STICHTING INVESTOR LOSS COMPENSATION

Governance Report 2023 and Claim Code Compliance Document

GOVERNANCE REPORT 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

- Stichting Investor Loss Compensation (the Foundation) is an independent foundation established under Dutch law on 15 July 2021 and operates on a non-profit basis. The Foundation promotes and protects the interests of shareholders and pursues actions aimed at recovery of losses incurred by investors that are the result of the wrongful conducts of publicly traded companies. At this moment, the Foundation pursues legal action against Airbus SE (Airbus) in relation to insufficient disclosures in connection with the bribery scandal which resulted in settlements with the French, UK and US authorities in January 2020.
- 2. By making this governance report public on the Foundation's website, the Foundation fulfils its obligation to comply with Article 3:305a of the Dutch Civil Code. This section contains legal criteria for representative organizations. Pursuant to this provision, the Foundation's supervisory board (the **Supervisory Board**) should provide a report regarding the key elements of supervisory activities over the relevant year and the board (the **Board**) should publish a report about its activities. Pursuant to the Claim Code 2019 (version of 4 March 2019, the **Claim Code 2019**), representative organizations should, at least, address the subjects covered by the Claim Code 2019. This document combines these functions.

2. ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD AND SUPERVISORY BOARD

- 3. The Board and Supervisory Board have held periodic meetings through videocalls or inperson. In 2023, three meetings took place. During these meetings updates were provided with respect to the progress of the litigation. In addition to these meetings, the Board and Supervisory Board and the Foundation's various service providers regularly discuss the recent developments per e-mail and telephone.
- 4. Since its establishment, the Foundation and the parties involved have undertaken the necessary additional work and have been actively seeking support from parties with similar objectives.
- 5. The Foundation gained the support of ESG-focused non-profit organization **Follow This** (that unites over 8,000 green shareholders in oil and gas companies to become a powerful voice demanding change).
- 6. For retail investors, the Foundation engaged with the German shareholders' association (Deutsche Schutzvereinigung für Wertpapierbesitz e.V, DSW) to inform and provide DSW's members with information about the Airbus file and pending litigation proceedings in the Netherlands. Furthermore, the Foundation secured support of interest groups that work on behalf of, in particular, European investors such as Better Finance. For the benefit of retail investors, the Foundation collaborates with Rightshare B.V. to implement an online portal that will enable these investors to express their interest and support for these proceedings, keeping supporting documents safe and learn about recent developments. This service is available for all investors (by ensuring

that the website can be accessed in the main language of countries where large groups of Airbus investors live).

- 7. For institutional investors, the Foundation has been working with DRRT. DRRT assists institutional investors in pursuing their claims in cases where shareholders are entitled to compensation and is also involved in bringing proceedings worldwide. DRRT ensures the maintenance of relationships with a large group of international institutional investors by keeping them informed, providing them with advice in preserving their evidence and playing a crucial role when proceedings result in a judgment or settlement where these institutional investors have to submit their claims.
- 8. On 23 March 2023, oral pleadings took place at The Hague District Court. This hearing concerned the first phase of the proceedings and dealt with the jurisdiction of the Dutch court, admissibility of the Foundation and applicability of the collective action regime. The hearing was attended by two members of the Board and one member of the Supervisory Board.
- 9. The Foundation's legal counsel attended Airbus' General Meeting of Shareholders on 19 April 2023 at the instruction of the Foundation and asked questions.
- 10. The Court rendered judgment of the first phase of the proceedings on 20 September 2023. Both the Foundation and the competing foundation Airbus Investors Recovery Stichting were declared inadmissible. The Foundation decided to appeal this judgment and decided to implement certain changes in the Foundation's articles of association and in the composition of the Supervisory Board. These are described in the Claim Code Compliance Document. An excerpt of the appeal summons can be found at the website of the Foundation. Members of the Board and of the Supervisory Board contributed to the grounds for appeal, each from its own expertise. The foundation's counsel filed the grounds for appeal timely, on 26 March 2024.
- 11. Lastly, the Board has instructed a Dutch audit firm to prepare and compile (*samenstellen*) the Foundation's financial statements for the year 2023. The financial statements have been satisfactorily completed on 24 June 2024. Since publication of the financial statements is not mandatory for foundations such as the Foundation and the Foundation has a legally relevant, strategic interest not to allow the defendants to gain insight into its budget and expenditure, the Board has decided not to publish the financial statements on the Foundation's website.
- 12. The above leads the Board and Supervisory Board to view the pursuit of the appeal proceedings by the Foundation with confidence.

