

**Audit Certificate**

**Annual Financial Statements  
for the short financial year  
from 24 June to 31 December 2022**

CERDIOS SE  
Düsseldorf/Germany

Mazars GmbH & Co. KG  
Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft  
Steuerberatungsgesellschaft

115011-001

We have prepared this PDF file at our client's behest.

We would like to draw your attention to the fact, that our report is legally binding only as a signed original.

As only the bound report, signed by us, is the result of our work in accordance with professional standards, we assume no responsibility for the correctness and completeness of this pdf version of our report.

Insofar as this version is made available to third parties, we would like to point out that our liability - to third parties as well - is solely determined by the General Terms of Engagement reproduced in the report.

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**Independent Auditor's Report**

To CERDIOS SE, Düsseldorf

**Audit Opinion**

We have audited the annual financial statements of CERDIOS SE, Düsseldorf, which comprises the balance sheet as at 31 December 2022, the income statement for the short financial year from 24 June to 31 December 2022, notes to the financial statements, including the presentation of the recognition and measurement policies and the cash flow statement for the short financial year from 24 June to 31 December 2022 as well as the statement of changes in equity as at 31 December 2022.

In our opinion, on the basis of the knowledge obtained in the audit, the accompanying annual financial statements comply, in all material respects, with the requirements of German commercial law applicable to business corporations and give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2022 and of its financial performance for the short financial year from 24 June 2022 to 31 December 2022 in compliance with German Legally Required Accounting Principles.

Pursuant to § 322 (3) sent 1 HGB, we declare that our audit has not led to any reservations relating to the legal compliance of the annual financial statements.

**Basis for the Audit Opinion**

We conducted our audit of the annual financial statements in accordance with § 317 HGB and in compliance with German Generally Accepted Standards for Financial Statement Audits promulgated by the Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer [Institute of Public Auditors in Germany] (IDW). Our responsibilities under those requirements and principles are further described in the "Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Annual Financial Statements" section of our auditor's report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the requirements of German commercial and professional law, and we have fulfilled our other German professional responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions on the annual financial statements.

**Responsibilities of the Managing Directors for the Annual Financial Statements**

The managing directors are responsible for the preparation of the annual financial statements that comply, in all material respects, with the requirements of German commercial law applicable to business corporations, and that the annual financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and financial performance of the Company in compliance with German Legally Required Accounting Principles. In addition, the managing directors are responsible for such internal control as they, in accordance with German Legally Required Accounting Principles, have determined necessary to enable the preparation of

annual financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud (i.e., fraudulent financial reporting and misappropriation of assets) or error.

In preparing the annual financial statements, the managing directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. They also have the responsibility for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern. In addition, they are responsible for financial reporting based on the going concern basis of accounting, provided no actual or legal circumstances conflict therewith.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Annual Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, as well as to issue an auditor's report that includes our audit opinions on the annual financial statements.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with § 317 HGB and in compliance with German Generally Accepted Standards for Financial Statement Audits promulgated by the Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer (IDW) will always detect a material misstatement. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these annual financial statements.

We exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the annual financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit of the annual financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an audit opinion on the effectiveness of these systems of the Company.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used by the managing directors and the reasonableness of estimates made by the managing directors and related disclosures.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the managing directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's

ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in the auditor's report to the related disclosures in the annual financial statements, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our respective audit opinions. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to be able to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the annual financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the annual financial statements present the underlying transactions and events in a manner that the annual financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and financial performance of the Company in compliance with German Legally Required Accounting Principles.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Berlin, 13 February 2023

Mazars GmbH & Co. KG  
Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft  
Steuerberatungsgesellschaft

In the original German version signed by:

Udo Heckeler  
Wirtschaftsprüfer  
(German Public Auditor)

David Reinhard  
Wirtschaftsprüfer  
(German Public Auditor)

