


Section B

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Reserve d for the Monitor Belgian

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Graft

Bijlagen bij het Belgisch Staatsblad - 07/07/2023 - Annexes to the Moniteur belge

Company no.: 0632880260

Name

(in full): **nb-rail association**
(abbreviated) :

Legal status: International non-profit association

Full head office address Rue Joseph Stevens 7
1000 Brussels

Purpose of the deed : MISCELLANEOUS, ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION (TRANSLATION, COORDINATION, OTHER MODIFICATIONS)

The minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting of shareholders drawn up by Maître David INDEKEU, Notary in Brussels, on 20 June 2023, show the following:

xxxxx

RESOLUTION.

The General Meeting resolves to amend and recast the Articles of Association to bring them into line with the Companies and Associations Code, as follows:

1. 1 The Association - Form - Name - Registered office

1. The Association takes the form of an international not-for-profit association governed by the provisions of Book 10 of the Companies and Associations Code relating to international not-for-profit associations (hereinafter the "Code").

2. The name of the association is "Association NB-Rail". In the Articles of Association, the "NB-Rail Association" is also referred to as the "Association". Article 2.3 explains the distinction with Groupe de Coordination NB-Rail. "NB-Rail" refers collectively to the NB-Rail Association and Groupe de Coordination NB-Rail.

3. All acts, notes, announcements, publications and other documents drawn up by the Association shall mention its name, which shall be immediately preceded or followed by the words The name of the association must include the initials "association internationale sans but lucratif" or the initials "AISBL" and the address of its registered office.

4. The registered office of the Association is established in Belgium, in the Brussels-Capital region. This registered office may be transferred to any other place in Belgium by simple decision of the Permanent Bureau in compliance with the legislation on the use of languages. This decision must then be notified to the clerk of the company's court and published in the annexes to the Moniteur belge.

2. 2 Basic principles

The constitution of the NB-Rail Association is based on the following elements:

1. The main decision of plenary meeting No. 42 of 15 October 2014 and the formal decision of plenary meeting No. 43 of 25 February 2015 establishing NB Rail as an association.

2. Directive (EU) 2016/797 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the interoperability of the rail system within the Community (DIO).

3. On the basis of the above-mentioned directive (DIO), a Coordination Group of Notified Bodies has already been set up by the Commission (hereinafter referred to as the NB-Rail Coordination Group), whose first meeting was held on 8 December 2000. Since then, the NB-Rail Coordination Group has worked to create coordination and uniformity between notified bodies.

4. Directive (EU) 2016/798 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on railway safety (DS).

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Regulation (EU) 2019/779 laying down detailed provisions concerning a system of certification of entities responsible for the maintenance of vehicles in accordance with Directive (EU) 2016/798 (ECE Regulation).

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5. On the basis of the previous version of the ECE Regulation, i.e. Regulation (EU) 445/2011, a Cooperation of ECE Certification Bodies has already been set up by the Agency (hereinafter referred to as the ECM-CB Cooperation), the first meeting of which was held on 29 February 2012.

6. Commission Regulation (EU) 402/2013 on the common safety method for the evolution and assessment of risks (MSC-AR Regulation)

Although not provided for in the MSC-RA Regulation, the Agency (ERA) facilitates the cooperation of inspection bodies by organising cooperation between them (hereinafter referred to as AsBo Cooperation), the first meeting of which was held on 21 September 2017.

1. 3 Objectives

1. The Association was initially set up to support and supplement the activities of Groupe de Coordination NB-Rail through activities not prescribed by law in the basic principles mentioned.

Subsequently, taking into account the certification and inspection activities arising from the ECE and MSC-RA regulations respectively, the Association extended its field of activity to defending the interests of third-party conformity assessment bodies in the rail sector.

1. Here are its detailed objectives:

1. Close cooperation with :
 - European institutions (EC_DG-MOVE, ERA, ER-JU, EA, etc.),
 - intergovernmental institutions (OTIF),
 - professional rail organisations and associations also recognised as representative of the sector (grbrail.eu),
 - European standards bodies (CEN, CENELEC, ETSI, etc.) and sectoral standards bodies (UNISIG, UIC, etc.)
 - the European Parliament and the Council and their representatives ;

1. encourage cooperation and coordination between conformity assessment bodies in the rail sector, with the aim of harmonising assessment and certification procedures;

2. to make proposals and ensure the coordination and implementation of studies and scientific research in order to improve the quality, effective operation and efficiency of third-party conformity assessment certification;

3. ensure coordination in the field of standardisation of the mechanism for assessing competence on the basis of accreditation, or recognition where appropriate, of conformity assessment bodies in the rail sector;

4. championing the added value of third-party conformity assessment bodies in the rail sector, verifying the interoperability and safety of products, processes and management systems;

5. facilitate access to NB-Rail public documents via a web page;

6. fully support the rail sector in order to gain the best possible competitive advantage over other modes of transport.

