

To the members of the
Management Board of
CPI Europe AG
(formerly: IMMOFINANZ AG)

Wienerbergstraße 11
1100 Wien

Report on the evaluation of the compliance with the C-rules of the Austrian Code of Corporate Governance (ÖCGK) according to C-rule 62 of ÖCGK

We were engaged by the management board to evaluate CPI Europe AG's (the "company"), Wien, the compliance with the C-rules of the Austrian Code of Corporate Governance Codex (ÖCGK) in accordance with the C-rule 62 ÖCGK.

Management's responsibilities

The responsibility for compliance with the C-rules of the Austrian Corporate Governance Code in accordance with C-rule 62 of the Austrian Corporate Governance Codex of CPI Europe AG as well as for the compliance of the Corporate Governance Code (see appendix I) with the rules of the Corporate Governance Codex and the related written findings ("declaration of compliance") lies with the management board of the company. This also includes the preparation of adequate documentation and the establishment of internal controls.

We have added a declaration of completeness signed by the legal representatives to our files.

Our responsibilities

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on whether any matters have come to our attention during our limited assurance engagement which lead us to believe that the Corporate Governance Report is not materially in line with the applicable laws under ÖeCGK 2025.

We have performed our engagement in accordance with the Austrian professional standards (KFS/PG13) for limited assurance engagements. Our professional obligations require us to plan and conduct the engagement according to the principle of independence and materiality in order to provide a limited level of assurance.

A limited assurance engagement is substantially less in scope than an audit and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit.

Our procedures are based on professional judgement and include the following:

- Inquiry of representatives and employees of CPI Europe AG
- Sample review of relevant documents and records (especially articles of association of CPI Europe AG, rules of procedure of the Executive Board and Supervisory Board, Supervisory Board minutes, etc.), to the extent to which they and their content are required to comply with the standards of the code
- Review of the explanations of the deviations from "C-Standards" as part of the Corporate Governance report of CPI Europe AG for fiscal year 2024, and examination of their compliance with requirements of OeCGK 2025.

We did not perform either an audit or a review of the financial statements. Furthermore, this engagement is neither designed to investigate any illegal actions, for example, embezzlement or fraudulent transactions, nor does it evaluate the effectiveness of the Company's Management.

Conclusion

During our evaluation, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the Corporate Governance Report is not prepared, in all material aspects, with the OeCGK 2025.

Limitation of use

The purpose of this engagement is to provide CPI Europe AG support in the form of an external evaluation of the Corporate Governance Report. Our report may only be published on CPI Europe AG's website under the specific condition that our total liability to you, and any other party who receives this report with our permission, is limited to the amount stated in the General Conditions of Contract for the Public Accounting Professions (AAB 2018). Partial reproduction or passing to third parties (see appendix II) is not permitted.

As this report is prepared exclusively on behalf and in the interests of the client, other third parties may not rely on its contents. It therefore does not give rise to any claims by other third parties. Accordingly, this report may not be distributed to other third parties in whole or in part without our express consent.

Engagement terms and conditions

Our limited assurance engagement is based on the contract concluded with the Company, an integral part of which are the General Conditions of Contract for the Public Accounting Professions (AAB 2018) issued by the Austrian Chamber of Public Accountants and Tax Advisors.

These General Conditions of Contract do not only apply between the Company and us, but also towards third parties.

Vienna, March 28, 2025

Ernst & Young
Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft m.b.H.

Mag. Alexander Wlasto mp
Wirtschaftsprüfer / Certified Public Accountant

Mag. (FH) Isabelle Vollmer mp
Wirtschaftsprüferin / Certified Public Accountant

Attachments:

Appendix I Corporate Governance Bericht der CPI Europe AG für 2024

Appendix II Allgemeine Auftragsbedingungen für Wirtschaftstreuhandberufe ("AAB")

The English translation of the compilation report is presented for the convenience of the reader only and the German wording is the only legally binding version.

Corporate Governance Report

expanded to include the Consolidated Corporate Governance Report

Commitment to the Austrian Corporate Governance Code

CPI Europe AG pursues responsible business activities that are designed to create and maintain sustainable, long-term value. In line with this orientation, the company strives to achieve a high degree of transparency for all stakeholders. The Austrian Corporate Governance Code* provides Austrian stock companies with a framework for corporate management and monitoring. The Executive Board and Supervisory Board of CPI Europe AG are committed to compliance with the code, in the currently applicable version, and to the related transparency and principles of good management. CPI Europe AG complied with all provisions of the code – with the exception of the following deviation – during the 2024 financial year.

Deviation from C-Rule 16

C-Rule 16 requires the Executive Board to have several members and a chairperson. The Supervisory Board did not consider it necessary to appoint a CEO.

Corporate Bodies

Dual management structure

The dual management structure of CPI Europe AG, as a listed stock corporation, consists of an Executive Board and a Supervisory Board. These corporate bodies are strictly separated, in both their composition and functions, and can therefore independently carry out their assigned duties. The Executive Board is responsible for the management of the company, the Supervisory Board for monitoring.

* A current version of the code (January 2025) is available on the website of CPI Europe AG (cpi-europe.com) and on the website of the Austrian Working Group for Corporate Governance (www.corporate-governance.at).

The Executive Board



Radka Doehring, Member of the Executive Board

- Member of the Executive Board since 1 May 2022
- Appointed up to 30 April 2027
- Born in 1966

Radka Doehring is responsible for all business areas together with Pavel Měchura. In addition, she serves as a managing director of the material subsidiary IMBEA.

With effect from 16 June 2023, Radka Doehring was appointed a member of the Management Board of S IMMO AG.



Pavel Měchura, Member of the Executive Board

- Member of the Executive Board since 16 June 2023
- Appointed up to 30 April 2027
- Born in 1976

Pavel Měchura is responsible for all business areas together with Radka Doehring.

In his role as Group Finance Director of CPI Property Group, he has been responsible for accounting and reporting, consolidation, property valuation and strategic planning since 2014 and was appointed Group CFO of CPI Property Group in December 2024.

Pavel Měchura was appointed a member of the Management Board of S IMMO AG with effect from 10 December 2024.

