



**GBE**brokers  
Passion for trading

## **DISCLOSURES & MARKET DISCIPLINE**

According to Part Six of Regulation (EU) 2019/2033 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the prudential requirements of investment firms

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**April 2023**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Group Information

**GBE Holding GmbH** (hereinafter, the “Group”) was incorporated in the Germany with registration number HRB 187059 and it is the parent of **GBE Brokers Ltd** (the “CIF” or “Company”) which was incorporated in the Republic of Cyprus on 5 August 2013 with registration number HE 324205 and licensed by the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission (hereinafter the “CySEC”) with number CIF 240/14.

The table below illustrates the current licence information of the CIF:

**Table 1: CIF License Information (based on the First Appendix of the Law 87(I)/2017)**

		Investment Services and Activities								Ancillary Services						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Financial Instruments</b>	<b>1</b>	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓			-		-
	<b>2</b>	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓			-		-
	<b>3</b>	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓			-		-
	<b>4</b>	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓			-		-
	<b>5</b>	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓			-		-
	<b>6</b>	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-	-
	<b>7</b>	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓			-		-
	<b>8</b>	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓			-		-
	<b>9</b>	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓			-		-
	<b>10</b>	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓			-		-
	<b>11</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			-		-

The CIF is authorised to provide the following **Investment Services**, in accordance with Part I of the First Appendix of the Law 87(I)/2017:

- Reception and transmission of orders in relation to one or more financial instruments
- Execution of orders on behalf of clients
- Dealing on own account

The CIF is authorised to provide the following **Ancillary Services**, in accordance with Part II of the First Appendix of the Law 87(I)/2017:

- Safekeeping and administration of financial instruments for the account of clients, including custodianship and related services such as cash/collateral management.
- Granting credits or loans to one or more financial instruments, where the firm granting the credit or loan is involved in the transaction
- Foreign exchange services where these are connected to the provision of investment services.

The CIF is authorised to provide the aforementioned investment and ancillary services, as applicable for each service, for the following Financial Instruments, in accordance with Part III of the First Appendix of the Law 87(I)/2017:

1. Transferable Securities
2. Money Market Instruments
3. Units in Collective Investment Undertakings

4. Options, futures, swaps, forward rate agreements and any other derivative contracts relating to securities, currencies, interest rates or yields, or other derivatives instruments, financial indices or financial measures which may be settled physically or in cash.
5. Options, futures, swaps, forward rate agreements and any other derivative contracts relating to commodities that must be settled in cash or may be settled in cash at the option of one of the parties (otherwise than by reason of a default or other termination event).
6. Options, futures, swaps, and any other derivative contract relating to commodities that can be physically settled provided that they are traded on a regulated market or/and an MTF
7. Options, futures, swaps, forwards and any other derivative contracts relating to commodities, that can be physically settled not otherwise mentioned in point 6 of Part III and not being for commercial purposes, which have the characteristics of other derivative financial instruments, having regard to whether, inter alia, they are cleared and settled through recognised clearing houses or are subject to regular margin calls
8. Derivative instruments for the transfer of credit risk
9. Financial contracts for differences
10. Options, futures, swaps, forward rate agreements and any other derivative contracts relating to climatic variables, freight rates, emission allowances or inflation rates or other official economic statistics that must be settled in cash or may be settled in cash at the option of one of the parties (otherwise than by reason of a default or other termination event), as well as any other derivative contract relating to assets, rights, obligations, indices and measures not otherwise mentioned in this Part, which have the characteristics of other derivative financial instruments, having regard to whether, inter alia, they are traded on a regulated market or an MTF, are cleared and settled through recognised clearing houses or are subject to regular margin calls.

## 1.2 Classification and prudential requirements

The Investment Firms Directive (EU) 2019/2034 (“IFD”) and the Investment Firm Regulation, Regulation (EU) 2019/2033 (“IFR”) entered into force on 26 July 2021, introducing a new classification system for investment firms, based on their activities, systemic importance, size and interconnectedness. All investment firms are classified as Class 1, 2 or 3 Investment Firms.

Class 1 Investment Firms are the largest and most interconnected investment firms, with risk profiles similar to those of significant credit institutions, have equal treatment with credit institutions in the sense of a level playing field accordingly, and they fall entirely under the Regulation (EU) No 575/2013 (“CRR”).

Investment Firms categorized as Class 2 and Class 3 have had the most impact following the introduction of the new prudential framework as their capital requirements, reporting requirements and internal governance policies are subject to the provisions of IFR/IFD.