1. While working directly or indirectly to achieve its objectives, the Association may purchase movable or immovable assets, assume contractual commitments, accept donations in accordance with the law, sell assets, create liens on its assets or encumber them with rights in favour of third parties, create mortgages on its assets or transfer them, in compliance with the provisions of the law, these Articles of Association and any subsequent amendments.

2. For the avoidance of doubt, references to the Association's activities in Europe and its objectives in relation to the rail networks of the European Member States shall be deemed to extend to the rail networks of the European Member States of the European Economic Area.

3. In accordance with the Law, the objectives of the Association may subsequently be extended to other activities relating to assessments carried out in the railway sector, subject to the approval of the General Meeting. In addition, if appropriate, the geographical scope may be extended.

1. 4

MEMBERSHIP

1. The members of the Association are made up of Permanent Members, Partial Members and Honorary Members, all collectively referred to as the Members.

1. Permanent members :

- Notified Bodies and/or Designated Bodies under Directive (EU) 2016/797,

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and/or

certification bodies under the ECE Regulation; and/or third-party inspection bodies under the MSC-AR regulation and have paid the annual subscription (article 5.10). In particular cases where this obligation is not fulfilled and if it is in the interest of the Association, the General Assembly shall decide whether or not to grant Permanent Membership. Related companies with more than one third party conformity assessment body in the railway sector shall apply for Permanent Membership for each of these bodies;

2. Partial members :

Third-party conformity assessment bodies meeting the requirements for Permanent Membership (article 4.1.a), and which have not paid the annual subscription.

3. Honorary Members :

All individuals who, by virtue of the work they carry out on behalf of NB-Rail, have made an outstanding contribution to the achievement of its objectives. The General Meeting will be responsible for appointing Honorary Members in accordance with any proposals submitted by the Chairman, taking into account their integrity, independence and impartiality.

ADMISSION

1. The admission of Members is subject to the following conditions:

1. submitting a written request to the General Meeting;
2. acceptance of the articles and conditions of the Articles of Association and any subsequent amendments. Loss of Member status: RESIGNATION - EXCLUSION

1. Members of any category wishing to resign from the Association must inform the President, one or both of the Vice-Presidents, in writing. The President shall record the resignation without prejudice to the rights enjoyed by the Association in respect of the resigning Member and shall inform the General Meeting thereof at its next meeting.

2. Any Permanent Member who no longer fulfils the conditions stipulated in Article 5 (and more particularly Article 5.10) shall automatically be deemed to have resigned as a Permanent Member and shall become a Partial Member.

3. The exclusion of a Member who has damaged the interests of the Association may be recommended by the Members and decided by the General Meeting after the Member has been offered the opportunity to defend himself, and shall be decided by the General Meeting by a two-thirds majority of the votes validly cast.

Proposals for exclusion must be sent in writing to the Chairman at least forty-five days before the General Meeting and to all Members at least thirty days before the General Meeting in question.

1. Any Member whose exclusion is under consideration may not vote. Any decision to exclude a Member shall be notified to that Member.

2. Members who resign or have been expelled, the beneficiaries of their acts and their creditors have no right to the Association's assets, nor are they entitled to reimbursement of their membership fees.

1. 5 Members' rights and obligations

1. Only Permanent Members have access to all documents drawn up by the Association, such as reports, recommendations, studies, research findings, etc., as well as to all information relating to contracts concluded by the Association's decision-making bodies.

2. Only Full Members and Honorary Members are admitted to the General Meeting. At the discretion of the Chairman, a part-member may be invited to attend a General Meeting as an observer.

3. Each Permanent Member has the following rights:

1. participation in all activities necessary to achieve the Association's official purpose;
2. access to all benefits and allowances granted to the Association, in accordance with the procedures and criteria defined by the Association.

1. Each Member must contribute to the reputation of the Association and ensure that the Articles of Association and the decisions adopted by the General Meeting are respected.

2. The representative of each Member must comply with the internal operating rules.

3. Partial Members have limited access to Association documents or activities. These access rights will be defined in detail in the internal operating rules.