The Supervisory Board



Miroslava Greštiaková,
Chairwoman of the
Supervisory Board since
31 March 2022

- First appointment in 2022
- Term ends in 2028¹
- Born in 1980

Experience: extensive management experience in the areas of legal, compliance and data protection

Other functions: none



Martin Matula,
Vice-Chairman of the
Supervisory Board since
29 May 2024

- First appointment in 2022
- Term ends in 2028¹
- Born in 1980

Experience: extensive expertise in the areas of legal and real estate

Other functions:
S IMMO AG: Chairman of the
Supervisory Board



Iveta Krašovicová,
Member of the
Supervisory Board since
29 May 2024

- First appointment in 2024
- Term ends in 2028¹
- Born in 1971

Experience: extensive expertise in the areas of finance and tax

Other functions: none



Matúš Sura,
Member of the
Supervisory Board since
29 May 2024

- First appointment in 2024
- Term ends in 2028¹
- Born in 1982

Experience: extensive expertise in the areas of ESG and legal

Other functions: none



Philipp Obermair,
Member of the
Supervisory Board

- First appointment in 2014
- Born in 1979

Experience: currently serves as a risk, process and research manager as well as Head of ESG and previously as a senior controller at CPI Europe AG

Delegated by the CPI Europe AG Works Council

The terms of office of the members delegated to the Supervisory Board by the Works Council are unlimited



Anton Weichselbaum,
Member of the
Supervisory Board

- First appointment in 2023
- Born in 1988

Experience: currently serves as Asset Manager Retail Austria and Slovenia at CPI Europe AG

Delegated by the CPI Europe AG Works Council

The terms of office of the members delegated to the Supervisory Board by the Works Council are unlimited.

¹ End of term: at the end of the annual general meeting which votes on the release from liability for the 2028 financial year (36th AGM in 2029)

Term ended in 2024**Martin Němeček, Vice-Chairman of the Supervisory Board up to 29 May 2024**

- First appointment in 2022
- Born in 1975

Supervisory Board committees and attendance**Members of the Supervisory Board Committees**

Audit and Valuation Committee	Strategy and ESG Committee	Personnel and Nominating Committee
Martin Němeček , Chairman (up to 29 May 2024), financial expert	Martin Matula , Member (Chairman up to 29 May 2024)	Miroslava Greštiaková , Chairwoman (since 5 February 2024)
Iveta Krašovicová , Chairwoman (since 29 May 2024), financial expert	Matůš Sura , Chairman (since 29 May 2024)	Matůš Sura , Vice-Chairman (since 29 May 2024)
Martin Matula , Vice-Chairman (since 15 July 2022)	Miroslava Greštiaková , Member (Vice-Chairwoman up to 29 May 2024)	Martin Matula , Member (Vice-Chairman up to 29 May 2024)
Miroslava Greštiaková , (since 5 February 2024)	Iveta Krašovicová , Vice-Chairwoman (since 29 May 2024)	Martin Němeček (up to 29 May 2024)
Philipp Obermair	Martin Němeček (up to 29 May 2024)	
Anton Weichselbaum	Philipp Obermair	
	Anton Weichselbaum	

The Supervisory Board monitors the Executive Board and provides support for the management of the company, particularly on decisions of fundamental importance. In addition to its primary function as a monitoring and support body, the Supervisory Board constantly strives to further improve the efficiency of its work through self-evaluation. At the beginning of the 2024 financial year, the Supervisory Board had four members who were elected by the annual general meeting (shareholder representatives) and two members delegated by the Works Council. Martin Němeček resigned from his function with effect from 29 May 2024. The shareholder representatives Iveta Krašovicová and Matůš Sura were newly elected to the Supervisory Board. The appointment of Martin Matula was extended early and the Chairwoman was re-elected, both with effect from 29 May 2024 and for the period until the end of the annual general meeting which votes on the release from liability for the 2028 financial year (ordinary annual general meeting 2029).

Ten Supervisory Board meetings were held in the 2024 financial year. These meetings were attended by 100% of the shareholder representatives. Including the four individual committee meetings, total attendance was 100%.

Attendance										
Name	Member since	Meetings (Plenum)	Audit and valuation committee		Strategy and ESG Committee		Personnel and Nominating Committee		Total presence	Total presence in %
			in %		in %		in %			
Meetings/year		10		4					14	
Miroslava Greštiaková, Chairwoman	2022	10/10	100	4/4	100				14	100
Martin Němeček, Vice-Chairman (up to 29 May 2024)	2022	3/3	100	2/2	100				5	100
Martin Matula Vice-Chairman (since 29 May 2024)	2022	10/10	100	4/4	100				14	100
Iveta Krašovicová (since 29 May 2024)	2024	7/7	100	2/2	100				9	100
Matůš Sura (since 29 May 2024)	2024	7/7	100	2/2	100				9	100
Average meeting attendance		37/37	100	14/14	100				51/51	100

Audit and Valuation Committee

The Audit and Valuation Committee is responsible for monitoring accounting processes and supervising the audit of the separate and consolidated financial statements. This committee also monitors the effectiveness of the company's internal control system, risk management and internal audit. In the 2024 financial year, Martin Němeček served as the Audit and Valuation Committee's financial expert based on his professional experience and knowledge of finance and accounting. From 29 May 2024, Iveta Krašovicová served as the Audit and Valuation Committee's financial expert. The committee members, as a whole, are well informed of the real estate sector. The Audit and Valuation Committee held four meetings in 2024. These meetings were attended by 100% of the shareholder representatives.

Strategy and ESG Committee

The Strategy and ESG Committee is responsible, above all, for the regular evaluation of the company's strategy and orientation, of which the environmental, social and governance (ESG) sustainability topics are an integral part. These responsibilities were fulfilled by the full Supervisory Board in the past financial year.

