

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
OF
COMET GROUP PLC



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THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

A PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
OF
COMET GROUP PLC

(Adopted by special resolution passed on
26 March 1992 and amended by special resolution passed on
27 January 1997)

PRELIMINARY

Table A

1.(1) Subject as otherwise provided herein, the regulations in Table A in the Companies (Tables A-F) Regulations 1985 as amended prior to the adoption of the articles ("Table A") shall apply to the company to the exclusion of any other regulations which would fall to constitute the company's articles of association pursuant to section 8(2) of the Act.

(2) The following provisions of Table A shall not apply to the company:

- (a) in regulation 1, the definitions of "the articles", "executed" and "the seal";
- (b) regulation 2;
- (c) in regulation 38, the final sentence;
- (d) regulation 54;
- (e) regulations 60 and 61;
- (f) in regulation 62:-
 - (i) the words "not less than 48 hours" in sub-paragraph (a);

- (ii) the words "not less than 24 hours" in sub-paragraph (b);
- (g) regulation 72;
- (h) regulation 88;
- (i) regulations 93 to 98 inclusive;
- (j) regulation 112;
- (k) regulation 115;
- (l) regulation 118.

Interpretation 2.(1) In the articles, except where the subject or context otherwise requires, the words defined in the first column of the following table shall bear the meanings set opposite them respectively in the second column.

The articles	These articles of association, incorporating Table A (as applicable to the company), as altered from time to time by special resolution.
Director	A director of the company.
The directors	The directors or any of them acting as the board of directors of the company.
Dividend	Dividend or bonus.
Member	A member of the company.
Paid	Paid or credited as paid.
The seal	The common seal of the company and includes any official seal kept by the company by virtue of sections 39 or 40 of the Act.

References to a document being executed include references to its being executed under hand or under seal or by any other method.

References to writing include references to any visible substitute for writing and to anything partly in one form and partly in another form.

Words denoting the singular number include the plural number and vice versa; words denoting the masculine gender include the feminine gender; and words denoting persons include corporations.

Subject to the final paragraph of regulation 1 of Table A (as applicable to the company), references to any provision of any enactment or of any subordinate legislation (as defined by section 21(1) of the Interpretation Act 1978) include any modification or re-enactment of that provision for the time being in force.

Headings are inserted for convenience only and do not affect the construction of the articles.

(2) In the articles, (a) powers of delegation shall not be restrictively construed but the widest interpretation shall be given thereto; (b) the word "directors" in the context of the exercise of any power contained in the articles includes any committee consisting of one or more directors, any director holding executive office and any local or divisional board, manager or agent of the company to which or, as the case may be, to whom the power in question has been delegated; (c) no power of delegation shall be limited by the existence or, except where expressly provided by the terms of delegation, the exercise of that or any other power of delegation; and (d) except where expressly provided by the terms of delegation, the delegation of a power shall not exclude the concurrent exercise of that power by any other body or person who is for the time being authorised to exercise it under the articles or under another delegation of the power.

SHARE CAPITAL

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Share capital | 3. The share capital of the company upon adoption of this article is £50,000,000 divided into 50,000,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each. |
| Shares with special rights | 4. Subject to the provisions of the Act and without prejudice to any rights attached to any existing shares or class of shares, any share may be issued with such rights or restrictions as the company may by ordinary resolution determine or, subject to and in default of such determination, as the directors shall determine. |
| Allotment | 5. Subject to the provisions of the Act relating to authority, pre-emption rights or otherwise and of any resolution of the company in general meeting passed pursuant thereto, and, in the case of redeemable shares, to the provisions of regulation 3 of Table A (as applicable to the company), all unissued shares for the time being in the capital of the company shall be at the disposal of the directors, and the directors may |

i(subject as aforesaid) allot (with or without conferring a right of renunciation), grant options over, or otherwise dispose of them to such persons, on such terms and conditions, and at such times as it thinks fit.

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS

To whom
notice must be
given

6. At the end of regulation 38 of Table A (as applicable to the company) there shall be added the following sentence:

“Subject to the provisions of the articles and to any restrictions imposed on any shares, the notice shall be given to all the Members and to all persons entitled to a share in consequence of the death or bankruptcy of a Member, but need not be given to the directors in their capacity as such.”

PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS

Effectiveness
of special and
extraordinary
resolutions

7. Where for any purpose an ordinary resolution of the company is required, a special or extraordinary resolution shall also be effective and where for any purpose an extraordinary resolution is required a special resolution shall also be effective.

VOTES OF MEMBERS

Right to vote

8. Subject to any rights or restrictions attached to any shares, on a show of hands every member who is present in person or by proxy shall have one vote and on a poll every member present in person or by proxy shall have one vote for every share of which he is the holder.