VOTING RIGHTS

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1. Only Permanent Members are entitled to vote at a General Meeting.
2. Each Permanent Member has one (1) vote.
3. A Permanent Member who is more than one month in arrears with the payment of his membership fee (i.e. who has not paid it by 1st April of the current year) as set out in Article 5.10, shall be deemed to have resigned as a Permanent Member under the conditions set out in Article 4.4, and shall therefore not be entitled to vote.

CONTRIBUTIONS

1. Each Member must pay its subscription on the basis of the subscription payment request sent on behalf of the Board of Directors. Members are requested to pay their subscription at the latest within one month of receipt of the request for payment. All subscriptions must be paid at the latest by the Ordinary General Meeting in June.

2. In accordance with the general terms and conditions proposed by the Permanent Bureau, the General Meeting has the power to determine the annual membership fee and to introduce certain registration fees.

3. The annual fee is payable in euros (EUR).

1.6 General Meeting

1. The General Meeting is the highest decision-making body; it has all the powers necessary to achieve the official purpose of the Association.

2. It is made up of all the Permanent Members and, by invitation, Honorary Members may attend General Meetings but without the right to vote.

The Chairman of the Association shall act as Chairman of the General Meeting or, in his absence, this function shall be performed by one of the Vice-Chairmen.

The official language of the debates is English.

1. The following items are the sole responsibility of the General Meeting:

1. approval of budgets and annual accounts;
2. approval of any exclusion of a Member ;
3. the election, resignation or dismissal of members of the Permanent Bureau;
4. approval of the daily allowance for members of the Permanent Bureau ;
5. the determination, as mentioned in Article 5.11, of the annual subscription and the introduction of certain registration fees;
6. the dismissal of members of the Permanent Bureau ;
7. amendments to the Articles of Association ;
8. the dissolution of the Association;
9. where applicable, the appointment of an auditor.

ORGANISATION AND CONVENING OF THE GENERAL MEETING

1. The General Meeting must be held at least once a year in June at the place indicated in the notice of meeting. It is convened by the Chairman, who is also obliged to convene an extraordinary General Meeting if at least one fifth of the Permanent Members so request.

2. The notice convening the meeting must be drawn up and sent by the Chairman at least 15 days before the meeting is due to take place and must state the agenda. The agenda is drawn up by the Chairman in consultation with the Permanent Bureau, which, for this purpose, must take into account the decisions of previous General Meetings as well as any proposals made by Members on a case-by-case basis. If a Member wishes a subject to be debated by the General Meeting, it must inform the Chairman in writing, in English, in good time or within the time limit set in the Articles of Association.

3. The Chairman may decide, with the agreement of the Permanent Bureau, to organise a "remote or hybrid General Meeting", i.e. a General Meeting which is not held or is only partially held physically at a specific location, provided that the discussions are organised via an ad-hoc electronic platform and that the vote is cast in accordance with the provisions of Articles 6.16 and 6.18.

4. With the agreement of the Chairman and on the basis of any proposals made by the Permanent Members (sent to the Chairman in good time), the Chief Executive Officer of the Association and representatives of other competent organisations whose presence is deemed desirable may be invited to attend General Meetings in an advisory capacity and to give advice, as may the technicians, secretaries and interpreters required for the smooth running of activities.

QUORUM AND VOTE

1. The decisions of the General Meeting are valid only if at least two-thirds of the Permanent Members are present or represented. If the quorum of Members present or

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If the quorum of one third is not reached, then the President may convene another General Meeting within 30 minutes at which at least one third of the Permanent Members must be present or represented. If the quorum of one third is not reached, then this General Meeting will be dissolved and the President will call a new General Meeting.

2. Permanent Members may be represented at the General Meeting by another Permanent Member or by the Chairman, by means of a written proxy. No Permanent Member may hold more than three such proxies, even if they are from related companies.

3. Unless otherwise stated in the Articles of Association, resolutions are adopted by a simple majority (50% + 1) of the votes cast by Members and are communicated to all Members. If necessary, the General Assembly may decide to inform other international organisations and other interested authorities of the results of the vote, either directly through the President or through its Members.

4. The quorum for the election of the Chairman is 75% of the votes validly cast.

5. It is forbidden to take decisions on a subject that is not on the agenda.

6. Secret ballots shall be held for all elections of members of the Permanent Bureau or at the request of at least five Members entitled to vote.

7. With regard to the number of votes cast, abstentions count as negative votes.

8. The Chairman does not have the right to vote at the General Meeting unless he represents a Permanent Member effectively or by proxy. In this case, his vote counts as one vote and not as the vote of the Chairman.

Voting procedures

1. The General Meeting decides by a simple majority on the voting method for each of the voting sessions to be held at a General Meeting, choosing it from among the methods listed below, taking into account also other specific voting conditions listed in the other articles of these Articles of Association.