Personnel and Nominating Committee

The Personnel and Nominating Committee makes recommendations to the Supervisory Board for nominations to the Executive and Supervisory Boards and is responsible for determining the remuneration and preparing the employment contracts for the Executive Board members. In addition, the committee reviews the remuneration policy for the Executive Board at regular intervals. In its capacity as a remuneration committee, the Personnel and Nominating Committee consisted of Miroslava Greštiaková as Chairwoman and at least one member with knowledge and experience in remuneration policy as of 5 February 2024. The responsibilities were exercised by the full Supervisory Board in the past financial year.

Supervisory Board qualification matrix

As in the previous years, the Supervisory Board completed a routine annual self-evaluation of its working efficiency, above all with regard to its organisation and operating procedures. The focal points included, among others, the organisation of the Supervisory Board and the procedures at meetings, the activities of the committees, the provision of information to the Supervisory Board, the self-image of the Supervisory Board members as well as any recommendations for improvement.

	Sectoral expertise				Functional expertise				Governance expertise			GEO		
	Real Estate	Capital Markets	Insurance	Finance	CEO/Management/Division Mgt.	Compliance/Legal	Human Resources	Accounting/Audit	Marketing	Digital	Sustainability		Non-Executive Dir. Experience	Governance (Corporate)
Miroslava Greštiaková	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	WE EE
Martin Matula	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	WE EE
Iveta Krašovicová	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	WE EE
Matúš Sura	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	WE EE

● Core competency ● Secondary competency ● Tertiary/not an apparent competency WE Western Europe EE Eastern Europe

Shareholdings of the Executive Board and Supervisory Board members as of 31 December 2024

Members of the CPI Europe AG corporate bodies and closely related persons are required to report their transactions in financial instruments issued by the company. These reports (Directors' Dealings reports) are published on the CPI Europe AG website. Following is an overview of the direct and indirect shareholdings of these members as reported to the company:

Member	Number of CPI Europe shares
Philipp Obermair	600

Working Procedures of the Executive Board and Supervisory Board

The cooperation between the Executive Board and Supervisory Board of CPI Europe AG is based on open and constructive discussions. The Executive Board provides the Supervisory Board with regular, timely and comprehensive information on the development of business and related issues and also prepares the documentation for the Supervisory Board's meetings and resolutions. The rules of procedure for the Executive Board define the transactions and measures that require Supervisory Board approval. In addition, the Executive Board provides the Supervisory Board with information on issues of major importance outside the framework of scheduled meetings.

Independence and avoidance of conflicts of interest

The members of the Executive Board are required to take their decisions independent of any personal interests and the interests of controlling shareholders. Moreover, these decisions must be based on well-founded knowledge and comply with all relevant legal regulations. Persons serving on the Executive Board must disclose any personal interests in the company's transactions or other conflicts of interest to the Supervisory Board without delay and inform their board colleagues about them. The Executive Board members may only accept appointments to a supervisory board with the consent of the CPI Europe AG Supervisory Board. Key company employees must also have the approval of the Executive Board and Supervisory Board before they may accept a position on the corporate body of a non-Group company. A legal restraint on competition is also in place.

The members of the Supervisory Board are required to represent the interests of the company and must disclose any conflicts of interest without delay. They may not accept positions on the corporate bodies of any companies that compete with CPI Europe AG.

There are no contracts between the members of the Supervisory Board or companies in which a member of the Supervisory Board holds a significant financial interest, on the one hand, and CPI Europe AG or one of its subsidiaries, on the other hand.

Criteria for the independence of the Supervisory Board

The Austrian Corporate Governance Code (C-Rule 53) requires the majority of the supervisory board members elected by the annual general meeting to be independent of the company and its management board. A supervisory board member is considered to be independent when he or she has no business or personal relations with the company or its management board that constitute a material conflict of interest and are therefore capable of influencing the member's behaviour.

The following independence criteria were defined by the CPI Europe AG Supervisory Board and reflect the standards listed in Annex 1 to the Corporate Governance Code:

- The Supervisory Board member did not serve as a member of the Executive Board or a key employee of CPI Europe AG or one of its subsidiaries during the past five years.
- The Supervisory Board member does not currently, or did not in the preceding year, maintain any business relations with CPI Europe AG or one of its subsidiaries of a scope considered significant for the Supervisory Board member. The same applies to business relationships with companies in which the Supervisory Board member holds a considerable economic interest, but not to exercising functions on CPI Europe AG's corporate bodies. The approval of individual transactions by the Supervisory Board pursuant to L-Rule 48 does not automatically qualify the member as not independent.
- The Supervisory Board member did not act as an auditor of CPI Europe AG or own an investment in the auditing company or work for the auditing company during the preceding three years.
- The Supervisory Board member is not a member of the management board of another company in which a member of the Executive Board of CPI Europe AG serves on the supervisory board.
- The Supervisory Board member has not served on the Supervisory Board of CPI Europe AG for more than 15 years. This does not apply to members who are shareholders with a direct investment in CPI Europe AG or who represent the interests of such a shareholder.
- The Supervisory Board member is not closely related (direct offspring, spouse, life partner, parent, uncle, aunt, sibling, niece, nephew) to a member of the Executive Board or to persons specified in one of the above points.

In accordance with C-Rule 54 of the Austrian Corporate Governance Code, Miroslava Greštiaková and Iveta Krašovicová (from 29 May 2024) are free float representatives on the Supervisory Board. These two members of the Supervisory Board are neither shareholders with a stake of more than 10% nor do they represent the interests of shareholders with a stake of more than 10%

Support for women on the Executive Board and Supervisory Board and in key functions

In the interest of the company, appointments to the Executive Board, Supervisory Board and key positions are based solely on professional and personal qualifications.

Women filled 29.2% of the management positions in 2024 (2023: 32.3%) and represented 64.0% of the total workforce (2023: 59.0%). The proportion of women on the Executive Board is 50%. The Supervisory Board is chaired by Miroslava Greštiaková, and as of 29 May 2024 Iveta Krašovicová has been another member; the percentage of women among shareholder representatives thus remained unchanged at a high level of 50% at the reporting date. At CPI Europe AG, women hold key management positions in central corporate functions and on the local country boards.

Additional measures to increase the share of women in management positions have not been defined to date. CPI Europe AG supports the work-life balance through flexible and partially flexible working times as well as part-time work models for employees, parental leave for fathers or the one-month “new baby break for dads”.