Cyprus Investment Firms (“CIFs”) that meet all of the below criteria are categorised as Class 3 Investment Firms while when they exceed any of the following specific size thresholds, they are categorised as Class 2 Investment Firms.

**Table 2: Threshold Criteria**

No.	Metric	Thresholds
1.	Assets Under Management	<€1.2 billion
2.	Client orders handled – cash trades	< €100 million per day
3.	Client orders handled – derivative trades	<€1 billion per day
4.	Assets safeguarded and administered	zero
5.	Client money held	zero
6.	On- and off-balance sheet total	< €100 million
7.	Total annual gross revenue from investment services and activities	< €30 million

Further to the above, the CIF is categorized as a **Class 2 Investment Firm** since it does not meet all of the above criteria and as such it should maintain own funds of at least the **higher** between:

#### A. Permanent minimum capital requirement

The permanent minimum capital requirement of the Group is **€750k** since it is authorized to provide the investment service of “*dealing on own account*”.

#### B. Fixed overhead requirements

The Fixed Overheads Requirement is calculated as one quarter (1/4) of the previous year fixed expenses (based on audited figures).

#### C. K-Factors requirement

The K-Factors are quantitative indicators that reflect the risk that the IFR/IFD prudential regime intends to address. Specifically, capital requirements from applying the K-factors formula (pursuant to Article 15 of the IFR) is the sum of the Risk to Client (‘RtC’), Risk to Market (‘RtM’) and Risk to Firm (‘RtF’) proxies.

### 1.3 Scope of application

The Market Disclosures Report (the ‘Report’) is prepared in accordance with the disclosure requirements as laid out in Part Six of the IFR. Investment firms are required to disclose their capital resources, capital requirements, remuneration policies, practices and governance standards.

The Report has as a starting point the financial information used in the Financial Statements which are prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS”). As the two documents serve different purposes, the reported figures illustrate differences, which lie on the differences of the fundamental concepts between the IFR and the IFRS.

The Group is required to comply with the market disclosures requirements on a consolidated basis. As at 31 December 2022, the basis of consolidation of the Group entities for accounting and prudential purposes is presented in the Group Structure below:

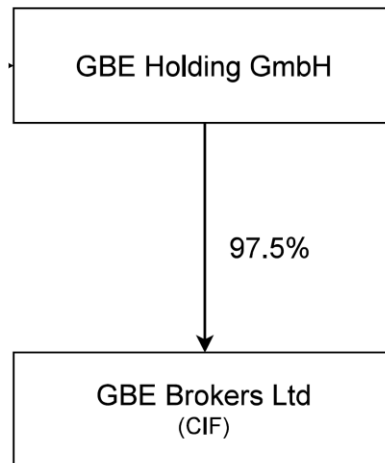


Figure 1: Scope of Application

The subsidiary companies, their activities and their consolidation method as at 31 December 2022 are presented in the table below.

**Table 3: Basis of Consolidation of Group entities for regulatory purposes**

Name of the entity	Method of accounting consolidation	Method of regulatory consolidation	Description of the entity
GBE Holding GmbH	Full consolidation	Full consolidation	Financial Holding
GBE brokers Ltd	Full consolidation	Full consolidation	Investment Firm

#### 1.4 Regulatory framework

The Report has been prepared in accordance with the regulatory regime for investment firms the European Parliament has adopted, the IFR and the IFD as well as the relevant provisions of the Law 165(I)/2021 “*The Prudential Supervisions for Investment Firms Law of 2021*” (the “Law”) and the Law 164(I)/2021, amending Law 97(I)/2021, “*The Capital Adequacy Investment Firms Law of 2021*”.

The IFR establishes the prudential requirements in terms of own funds, level of minimum capital, concentration risk, liquidity requirements and level of activity with respect to small and non-interconnected investment firms.

Furthermore, IFR introduced significant changes in the prudential regulatory regime applicable to Investment Firms including a new classification system, an amended minimum initial capital and minimum capital ratios, changes to the calculation of the capital requirements, the reporting requirements and the internal governance policies and the introduction of the K-Factors methodology and new measures relating to liquidity requirements, large exposures and consolidation requirements.