2. At a remote or hybrid General Meeting, Members entitled to vote will be informed by the Chairman, in the notice of meeting, of the voting procedure to be used (in accordance with Article 6.18 e) to f).

3. Here are the different voting procedures:

1. a show of hands ;
2. voting by voting card ;
3. secret ballot ;
4. an electronic voting system.

Voting procedures for remote General Meetings :

1. a postal ballot paper ;
2. an electronic voting system enabling voters to be identified.

1. The voting procedures set out in Article 6.18 c) to f) will be used for secret ballots.

Procedures for organising voting sessions

1. These procedures will be set out in the Association's internal operating rules for each voting method. The Chairman and at least one of the Vice-Chairmen shall manage the vote count.

MINUTES AND RECORDING OF RESOLUTIONS

1. The official language of proceedings is English. Minutes of General Meetings are published in English. Permanent Members are identified by the term "Full Member".

2. The resolutions adopted by the General Meeting are recorded in the respective General Meeting reports, which are kept and made available to Permanent Members via the Association's secure Cloud.

1. 7 Permanent Bureau

1. Subject to the powers of the General Meeting, the Association is administered by a "Permanent Bureau" acting as a "Board of Directors" and comprising a minimum of 5 members: the President, two Vice-Presidents, the General Secretary and the Treasurer. The General Meeting may appoint more members.

2. The members of the Permanent Bureau are appointed by the General Meeting with the attendance quorum as defined in article 6.8 and the simple voting majorities as defined in articles 6.10 and 6.16 and under the following conditions:

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1. Candidates for election must be private individuals, drawn from the Permanent Members and have specific professional experience and qualifications in the European rail sector;
2. Before the elections, candidates must submit proposals to the Permanent Members.

1. Members of the Permanent Bureau must exercise their mandate in person.
2. The terms of office of the members of the Permanent Bureau are 3 years, or until the General Meeting following the end of this 3-year period. All members of the Permanent Bureau may be re-elected twice consecutively. However, the General Meeting may decide otherwise.

3. The General Meeting, deliberating with a quorum of votes of those present as mentioned in article 6.8 of the Articles of Association and by a two-thirds majority of votes, may dismiss the members of the Permanent Bureau at any time.

4. The term of office may also expire in the event of the resignation or exclusion of the Members of the Association or if the member of the Permanent Bureau resigns and no longer plays an active role in his capacity as Permanent Member.

In the cases referred to in the first paragraph of Article 7.6, unless the General Meeting decides otherwise, the member of the Permanent Bureau may continue to serve until replaced by any other person appointed by the General Meeting to complete the term of office.

1. The following points fall solely within the competence of the Permanent Bureau:

1. preparing budgets and annual accounts for approval by the General Meeting.
2. defining the broad lines of the strategy to be pursued in accordance with the objectives defined in Article 3.

1. The Permanent Bureau sets up two committees, the Executive Committee, which is responsible for operational management, and the Administrative Committee, which is responsible for administrative and financial management.

2. The members of the Permanent Bureau meet as often as necessary and at least once a year. The Permanent Bureau shall be convened by the Chairman on his own initiative or at the request of another member of the Permanent Bureau. The notice of meeting shall specify the agenda for the meeting.

By default, meetings of the Permanent Bureau are organised remotely.

1. The Permanent Bureau takes decisions by a simple majority of its members present or represented. All members of the Permanent Bureau must be present or represented in order to take a decision in due and proper form.

A member of the Permanent Bureau may be represented by another member of the Permanent Bureau by means of a written proxy.

1. The members of the Permanent Bureau do not assume any personal liability in respect of commitments entered into by the Association. Their liability is limited to the fulfilment of the obligations associated with their mandates and any faults committed in the performance of their duties.

1. 8 Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee is made up of the President and two Vice-Presidents and is responsible for day-to-day operational management in accordance with the strategy defined by the Permanent Bureau.

The duties of the Executive Committee, acting in concert, include but are not limited to:

1. preparing the Association's budgets and accounts, with the help of the Treasurer, for submission to the Permanent Bureau;

2. representing the Association vis-à-vis other organisations;

3. supervision to ensure that the Association's functions comply with the spirit of its creation and the Articles of Association

4. implementing the decisions taken by the Permanent Bureau in accordance with those of the General Meeting;

5. coordinating the activities of the project groups entrusted with the research and studies needed to prepare the Association's recommendations;

6. preparing and sending to Members the agenda, the minutes of the General Meeting and of the Permanent Bureau and all related documents and correspondence;

7. taking part in the publication of the Association's official documents in accordance with the Articles of Association and the applicable laws;

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8. chairing all activities and studies likely to contribute to achieving the Association's official purpose.