Men and women have equal opportunities for advancement at CPI Europe AG, and all employees receive performance-based remuneration for their work.

Diversity concept

CPI Europe does not follow an abstractly defined diversity concept for appointments to the Executive Board or Supervisory Board. The Supervisory Board, which is responsible for appointments to the Executive Board and for issuing recommendations to the annual general meeting for elections to the Supervisory Board, considers the diversity aspects listed in § 243c (2) no. 2a of the Austrian Commercial Code (age, gender, education and professional experience) and the international aspects for supervisory board members which are discussed in L-Rule 52 of the Austrian Corporate Governance Code to be important. Accordingly, these aspects are acknowledged and considered in connection with specific appointment decisions or recommendations. However, the company does not consider it suitable or expedient to tie its decisions on recommendations or appointments to a diversity concept with abstractly defined goals.

External evaluation

CPI Europe AG's compliance with the provisions of the Austrian Corporate Governance Code was evaluated by the auditor, Ernst & Young Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft m.b.H., within the framework of a separate audit of the corporate governance report (pursuant to KFS/PG 13). The related auditor's report is available for review on CPI Europe AG's website (cpi-europe.com). The evaluation of the corporate governance report for 2024 did not result in any objections.

Vienna, 28 March 2025

The Executive Board



Radka Doehring



Pavel Měchura

General Conditions of Contract for the Public Accounting Professions (AAB 2018)

Provided by the Board of the Chamber of Tax Advisers and Auditors

Preamble and General Items

(1) Contract within the meaning of these Conditions of Contract refers to each contract on services to be rendered by a person entitled to exercise profession in the field of public accounting exercising that profession (de facto activities as well as providing or performing legal transactions or acts, in each case pursuant to Sections 2 or 3 Austrian Public Accounting Professions Act (WTBG 2017). The parties to the contract shall hereinafter be referred to as the "contractor" on the one hand and the "client" on the other hand).

(2) The General Conditions of Contract for the professions in the field of public accounting are divided into two sections: The Conditions of Section I shall apply to contracts where the agreeing of contracts is part of the operations of the client's company (entrepreneur within the meaning of the Austrian Consumer Protection Act. They shall apply to consumer business under the Austrian Consumer Protection Act (Federal Act of March 8, 1979 / Federal Law Gazette No. 140 as amended) insofar as Section II does not provide otherwise for such business.

(3) In the event that an individual provision is void, the invalid provision shall be replaced by a valid provision that is as close as possible to the desired objective.

SECTION I

1. Scope and Execution of Contract

(1) The scope of the contract is generally determined in a written agreement drawn up between the client and the contractor. In the absence of such a detailed written agreement, (2)-(4) shall apply in case of doubt:

(2) When contracted to perform tax consultation services, consultation shall consist of the following activities:

- a) preparing annual tax returns for income tax and corporate tax as well as value-added tax (VAT) on the basis of the financial statements and other documents and papers required for taxation purposes and to be submitted by the client or (if so agreed) prepared by the contractor. Unless explicitly agreed otherwise, documents and papers required for taxation purposes shall be produced by the client.
- b) examining the tax assessment notices for the tax returns mentioned under a).
- c) negotiating with the fiscal authorities in connection with the tax returns and notices mentioned under a) and b).
- d) participating in external tax audits and assessing the results of external tax audits with regard to the taxes mentioned under a).
- e) participating in appeal procedures with regard to the taxes mentioned under a).

If the contractor receives a flat fee for regular tax consultation, in the absence of written agreements to the contrary, the activities mentioned under d) and e) shall be invoiced separately.

(3) Provided the preparation of one or more annual tax return(s) is part of the contract accepted, this shall not include the examination of any particular accounting conditions nor the examination of whether all relevant concessions, particularly those with regard to value added tax, have been utilized, unless the person entitled to exercise the profession can prove that he/she has been commissioned accordingly.

(4) In each case, the obligation to render other services pursuant to Sections 2 and 3 WTBG 2017 requires for the contractor to be separately and verifiably commissioned.

(5) The aforementioned paragraphs (2) to (4) shall not apply to services requiring particular expertise provided by an expert.

(6) The contractor is not obliged to render any services, issue any warnings or provide any information beyond the scope of the contract.

(7) The contractor shall have the right to engage suitable staff and other performing agents (subcontractors) for the execution of the contract as well as to have a person entitled to exercise the profession substitute for him/her in executing the contract. Staff within the meaning of these Conditions of Contract refers to all persons who support the contractor in his/her operating activities on a regular or permanent basis, irrespective of the type of underlying legal transaction.

(8) In rendering his/her services, the contractor shall exclusively take into account Austrian law; foreign law shall only be taken into account if this has been explicitly agreed upon in writing.

(9) Should the legal situation change subsequent to delivering a final professional statement passed on by the client orally or in writing, the contractor shall not be obliged to inform the client of changes or of the consequences thereof. This shall also apply to the completed parts of a contract.

(10) The client shall be obliged to make sure that the data made available by him/her may be handled by the contractor in the course of rendering the services. In this context, the client shall particularly but not exclusively comply with the applicable provisions under data protection law and labor law.

(11) Unless explicitly agreed otherwise, if the contractor electronically submits an application to an authority, he/she acts only as a messenger and this does not constitute a declaration of intent or knowledge attributable to him/her or a person authorized to submit the application.

(12) The client undertakes not to employ persons that are or were staff of the contractor during the contractual relationship, during and within one year after termination of the contractual relationship, either in his/her company or in an associated company, failing which he/she shall be obliged to pay the contractor the amount of the annual salary of the member of staff taken over.

2. Client's Obligation to Provide Information and Submit Complete Set of Documents

(1) The client shall make sure that all documents required for the execution of the contract be placed without special request at the disposal of the contractor at the agreed date, and in good time if no such date has been agreed, and that he/she be informed of all events and circumstances which may be of significance for the execution of the contract. This shall also apply to documents, events and circumstances which become known only after the contractor has commenced his/her work.