The Regulatory framework consists of:

- **Basic Prudential Requirement** - Covers minimum capital and liquidity requirements.
- **Internal Capital and Liquidity Adequacy Assessment** – Regulates the investment firm’s accountability to the regulator for capital and liquidity adequacy. If the regulator deems the capital to be insufficient, a corrective requirement can be imposed on the company in the form of what is known as a ‘SREP’.
- **Disclosures Requirement** - require the disclosure of information regarding the prudential requirements, risk management and principles of the remuneration policy.

The Group has a formal policy, approved by the Board of Directors (‘Board’ or ‘BoD’), which details its approach in complying fully with the market disclosures requirement as laid out in Part Six of the IFR.

The provisions on disclosure requirements are described in Articles 46 to 53 of the IFR. In addition, these disclosures must be verified by the external auditors of the CIF. The CIF will be responsible to submit its external auditors’ verification report to CySEC. The Group has included its risk management disclosures on its website.

Materiality is based on the criterion that the omission or misstatement of information would be likely to change or influence the decision of a reader relying on that information for the purpose of making economic decisions. Where the Group has considered a disclosure to be immaterial, this was not included in the document.

### **Frequency**

The Group’s policy is to publish the disclosures required on an annual basis. The frequency of disclosure will be reviewed should there be a material change in approach used for the calculation of capital, business structure or regulatory requirements.

### **Location of publication**

The market disclosures are published on the Group’s websites:

- [www.gbebrokers.com](http://www.gbebrokers.com)
- [www.gbeprime.com](http://www.gbeprime.com)

### **Verification**

The market disclosures are subject to internal review and validation prior to being submitted to the Board for approval. The market disclosures have been reviewed and approved by the Board. In addition, the Remuneration disclosures have been reviewed by the Risk Manager.

## **1.5 Risk management objectives and policies**

To ensure effective risk management, the Group has adopted the Three Lines of Defence model, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

First Line of Defence

Managers are responsible for establishing an effective control framework within their area of operation and identifying and controlling all risks so that they are operating within the organisational risk appetite and are fully compliant with the Group’s policies and where appropriate defined thresholds. First Line of Defence acts as an early warning mechanism for identifying (or remedying) risks or failures.

Second Line of Defence

The Risk Management Function is responsible for proposing to the Board appropriate objectives and measures to define the Group’s risk appetite and for devising the suite of policies necessary to control the business including the overarching framework and for independently monitoring the risk profile, providing additional assurance where required. The Risk Management Function will leverage their expertise by providing frameworks, tools and techniques to assist management in meeting their responsibilities, as well as acting as a central coordinator to identify enterprise-wide risks and make recommendations to address them. Integral to the mission of Second Line of Defence is identifying risk areas, detecting situations/activities in need of monitoring and developing policies to formalise risk assessment, mitigation and monitoring.

Third Line of Defence

Comprised by the Internal Audit Function which is responsible for providing assurance to the Board on the adequacy of design and operational effectiveness of the systems of internal controls. Internal Audit undertakes on-site inspections/visits to ensure that the responsibilities of each Function are discharged properly (i.e. soundly, honestly and professionally) as well as reviewing the Group’s relevant policies and procedures. Internal Audit works closely with both the First and Second Lines of Defence to ensure that its findings and recommendations are taken into consideration and followed, as applicable.