**CERDIOS SE, Düsseldorf**

**BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 2022**

ASSETS			24.6.2022	EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			24.6.2022
	€	€	€		€	€	€
A. <u>Fixed assets</u>				A. <u>Equity</u>			
Intangible assets		2,281.00	0.00	I. Share capital	250,000.00		250,000.00
				II. Net loss for the year	<u>-65,592.78</u>		0.00
						184,407.22	(250,000.00)
B. <u>Current assets</u>				B. <u>Provisions</u>			
I. Receivables and other assets	639.03		0.00	Other provisions		11,300.00	0.00
II. Bank balances	<u>192,574.18</u>	193,213.21	250,000.00 (250,000.00)				
C. <u>Prepaid expenses</u>		213.01	0.00				
		<u>195,707.22</u>	<u>250,000.00</u>			<u>195,707.22</u>	<u>250,000.00</u>

## CERDIOS SE, Düsseldorf

## I N C O M E   S T A T E M E N T

for the short financial year from 24 June to 31 December 2022

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	€
1. Depreciations	-456.00
2. Other operating expenses	<u>-65,136.78</u>
3. <u>Net result after tax/Net loss for the year</u>	<u><u>-65,592.78</u></u>

**NOTES for the short financial year from  
24 June to 31 December 2022**

CERDIOS SE, Düsseldorf

**I. General information on the annual financial statement**

The financial statement of the CERDIOS SE was prepared based on the accounting rules of the German Commercial Code (Handelsgesetzbuch, HGB).

The provisions of the German Stock Corporation Act (AktG) and the SE-Implementation Act (SEAG) also had to be observed in addition to the above regulations.

Information that can be given either on the balance sheet, in the income statement or in the notes is given entirely in the notes.

For the income statement, the total cost method according to Section 275 para. 2 of the German Commercial Code was chosen.

According to the size categories stated in Section 267 para. 1 and 267a para. 3 No. 3 of the German Commercial Code, the Company is a small corporation. Furthermore, the Company falls below the size classifications given in Section 267a of the German Commercial Code and thus can be classified as a micro corporation.

The Company enhanced its annual financial statements voluntarily by notes, a cash flow statement and a statement of changes in equity from 24 June to 31 December 2022.

When preparing the annual financial statements, partial use were made of the size-related exemptions of Sections 267, 276 and 288 of the German Commercial Code.

The original annual financial statements of the Company were prepared in German and EURO in accordance with Section 244 of the German Commercial Code.

## II. Information identifying the company according to the registry court

Company name according to registry court:	CERDIOS SE
Registered company seat according to registry court:	Düsseldorf
Registry entry:	Handelsregister
Registry court:	Amtsgerichts Düsseldorf
Registry court number:	HRB 97836

## III. Disclosures on accounting policies

### Accounting policies

Purchased intangible assets are capitalized at cost and amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives.

Other assets were recorded at their nominal value or at their lower fair value as at the balance sheet date. Individual risks are taken into account through value adjustments.

The bank balances were recorded at their nominal values.

The other provisions were recognised for all uncertain liabilities in the settlement amount required according to prudent business judgment. All discernible risks were taken into account.

## IV. Balance sheet disclosures

### Disclosures on share classes

The share capital of EUR 250,000.00 is composed of:

Share capital	EUR	
250,000.00 ordinary shares each with a notional value of EUR	1.00	250,000.00

The shares are bearer shares.

### **Disclosures on authorized capital**

The administrative board is authorized to increase the share capital of the Company on one or more occasions by an amount of up to EUR 125,000.00 until 23 June 2027 (Authorized capital 2022/I).

### **Contingent liabilities from off-balance sheet liabilities according to Section 251 of the German Commercial Code**

There were no contingent liabilities within the meaning of Section 251 of the German Commercial Code as at 31 December 2022.

## **V. Other disclosures**

### **Group affiliation**

There is no group affiliation as at 31 December 2022.

### **Average number of employees during the financial year**

No employees have been employed so far.

### **Members of the corporate bodies**

The following person was managing director during the financial year:

- Mr. Martin Schweikhart

The managing director received no payment for his occupation in the reporting period.

The following persons were members of the administrative board during the financial year:

- Mr. Marcel Greubel, Chairman
- Mr. Andreas Schruff, Vice-Chairman
- Mr. Martin Schweikhart, Member

The members of the administrative board did not receive any remuneration for their activities in the reporting period.