24 June 2024

P.F.F.M. Schuurs Chairperson of the Supervisory Board **W.G. van Hassel** Chairperson of the Board

CLAIM CODE COMPLIANCE DOCUMENT

2024

1. As mentioned, representative organizations should address the subjects covered by the Claim Code 2019. The Claim Code 2019 consists of seven principles (the **Principles**, each a **Principle**) that are considered to be broadly accepted general guidelines and views on the way claim vehicles and associations should be governed and should represent collective interests, including – but not limited to – litigation. The Principles contain a set of standards for the founders, Board members, Supervisory Board members, consultants and advisors engaged by the claim vehicle. The Foundation's compliance with the Claim Code 2019 is set out in this section. To the extent that arrangements and practices deviate from the Claim Code 2019, the 'comply or explain'-principle applies. Part of the justification for these deviations consists of the conformity with the governance requirements laid down in Article 3:305a(2) of the Dutch Civil Code. Being transparent about deviations is also a form of Claim Code compliance.

1. PRINCIPLE I: COMPLIANCE WITH THE CLAIM CODE

- 2. The Foundation's governance has been tailored to the needs of the Foundation and the investors it represents, as follows from Principle I of the Claim Code. Against this backdrop, it is important to consider that in terms of losses suffered the Investors (as defined in art. 2.1 of the articles of association of the Foundation, the Articles) consist of (large) institutional investors which have a significant experience in dealing with shareholder loss recovery actions all over the world and, in addition, small institutions and retail shareholders. Investors who decide to be involved actively enter into a Participation Agreement (art. 2.1 of the Articles) with the Foundation. In the case of (large) institutional shareholders, these Participation Agreements tend to be the outcome of negotiations between the Foundation and/or its advisors and the prospective Participant (art. 2.1 of the Articles). In addition, the Participation Agreements contain several safeguards for Participants and the Foundation's officials and advisors. In addition, the Foundation represents a significant number of retail investors. Although these Participants have not negotiated the terms of their participation, they remain at liberty to withdraw their engagement. In the end, the Foundation takes the view that freedom of contract forms the best safety valve for safeguarding Participants' interests. Nevertheless, the Foundation is mindful that this category of investors requires a different treatment than (large) institutional investors. To this end, together with its service provider Rightshare, the Foundation has vastly improved the registration process with the aim to provide retail shareholders with a reliable and user-friendly registration tool.
- 3. The foundation currently has a Board with three board members and a Supervisory Board consisting of three members (art. 5.1 and 9.1 of the Articles).
- 4. The compliance of the Foundation with the Claim Code 2019 is discussed annually in a joint meeting of the Board and Supervisory Board (Principle I.1 of the Claim Code 2019).
- 5. If and when the Board wishes to deviate from the applicable Claim Code, it will need the prior written approval of the Supervisory Board (art. 7.1 of the Articles).

- 6. This combined document is a document as set out in art. 6.4 and 7.2 of the Articles and Principle I.1 of the Claim Code 2019. It will be published on the Foundation's website.
- 7. The amendment of the Articles was submitted to the Supervisory Board under a separate agenda item (art. 8.14 (a) of the Articles and Principle I.3 of the Claim Code 2019). The Articles were finally amended on 16 January 2024.