PROXIES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF BODIES CORPORATE

Appointment
of proxy

9. An instrument appointing a proxy shall be in writing under the hand of the appointor or his attorney or, if the appointor is a corporation, either under its common seal or the hand of a duly authorised officer, attorney or other person authorised to sign it.

Form of proxy

10. Instruments of proxy shall be in any usual form or in any other form which the directors may approve.

Validity of
form of proxy

11. The instrument of proxy shall be deemed to confer authority to vote on any amendment of a resolution put to the meeting for which it is given as the proxy thinks fit. The instrument of proxy shall, unless the contrary is stated therein, be valid as well for any adjournment of the meeting as for the meeting to which it relates.

Proxies of
bodies
corporate

12. For so long as the company is a subsidiary, any director or secretary of a body corporate which is a member of the company (each such person being hereafter referred to as a "Qualifying Representative") shall be recognised as the proxy of that body corporate unless the body corporate has delivered to the company in relation to the meeting a valid instrument of proxy which has not been revoked. If more than one Qualifying Representative of a body corporate is present at any meeting of the company, such persons shall agree between them who shall act as proxy for the body corporate. In default of their promptly so agreeing, the Chairman of the meeting shall direct which person shall act as proxy of the body corporate and his decision shall be final. All acts done by a Qualifying Representative who acts as proxy pursuant to the provisions of this article shall, notwithstanding that it afterwards be discovered that there was a defect in his appointment or that he was disqualified from holding office, or had vacated office, or that he was not authorised by the body corporate to do the act in question, be as valid as if such Qualifying Representative had been duly appointed and was qualified and had continued to hold the relevant office and had been duly authorised to do the act in question.

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS

Alternates
representing
more than one
director

13.(1) At the end of regulation 66 of Table A (as applicable to the company) there shall be added the following sentence:

"A director or any other person approved pursuant to regulation 65 of Table A (as applicable to the company) may act as alternate director to represent more than one director, and an alternate director shall be entitled at meetings of the directors or any committee of the directors to one vote for every director whom he represents in addition to his own vote (if any) as a director, but he shall count as only one for the purpose of determining whether a quorum is present."

Termination
of
appointment

(2) At the end of regulation 67 of Table A (as applicable to the company) there shall be added the following sentence:

"The appointment of an alternate director shall also determine automatically on the happening of any event which, if he were a director, would cause him to vacate his office as director."

Mode of
appointment
and removal

(3) The words “or in any other manner approved by the directors” in regulation 68 of Table A (as applicable to the company) shall be deleted and the following shall be added to that regulation:

“and shall take effect in accordance with the terms of the notice, subject to any approval required by regulation 65 of Table A (as applicable to the company), on receipt of such notice at the registered office of the company”.

DELEGATION OF POWERS OF THE DIRECTORS

Committees of
the directors

14. The directors may delegate any of their powers to any committee consisting of one or more directors. The directors may also delegate to any director holding any executive office such of their powers as the directors consider desirable to be exercised by him. Any such delegation shall, in the absence of express provision to the contrary in the terms of delegation, be deemed to include authority to sub-delegate to one or more directors (whether or not acting as a committee) or to any employee or agent of the company all or any of the powers delegated and may be made subject to such conditions as the directors may specify, and may be revoked or altered. Subject to any conditions imposed by the directors, the proceedings of a committee with two or more members shall be governed by the articles regulating the proceedings of directors so far as they are capable of applying.

Local boards,
etc

15. The board may establish local or divisional boards or agencies for managing any of the affairs of the company, either in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, and may appoint any persons to be members of the local or divisional boards, or any managers or agents, and may fix their remuneration. The board may delegate to any local or divisional board, manager or agent any of the powers, authorities and discretions vested in or exercisable by the board, with power to sub- delegate, and may authorise the members of any local or divisional board, or any of them, to fill any vacancies and to act notwithstanding vacancies. Any appointment or delegation made pursuant to this article may be made upon such terms and subject to such conditions as the board may decide and the board may remove any person so appointed and may revoke or vary the delegation but no person dealing in good faith and without notice of the revocation or variation shall be affected by it.

Offices
including the
title “director”

16. The directors may appoint any person to any office or employment having a designation or title including the word “director” or attach to any existing office or employment with the company such a designation or title and may terminate any such appointment or the use

of any such designation or title. The inclusion of the word "director" in the designation or title of any such office or employment shall not imply that the holder is a director of the company, nor shall the holder thereby be empowered in any respect to act as, or be deemed to be, a director of the company for any of the purposes of the articles.

APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS

Appointment
and removal
by Kingfisher
plc

17.(1) While the company is a subsidiary, Kingfisher plc (a company registered in England with registered number 1664812) may appoint any person to be a director or remove any director from office. Every such appointment or removal shall be in writing and signed by or on behalf of the said company and shall take effect upon receipt at the registered office of the company or by the secretary.

Appointment
by the
directors

(2) While the company is a subsidiary, the directors shall have power to appoint any person to be a director either to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the existing directors, subject to any maximum for the time being in force, and, subject to regulation 81 of Table A (as applicable to the company), any director so appointed shall hold office until he is removed pursuant to article 17.(1).

Retirement by
rotation

(3) While the company is a subsidiary, regulations 73 to 80 (inclusive) shall not apply to the company and all references elsewhere in Table A (as applicable to the company) to retirement by rotation shall be modified accordingly.

Disqualification

18. At the end of regulation 81 of Table A (as applicable to the company) there shall be added the following sub-paragraph:

“; or

- (f) he is requested to resign in writing by not less than three quarters of the other directors. In calculating the number of directors who are required to make such a request to the director, (i) there shall be excluded any alternate director appointed by him acting in his capacity as such; and (ii) a director and any alternate director appointed by him and acting in his capacity as such shall constitute a single director for this purpose, so that the signature of either shall be sufficient”.

DIRECTORS' APPOINTMENTS AND INTERESTS

Exercise by
company of
voting rights

19. The directors may exercise the voting power conferred by the shares in any body corporate held or owned by manner in all respects as they think fit (including the exercise thereof in favour of any resolution appointing any or all of them directors of such body corporate, or voting or providing for the payment or giving of remuneration or other benefits to the directors of such body corporate).

Notification of
interests

20. At the end of regulation 86 of Table A (as applicable to the company) there shall be added the following sub-paragraph:

"; and

- (c) a director shall not in any circumstances be required to disclose to the directors that he is a director or other officer or, or employed by, or interested in shares or other securities of, any body corporate which is the ultimate holding company of the company or is a subsidiary of such ultimate holding company".

GRATUITIES, PENSIONS AND INSURANCE

Insurance

21.(1) Without prejudice to the provisions of article 34, the directors shall have the power to purchase and maintain insurance for or for the benefit of any persons who are or were at any time directors, officers, or employees of the company, or of any other company which is its holding company or in which the company or such holding company has any interest whether direct or indirect or which is in any way allied to or associated with the company, or of any subsidiary undertaking of the company or any such other company, or who are or were at any time trustees of any pension fund in which employees of the company or any such other company or subsidiary undertaking are interested, including (without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) insurance against any liability incurred by such persons in respect of any act or omission in the actual or purported execution or discharge of their duties or in the exercise or purported exercise of their powers or otherwise in relation to their duties, powers or offices in relation to the company or any such other company, subsidiary undertaking or pension fund.

Directors not
liable to
account

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of regulation 85 of Table A (as applicable to the company), no director or former director shall be accountable to the company or the members for any benefit provided pursuant to this article and the receipt of any such benefit shall not

disqualify any person from being or becoming a director of the company.

Section 719 of
the Act

22. Pursuant to section 719 of the Act, the directors are hereby the Act authorised to make such provision as may seem appropriate for the benefit of any persons employed or formerly employed by the company or any of its subsidiaries in connection with the cessation or the transfer of the whole or part of the undertaking of the company or any subsidiary. Any such provision shall be made by a resolution of the directors in accordance with the said section.

PROCEEDINGS OF DIRECTORS

Convening
meetings

23. Subject to the provisions of the articles, the directors may regulate their proceedings as they think fit. A director may, and the secretary at the request of a director shall, call a meeting of the directors. Notice of a meeting of the directors shall be deemed to be properly given to a director if it is given to him personally or by word of mouth or sent in writing to him at his last known address or any other address given by him to the company for this purpose. It shall not be necessary to give notice of a meeting to a director who is absent from the United Kingdom. Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes. In the case of an equality of votes, the chairman shall have a second or casting vote. Any director may waive notice of a meeting and any such waiver may be retrospective.

Resolutions in
writing

24. A resolution in writing signed by all the directors entitled to receive notice of a meeting of the directors or of a committee of the directors (not being less than the number of directors required to form a quorum of the directors) shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the directors or (as the case may be) a committee of the directors duly convened and held and for this purpose:

- (a) a resolution may consist of several documents to the same effect each signed by one or more directors;
- (b) a resolution signed by an alternate director need not also be signed by his appointor; and
- (c) a resolution signed by a director who has appointed an alternate director need not also be signed by the alternate director in that capacity.