**Relations with affiliated companies (Section 312 German Stock Corporation Act (AktG))**

During the reporting period until 31 December 2022, there were no reportable legal transactions within the meaning of Section 312 German Stock Corporation Act (AktG).

**Signature of managing director**

Düsseldorf, 25 January 2023

Martin Schweikhart

## CERDIOS SE, Düsseldorf

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT**  
for the short financial year from 24 June to 31 December 2022

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	€
Net result for the year	-65,592.78
+ Depreciation of fixed assets	456.00
+ Increase in provisions	11,300.00
- Increase in other assets not attributable to investing or financing activities	-852.04
= <u>Cash flow from operating activities</u>	<u>-54,688.82</u>
- Payments for investments in intangible assets/ <u>Change in cash and cash equivalents</u>	<u>-2,737.00</u>
= <u>Net change in cash and cash equivalents</u>	<u>-57,425.82</u>
+ Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of period	<u>250,000.00</u>
= <u>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of period</u>	<u><u>192,574.18</u></u>

## CERDIOS SE, Düsseldorf

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**  
as at 31 December 2022

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	Share Capital	Net loss for the year	Equity
	€	€	€
Equity at time of incorporation (24 June 2022)	250,000.00	0.00	250,000.00
Net result for the year	0.00	-65,592.78	-65,592.78
Balance at 31 December 2022	<u>250,000.00</u>	<u>-65,592.78</u>	<u>184,407.22</u>

# Special Engagement Terms for audits and audit-related services of Mazars GmbH & Co. KG Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft

As of June 1, 2019

## Preamble

These Special Engagement Terms of Mazars GmbH & Co. KG Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft Steuerberatungsgesellschaft ("*Mazars KG*") complement and clarify the General Engagement Terms for Wirtschaftsprüfer and Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaften [German Public Auditors and Public Audit Firms] issued by the Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer e. V. [Institute of German Public Auditors, Incorporated Association] in the version enclosed to the engagement letter/proposal and have priority over the General Engagement Terms issued by the Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer e. V. The Special Engagement Terms apply in a subordinate manner to the engagement letter/proposal. The engagement letter/proposal along with all enclosures form the "*Entire Engagement Terms*".

## A. Supplementary terms for audits of annual financial statements pursuant to § [Article] 317 HGB [German Commercial Code: Handelsgesetzbuch] and comparable audits according to national and international auditing standards

Mazars KG shall perform the audit pursuant to § 317 HGB and with due respect to the German Generally Accepted Auditing Standards ("*GAAS*") [Grundsätze ordnungsgemäßer Abschlussprüfung] as promulgated by the Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer e. V. According to these, Mazars KG shall plan and perform the audit in compliance with the German Principles of Proper Professional Conduct [Grundsätze ordnungsgemäßer Berufsausübung] such that misstatements and violations materially affecting the subject of the audit defined by the engagement letter are identified with reasonable assurance.

Mazars KG shall perform all audit procedures which it considers necessary in the circumstances for a proper assessment and examine in which form the audit opinion provided for in § 322 HGB resp. the GAAS can be issued. Mazars KG shall report on the audit of the subject matter to the extent customary in the profession. In order to determine the nature, time and scope of the individual audit procedures in an appropriate manner, Mazars KG shall, where deemed necessary, audit and assess the accounting-related internal control system, in particular as far as it serves to ensure proper accounting. As is customary for the profession, Mazars KG shall perform the audit procedures on the basis of selected samples, so that there remains an unavoidable risk that even material misstatements may not be identified even though the audit has been carried out in accordance with professional standards. Therefore, e.g. acts of misappropriation and other irregularities will not necessarily be identified by the audit. Mazars KG points out that the objective of the audit is not to detect misappropriations or other irregularities that do not affect the compliance of the subject of the audit with the applicable accounting principles. Should Mazars KG, however, identify such facts during the audit, the Engaging Party ("*Engaging Party*") of Mazars KG shall be informed immediately.