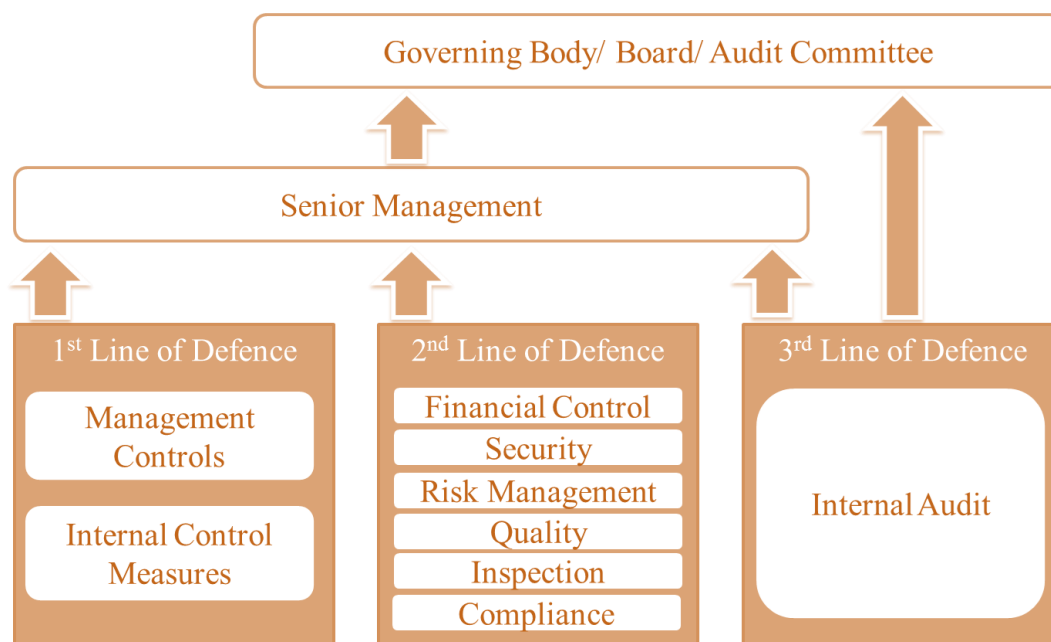


Figure 2: Three Lines of Defence

### 1.5.1 Risk Management Framework

Managing risk effectively in a Group operating in a continuously changing risk environment requires a strong risk management culture. As a result, the Group has established an effective risk oversight structure and the necessary internal organisational controls to ensure that the Group undertakes the following:

- The adequate risk identification and management
- The establishment of the necessary policies and procedures
- The setting and monitoring of the relevant limits and
- Compliance with the applicable legislation

The Board meets on a regular basis and receives updates on risk and regulatory capital matters from management. The Board reviews regularly (at least annually) written reports concerning compliance, risk management and internal audit policies, procedures and work as well as the Group's risk management policies and procedures as implemented by Management.

As part of its business activities, the Group faces a variety of risks, the most significant of which are described further below. The Group holds regulatory capital against three all-encompassing main types of risk: credit risk, market risk and operational risk.

### 1.5.2 Risk Statement

The Group's activities expose it to a variety of risks, and in particular to credit risk, market risk, operational risk, compliance risk, regulatory risk, reputational risk, group risk, strategic risk, liquidity risk, conduct risk etc. The Group, through its operations, has significant exposure to the economies and financial markets.

As regards the management of the risks arising from the current macroeconomic and political uncertainty (heightened inflation, Ukrainian crisis, climate crisis etc.), the Group is following the local government guidelines, enhancing its onboarding procedures and closely monitoring its capital and liquidity positions.

### Risk Strategy

The risk strategy of the Group is the responsibility of the Board, which formulates it and is responsible for monitoring its implementation. This is achieved through the development of risk management processes and procedures as well as through an assessment of the risks undertaken and the effectiveness of the risk management framework, given the Group's business model. One important characteristic of the Group's risk strategy is the alignment with the strategic and operational targets that are set by the Board.

The risks that arise from the implementation of the Group's strategic and business plans are regularly analyzed in order to ensure the adequacy of the relevant policies, procedures and systems.

The risk strategy of the Group aims to provide to both Senior Management and employees a general risk framework for the management of the different types of risk in line with the overall risk management and risk bearing capacity of the Group. The Group recognizes the importance

of risk management to its business' success and therefore the overall objective is to establish effective risk management policies that are able to mitigate the Group's exposure to the various risks.

## Risk Appetite

Risk appetite is the level and type of risk a firm is able and willing to assume in its exposures and business activities, given its business objectives and obligations to stakeholders. Risk appetite is generally expressed through both quantitative and qualitative means and should consider extreme conditions, events and outcomes. In addition, risk appetite should reflect potential impact on earnings, capital and funding/liquidity. The Group has a low-risk appetite in respect to investing and to managing business and operational activities.

According to the Financial Stability Board (FSB), an appropriate risk appetite framework (RAF) should enable risk target, risk appetite, risk limits and risk profile to be considered for business lines and legal entities as relevant, and within the group context.

The Risk appetite framework is defined as the overall approach, including policies, processes, controls, and systems through which risk appetite is established, communicated, and monitored. Moreover, it includes a risk appetite statement, risk limits, and an outline of the roles and responsibilities of those overseeing the implementation and monitoring the RAF. The RAF should consider material risks to the financial institution, as well as to the institution's reputation vis-à-vis policyholders, depositors, investors and customers. The RAF aligns with the institution's strategy.

The Group is assessing its risk appetite in respect to investing and to managing business and operational activities while the Risk Appetite Statement is prepared by the Risk Manager and approved by the Board of Directors.