2. PRINCIPLE II: PROTECTING COLLECTIVE INTERESTS ON A NON-PROFIT BASIS

- 8. The Foundation acts as a non-profit entity in the collective interests of the parties who suffered losses as a result of the Events (art. 2.1 of the Articles) and, primarily, have entered into a Participation Agreement with the Foundation (the **Participants**), or, in general, qualify as Investors.
- 9. The Foundation does not generate revenues, for instance by requiring Participants to pay a registration fee. Moreover, the Foundation, as a policy, only enters into monetary obligations which are directly assumed by Therium, the Foundation's funder. As a result, the Foundation does not need to pay expenses and, therefore, does not need to operate a bank account. The risk of inappropriate use of the Foundation's funds for which the Claim Code provides important safeguards is therefore absent (Principle II.1 of the Claim Code 2019).
- 10. The Board is charged with the management of the Foundation. Except for the Board, the authority to represent the Foundation is also vested in two Board members acting jointly (art. 12.1 of the Articles and Principle II.1 of the Claim Code 2019).
- 11. Initial costs of the Foundation were advanced by DRRT. The Foundation's action against Airbus is funded by Therium. Pursuant to the funding conditions, Therium assumes several liabilities which otherwise would have been borne by the Foundation. This concerns lawyers' fees and other costs related to litigation, as well as the Board and Supervisory Board's fees and other expert fees. Therium is envisaged to make a return in line with market price (Principle II.2 of the Claim Code 2019). In order to ascertain that Therium will not enjoy an excessive return, Therium and the Foundation have agreed on a fee cap.
- 12. Principle II.3 of the Claim Code 2019 provides that the Articles also include a provision that a liquidation surplus should be distributed amongst the Participants. This is included in art. 15.2 of the Articles. However, it is unlikely that the Foundation will generate any revenues whatsoever and therefore, no surplus on winding up will occur.

3. PRINCIPLE III: EXTERNAL FUNDING

- 13. The Foundation is funded by a Jersey-based fund advised by Therium (the **Funder**). Therium is a third-party litigation funder headquartered in the United Kingdom with branch offices all over the world. More information about Therium can be found on its website (<u>https://www.therium.com</u>).
- 14. The Foundation has verified the financial soundness of Therium, its track record and the integrity of its litigation funding practice and resolved that it fits the Foundation's purpose (Principle III.1 of the Claim Code 2019).

- 15. In relation to Therium's track record, it is relevant to note that Therium previously funded an investor claim against Steinhoff International Holdings N.V., resulting in a successful outcome for investors.
- 16. As to Therium's financial soundness and integrity, it is relevant to consider that Therium is a founding member of the Association of Litigation Funders of England and Wales (https://www.associationoflitigationfunders.com) and adheres to its strict Code of Conduct. Non-exhaustively, this Code of Conduct requires funders to maintain adequate financial resources at all times to meet their obligations to fund all of the disputes they have agreed to fund, provides that funders must behave reasonably and may only withdraw from funding in specific circumstances and prevents funders from taking control of litigation or settlement negotiations and from causing the litigant's lawyers to act in breach of their professional duties.
- 17. The Litigation Funding Agreement was concluded in writing, the Amsterdam District Court has exclusive jurisdiction and Dutch law applies (Principle III.2 of the Claim Code 2019). The Funder has not chosen residence in the Netherlands, as having procedural documents served on Therium's actual residence is only a limited hurdle. Instead, Therium has agreed that it accepts e-mail to its key officers as a legally valid method for service of official documents. The Foundation and Therium agreed that all costs will be assumed by Therium directly (Principle III.4 of the Claim Code 2019).
- 18. It follows from the Funding Agreement and the Foundation's governance that the Foundation will act independently and autonomously of the Funder (Principle III.3 of the Claim Code 2019). The Foundation's counsel acts at the instruction of the Foundation (Principle III.4 of the Claim Code 2019).
- 19. The Foundation will provide Therium with frequent updates. Information will only be disclosed to Therium subject to the relevant confidentiality restrictions (Principle III.5 of the Claim Code 2019).
- 20. The Foundation and Therium agreed on a budget for conducting proceedings before the court of first instance, costs of (interim) appeals and preliminary questions which may be referred to the Dutch Supreme Court. After the judgment in first instance, Therium confirmed its funding commitment to fund the appeal proceedings.
- 21. The Foundation states on the publicly available part of its website that there is external financing by a Jersey-based fund advised by Therium. The Foundation outlines the system of the fees and services agreed with Therium and states that the percentage of the collective (damages) fee to be awarded in or out of court is a maximum of 25% (Principle III.7 of the Claim Code 2019).
- 22. If ordered by the court, the Foundation may disclose a redacted version of the Litigation Funding Agreement to the relevant court, provided that the court only reviews the Litigation Funding Agreement *in camera* and does not disclose any of its contents in a decision which is shared with the defendants and/or the public through publication on the Dutch judiciary's website (Principle III.8 of the Claim Code 2019).

4. PRINCIPLE IV: INDEPENDENCY OF THE FOUNDATION AND AVOIDING CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

23. Any apparent conflict of interests between the Foundation's engaged advisors, the Supervisory Board and the Board should be avoided. If a direct or indirect conflict of interests between the Foundation and one or more members of the Board or Supervisory Board were to occur, the relevant (Supervisory) Board member will not take part in the deliberations and decision-making process (art. 4.1, 6.3, 8.8 and 11.9 of the Articles).