All aforementioned engagement terms regarding objectives and methods of the audit apply to other audits according to national and international auditing standards in analogous manner.

It is the responsibility of the Engaging Party's management to correct material errors in the subject of the audit and to confirm to us in a letter of representation that the impact of any uncorrected errors identified by us during the current engagement are immaterial to the subject of the audit both individually and in the aggregate.

## B. Contractual relationship

Under certain circumstances, Mazars KG may be provided, in the context of the engagement and for safeguarding the Engaging Party's economic interests, with documents directly related to the client and having legal relevance. Mazars KG expressly states that it has neither an obligation to provide legal advice or legal review, nor that this engagement includes general legal advice; therefore, the Engaging Party is obliged to submit any sample formulations provided by Mazars KG in connection with the execution of the engagement to its responsible legal advisor for final legal review. The Engaging Party is responsible for all management decisions in connection with the services of Mazars KG as well as for the use of the results of the services and the decision as to whether the services of Mazars KG are suitable for the Engaging Party's own internal purposes.

## C. Access to information

It is the responsibility of the Engaging Party's management to grant Mazars KG unlimited access to records, documents and other information required for the engagement. The same applies to the submission of additional information (e.g. annual reports, statements regarding the declaration of compliance pursuant to § 161 AktG [German Stock Corporation Act: Aktiengesetz]) which is published by the Engaging Party together with the financial statements and the associated management report, if any. The Engaging Party shall make this information available in due time before the audit opinion is issued or as soon as it is available. All information made available to Mazars KG by the Engaging Party or on behalf of the Engaging Party must be fully complete ("*Engaging Party's Information*").

## D. Consultation of Mazars members and third parties

Mazars KG shall be entitled to subcontract parts of the services to other members of the worldwide Mazars network ("*Mazars members*") or to other service providers who may directly contact the Engaging Party. Irrespective of this, Mazars KG will exclusively be held liable for all results of the engagement, the provision of the services and the other obligations towards the Engaging Party resulting from the engagement letter.

The Engaging Party is therefore not entitled to assert contractual claims or initiate proceedings in connection with the services or on the basis of the engagement letter in general against another Mazars members or its subcontractors, members, shareholders, members of the management board, partners or members of staff ("*Mazars persons*") or Mazars persons of Mazars KG. Consequently, the Engaging Party shall be obliged to assert contractual claims or initiate proceedings exclusively against Mazars KG. Mazars members and Mazars personnel are entitled to refer to this provision.

In accordance with applicable law, Mazars KG shall be entitled for the purpose of

- (a) the provision of the services of Mazars KG,
- (b) compliance with professional standards as well as with regulatory requirements,
- (c) the identification of potential conflicts of interest,
- (d) risk management and quality assurance,
- (e) internal accounting as well as the provision of other administrative or IT support services

(letters (a) – (e) hereinafter referred to as "*processing purposes*") to disclose the Engaging Party's Information to other Mazars members, Mazars persons and to external service providers of Mazars KG, ("*Service Providers*") who are allowed to collect, use, transmit, save or process data otherwise (hereinafter referred to as "*to process*") in the various jurisdictions in which they operate. An overview of the locations of all Mazars members is available at [www.mazars.com](http://www.mazars.com).

Mazars KG shall be held liable towards the Engaging Party for assuring confidentiality of Engaging Party's Information, irrespective of who processes this information on behalf of Mazars KG.

#### **E. Oral information**

If the Engaging Party intends to make a decision or any other economic disposition on the basis of orally given information and/or advice by Mazars KG to the Engaging Party, the Engaging Party is obliged either (a) to inform Mazars KG in a timely manner prior to such a decision and to ask Mazars KG to confirm in writing the Engaging Party's understanding of such information and/or advice or (b) with regard to the above-mentioned risk of such orally given information and/or advice to make the decision at its own discretion and under its sole responsibility.