**Table 4: Risk Appetite areas**

Indicator	Normal <sup>1</sup>	Warning <sup>2</sup>	Limit <sup>3</sup>
Minimum Own Fund Requirement	>€6,800k	<€6,800k	€5,720k
Common Equity Tier 1 Ratio <sup>4</sup>	>100%	<75%	56%
AT1 Capital Ratio <sup>4</sup>	>125%	<100%	75%
Total Capital Ratio <sup>4</sup>	>150%	<125%	100%
Liquid Assets	>€530k	<€530k	€448k
Return on Assets	≥5.00%	<5.00%	0.00%
Retained Earnings / Total Equity	≥10.00%	<10.00%	5.00%

### Notes

1. The level of the indicator is within the acceptable limits as per the Group's risk appetite.
2. The Group should take proactive actions in order to ensure that the level of the indicator will remain above the acceptable limits.
3. The level of the indicator falls below the acceptable limits and as such the Group should proceed with the required actions in order to restore the level of the said indicator to the normal predefined levels.
4. Additional own funds requirement and additional 18.75% total capital ratio requirement as per the paragraph 18 of the Law 20(I)/2016 have been taken into consideration for Normal and Warning thresholds.

The Risk Appetite framework has been designed to create links to the strategic long-term plan, capital planning and the Group's risk management framework.

The Board approves the Group's corporate strategy, business plans, budget, long term plan and ICARA. The Group employs mitigation techniques defined within the policies, to ensure risks are managed within its Risk Appetite.

### **1.4.3 Risk Culture**

Risk culture is a critical element in the Group's risk management framework and procedures. Management considers risk awareness and risk culture within the Group as an important part of the effective risk management process. Ethical behavior is a key component of the strong risk culture and its importance is also continuously emphasised by the management.

The Group is committed to embedding a strong risk culture throughout the business where everyone understands the risks they personally manage and are empowered and qualified to take accountability for them. The Group embraces a culture where each of the business areas are encouraged to take risk-based decisions, while knowing when to escalate or seek advice.

### **1.6 Declaration of the Management Body**

The Board is required to proceed with an annual declaration on the adequacy of the Group's risk management framework and ensure that the risk management arrangements and systems of financial and internal control in place are in line with the Group's risk profile.

The Group's risk management framework is designed to identify, assess, mitigate and monitor all sources of risk that could have a material impact on the Group's operations. The Board considers that the Group has in place adequate systems and controls with regards to its size, risk profile and strategy and an appropriate array of assurance mechanisms, properly resourced and skilled, to avoid or minimise loss. Key ratios and figures representing interaction of the risk profile and the stated risk tolerances are deemed to be proprietary information.

## 2. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The systems of risk management and internal control include risk assessment, management or mitigation of risks, including the use of control processes, information and communication systems and processes for monitoring and reviewing their continuing effectiveness.

The risk management and internal control systems are embedded in the operations of the Group and are capable of responding quickly to evolving business risks, whether they arise from factors within the Group or from changes in the business environment.

### 2.1. Board of Directors

As at 31 December 2022, the Board comprises of two executive directors.

The Board has the ultimate and overall responsibility for the investment firm and defines, oversees and is accountable for the implementation of the governance arrangements. The Board is responsible for ensuring that the Group complies at all times with its obligations under the Law. In doing so, the Board approves and periodically reviews the effectiveness of the policies, arrangements and procedures put in place, whilst if needed, takes appropriate measures to address any deficiencies.

The Group has in place the Internal Operations Manual which lays down the activities, processes, duties and responsibilities of the Board, Committees, Senior Management and staff of the Group. It also implements and maintains adequate risk management policies and procedures which identify the risks relating to the activities, processes and systems, and where appropriate, sets the level of risk tolerated by the Group. The Group adopts effective arrangements, processes and systems, in light of that level of risk tolerance, where applicable.

The Board has the overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of the Risk Management Framework. The Board satisfies itself that financial controls and systems of risk management are robust.

### 2.2. Committees

Establishing committees helps management bodies in their supervisory function. Committees draw on the specific knowledge and areas of expertise of individual management body members. While committees should prepare decisions and make recommendations to the management body in its supervisory function, the management body has the overall responsibility.