1. The Executive Committee may appoint members of staff to carry out, under its direction and control, the operational work of the Association. This operational work includes administrative support for the President, General Meetings, Conferences and Working Groups; technical advice; activities to promote NB-Rail and support activities for the Permanent Members of the Association.

9. Administrative committee

1. The Administrative Committee is made up of the General Secretary and the Treasurer and is responsible for the day-to-day administrative/financial management of the Association.

2. The duties of the General Secretary are as follows:

1. organise the Association's archives and documents;
2. help the Chairman prepare and organise the Annual General Meeting;
3. to carry out all administrative tasks contributing to the achievement of the Association's objectives;

1. The treasurer's duties are as follows:

4. administer the finances and maintain the Association's bank account;
5. assist the Chairman in preparing budgets and annual accounts for submission to the Permanent Bureau;
6. prepare an annual statement of income and expenditure, ending on 31 December of a financial year, and submit it to the Permanent Bureau;
7. be responsible, jointly with the Chairman, for the administration of the Association's funds and their use. This also includes the collection and administration of all monies received by the Association;

8. any Permanent Member whose subscription has not been paid on time (article 5.10) will receive a notice of non-payment from the Treasurer.

1. 10 Representation in dealings with third parties and in court

1. All documents binding on the Association must be duly and jointly signed by two members of the Permanent Bureau, including the Chairman. In the event of the President's absence or physical inability to fulfil his duties and obligations, his signature may be replaced by that of one of the Vice-Presidents; in this case, none of them is required to justify his powers to anyone. The Association acts legally and in relation to third parties, and in court, through the intermediary of the Chairman and/or its Vice-Chairmen. The Chairman may delegate all or part of his powers to the Vice-Chairmen in writing.

The NB-Rail aisbl Association confers full powers on the General Manager to carry out all financial operations relating to the day-to-day management of the Association and for which he has received prior instructions to do so from at least 2 members of the permanent executive committee, including the Chairman or a Vice-Chairman.

1. 11 Amendments to the Articles of Association and dissolution

1. Without prejudice to the Companies and Associations Code, any proposal to amend the Articles of Association or to dissolve the Association must be made by the Permanent Bureau or by at least one fifth of the Permanent Members of the Association.

2. The Chairman must notify the Members of this proposal at least two months before the date of the General Meeting at which the proposal is to be discussed.

3. The General Meeting may only validly deliberate if two thirds of the Members entitled to vote are present or represented. However, if the General Meeting does not have a quorum, another General Meeting must be held under the same conditions as above in order to take a final and valid decision on the proposal in question, regardless of the number of Permanent Members present or represented.

4. A decision to amend the Articles of Association or to dissolve the Association is final only if approved by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

5. The amendment to the Articles of Association will come into force following its approval by the King if required by law, before being notified to the clerk of the company's court and then published in the appendices to the Moniteur belge.

6. Decisions to dissolve the Association must be taken in accordance with Article 11.3 above.

7. In the event of dissolution, the General Meeting shall determine the general conditions for the dissolution of the Association, with any credit balance being allocated to a non-profit organisation with a similar or similar object.

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8. The Association is automatically dissolved when the number of its Members falls below five.
2. 12 Financial year
 1. The financial year begins on 1 January and ends on 31 December of each year.
 2. The Association's assets and income are used to achieve its objectives within the limits set in the annual budgets approved by the General Meeting.

3. 13 Miscellaneous

1. All matters not covered by these Articles of Association, including publications required to appear in the appendices to the Moniteur belge, shall be governed by the provisions of the Companies and Associations Code.

This resolution was adopted unanimously by the meeting. Second resolution

The NB Rail aisbl association confers full powers on Mrs Sabia Kahn or any other actuary of the accounting and tax consultancy firm JRS Consult SRL (0645.899.343) established at 1160, avenue Nippone 1 boite 1, each acting alone to carry out all formalities for publication in the Annexes to the Moniteur Belge, updating the registration of the Association with the Banque Carrefour des Entreprises, updating the information in the UBO register, filing the annual accounts with the Registrar, and to this end, to sign all documents, to take all useful steps and, in general, to do all that is necessary.

At the same time, a copy of the deed dated 20 June 2023, 1 attendance list, 1 proxy and the coordinated text of the Articles of Association were filed.

FOR CERTIFIED EXTRACT.

David INDEKEU, Notary.

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