(2) The contractor shall be justified in regarding information and documents presented to him/her by the client, in particular figures, as correct and complete and to base the contract on them. The contractor shall not be obliged to identify any errors unless agreed separately in writing. This shall particularly apply to the correctness and completeness of bills. However, he/she is obliged to inform the client of any errors identified by him/her. In case of financial criminal proceedings he/she shall protect the rights of the client.

(3) The client shall confirm in writing that all documents submitted, all information provided and explanations given in the context of audits, expert opinions and expert services are complete.

(4) If the client fails to disclose considerable risks in connection with the preparation of financial statements and other statements, the contractor shall not be obliged to render any compensation insofar as these risks materialize.

(5) Dates and time schedules stated by the contractor for the completion of the contractor's products or parts thereof are best estimates and, unless otherwise agreed in writing, shall not be binding. The same applies to any estimates of fees: they are prepared to best of the contractor's knowledge; however, they shall always be non-binding.

(6) The client shall always provide the contractor with his/her current contact details (particularly the delivery address). The contractor may rely on the validity of the contact details most recently provided by the client, particularly have deliveries made to the most recently provided address, until such time as new contact details are provided.

3. Safeguarding of Independence

(1) The client shall be obliged to take all measures to prevent that the independence of the staff of the contractor be jeopardized and shall himself/herself refrain from jeopardizing their independence in any way. In particular, this shall apply to offers of employment and to offers to accept contracts on their own account.

(2) The client acknowledges that his/her personal details required in this respect, as well as the type and scope of the services, including the performance period agreed between the contractor and the client for the services (both audit and non-audit services), shall be handled within a network (if any) to which the contractor belongs, and for this purpose transferred to the other members of the network including abroad for the purpose of examination of the existence of grounds of bias or grounds for exclusion and conflicts of interest. For this purpose the client expressly releases the contractor in accordance with the Data Protection Act and in accordance with Section 80 (4) No. 2 WTBG 2017 from his/her obligation to maintain secrecy. The client can revoke the release from the obligation to maintain secrecy at any time.

4. Reporting Requirements

(1) (Reporting by the contractor) In the absence of an agreement to the contrary, a written report shall be drawn up in the case of audits and expert opinions.

(2) (Communication to the client) All contract-related information and opinions, including reports, (all declarations of knowledge) of the contractor, his/her staff, other performing agents or substitutes ("professional statements") shall only be binding provided they are set down in writing. Professional statements in electronic file formats which are made, transferred or confirmed by fax or e-mail or using similar types of electronic communication (that can be stored and reproduced but is not oral, i.e. e.g. text messages but not telephone) shall be deemed as set down in writing; this shall only apply to professional statements. The client bears the risk that professional statements may be issued by persons not entitled to do so as well as the transfer risk of such professional statements.

(3) (Communication to the client) The client hereby consents to the contractor communicating with the client (e.g. by e-mail) in an unencrypted manner. The client declares that he/she has been informed of the risks arising from the use of electronic communication (particularly access to, maintaining secrecy of, changing of messages in the course of transfer). The contractor, his/her staff, other performing agents or substitutes are not liable for any losses that arise as a result of the use of electronic means of communication.

(4) (Communication to the contractor) Receipt and forwarding of information to the contractor and his/her staff are not always guaranteed when the telephone is used, in particular in conjunction with automatic telephone answering systems, fax, e-mail and other types of electronic communication. As a result, instructions and important information shall only be deemed to have been received by the contractor provided they are also received physically (not by telephone, orally or electronically), unless explicit confirmation of receipt is provided in individual instances. Automatic confirmation that items have been transmitted and read shall not constitute such explicit confirmations of receipt. This shall apply in particular to the transmission of decisions and other information relating to deadlines. As a result, critical and important notifications must be sent to the contractor by mail or courier. Delivery of documents to staff outside the firm's offices shall not count as delivery.

(5) (General) In writing shall mean, insofar as not otherwise laid down in Item 4. (2), written form within the meaning of Section 886 Austrian Civil Code (ABGB) (confirmed by signature). An advanced electronic signature (Art. 26 eIDAS Regulation (EU) No. 910/2014) fulfills the requirement of written form within the meaning of Section 886 ABGB (confirmed by signature) insofar as this is at the discretion of the parties to the contract.

(6) (Promotional information) The contractor will send recurrent general tax law and general commercial law information to the client electronically (e.g. by e-mail). The client acknowledges that he/she has the right to object to receiving direct advertising at any time.

5. Protection of Intellectual Property of the Contractor

(1) The client shall be obliged to ensure that reports, expert opinions, organizational plans, drafts, drawings, calculations and the like, issued by the contractor, be used only for the purpose specified in the contract (e.g. pursuant to Section 44 (3) Austrian Income Tax Act 1988). Furthermore, professional statements made orally or in writing by the contractor may be passed on to a third party for use only with the written consent of the contractor.

(2) The use of professional statements made orally or in writing by the contractor for promotional purposes shall not be permitted; a violation of this provision shall give the contractor the right to terminate without notice to the client all contracts not yet executed.

(3) The contractor shall retain the copyright on his/her work. Permission to use the work shall be subject to the written consent by the contractor.

6. Correction of Errors

(1) The contractor shall have the right and shall be obliged to correct all errors and inaccuracies in his/her professional statement made orally or in writing which subsequently come to light and shall be obliged to inform the client thereof without delay. He/she shall also have the right to inform a third party acquainted with the original professional statement of the change.

(2) The client has the right to have all errors corrected free of charge if the contractor can be held responsible for them; this right will expire six months after completion of the services rendered by the contractor and/or – in cases where a written professional statement has not been delivered – six months after the contractor has completed the work that gives cause to complaint.

(3) If the contractor fails to correct errors which have come to light, the client shall have the right to demand a reduction in price. The extent to which additional claims for damages can be asserted is stipulated under Item 7.

7. Liability

(1) All liability provisions shall apply to all disputes in connection with the contractual relationship, irrespective of the legal grounds. The contractor is liable for losses arising in connection with the contractual relationship (including its termination) only in case of willful intent and gross negligence. The applicability of Section 1298 2nd Sentence ABGB is excluded.