5. PRINCIPLE V: COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

- 24. The Board of the Foundation consists of three individuals with adequate legal and financial expertise and experience (art. 5.1 of the Articles and Principles V.1 and V.2 of the Claim Code 2019). The members of the Board are:
 - Willem van Hassel as chairperson, a former Dutch attorney (*advocaat*) with extensive experience in the field of (international) litigation and governance.
 Willem was a member of the management and supervisory boards of more than twenty national and international companies and non-profit organizations and served on various audit committees;
 - (ii) Marta Pertegás Sender as secretary, a professor of International and Transnational Private Law at Maastricht University and professor at the University of Antwerp. Marta is also a board member of the Royal Netherlands Society of International Law, the Dutch branch of the International Law Association; and
 - (iii) Otto de Vries as treasurer. He has been active in executive and non-executive board positions in stock listed and family-owned companies in the Netherlands and abroad since 1976. There, he was involved in operational audits, tax and legal matters and collective labor agreements negotiations.
- 25. Wilem van Hassel and Marta Pertegás Sender have the specific experience and legal expertise necessary to adequately represent the interests defined in the Foundation's statutory objectives (Principle V.3 of the Claim Code 2019). Otto de Vries has the specific experience and financial expertise necessary for adequate representation of the interests defined in the statutory objectives of the Foundation (Principle V.4 of the Claim Code 2019).
- 26. The Board is charged with the management of the Foundation. Except for the Board, the authority to represent the Foundation is also vested in two Board members acting jointly (art. 12.1 of the Articles and Principle V.5 of the Claim Code 2019).
- 27. The Board prepares the annual accounts (consisting of a balance sheet and a statement of income and expenditure, with explanatory notes), and submits them to the Supervisory Board for approval (art. 13.2 jo. art. 8.14 (a) of the Articles and Principle V.6 of the Claim Code 2019).
- 28. Board resolutions require the approval of the Supervisory Board with respect to which the Claim Code 2019 requires the approval of the Supervisory Board, which in any case includes resolutions to amend the Articles, appoint and dismiss or suspend Board members, to merge and demerge, to dissolve, to initiate legal proceedings, to enter into a settlement agreement, to file a WCAM petition, as well as resolutions which the Supervisory Board considers to be far-reaching. In its decision-making process, the Board shall also consider if such settlement is supported by its constituency (art. 8.14 (a) of the Articles and Principle V.7 of the Claim Code 2019).
- 29. The Foundation's website can be found at <u>https://www.airbusclaim.com</u>. On this website, stakeholders have access to all relevant information, including:

- (i) the Articles;
- (ii) an outline of the Foundation's governance structure (Principle I.1 of the Claim Code 2019);
- (iii) information on the external financing by a Jersey-based fund advised by Therium. The Foundation outlines the system of the fees and services agreed with Therium and states that the percentage of the collective (damages) fee to be awarded in or out of court is a maximum of 25% (Principle III.7 of the Claim Code 2019);
- (iv) the governance report describing last year's activities of the Board and Supervisory Board (Principle VII.8 of the Claim Code 2019);
- (v) the information to participants stating they can join the Foundation's cause for free;
- (vi) the resumes of the members of the Board and Supervisory Board;
- (vii) the annual remuneration of the members of the Board and Supervisory Board (EUR 7,500). Reasonable travel costs and other costs and disbursements may be reimbursed;
- (viii) information on the basis of which a potential participant can assess whether the nature and working methods of the Foundation match his or her interests; and
- (ix) updates on any pending litigation.

