

Company Number: 4526040

SKW

THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES

MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION

of

FOCUS DIY (FINANCE) PLC

1. The name of the Company is FOCUS DIY (FINANCE) PLC.¹
2. The Company's registered office is to be situated in England and Wales.
3. The Company's objects are:
 - (A) To carry on the business of a holding company in all its branches and to acquire by purchase, lease, concession, grant, licence or otherwise and hold such businesses, options, rights, privileges, lands, buildings, leases, underleases, stocks, shares, debentures, debenture stock, bonds, obligations, securities, reversionary interests, annuities, policies of assurance and other property and rights and interests in property as the Company shall deem fit and generally to hold, manage, develop, lease, sell or dispose of the same and to vary any of the investments of the Company, to act as trustees of any deeds constituting or securing any debentures, debenture stock or other securities or obligations, to enter into, assist, or participate in financial, commercial, mercantile, industrial and other transactions, undertakings and businesses of every description and to establish, carry on, develop and extend the same or sell, dispose of or otherwise turn the same to account and to co-ordinate the policy and administration of any companies of which this Company is a member or which are in any manner

¹ Name changed from De Facto 1011 Limited to Focus Wickes (Finance) Limited by a written resolution of the Company dated 20 December 2002 to Focus Wickes (Finance) PLC by a written resolution dated 8 July 2003 to Focus Wickes (Finance) Limited by a special resolution of the Company dated 7 February 2005 and to Focus DIY (Finance) PLC by a written resolution of the Company dated 2 March 2005.

controlled by, or connected with, the Company and to carry on all or any of the businesses of capitalists, trustees, financiers, financial agents, company promoters, bill discounters, insurers, insurance brokers and agents, mortgage brokers, rent and debt collectors, stock and share brokers and dealers and commission and general agents, merchants and traders, and to manufacture, buy, sell, maintain, repair and deal in plant, machinery, tools, articles and things of all kinds capable of being used for the purposes of the above-mentioned businesses or any of them, or likely to be required by customers of or persons having dealings with the Company.

- (B) To carry on any other business or activity of any nature whatsoever which is in the opinion of the directors capable of being advantageously carried on in connection with or ancillary to any business of the Company hereinbefore or hereinafter authorised.
- (C) To apply for, register, purchase, or by other means acquire and protect, prolong and renew, whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere any patents, patent rights, brevets d'invention, licences, secret processes, trade marks, designs, protections, concessions and the like and to use and turn to account and to manufacture under or grant licences or privileges in respect of the same, and to expend money in experimenting upon, testing and improving any patents, inventions or rights which the Company may acquire or propose to acquire.
- (D) To acquire, undertake and carry on the whole or any part of the business, goodwill, property and assets of any person, firm, or company carrying on or proposing to carry on any of the businesses which the Company is for the time being authorised to carry on and as part of the consideration for such acquisition to undertake all or any of the liabilities of such person, firm or company.
- (E) To acquire an interest in, amalgamate with, enter into partnership with or enter into any arrangement for sharing profits, for co-operation, for joint venture, for mutual assistance or otherwise with any person, firm or company.
- (F) To purchase or otherwise acquire any property, real or personal, and any interests, rights, options or privileges of any kind whatsoever in, over or in respect of any such property.
- (G) To improve, manage, construct, repair, develop, exchange, let on lease or otherwise, mortgage, charge, sell, dispose of, turn to account, grant licences, options, rights and privileges in respect of, or otherwise deal with all or any part of the property and rights of the Company.
- (H) To invest and deal with the moneys of the Company not immediately required in such manner as may from time to time be determined and to hold or otherwise deal with any investments made.
- (I) To lend, advance or deposit money or give credit on any terms with or without security to any person, firm or company (including without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing any subsidiary or holding company of the Company or any other subsidiary of such holding company).