According to Circular C487, if the CIF meets the definition of ‘significant CIF’ as set out in Section 26(8)(a) of the Law, it is obligated to establish a Risk, Remuneration and Nomination Committee. The CIF does not fall under the definition of ‘significant CIF’ since its average on and off-balance sheet items during the four preceding years were less than €100m. Therefore, it is not required to comply with the additional regulatory requirements indicated above

However, the CIF has established a *Risk Management Committee*, in order to ensure the effectiveness of the risk management policies and procedures.



## **Risk Management Committee**

The Risk Management Committee of the Company is formed with the view of ensuring the efficient monitoring of the risks inherent in the provision of investment and ancillary services to Clients, as well as the overall risks underlying the operations of the Company. To this effect, the Company has adopted and maintains an applied risk management framework/policy, which identifies the risks relating to the Company's activities, processes and systems and sets the risk tolerance levels of the Company. The Risk Management Committee bears the responsibility to monitor the adequacy and effectiveness of the risk management framework/policy and procedures that are in place, the level of compliance by the Company and its relevant persons with the policies and procedures adopted as well as the adequacy and effectiveness of measures taken to address any deficiencies with respect to those policies and procedures that are in place, including failures by the Company's relevant persons to comply with those policies and procedures. Furthermore, the risk management committee advises the management body on the investment firm's overall current and future risk appetite and strategy and assists the management body in overseeing the implementation of that strategy by senior management. During 2022 the Risk Management Committee met 2 times.

### **2.3. Policy on Recruitment**

Recruitment into the Board combines an assessment of both technical capability and competency skills referenced against the Group's leadership framework. Members of the Board possess sufficient knowledge, skills and experience to perform their duties. The overall composition of the Board reflects an adequately broad range of experiences to be able to understand the CIF's activities, including the main risks to ensure the sound and prudent management of the Group as well as sufficient knowledge, of the legal framework governing the operations of a CIF.

### **Board of Directors Recruitment**

The management of a CIF must be undertaken by at least two persons meeting the requirements below:

1. Members of the Board shall at all times be of sufficiently good repute and possess sufficient;  
knowledge, skills and experience to perform their duties. The overall composition of the Board of directors shall reflect and adequately board range of experiences.
2. All Board members shall commit sufficient time to perform their functions in the Group;
3. The number of directorships which may be held by a member of the Board at the same time shall take into account individual circumstances and the nature, scale and complexity of the Group's activities. Unless representing the Republic, members of the Board of a CIF that is significant in terms of its size, internal organisation and the nature, the scope and the complexity of its activities shall not hold more than one of the following combinations of directorships at the same time:
  - one executive directorship with two non-executive directorships;
  - four non-executive directorships.
4. For the purposes of subsection above, the following shall count as a single directorship:
  - a) Executive or non-executive directorships held within the same group;
  - b) Executive or non-executive directorships held within:

- i. institutions which are members of the same institutional protection scheme provided that the conditions set out in Article 113, paragraph (7) of CRR are fulfilled; or
  - ii. undertakings (including non-financial entities) in which the CIF holds a qualifying holding.
5. Directorships in organisations which do not pursue predominantly commercial objectives shall not count for the purposes of the previous subsection;
6. The Commission may allow members of the Board of Directors to hold additional non-executive directorships;
7. The Board of Directors shall collectively possess adequate knowledge, skills experience to be able to understand the Group's activities, including the principal risks; and
8. Each member of the Board of Directors shall act with honesty, integrity and independence of mind to effectively assess and challenge the decisions of the senior management where necessary and to effectively oversee and monitor the decision-making of the management.

## 2.4. Number of Directorships held by members of the Board

The table below discloses the number of directorships held by members of the management body of the Group, including GBE brokers Ltd and any other companies belonging to the same group, as at 31 December 2022. Directorships in organisations which do not pursue predominantly commercial objectives such as non-profit or charitable organisations, are not taken into account for the purposes of the below.

**Table 5: Number of Directorships of the members of the Board of Directors\***

Director	Entity Name	Function	No. of Executive Directorships	Number of Non-Executive Directorships
Niklas Neubauer	GBE Brokers Ltd	Executive Director	3	-
Rifat Sayim	GBE Holding GmbH	Executive Director	2	-
Ben-Florian Henke	GBE Holding GmbH	Executive Director	2	-
Kyriakos Karoullas	GBE Brokers Ltd	Executive Director	1	-
Olga Kvasova	GBE Brokers Ltd	Non-Executive Director	-	1
Andreas Psindros	GBE Brokers Ltd	Non-Executive Director	-	2

\* The information in this table is based only on representations made by the directors of the Group.