#### **F. Draft versions of Mazars KG**

The draft versions of the working results are only for internal purposes of Mazars KG and/or for the coordination with the Engaging Party and therefore represent only a preliminary stage of the working results and are neither final nor binding and require further review. Mazars KG is not obliged to update the final working result with regard to circumstances which have come to its knowledge or which occur after the time of completion of the work stated in the working result or in absence of such a deadline since the delivery of the working result.

This shall not apply if Mazars KG is obliged to do so due to the nature of the services.

#### **G. Indemnity and liability**

The Engaging Party is obliged to indemnify Mazars KG from all claims by third parties (including affiliated companies) as well as from any resulting obligations, damages, costs and expenses (in particular reasonable external lawyer's fees) resulting from the use of the working results by third parties, insofar the working results have been transferred directly or indirectly by the Engaging Party or at its instigation. This obligation does not exist to the extent Mazars KG has expressly agreed in writing that the third party may rely on the working result.

Regarding the liability for the underlying contractual relationship, number 9 of the General Engagement Terms as well as the statutory limitation of liability pursuant to § 323 Abs. 2 [paragraph 2] HGB shall apply. Should claims arise in connection with the contractual relationship from ancillary services relating to the statutory or voluntary audit or other audit services provided by us, our liability for such ancillary services is limited to € 4 million.

#### **H. Electronic data transmission (e-mails)**

The parties are allowed to use electronic media for the exchange and transmission of information and this form of communication as such does not constitute a breach of any confidentiality obligations. The parties are aware that the electronic transmission of information (especially via e-mail) involves risks (e.g. unauthorized access by third parties).

Any amendments to the documents transmitted via electronic media by Mazars KG as well as the disclosure of these documents to third parties via electronic media require the written consent of Mazars KG.

The transfer of personal data is subject to the data protection regulations of Mazars, which are available at [www.eng.mazars.de/Data-protection](http://www.eng.mazars.de/Data-protection). Mazars KG processes personal data in accordance with the applicable law und professional regulations, in particular in compliance with the German Federal Data Protection Act [Bundesdatenschutzgesetz (BDSG)] and the European data protection regulations. Mazars KG obliges data service providers who process personal data on behalf of Mazars KG to also abide by these regulations.

#### **I. Letter of representation**

The letter of representation requested by Mazars KG from the Engaging Party's management may also include the confirmation that the impact of uncorrected false information in the subject of the audit, summarized in an appendix to the representation letter, are immaterial both individually and in the aggregate.

#### **J. Scope of application**

The regulations contained in the Entire Engagement Terms, including the liability regulation, also apply to all future engagements placed by the Engaging Party accordingly, unless separate agreements have been made or defined in a framework agreement or unless national or foreign statutory or regulatory requirements which are binding for Mazars KG are opposed to individual regulations in favor of the Engaging Party.

For the services provided by Mazars KG the terms of the Entire Engagement Terms apply exclusively; other terms do not become terms of the agreement if the Engaging Party has not agreed these with Mazars KG in detail expressly in writing. General conditions of purchase, to which reference is made in the context of automated orders, shall not apply, even if Mazars KG does not expressly object to them or if Mazars KG starts to provide the services without reservation.

#### **K. Applicable law / Place of jurisdiction**

The professional standards developed and adopted by the relevant German professional organisations (Wirtschaftsprüferkammer [Chamber of Public Accountants], Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer e. V., Steuerberaterkammer [Chamber of Tax Consultants]) are decisive for the performance of the engagement insofar as they are applicable to the engagement in the individual case.

This contractual relationship and all non-contractual issues or obligations resulting from this contractual relationship or from the provision of services agreed therein shall be governed by German law.

The exclusive place of jurisdiction for all legal disputes arising in connection with the engagement or services provided thereunder shall be the respective location of the contracting branch office or, at the discretion of Mazars KG, (i) the court at which the branch office of Mazars KG primarily responsible for providing the services has its registered office or (ii) the courts at the location at which the Engaging Party has its registered office.

#### **L. Data Protection**

For the processing purposes listed under letter D, Mazars KG and other Mazars persons or Service Providers are entitled to process the Engaging Party's Information that can be attributed to specific persons ("*personal data*") in the various jurisdictions in which they operate.