- (J) To enter into any guarantee, bond, indemnity or counter-indemnity and otherwise give security or become responsible for the performance of any obligations or the discharge of any liabilities of or by any person, firm or company in any manner on any terms and for any purposes whatsoever, whether with or without the Company receiving any consideration or advantage and whether or not in furtherance of the attainment of any other objects of the Company and in particular (without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) to guarantee, support or secure, by personal covenant or by mortgaging or charging all or any part of the undertaking, real and personal property, assets and revenues (present and future) and uncalled capital of the Company, the payment or repayment of any moneys owed in respect of, any debts, obligations or securities whatsoever and the discharge of any liabilities whatsoever, including but not limited to those of any company which is for the time being a subsidiary or holding company of the Company or any other subsidiary of any such holding company or is otherwise associated with the Company in business.
- (K) To borrow and raise money in any manner whatsoever whether by the creation and issue of debentures, debenture stock or other securities of any description or otherwise howsoever and to secure the repayment of any money borrowed, raised or owing or any other obligation of or binding on the Company by mortgage, charge, standard security, lien or other security upon the whole or any part of the Company's property or assets (whether present or future), including its uncalled capital.
- (L) To draw, make, accept, endorse, discount, negotiate, execute and issue cheques, bills of exchange, promissory notes, bills of lading, warrants, debentures, and other negotiable or transferable instruments.
- (M) To apply for, promote, and obtain any Act of Parliament, order, or licence of the Department of Trade or other authority for enabling the Company to carry any of its objects into effect, or for effecting any modification of the Company's constitution, or for any other purpose which may seem calculated directly or indirectly to promote the Company's interests, and to oppose any proceedings or applications which may seem calculated directly or indirectly to prejudice the Company's interests.
- (N) To enter into any arrangements with any government or authority (supreme, municipal, local, or otherwise) and to obtain from any such government or authority any charters, decrees, rights, privileges or concessions and to carry out, exercise, and comply with any such charters, decrees, rights, privileges and concessions.
- (O) To subscribe for, purchase, or otherwise acquire, hold, sell, deal with and dispose of, place and underwrite shares, stocks, debentures, debenture stocks, bonds, obligations or securities issued or guaranteed by any other company constituted or carrying on business in any part of the world, and debentures, debenture stocks, bonds, obligations or securities issued or guaranteed by any government or authority, municipal, local or otherwise, in any part of the world.
- (P) To control, manage, finance, subsidise, co-ordinate or otherwise assist any company or companies, to provide secretarial, administrative, technical, commercial and other

services and facilities of all kinds for any such company or companies and to make payments by way of subvention or otherwise and any other arrangements which may seem desirable with respect to any business or operations of or generally with respect to any such company or companies.

- (Q) To promote, finance or assist any other company for the purpose of acquiring the whole or any part of the goodwill, business, undertaking property or assets or assuming any of the liabilities of the Company, or of undertaking any business or operations which may in the opinion of the directors directly or indirectly assist or benefit the Company or to enhance the value of any property or business of the Company, and to place or guarantee the placing of, underwrite, subscribe for, or otherwise acquire all or any part of the shares or securities of any such company as aforesaid.
- (R) To sell, lease, exchange, let on hire, or dispose of any real or personal property or the undertaking of the Company, or any part or parts thereof, for such consideration as the directors shall approve, and, in particular, for shares whether fully or partly paid up, debentures or securities of any other company, whether or not having objects altogether or in part, similar to those of the Company, and to hold and retain any shares, debentures or securities so acquired, and to improve, manage, develop, sell, exchange, lease, mortgage, dispose of, grant options over or turn to account or otherwise deal with all or any part of the property or rights of the Company.
- (S) To act as agents or brokers and as trustees for any person, firm or company, and to undertake and perform sub-contracts.
- (T) To remunerate any person, firm or company rendering services to the Company either by cash payment or by the allotment to him or them of shares or other securities of the Company credited as paid up in full or in part or otherwise as may be thought expedient.
- (U) To pay all or any expenses incurred in connection with the promotion, formation and incorporation of the Company, or to contract with any person, firm or company to pay the same, and to pay commissions to brokers and others for underwriting, placing, selling, or guaranteeing the subscription of any shares or other securities of the Company.
- (V) To give or award pensions, annuities, gratuities and superannuation or other allowances or benefits or charitable aid and generally to provide advantages, facilities and services for any persons who are or have been directors of, or who are or have been employed by, or who are serving or have served the Company, or any company which is a subsidiary or the holding company of the Company or any other subsidiary of such holding company or the predecessors in business of the Company or of any such holding or subsidiary company and to the wives, widows, children and other relatives and dependants of such persons; to make payments towards insurance; and to set up, establish, support and maintain superannuation and other funds or schemes

(whether contributory or non-contributory) for the benefit of any of such persons and of their wives, widows, children and other relatives and dependants.