## 2.5. Policy on Diversity

The Group is committed to promote a diverse and inclusive workplace at all levels, reflective of the communities in which it does business. It approaches diversity in the broadest sense, recognizing that successful businesses flourish through embracing diversity into their business strategy, and developing talent at every level in the organisation. For this purpose, the Group



takes into consideration various aspects such as broad industry experience, knowledge, independence, gender, age, cultural and educational background, for the Board appointments. In order to support a diverse composition of the management body the Group ensures that there is no discrimination based on gender, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, religion or belief, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age, or sexual orientation. The Group aims at an appropriate representation of all genders within the management body and ensure that the principle of equal opportunities is respected when selecting members of the management body.

### **Diverse pool of Candidates**

To enable the Group to shortlist and eventually hire the members from the diverse backgrounds, it is essential to prioritise the formation of the diverse candidate pool. When gathering the candidates pool and shortlisting the candidates the Group primarily focuses on the experience, skills and abilities of the candidate to contribute to the Group's business processes and specific skills needed. Secondly, the Group assesses the divers qualifications of the candidates and evaluate the best fit for the position.

### **Skills and Experience**

The Board of Directors, via its members, shall possess a well-balanced broad set of qualities and competences, such as sufficient knowledge and relevant experience, which would be appropriate and essential for the requirements of the conduct of Group's business. An assessment of the specific experience and skills, as defined in Group's Recruitment Policy and Suitability assessment as defined in Training and Education Policy, needs to ensure the optimum blend of the potential individual and the aggregate capability in regard to the Group's long-term strategic plan.

### **Independence**

The Board of Directors includes a composition of Executive and Non-executive Directors. This is to assure a strong element of independence in the Board and each member shall be of sufficient calibre and stature for their views to carry weight. Only where independence is promoted can member of the Board act with honesty, integrity and independence of mind necessary to be able to properly assess and challenge the decisions of a senior management when needed and to effectively oversee and monitor management decision-making.

### **Equality**

The Group is committed to maintaining an environment of general respect to all people, be it its employees, employees of third parties (such as contractors and service providers), Clients and potential Clients, business associates, etc. in all business dealings and achieving a workplace environment and business culture free of harassment and discrimination on the basis of gender, physical or mental state, race, ethnic background, religion, age or family status. The same principle applies to the selection of potential candidates for appointment to the Board.

## **2.6. Information flow on risk to the management body**

Risk information flows up to the Board directly from the business departments and control functions. The Board ensures that it receives on a frequent basis, at least annually written reports

regarding Internal Audit, Compliance, Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing and Risk Management issues and approves the ICARA report as shown in the table below:

**Table 6: Information flow on risk to management body**

	Report Name	Owner of Report	Recipient	Frequency
1	Risk Manager's Report	Risk Manager	Senior Management, Board, CySEC	Annually
2	Form 165-01	Risk Manager	Senior Management, Board, CySEC	Quarterly
3	ICARA Report	Risk Manager	Senior Management, Board	Annually
4	Market Disclosures	Risk Manager	Senior Management, Board	Annually
5	Risk Register	Risk Manager	Senior Management, Board	Annually
6	Compliance Report	Compliance Officer	Senior Management, Board, CySEC	Annually
7	Internal Audit Report	Internal Auditor	Senior Management, Board, CySEC	Annually
8	Anti-money laundering (AMLCO) Report	Anti-money laundering Compliance Officer	Senior Management, Board, CySEC	Annually
9	Audited Financial Statements	External Auditor	Senior Management, Board, CySEC	Annually
10	Form 165-03 'Prudential Supervision Information'	Risk Manager	Senior Management, Board, CySEC	Annually
11	Form 20-01 (Recovery Plan)*	Risk Manager	Senior Management, Board, CySEC	Every Two Years
12	Resolution Templates (XBRL)	Risk Manager	Senior Management, Board, Resolution Authority (CBC)	Annually

*\*CIF which are subject to simplified obligations for the purpose of preparing their recovery plans according to Directive DI20-01*

Furthermore, the Group believes that the risk governance processes and policies are of at most importance for its effective and efficient operation. The processes are reviewed and updated on an annual basis or when deemed necessary.

### 3. OWN FUNDS

Own Funds (also referred to as capital resources) is the type and level of regulatory capital that must be held to enable the Group to absorb losses. During the year under review, the primary objective of the Group with respect to capital management was to ensure that it complied with the imposed capital requirements with respect to its own funds and that the Group maintained healthy capital ratios in order to support its business.