# General Engagement Terms

for

## Wirtschaftsprüfer and Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaften

[German Public Auditors and Public Audit Firms]

as of January 1, 2017

### 1. Scope of application

(1) These engagement terms apply to contracts between German Public Auditors (*Wirtschaftsprüfer*) or German Public Audit Firms (*Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaften*) – hereinafter collectively referred to as "German Public Auditors" – and their engaging parties for assurance services, tax advisory services, advice on business matters and other engagements except as otherwise agreed in writing or prescribed by a mandatory rule.

(2) Third parties may derive claims from contracts between German Public Auditors and engaging parties only when this is expressly agreed or results from mandatory rules prescribed by law. In relation to such claims, these engagement terms also apply to these third parties.

### 2. Scope and execution of the engagement

(1) Object of the engagement is the agreed service – not a particular economic result. The engagement will be performed in accordance with the German Principles of Proper Professional Conduct (*Grundsätze ordnungsmäßiger Berufsausübung*). The German Public Auditor does not assume any management functions in connection with his services. The German Public Auditor is not responsible for the use or implementation of the results of his services. The German Public Auditor is entitled to make use of competent persons to conduct the engagement.

(2) Except for assurance engagements (*betriebswirtschaftliche Prüfungen*), the consideration of foreign law requires an express written agreement.

(3) If circumstances or the legal situation change subsequent to the release of the final professional statement, the German Public Auditor is not obligated to refer the engaging party to changes or any consequences resulting therefrom.

### 3. The obligations of the engaging party to cooperate

(1) The engaging party shall ensure that all documents and further information necessary for the performance of the engagement are provided to the German Public Auditor on a timely basis, and that he is informed of all events and circumstances that may be of significance to the performance of the engagement. This also applies to those documents and further information, events and circumstances that first become known during the German Public Auditor's work. The engaging party will also designate suitable persons to provide information.

(2) Upon the request of the German Public Auditor, the engaging party shall confirm the completeness of the documents and further information provided as well as the explanations and statements, in a written statement drafted by the German Public Auditor.

### 4. Ensuring independence

(1) The engaging party shall refrain from anything that endangers the independence of the German Public Auditor's staff. This applies throughout the term of the engagement, and in particular to offers of employment or to assume an executive or non-executive role, and to offers to accept engagements on their own behalf.

(2) Were the performance of the engagement to impair the independence of the German Public Auditor, of related firms, firms within his network, or such firms associated with him, to which the independence requirements apply in the same way as to the German Public Auditor in other engagement relationships, the German Public Auditor is entitled to terminate the engagement for good cause.

### 5. Reporting and oral information

To the extent that the German Public Auditor is required to present results in writing as part of the work in executing the engagement, only that written work is authoritative. Drafts are non-binding. Except as otherwise agreed, oral statements and explanations by the German Public Auditor are binding only when they are confirmed in writing. Statements and information of the German Public Auditor outside of the engagement are always non-binding.

### 6. Distribution of a German Public Auditor's professional statement

(1) The distribution to a third party of professional statements of the German Public Auditor (results of work or extracts of the results of work whether in draft or in a final version) or information about the German Public Auditor acting for the engaging party requires the German Public Auditor's written consent, unless the engaging party is obligated to distribute or inform due to law or a regulatory requirement.

(2) The use by the engaging party for promotional purposes of the German Public Auditor's professional statements and of information about the German Public Auditor acting for the engaging party is prohibited.

### 7. Deficiency rectification

(1) In case there are any deficiencies, the engaging party is entitled to specific subsequent performance by the German Public Auditor. The engaging party may reduce the fees or cancel the contract for failure of such subsequent performance, for subsequent non-performance or unjustified refusal to perform subsequently, or for unconscionability or impossibility of subsequent performance. If the engagement was not commissioned by a consumer, the engaging party may only cancel the contract due to a deficiency if the service rendered is not relevant to him due to failure of subsequent performance, to subsequent non-performance, to unconscionability or impossibility of subsequent performance. No. 9 applies to the extent that further claims for damages exist.