(2) In cases of gross negligence, the maximum liability for damages due from the contractor is tenfold the minimum insurance sum of the professional liability insurance according to Section 11 WTBG 2017 as amended.

(3) The limitation of liability pursuant to Item 7. (2) refers to the individual case of damages. The individual case of damages includes all consequences of a breach of duty regardless of whether damages arose in one or more consecutive years. In this context, multiple acts or failures to act that are based on the same or similar source of error as one consistent breach of duty if the matters concerned are legally and economically connected. Single damages remain individual cases of damage even if they are based on several breaches of duty. Furthermore, the contractor's liability for loss of profit as well as collateral, consequential, incidental or similar losses is excluded in case of willful damage.

(4) Any action for damages may only be brought within six months after those entitled to assert a claim have gained knowledge of the damage, but no later than three years after the occurrence of the (primary) loss following the incident upon which the claim is based, unless other statutory limitation periods are laid down in other legal provisions.

(5) Should Section 275 Austrian Commercial Code (UGB) be applicable (due to a criminal offense), the liability provisions contained therein shall apply even in cases where several persons have participated in the execution of the contract or where several activities requiring compensation have taken place and irrespective of whether other participants have acted with intent.

(6) In cases where a formal auditor's report is issued, the applicable limitation period shall commence no later than at the time the said auditor's report was issued.

(7) If activities are carried out by enlisting the services of a third party, e.g. a data-processing company, any warranty claims and claims for damages which arise against the third party according to law and contract shall be deemed as having been passed on to the client once the client has been informed of them. Item 4. (3) notwithstanding, in such a case the contractor shall only be liable for fault in choosing the third party.

(8) The contractor's liability to third parties is excluded in any case. If third parties come into contact with the contractor's work in any manner due to the client, the client shall expressly clarify this fact to them. Insofar as such exclusion of liability is not legally permissible or a liability to third parties has been assumed by the contractor in exceptional cases, these limitations of liability shall in any case also apply to third parties on a subsidiary basis. In any case, a third party cannot raise any claims that go beyond any claim raised by the client. The maximum sum of liability shall be valid only once for all parties injured, including the compensation claims of the client, even if several persons (the client and a third party or several third parties) have sustained losses; the claims of the parties injured shall be satisfied in the order in which the claims have been raised. The client will indemnify and hold harmless the contractor and his/her staff against any claims by third parties in connection with professional statements made orally or in writing by the contractor and passed on to these third parties.

(9) Item 7. shall also apply to any of the client's liability claims to third parties (performing agents and vicarious agents of the contractor) and to substitutes of the contractor relating to the contractual relationship.

8. Secrecy, Data Protection

(1) According to Section 80 WTBG 2017 the contractor shall be obliged to maintain secrecy in all matters that become known to him/her in connection with his/her work for the client, unless the client releases him/her from this duty or he/she is bound by law to deliver a statement.

(2) Insofar as it is necessary to pursue the contractor's claims (particularly claims for fees) or to dispute claims against the contractor (particularly claims for damages raised by the client or third parties against the contractor), the contractor shall be released from his/her professional obligation to maintain secrecy.

(3) The contractor shall be permitted to hand on reports, expert opinions and other written statements pertaining to the results of his/her services to third parties only with the permission of the client, unless he/she is required to do so by law.

(4) The contractor is a data protection controller within the meaning of the General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR") with regard to all personal data processed under the contract. The contractor is thus authorized to process personal data entrusted to him/her within the limits of the contract. The material made available to the contractor (paper and data carriers) shall generally be handed to the client or to third parties appointed by the client after the respective rendering of services has been completed, or be kept and destroyed by the contractor if so agreed. The contractor is authorized to keep copies thereof insofar as he/she needs them to appropriately document his/her services or insofar as it is required by law or customary in the profession.

(5) If the contractor supports the client in fulfilling his/her duties to the data subjects arising from the client's function as data protection controller, the contractor shall be entitled to charge the client for the actual efforts undertaken. The same shall apply to efforts undertaken for information with regard to the contractual relationship which is provided to third parties after having been released from the obligation to maintain secrecy to third parties by the client.

9. Withdrawal and Cancellation („Termination“)

(1) The notice of termination of a contract shall be issued in writing (see also Item 4. (4) and (5)). The expiry of an existing power of attorney shall not result in a termination of the contract.

(2) Unless otherwise agreed in writing or stipulated by force of law, either contractual partner shall have the right to terminate the contract at any time with immediate effect. The fee shall be calculated according to Item 11.

(3) However, a continuing agreement (fixed-term or open-ended contract on – even if not exclusively – the rendering of repeated individual services, also with a flat fee) may, without good reason, only be terminated at the end of the calendar month by observing a period of notice of three months, unless otherwise agreed in writing.

(4) After notice of termination of a continuing agreement and unless otherwise stipulated in the following, only those individual tasks shall still be completed by the contractor (list of assignments to be completed) that can (generally) be completed fully within the period of notice insofar as the client is notified in writing within one month after commencement of the termination notice period within the meaning of Item 4. (2). The list of assignments to be completed shall be completed within the termination period if all documents required are provided without delay and if no good reason exists that impedes completion.

(5) Should it happen that in case of a continuing agreement more than two similar assignments which are usually completed only once a year (e.g. financial statements, annual tax returns, etc.) are to be completed, any assignments exceeding this number shall be regarded as assignments to be completed only with the client's explicit consent. If applicable, the client shall be informed of this explicitly in the statement pursuant to Item 9. (4).

10. Termination in Case of Default in Acceptance and Failure to Cooperate on the Part of the Client and Legal Impediments to Execution

(1) If the client defaults on acceptance of the services rendered by the contractor or fails to carry out a task incumbent on him/her either according to Item 2. or imposed on him/her in another way, the contractor shall have the right to terminate the contract without prior notice. The same shall apply if the client requests a way to execute (also partially) the contract that the contractor reasonably believes is not in compliance with the legal situation or professional principles. His/her fees shall be calculated according to Item 11. Default in acceptance or failure to cooperate on the part of the client shall also justify a claim for compensation made by the contractor for the extra time and labor hereby expended as well as for the damage caused, if the contractor does not invoke his/her right to terminate the contract.