- (W) To set up, establish, support and maintain profit sharing or share purchase schemes for the benefit of employees of the Company and any of its subsidiaries and (without prejudice to generality of the foregoing) to establish and maintain or contribute to any scheme for the acquisition by trustees of shares in the Company or its holding company to be held by or for the benefit of employees (including any director in salaried employment) of the Company or (so far as for the time being permitted by law) any of the Company's subsidiaries and to lend money (so far as aforesaid) to any such employees to enable them to acquire shares of the Company or its holding company and to formulate and carry into effect any scheme for sharing profits with any such employees.
- (X) To insure the life of any person or to insure against any accident to any person who may, in the opinion of the directors, be of value to the Company as having or holding for the Company interests, goodwill or influence or other assets and to pay the premiums on such insurance.
- (Y) To purchase and maintain insurance for or for the benefit of any persons who are or were at any time directors, officers, employees or auditors 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 of any such other company, or who are or were at any time trustees of any pension fund in which any employees of the Company or of 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 and/or discharge of their duties and/or in the exercise or purported exercise of their powers and/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 and to such extent as may be permitted by law otherwise to indemnify or to exempt any such person against or from any such liability.
- (Z) To support, subscribe for or donate money to any national, charitable, benevolent, public, general or useful object or for any purpose which may in the opinion of the directors or indirectly further the interests of the Company or of its members.
- (AA) Subject to due compliance, and in accordance, with the provisions of sections 155 to 158 (inclusive) of the Act (if so far as such provisions shall be applicable), to give, whether directly or indirectly any kind of financial assistance (as defined in section 152(1)(a) of the Act) for any such purpose as is specified in section 151(1) and/or section 151(2) of the Act.
- (BB) To distribute among the members of the Company in kind any property of the Company of whatsoever nature.

- (CC) To procure the Company to be registered or recognised in any part of the world and to do all or any of the things or matters aforesaid in any part of the world either as principals, agents, contractors or otherwise, and by or through agents, brokers, sub-contractors or otherwise and either alone or in conjunction with others.
- (DD) To do all such other things as may be deemed incidental or conducive to the attainment of the Company's objects or any of them.

AND so that:

- (1) None of the objects set forth in the sub-paragraphs of this paragraph 3 shall be restrictively construed but the widest interpretation shall be given to each such object, and none of such objects shall, except where the context expressly so requires, be in any way limited or restricted by reference to or inference from any other object or objects set forth in such sub-paragraph, or by reference to or inference from the terms of any other sub-paragraph of this paragraph, or by reference to or inference from the name of the Company.
 - (2) None of the sub-paragraphs of this paragraph and none of the objects therein specified shall be deemed subsidiary or ancillary to any of the objects specified in any other such sub-paragraph, and the Company shall have as full a power to exercise each and every one of the objects specified in each sub-paragraph of this paragraph as though each sub-paragraph contained the objects of a separate Company.
 - (3) The word "company" in this paragraph, except where used in reference to the Company, shall be deemed to include any partnership or other body of persons, whether incorporated or unincorporated and whether domiciled in the United Kingdom or elsewhere.
 - (4) In this paragraph 3 the expression "the Act" means the Companies Act 1985, the expressions "holding company", "subsidiary" and "subsidiary undertaking" shall have the meanings given to them by the Act provided that any reference in this paragraph 3 to any provision of the Act shall be deemed to include a reference to any statutory modification or re-enactment of that provision for the time being in force.
- 4. The liability of the members is limited.
 - 5. The Company's share capital is £465,000,000 divided into 465,000,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each.

WE, the subscribers to this Memorandum of Association, wish to be formed into a company pursuant to this Memorandum and we agree to take the number of shares shown opposite our respective names.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF SUBSCRIBERS

Number of Shares
taken by each
Subscriber

TRAVERS SMITH LIMITED
10 Snow Hill
London EC1A 2AL

1

.....
Authorised signatory

1

TRAVERS SMITH SECRETARIES LIMITED
10 Snow Hill
London EC1A 2AL

.....
Authorised signatory

TOTAL SHARES TAKEN

2

DATED the 3rd day of September, 2002

WITNESS to the above signatures:

10 Snow Hill
London
EC1A 2AL

SPW

Company No. 4526040

THE COMPANIES ACTS 1985 AND 1989

PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

of

FOCUS DIY (FINANCE) PLC

Incorporated 4th September 2002

Adopted by written resolution passed on 2 March 2005

THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

- of -

FOCUS DIY (FINANCE) PLC

(Company Number: 4526040)

PRELIMINARY

1. In these articles "**Table A**" means Table A in the Schedule to the Companies (Tables A to F) Regulations 1985 and the "**Act**" means the Companies Act 1985 including any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force and the "**Parent**" means the corporation (if any) which is the holder of a majority in nominal value of such of the issued share capital for the time being of the Company as carries the right to vote at general meetings of the Company.
2. The regulations contained in Table A shall apply to the Company save insofar as they are excluded or modified by or inconsistent with the articles hereinafter contained and such regulations and articles shall be the articles of the Company. References herein to "**Regulations**" are to regulations of Table A.
3. Regulations 3, 8, 24-28 inclusive, 53, 65-67 inclusive, 73-81 inclusive, 89,90,118 and the last sentence of Regulation 84 shall not apply.

SHARE CAPITAL

4. The share capital of the Company at the date of adoption of these Articles is £465,000,000 divided into 465,000,000 shares of £1 each.
5. Subject to the provisions of the Act the Company may issue shares which are to be redeemed, or are liable to be redeemed at the option of the Company or the holder on such terms and in such manner as the Company, before the issue of the shares, by special resolution shall determine, subject to the provisions of article 26.

TRANSFER OF SHARES

6. The directors shall register the transfer by the Parent of any share in the Company and, if directed by the Parent, the transfer by any other person of any share in the Company, but the directors shall not register a transfer in any other circumstances.

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS

7. In every notice calling a general meeting of the Company there shall appear with reasonable prominence a statement that a member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint one or more proxies to attend and vote instead of him and that a proxy need not also be a member. All notices and other communications relating to a general meeting which any member is entitled to receive shall also be sent to the auditors of the Company for the time being, but shall not also be sent to the directors of the Company in their capacity as such. Regulation 38 shall be modified accordingly.

PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS

8. No business shall be transacted at any meeting unless a quorum is present. Two persons entitled to vote upon the business to be transacted, each being a member or a proxy for a member or a duly authorised representative of a corporation, shall be a quorum.
9. The instrument appointing a proxy and any authority under which it is executed or a copy of such authority certified notarially or in some other way approved by the directors may be handed to the chairman immediately before the meeting and Regulation 62 shall be modified accordingly.

NUMBER OF DIRECTORS

10. Unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution of the Company, the number of directors (other than alternate directors) shall not be subject to any maximum and the minimum number of directors shall be two.

ALTERNATE DIRECTORS

11. Any director (other than an alternate director) may appoint any other director or any other person approved by the Parent and willing to act to be an alternate director and may remove from office an alternate director so appointed by him. An alternate director may represent one or more directors. An alternate director shall forthwith cease to be an alternate director if his appointor ceases for any reason to be a director.

12. An alternate director shall be entitled:
- 12.1 to receive notice of all meetings of directors and of all committees of directors of which his appointor is a member and to attend any such meeting;
 - 12.2 to one vote for every director whom he represents who is not personally present in addition to his own vote (if any) as a director at any meeting of the directors or of any committee of directors; and
 - 12.3 to sign a resolution in writing of the directors on behalf of every director whom he represents as well as on his own account if he himself is a director.

An alternate director shall not if he is absent from the United Kingdom be entitled to receive notices of meetings of directors or of committees of which his appointor is a member. At such meetings an alternate director shall count as only one for the purposes of determining whether a quorum is present.

- 13. An alternate director shall be entitled generally to perform all the functions of his appointor as a director in his absence but shall not as an alternate director be entitled to receive any remuneration from the Company, save that he may be paid by the Company that part (if any) of the remuneration otherwise payable to his appointor as his appointor may by notice in writing to the Company from time to time direct.
- 14. Any appointment or removal of an alternate director shall be by notice to the Company signed by the director making or revoking the appointment or in any other manner approved by the directors.

DELEGATION OF DIRECTORS' POWERS

- 15. The directors may delegate any of their powers to committees consisting of one or more directors or other persons approved by the Parent. References in these articles to a committee of directors or to a director as a member of such a committee shall include a committee or person referred to in this Article. Regulation 72 shall be modified accordingly.

APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS

- 16. The Parent may by memorandum in writing at any time and from time to time appoint any person who is willing to act as a director of the Company, either to fill a casual vacancy or as an additional director, or remove any director from office. Such memorandum must be signed by or on behalf of the Parent and delivered to the registered office or produced to a meeting of the directors. Such appointment or removal shall take effect forthwith upon delivery or production of the memorandum or at such later time (if any) specified in such memorandum.
- 17. A director appointed to fill a casual vacancy or as an additional director shall not be required to retire from office at the next annual general meeting.

DISQUALIFICATION OF DIRECTORS

18. The office of a director shall be vacated if he:
 - 18.1 ceases to be a director by virtue of any provision of the Act or becomes prohibited by law from being a director; or
 - 18.2 becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with his creditors generally; or
 - 18.3 in the opinion of all the other directors becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder or illness or injury of discharging his duties as a director; or
 - 18.4 resigns his office by notice to the Company; or
 - 18.5 shall for more than six consecutive months have been absent without permission of the directors from meetings of the directors held during that period and the directors resolve that his office be vacated.

PROCEEDINGS OF DIRECTORS

19. The quorum for the transaction of the business of the directors may be fixed by the directors and unless so fixed at any higher number shall be two. A person who holds office only as an alternate director shall, if his appointor is not present, be counted in the quorum.
20. A director absent or intending to be absent from the United Kingdom may request the directors during his absence to send notice of meetings of the directors to him at such address within the United Kingdom as he may give to the Company for this purpose, but in the absence of such a request it shall not be necessary to give notice of a meeting to a director who is absent from the United Kingdom. Regulation 88 shall be modified accordingly.
21. Any director (including an alternate director) may participate in a meeting of the directors or a committee of the directors of which he is a member by means of a conference telephone or similar communicating equipment whereby all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other. A person so participating shall be deemed to be present in person at such 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 is assembled, or, if there is no such group, where the chairman of the meeting then is.
22. The continuing directors or a sole continuing director may act notwithstanding any vacancies in their number, but, if the number of directors is less than the number fixed as the quorum, the continuing directors or director may act only for the purpose of calling a general meeting.
23. A director (including an alternate director) who to his knowledge is in any way, whether directly or indirectly, interested in a contract or proposed contract (within the

meaning of section 317 of the Act) with the Company shall declare the nature of his interest at a meeting of the directors in accordance with that section. Subject, where applicable, to such disclosure a director may vote and count in the quorum at a meeting of directors or of a committee of directors on any resolution concerning a matter in which he has, directly or indirectly, an interest or duty which is material and which conflicts or may conflict with the interests of the Company.

INSURANCE AND INDEMNITY

24. The Company shall with the written consent of the Parent be entitled to purchase and maintain insurance for any officer or auditor of the Company against any liability attaching to such persons in respect of any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust of which he may be guilty in relation to the Company.
25. Subject to the provisions of the Act, the Company may with the written consent of the Parent indemnify every director, auditor or other officer of the Company against all costs, charges, losses, expenses and liabilities incurred by him in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, which relate to anything done or omitted to be done or alleged to have been done or omitted to be done by him as an officer or auditor of the Company and in which judgement 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 under section 144(3) or (4) or section 727 of the Act in which relief is granted to him by the court.
26. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, no payment shall be made or agreed to be made by the Company in respect of any shares or share capital (whether by way of dividend, distribution, purchase or redemption, or by way of reduction or return of share capital) if such payment is prohibited or restricted by the terms of the Finance Documents.

No dividend, distribution or other amount payable in respect of shares in the capital of the Company (whether made pursuant to the provisions of these articles or otherwise) will constitute a debt of the Company unless permitted to be paid and paid strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Documents.

Any resolution of the shareholders, any class of shareholders, the board of directors or any committee of the board of directors which conflicts with the provisions of this article will be null and void.

27. For the purposes of article 26, "**Finance Documents**" means the Finance Documents as defined in the intercreditor deed dated 16 February 2005 made between amongst others (1) the Company, (2) ING Bank N.V., London Branch (as Facility Agent, Subordinated Facility Agent and Security Agent), (3) ING Bank N.V., London Branch and The Governor and Company of the Bank of Scotland (as Original Senior Lenders and Original Subordinated Lenders) and (5) the Companies listed therein.