(2) The engaging party must assert a claim for the rectification of deficiencies in writing (*Textform*) [Translators Note: *The German term "Textform" means in written form, but without requiring a signature*] without delay. Claims pursuant to paragraph 1 not arising from an intentional act expire after one year subsequent to the commencement of the time limit under the statute of limitations.

(3) Apparent deficiencies, such as clerical errors, arithmetical errors and deficiencies associated with technicalities contained in a German Public Auditor's professional statement (long-form reports, expert opinions etc.) may be corrected – also versus third parties – by the German Public Auditor at any time. Misstatements which may call into question the results contained in a German Public Auditor's professional statement entitle the German Public Auditor to withdraw such statement – also versus third parties. In such cases the German Public Auditor should first hear the engaging party, if practicable.

### 8. Confidentiality towards third parties, and data protection

(1) Pursuant to the law (§ [Article] 323 Abs 1 [paragraph 1] HGB [German Commercial Code: *Handelsgesetzbuch*], § 43 WPO [German Law regulating the Profession of *Wirtschaftsprüfer*: *Wirtschaftsprüferordnung*], § 203 StGB [German Criminal Code: *Strafgesetzbuch*]) the German Public Auditor is obligated to maintain confidentiality regarding facts and circumstances confided to him or of which he becomes aware in the course of his professional work, unless the engaging party releases him from this confidentiality obligation.

(2) When processing personal data, the German Public Auditor will observe national and European legal provisions on data protection.

### 9. Liability

(1) For legally required services by German Public Auditors, in particular audits, the respective legal limitations of liability, in particular the limitation of liability pursuant to § 323 Abs. 2 HGB, apply.

(2) Insofar neither a statutory limitation of liability is applicable, nor an individual contractual limitation of liability exists, the liability of the German Public Auditor for claims for damages of any other kind, except for damages resulting from injury to life, body or health as well as for damages that constitute a duty of replacement by a producer pursuant to § 1 ProdHaftG [German Product Liability Act: *Produkthaftungsgesetz*], for an individual case of damages caused by negligence is limited to € 4 million pursuant to § 54 a Abs. 1 Nr. 2 WPO.

(3) The German Public Auditor is entitled to invoke demurs and defenses based on the contractual relationship with the engaging party also towards third parties.

(4) When multiple claimants assert a claim for damages arising from an existing contractual relationship with the German Public Auditor due to the German Public Auditor's negligent breach of duty, the maximum amount stipulated in paragraph 2 applies to the respective claims of all claimants collectively.

(5) An individual case of damages within the meaning of paragraph 2 also exists in relation to a uniform damage arising from a number of breaches of duty. The individual case of damages encompasses all consequences from a breach of duty regardless of whether the damages occurred in one year or in a number of successive years. In this case, multiple acts or omissions based on the same source of error or on a source of error of an equivalent nature are deemed to be a single breach of duty if the matters in question are legally or economically connected to one another. In this event the claim against the German Public Auditor is limited to € 5 million. The limitation to the fivefold of the minimum amount insured does not apply to compulsory audits required by law.

(6) A claim for damages expires if a suit is not filed within six months subsequent to the written refusal of acceptance of the indemnity and the engaging party has been informed of this consequence. This does not apply to claims for damages resulting from scienter, a culpable injury to life, body or health as well as for damages that constitute a liability for replacement by a producer pursuant to § 1 ProdHaftG. The right to invoke a plea of the statute of limitations remains unaffected.

## 10. Supplementary provisions for audit engagements

(1) If the engaging party subsequently amends the financial statements or management report audited by a German Public Auditor and accompanied by an auditor's report, he may no longer use this auditor's report.

If the German Public Auditor has not issued an auditor's report, a reference to the audit conducted by the German Public Auditor in the management report or any other public reference is permitted only with the German Public Auditor's written consent and with a wording authorized by him.

(2) If the German Public Auditor revokes the auditor's report, it may no longer be used. If the engaging party has already made use of the auditor's report, then upon the request of the German Public Auditor he must give notification of the revocation.

(3) The engaging party has a right to five official copies of the report. Additional official copies will be charged separately.