Meetings by
telephone

25. Without prejudice to the first sentence of article 23, a meeting of the directors or of a committee of the directors may consist of a

conference between directors who are not all in one place, but of whom each is able (directly or by telephonic communication) to speak to each of the others, and to be heard by each of the others simultaneously. A director taking part in such a conference shall be deemed to be present in person at the meeting and shall be entitled to vote or be counted in a quorum accordingly. Such a meeting shall be deemed to take place where the largest group of those participating in the conference is assembled, or, if there is no such group, where the chairman of the meeting then is. The word "meeting" in the articles shall be construed accordingly.

Directors' power to vote on contracts in which they are interested

26. A director may vote at any meeting of the directors or of a committee of the directors on any resolution concerning a transaction or arrangement with the company or in which the company is interested, or concerning any other matter in which the company is interested, notwithstanding that he is interested in that transaction, arrangement or matter or has in relation to it a duty which conflicts or may conflict with the interests of the company.

SEAL

Official seal for use abroad

27. The company may exercise the powers conferred by section 39 of the Act with regard to having an official seal for use abroad.

DEEDS

Execution by company under hand

28. Where the Act so permits, any instrument signed with the authority of a resolution of the directors or a committee of the directors by one director and the secretary or by two directors and expressed to be executed by the company as a deed shall have the same effect as if executed under the seal, provided that no instrument which makes it clear on its face that it is intended by the persons making it to have effect as a deed shall be signed without the authority of the directors.

Delivery of deeds

29. A document which is executed by the company as a deed shall not be deemed to be delivered by the company solely as a result of its having been executed by the company.

CERTIFICATION

Certified copies

30. Any director or the secretary or any person appointed by the directors for the purpose shall have power to authenticate any documents affecting the constitution of the company and any resolutions passed by the company or the holders of any class of shares of the company or the directors or any committee of the directors, and

any books, records, documents and accounts relating to the business of the company, and to certify copies thereof or extracts therefrom as true copies or extracts. A document purporting to be a copy of a resolution, or the minutes of or an extract from the minutes of a meeting of the company or the holders of any class of shares of the company or of the directors or any committee of the directors that is certified as aforesaid shall be conclusive evidence in favour of all persons dealing with the company upon the faith thereof that such resolution has been duly passed or, as the case may be, that such minutes or extract is a true and accurate record of proceedings at a duly constituted meeting.

RECORD DATES

Record dates
for dividends,
etc

31. Notwithstanding any other provision of the articles, the company or the directors may fix any date as the record date for any dividend, distribution, allotment or issue, and such record date may be on, or at any time before or after any date on which the dividend, distribution, allotment or issue is declared, paid or made.

NOTICES

Method of
giving notice

32. The company may serve or deliver any notice or other document on or to a member either personally or by sending it by post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the member at his registered address or by leaving it at that address or by sending it by facsimile transmission to the member at the last telephone number (if any) which the member has given the company for this purpose. In the case of joint holders of a share, all notices or other documents shall be served on or delivered to the joint holder whose name stands first in the register of members in respect of the joint holding and any notice or other document so served or delivered shall be deemed for all purposes sufficient service on or delivery to all the joint holders. A member whose registered address is not within the United Kingdom and who gives to the company an address within the United Kingdom at which notices may be given to him shall be entitled to have notices given to him at that address, but otherwise:

- (a) no such member shall be entitled to receive any notice from the company;
- (b) without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, any notice of a general meeting of the company which is in fact given or purports to be given to such members shall be ignored for the

purpose of determining the validity of the proceedings at such general meeting. When notices by post deemed served

33.(1) Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given. A notice sent by post shall be deemed given:

- (a) if sent by first class post from an address in the United Kingdom or another country to another address in the United Kingdom or, as the case may be, that other country, on the day following that on which the envelope containing it was posted;
- (b) if sent by airmail from an address in the United Kingdom to an address outside the United Kingdom, on the day following that on which the envelope containing it was posted; and
- (c) in any other case, on the fifth day following that on which the envelope containing it was posted.

When other
notices
deemed given

(2) A notice left at the registered address of a member or sent by facsimile transmission to a member at the last telephone number (if any) which the member has given the company for this purpose shall be deemed given at the time the notice is received.

INDEMNITY

Indemnity to
directors,
officers, etc.

34. Subject to the provisions of the Act, but without prejudice to any indemnity to which a director may otherwise be entitled, every director or other officer of the company shall be indemnified out of the assets of the company against all costs, charges, losses, expenses and liabilities incurred by him in the execution or discharge of his duties or the exercise of his powers or otherwise in relation thereto, including (but without limitation) any liability incurred by him in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in his favour (or the proceedings are otherwise disposed of without any finding or admission of any material breach of duty on his part) or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application in which relief is granted to him by the court from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to the affairs of the company.