(2) For contracts concerning bookkeeping, payroll accounting and administration and assessment of payroll-related taxes and contributions, a termination without prior notice by the contractor is permissible under Item 10. (1) if the client verifiably fails to cooperate twice as laid down in Item 2. (1).

11. Entitlement to Fee

(1) If the contract fails to be executed (e.g. due to withdrawal or cancellation), the contractor shall be entitled to the negotiated compensation (fee), provided he/she was prepared to render the services and was prevented from so doing by circumstances caused by the client, whereby a merely contributory negligence by the contractor in this respect shall be excluded; in this case the contractor need not take into account the amount he/she obtained or failed to obtain through alternative use of his/her own professional services or those of his/her staff.

(2) If a continuing agreement is terminated, the negotiated compensation for the list of assignments to be completed shall be due upon completion or in case completion fails due to reasons attributable to the client (reference is made to Item 11. (1)). Any flat fees negotiated shall be calculated according to the services rendered up to this point.

(3) If the client fails to cooperate and the assignment cannot be carried out as a result, the contractor shall also have the right to set a reasonable grace period on the understanding that, if this grace period expires without results, the contract shall be deemed ineffective and the consequences indicated in Item 11. (1) shall apply.

(4) If the termination notice period under Item 9. (3) is not observed by the client as well as if the contract is terminated by the contractor in accordance with Item 10. (2), the contractor shall retain his/her right to receive the full fee for three months.

12. Fee

(1) Unless the parties explicitly agreed that the services would be rendered free of charge, an appropriate remuneration in accordance with Sections 1004 and 1152 ABGB is due in any case. Amount and type of the entitlement to the fee are laid down in the agreement negotiated between the contractor and his/her client. Unless a different agreement has verifiably been reached, payments made by the client shall in all cases be credited against the oldest debt.

(2) The smallest service unit which may be charged is a quarter of an hour.

(3) Travel time to the extent required is also charged.

(4) Study of documents which, in terms of their nature and extent, may prove necessary for preparation of the contractor in his/her own office may also be charged as a special item.

(5) Should a remuneration already agreed upon prove inadequate as a result of the subsequent occurrence of special circumstances or due to special requirements of the client, the contractor shall notify the client thereof and additional negotiations for the agreement of a more suitable remuneration shall take place (also in case of inadequate flat fees).

(6) The contractor includes charges for supplementary costs and VAT in addition to the above, including but not limited to the following (7) to (9):

(7) Chargeable supplementary costs also include documented or flat-rate cash expenses, traveling expenses (first class for train journeys), per diems, mileage allowance, copying costs and similar supplementary costs.

(8) Should particular third party liabilities be involved, the corresponding insurance premiums (including insurance tax) also count as supplementary costs.

(9) Personnel and material expenses for the preparation of reports, expert opinions and similar documents are also viewed as supplementary costs.

(10) For the execution of a contract wherein joint completion involves several contractors, each of them will charge his/her own compensation.

(11) In the absence of any other agreements, compensation and advance payments are due immediately after they have been requested in writing. Where payments of compensation are made later than 14 days after the due date, default interest may be charged. Where mutual business transactions are concerned, a default interest rate at the amount stipulated in Section 456 1st and 2nd Sentence UGB shall apply.

(12) Statutory limitation is in accordance with Section 1486 of ABGB, with the period beginning at the time the service has been completed or upon the issuing of the bill within an appropriate time limit at a later point.

(13) An objection may be raised in writing against bills presented by the contractor within 4 weeks after the date of the bill. Otherwise the bill is considered as accepted. Filing of a bill in the accounting system of the recipient is also considered as acceptance.

(14) Application of Section 934 ABGB within the meaning of Section 351 UGB, i.e. rescission for *laesio enormis* (lesion beyond moiety) among entrepreneurs, is hereby renounced.

(15) If a flat fee has been negotiated for contracts concerning bookkeeping, payroll accounting and administration and assessment of payroll-related taxes and contributions, in the absence of written agreements to the contrary, representation in matters concerning all types of tax audits and audits of payroll-related taxes and social security contributions including settlements concerning tax assessments and the basis for contributions, preparation of reports, appeals and the like shall be invoiced separately. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing, the fee shall be considered agreed upon for one year at a time.

(16) Particular individual services in connection with the services mentioned in Item 12. (15), in particular ascertaining whether the requirements for statutory social security contributions are met, shall be dealt with only on the basis of a specific contract.

(17) The contractor shall have the right to ask for advance payments and can make delivery of the results of his/her (continued) work dependent on satisfactory fulfillment of his/her demands. As regards continuing agreements, the rendering of further services may be denied until payment of previous services (as well as any advance payments under Sentence 1) has been effected. This shall analogously apply if services are rendered in installments and fee installments are outstanding.

(18) With the exception of obvious essential errors, a complaint concerning the work of the contractor shall not justify even only the partial retention of fees, other compensation, reimbursements and advance payments (remuneration) owed to him/her in accordance with Item 12.

(19) Offsetting the remuneration claims made by the contractor in accordance with Item 12. shall only be permitted if the demands are uncontested and legally valid.

13. Other Provisions

(1) With regard to Item 12. (17), reference shall be made to the legal right of retention (Section 471 ABGB, Section 369 UGB); if the right of retention is wrongfully exercised, the contractor shall generally be liable pursuant to Item 7. or otherwise only up to the outstanding amount of his/her fee.

(2) The client shall not be entitled to receive any working papers and similar documents prepared by the contractor in the course of fulfilling the contract. In the case of contract fulfillment using electronic accounting systems the contractor shall be entitled to delete the data after handing over all data based thereon – which were prepared by the contractor in relation to the contract and which the client is obliged to keep – to the client and/or the succeeding public accountant in a structured, common and machine-readable format. The contractor shall be entitled to an appropriate fee (Item 12. shall apply by analogy) for handing over such data in a structured, common and machine-readable format. If handing over such data in a structured, common and machine-readable format is impossible or unfeasible for special reasons, they may be handed over in the form of a full print-out instead. In such a case, the contractor shall not be entitled to receive a fee.