## 11. Supplementary provisions for assistance in tax matters

(1) When advising on an individual tax issue as well as when providing ongoing tax advice, the German Public Auditor is entitled to use as a correct and complete basis the facts provided by the engaging party – especially numerical disclosures; this also applies to bookkeeping engagements. Nevertheless, he is obligated to indicate to the engaging party any errors he has identified.

(2) The tax advisory engagement does not encompass procedures required to observe deadlines, unless the German Public Auditor has explicitly accepted a corresponding engagement. In this case the engaging party must provide the German Public Auditor with all documents required to observe deadlines – in particular tax assessments – on such a timely basis that the German Public Auditor has an appropriate lead time.

(3) Except as agreed otherwise in writing, ongoing tax advice encompasses the following work during the contract period:

- a) preparation of annual tax returns for income tax, corporate tax and business tax, as well as wealth tax returns, namely on the basis of the annual financial statements, and on other schedules and evidence documents required for the taxation, to be provided by the engaging party
- b) examination of tax assessments in relation to the taxes referred to in (a)
- c) negotiations with tax authorities in connection with the returns and assessments mentioned in (a) and (b)
- d) support in tax audits and evaluation of the results of tax audits with respect to the taxes referred to in (a)
- e) participation in petition or protest and appeal procedures with respect to the taxes mentioned in (a).

In the aforementioned tasks the German Public Auditor takes into account material published legal decisions and administrative interpretations.

(4) If the German Public auditor receives a fixed fee for ongoing tax advice, the work mentioned under paragraph 3 (d) and (e) is to be remunerated separately, except as agreed otherwise in writing.

(5) Insofar the German Public Auditor is also a German Tax Advisor and the German Tax Advice Remuneration Regulation (*Steuerberatungsvergütungsverordnung*) is to be applied to calculate the remuneration, a greater or lesser remuneration than the legal default remuneration can be agreed in writing (*Textform*).

(6) Work relating to special individual issues for income tax, corporate tax, business tax, valuation assessments for property units, wealth tax, as well as all issues in relation to sales tax, payroll tax, other taxes and dues requires a separate engagement. This also applies to:

- a) work on non-recurring tax matters, e.g. in the field of estate tax, capital transactions tax, and real estate sales tax;
- b) support and representation in proceedings before tax and administrative courts and in criminal tax matters;
- c) advisory work and work related to expert opinions in connection with changes in legal form and other re-organizations, capital increases and reductions, insolvency related business reorganizations, admission and retirement of owners, sale of a business, liquidations and the like, and
- d) support in complying with disclosure and documentation obligations.

(7) To the extent that the preparation of the annual sales tax return is undertaken as additional work, this includes neither the review of any special accounting prerequisites nor the issue as to whether all potential sales tax allowances have been identified. No guarantee is given for the complete compilation of documents to claim the input tax credit.

## 12. Electronic communication

Communication between the German Public Auditor and the engaging party may be via e-mail. In the event that the engaging party does not wish to communicate via e-mail or sets special security requirements, such as the encryption of e-mails, the engaging party will inform the German Public Auditor in writing (*Textform*) accordingly.

## 13. Remuneration

(1) In addition to his claims for fees, the German Public Auditor is entitled to claim reimbursement of his expenses; sales tax will be billed additionally. He may claim appropriate advances on remuneration and reimbursement of expenses and may make the delivery of his services dependent upon the complete satisfaction of his claims. Multiple engaging parties are jointly and severally liable.

(2) If the engaging party is not a consumer, then a set-off against the German Public Auditor's claims for remuneration and reimbursement of expenses is admissible only for undisputed claims or claims determined to be legally binding.

## 14. Dispute Settlement

The German Public Auditor is not prepared to participate in dispute settlement procedures before a consumer arbitration board (*Verbraucherschlichtungsstelle*) within the meaning of § 2 of the German Act on Consumer Dispute Settlements (*Verbraucherstreitbeilegungsgesetz*).

## 15. Applicable law

The contract, the performance of the services and all claims resulting therefrom are exclusively governed by German law.