6. PRINCIPLE VI: REMUNERATION OF BOARD MEMBERS

- 30. The members of the Board each receive EUR 7,500 in management fees for services rendered to the Foundation, decided upon by the Supervisory Board (art. 5.4 of the Articles and Principle VI.1 of the Claim Code 2019). In the event that additional efforts are required of the Board members, reasonable, additional fees may be agreed upon. In April 2024, Therium decided to make an incidental amount of EUR 10,000 available for the more than average involvement of the members of the Board and Supervisory Board with the statement of grounds for appeal, the adaptation of the Articles and changes of position in both the Board and the Supervisory Board. The amount has been divided amongst the members according to the time invested.
- 31. The members of the Board have concluded a Board Member Agreement with the Foundation and Therium. This agreement contains the understanding that the members of the Board will not accept remuneration for their work from any other party than Therium, which is a slight deviation from the Claim Code 2019. Principle VI.2 states that the Board members do not accept remuneration from any party other than the foundation or the party that appointed or nominated them as board members. The reason for departing from the Claim Code 2019 on this point is that the Foundation and Therium agreed that all costs will be assumed by Therium directly (Principle III.4 of the Claim Code 2019).
- 32. All remuneration agreed with the Board members shall be included as such, with an explanation, in the annual accounts of the Foundation (Principle VI.3 of the Claim Code 2019). The annual accounts do not contain any remuneration for Board members other than the management fee mentioned above and published on the Foundation's website (Principle VI.4 of the Claim Code 2019).

7. PRINCIPLE VII: THE SUPERVISORY BOARD

33. The Foundation's Supervisory Board consists of three individuals with adequate legal and financial expertise (art. 9.1 of the Articles and Principles VII.4 en VII.5 of the Claim Code 2019). The members of the Supervisory Board are:

- Pieter Schuurs as chairperson. He has a long track record in the financial industry in general and the securities industry in particular, and worked in senior positions at banks, a large Dutch asset manager and at securities and commodities exchanges;
- (ii) Karl Peter Puszkajler, who is a former judge of the Munich Court of Appeal and has considerable expertise in (the settlement of) class actions, serving on supervisory boards of Stichting Investor Claims against Fortis, Stichting Steinhoff Investor Claims and Stichting Essure Claims; and
- (iii) Jeroen Chorus, who is a former judge of the Amsterdam Court of Appeal. He presided over the ground-breaking collective redress actions in, for example, World Online, Dexia and Shell.
- 34. Pieter Schuurs has the specific experience and financial expertise necessary for adequate representation and supervision of the interests defined in the statutory objectives of the Foundation (Principle VII.5 of the Claim Code 2019). Karl Peter Puszkajler and Jeroen Chorus have the specific experience and legal expertise necessary to adequately represent and adequately supervise the interests defined in the Foundation's statutory objectives (Principle VII.4 of the Claim Code 2019).
- 35. In early 2024, as a result of the judgment of the The Hague District Court, the composition of the Supervisory Board was changed:
 - (i) on 2 February 2024, Pieter Schuurs was appointed as member of the Supervisory Board;
 - (ii) Christoph Kuzaj resigned as Supervisory Board member on 6 February 2024 (art. 9.5 (b) of the Articles). He was one of the members of the Supervisory Board and managing director of Therium Deutschland GmbH, the German branch of Therium. The Claim Code 2019 explicitly allows that in case of financing by a third party a member of the Supervisory Board, other than the chairperson, can be appointed on the nomination of that party. The Foundation published this appointment on its website (Principle VII.3 of the Claim Code 2019); and
 - (iii) on 22 March 2024, the Supervisory Board elected Pieter Schuurs as chairperson of the Supervisory Board (art. 9.3 of the Articles). He took over the role of chairperson from Karl Peter Puszkajler, who sits on the Supervisory Board as member.
- 36. Although the Supervisory Board already operated independently and critically without any personal interest, and the role of Christoph Kuzaj was valuable to the Foundation, the changes made in the Foundation's Supervisory Board further emphasize that there is no *appearance* of a conflict of interest (Principle VII.2 of the Claim Code 2019).
- 37. The Board provides the Supervisory Board with the information necessary for the performance of its duties in a timely manner. The Supervisory Board is authorized to inspect all books, documents and data carriers of the Foundation (art. 10.3 of the Articles and Principle VII.6 of the Claim Code 2019).
- 38. The Supervisory Board is authorized to engage one or more experts at the expense of the Foundation to perform its duties (art. 10.4 of the Articles).
- 39. The Supervisory Board prepares an annual document in which it gives an outline of the supervision carried out. This document is published together with information relating to the governance structure of the Foundation on a part of the Foundation's website

accessible to the general public (Principle VII.8 of the Claim Code 2019). This information can be found in the Governance Report / Claim Code Compliance Document.

40. Members of the Supervisory Board receive an annual fee of EUR 7,500, which is published on the Foundation's website (art. 9.4 of the Articles and Principle VII.9 of the Claim Code 2019).

24 June 2024,

the Board and Supervisory Board