(3) At the request and expense of the client, the contractor shall hand over all documents received from the client within the scope of his/her activities. However, this shall not apply to correspondence between the contractor and his/her client and to original documents in his/her possession and to documents which are required to be kept in accordance with the legal anti-money laundering provisions applicable to the contractor. The contractor may make copies or duplicates of the documents to be returned to the client. Once such documents have been transferred to the client, the contractor shall be entitled to an appropriate fee (Item 12. shall apply by analogy).

(4) The client shall fetch the documents handed over to the contractor within three months after the work has been completed. If the client fails to do so, the contractor shall have the right to return them to the client at the cost of the client or to charge an appropriate fee (Item 12. shall apply by analogy) if the contractor can prove that he/she has asked the client twice to pick up the documents handed over. The documents may also further be kept by third parties at the expense of the client. Furthermore, the contractor is not liable for any consequences arising from damage, loss or destruction of the documents.

(5) The contractor shall have the right to compensation of any fees that are due by use of any available deposited funds, clearing balances, trust funds or other liquid funds at his/her disposal, even if these funds are explicitly intended for safekeeping, if the client had to have anticipated the counterclaim of the contractor.

(6) To secure an existing or future fee payable, the contractor shall have the right to transfer a balance held by the client with the tax office or another balance held by the client in connection with charges and contributions, to a trust account. In this case the client shall be informed of the transfer. Subsequently, the amount secured may be collected either after agreement has been reached with the client or after enforceability of the fee by execution has been declared.

14. Applicable Law, Place of Performance, Jurisdiction

(1) The contract, its execution and the claims resulting from it shall be exclusively governed by Austrian law, excluding national referral rules.

(2) The place of performance shall be the place of business of the contractor.

(3) In absence of a written agreement stipulating otherwise, the place of jurisdiction is the competent court of the place of performance.

SECTION II

15. Supplementary Provisions for Consumer Transactions

(1) Contracts between public accountants and consumers shall fall under the obligatory provisions of the Austrian Consumer Protection Act (KSChG).

(2) The contractor shall only be liable for the willful and grossly negligent violation of the obligations assumed.

(3) Contrary to the limitation laid down in Item 7. (2), the duty to compensate on the part of the contractor shall not be limited in case of gross negligence.

(4) Item 6. (2) (period for right to correction of errors) and Item 7. (4) (asserting claims for damages within a certain period) shall not apply.

(5) Right of Withdrawal pursuant to Section 3 KSChG:

If the consumer has not made his/her contract statement in the office usually used by the contractor, he/she may withdraw from the contract application or the contract proper. This withdrawal may be declared until the contract has been concluded or within one week after its conclusion; the period commences as soon as a document has been handed over to the consumer which contains at least the name and the address of the contractor as well as instructions on the right to withdraw from the contract, but no earlier than the conclusion of the contract. The consumer shall not have the right to withdraw from the contract

1. if the consumer himself/herself established the business relationship concerning the conclusion of this contract with the contractor or his/her representative,

2. if the conclusion of the contract has not been preceded by any talks between the parties involved or their representatives, or

3. in case of contracts where the mutual services have to be rendered immediately, if the contracts are usually concluded outside the offices of the contractors, and the fee agreed upon does not exceed €15.

In order to become legally effective, the withdrawal shall be declared in writing. It is sufficient if the consumer returns a document that contains his/her contract declaration or that of the contractor to the contractor with a note which indicates that the consumer rejects the conclusion or the maintenance of the contract. It is sufficient if this declaration is dispatched within one week.

If the consumer withdraws from the contract according to Section 3 KSChG,

1. the contractor shall return all benefits received, including all statutory interest, calculated from the day of receipt, and compensate the consumer for all necessary and useful expenses incurred in this matter,

2. the consumer shall pay for the value of the services rendered by the contractor as far as they are of a clear and predominant benefit to him/her.

According to Section 4 (3) KSChG, claims for damages shall remain unaffected.

(6) Cost Estimates according to Section 5 Austrian KSChG:

The consumer shall pay for the preparation of a cost estimate by the contractor in accordance with Section 1170a ABGB only if the consumer has been notified of this payment obligation beforehand.

If the contract is based on a cost estimate prepared by the contractor, its correctness shall be deemed warranted as long as the opposite has not been explicitly declared.

(7) Correction of Errors: Supplement to Item 6.:

If the contractor is obliged under Section 932 ABGB to improve or complement his/her services, he/she shall execute this duty at the place where the matter was transferred. If it is in the interest of the consumer to have the work and the documents transferred by the contractor, the consumer may carry out this transfer at his/her own risk and expense.

(8) Jurisdiction: Shall apply instead of Item 14. (3)

If the domicile or the usual residence of the consumer is within the country or if he/she is employed within the country, in case of an action against him/her according to Sections 88, 89, 93 (2) and 104 (1) Austrian Court Jurisdiction Act (JN), the only competent courts shall be the courts of the districts where the consumer has his/her domicile, usual residence or place of employment.

(9) Contracts on Recurring Services:

(a) Contracts which oblige the contractor to render services and the consumer to effect repeated payments and which have been concluded for an indefinite period or a period exceeding one year may be terminated by the consumer at the end of the first year, and after the first year at the end of every six months, by adhering to a two-month period of notice.

(b) If the total work is regarded as a service that cannot be divided on account of its character, the extent and price of which is determined already at the conclusion of the contract, the first date of termination may be postponed until the second year has expired. In case of such contracts the period of notice may be extended to a maximum of six months.

(c) If the execution of a certain contract indicated in lit. a) requires considerable expenses on the part of the contractor and if he/she informed the consumer about this no later than at the time the contract was concluded, reasonable dates of termination and periods of notice which deviate from lit. a) and b) and which fit the respective circumstances may be agreed.

(d) If the consumer terminates the contract without complying with the period of notice, the termination shall become effective at the next termination date which follows the expiry of the period of notice.