervisory Board, participate in the General Meeting by means of video and audio transmission if the Supervisory Board member concerned is prevented from physically attending the venue of the General Meeting, if the Supervisory Board member resides abroad or if attendance at the venue of the General Meeting would entail an unreasonably long travel time or if the General Meeting is held as a virtual General Meeting.

## **§ 17**

### **Chairmanship**

- (1) The Chairman of the Supervisory Board, or another Supervisory Board member designated by him, shall preside over the General Meeting. In the event that neither the Chairman of the Supervisory Board nor the Supervisory Board member designated by him takes the chair, the members of the Supervisory Board present at the General Meeting shall elect the person who is to preside over the meeting.
- (2) The Chairman presides over the meeting, determines the order of business to be transacted at the meeting and decides on the mode and form of voting. He may permit video and audio broadcasts of the General Meeting. The voting result may also be determined by deducting the number of ayes or nays and abstentions from the total number of votes of shareholders with voting rights.
- (3) The Chairman has the right to set an appropriate time limit for the shareholders' right to ask questions and speak. In particular, he has the right to set a time frame for the shareholders' right to ask questions and speak for the entire General Meeting, on individual agenda items and for individual speakers.

## **§ 18**

### **Voting Right**

- (1) One ordinary share confers one vote.

- (2) Voting rights may be exercised by proxy. Unless a lesser requirement is provided by law, proxies may only be issued, revoked and documented vis-à-vis the Company in text form. The provisions in § 135 German Stock Corporation Act shall remain unaffected. A lesser requirement may be determined in the invitation to the General Meeting.
- (3) The Management Board may allow and define procedures for shareholders to cast their votes even without attending the General Meeting, in writing or by means of electronic communication (postal vote).
- (4) Except as otherwise provided by the law, preference shares do not confer votes.

### **§ 19 Majority Requirements**

Unless mandatory statutory provisions stipulate otherwise, resolutions will be adopted by the General Meeting by simple majority of votes cast; in cases where a majority of the capital stock is prescribed, the simple majority of the capital stock represented thereat will suffice to pass a resolution. This shall not apply to resolutions pursuant to § 103 (1) AktG (dismissal of members of the Supervisory Board).

## **VI.**

### **ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

#### **§ 20**

#### **Annual Financial Statements and Appropriation of Profits**

- (1) Within the first three months of a financial year, the Management Board shall draw up the annual financial statements and the management report for the past financial year and present them without undue delay upon completion to the Supervisory Board. At the same time, the Management Board shall present to the Supervisory Board the proposal for the appropriation of the balance sheet profit it intends to make to the General Meeting.
- (2) The Supervisory Board shall appoint the independent auditor for the audit of the annual financial statements.
- (3) On adopting the annual financial statements, the Management Board and the Supervisory Board shall be authorised to transfer to the other reserves retained from earnings all or part of such net income as remains after appropriation of the required amounts to the legal reserve and after deducting any loss carried forward. The transfer of more than one half of the net income to the other reserves shall not be permissible to the extent that such reserves would after such transfer exceed fifty percent of the capital stock.

- (4) When deciding on the appropriation of balance sheet profits, the General Meeting may adopt a resolution for a distribution in kind instead of or in addition to a cash distribution.
- (5) In the event of a capital increase, the participation in profits of new shares may be determined in derogation of § 60 (2) sent. 3 German Stock Corporation Act.
- (6) After the close of a financial year, subject to the Supervisory Board's consent, the Management Board may distribute an interim dividend to the shareholders pursuant to § 59 German Stock Corporation Act.

## **§ 21**

### **Distribution of Profits**

- (1) Holders of non-voting preference shares will receive from the annual balance sheet profits an advance dividend of 0.17 euros per preference share.
- (2) Should the balance sheet profits available for distribution not suffice in any one financial year to pay the advance dividend, the arrears (excluding any interest) shall be paid from the balance sheet profits of future financial years in an order based on age, i.e. in such manner that any older arrears are paid off prior to any more recent ones and that the preferred dividends payable from the profit of a financial year are not distributed until all of any accumulated arrears have been paid.
- (3) After the advance dividend has been distributed, the holders of ordinary shares will receive a dividend of 0.17 euros per ordinary share. Thereafter, an extra dividend which does not have to be paid in arrears will be paid to the holders of non-voting preference shares which per preference share shall amount to 10 percent of such dividend as, in accordance with section 4 herein below, will be paid to the holders of ordinary shares, inasmuch as such dividend equals or exceeds 1.02 euros per ordinary share.
- (4) The holders of non-voting preference shares and of ordinary shares will equally share in any additional profit distribution in the proportion of their shares in the capital stock.

## **VII.**

### **FINAL PROVISIONS**

## **§ 22**

### **Other Information**

- (1) The capital stock of the Company was contributed in an amount of 204,517,000 euros by means of the transformation of the Company into an *Aktiengesellschaft* (stock corporation). The capital stock was reduced subsequently by 171,838,248 euros.

- (2) The costs of the change of the legal form as formation expenses shall be borne by the Company up to an amount of 100,000 euros.

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