The Group throughout the year under review managed its capital structure and made adjustments to it in light of the changes in the economic and business conditions and the risk characteristics of its activities.

#### 3.1. Composition of regularity own funds

The Group shall disclose information relating to their own funds according to Article 49(a) and (c) of IFR. The following information provides a full reconciliation of the Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) and Additional Tier 1 (AT1) instruments and Tier 2 (T2) instruments issued by the Group. The Group's regulatory capital comprises fully of CET1 capital while it has not issued any AT1 or T2 capital. The composition of the Group's Own Funds which is cross-referenced to the corresponding rows in table EU IF CC2 is shown below:

**Table 7: IF CC1.01 - Composition of regulatory own funds as at 31 December 2022**

Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) capital: instruments and reserves		Solo €'000	Conso €'000	Source based on reference numbers of EU IF CC2
<b>1</b>	<b>OWN FUNDS</b>	<b>15,568</b>	<b>23,789</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>TIER 1 CAPITAL</b>	<b>15,568</b>	<b>23,789</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>COMMON EQUITY TIER 1 CAPITAL</b>	<b>15,568</b>	<b>23,789</b>	
4	Fully paid up capital instruments	2,000	100	Ref 1 (Equity)
5	Share premium	-	-	N/A
6	Retained earnings	13,661	-	Ref 2 (Equity)
7	Accumulated other comprehensive income	-	-	N/A
8	Other reserves	-	-	N/A
9	Minority interest given recognition in CET1 capital	-	-	N/A
10	Adjustments to CET1 due to prudential filters	-	-	N/A
11	Other funds	-	-	N/A
<b>12</b>	<b>(-)TOTAL DEDUCTIONS FROM COMMON EQUITY TIER 1</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>-</b>	
13	(-) Own CET1 instruments	-	-	N/A
14	(-) Direct holdings of CET1 instruments	-	-	N/A
15	(-) Indirect holdings of CET1 instruments	-	-	N/A
16	(-) Synthetic holdings of CET1 instruments	-	-	N/A
17	(-) Losses for the current financial year	-	-	N/A
18	(-) Goodwill	-	-	N/A
19	(-) Other intangible assets	(1)	(1)	Ref 1 (Assets)

20	(-) Deferred tax assets that rely on future profitability and do not arise from temporary differences net of associated tax liabilities	-	-	N/A
21	(-) Qualifying holding outside the financial sector which exceeds 15% of own funds	-	-	N/A
22	(-) Total qualifying holdings in undertaking other than financial sector entities which exceeds 60% of its own funds	-	-	N/A
23	(-) CET1 instruments of financial sector entities where the institution does not have a significant investment	-	-	N/A
24	(-) CET1 instruments of financial sector entities where the institution has a significant investment	-	-	N/A
25	(-) Defined benefit pension fund assets	-	-	N/A
26	(-) Other deductions	-	-	N/A
27	CET1: Other capital elements, deductions and adjustments	(92)	(92)	Ref 2 (Assets)
28	<b>ADDITIONAL TIER 1 CAPITAL</b>	-	-	N/A
29	Fully paid up, directly issued capital instruments	-	-	N/A
30	Share premium	-	-	N/A
31	<b>(-) TOTAL DEDUCTIONS FROM ADDITIONAL TIER 1</b>	-	-	
32	(-) Own AT1 instruments	-	-	N/A
33	(-) Direct holdings of AT1 instruments	-	-	N/A
34	(-) Indirect holdings of AT1 instruments	-	-	N/A
35	(-) Synthetic holdings of AT1 instruments	-	-	N/A
36	(-) AT1 instruments of financial sector entities where the institution does not have a significant investment	-	-	N/A
37	(-) AT1 instruments of financial sector entities where the institution has a significant investment	-	-	N/A
38	(-) Other deductions	-	-	N/A
39	Additional Tier 1: Other capital elements, deductions and adjustments	-	-	N/A
40	<b>TIER 2 CAPITAL</b>	-	-	
41	Fully paid up, directly issued capital instruments	-	-	N/A
42	Share premium	-	-	N/A
43	<b>(-) TOTAL DEDUCTIONS FROM TIER 2</b>	-	-	
44	(-) Own T2 instruments	-	-	N/A
45	(-) Direct holdings of T2 instruments	-	-	N/A
46	(-) Indirect holdings of T2 instruments	-	-	N/A
47	(-) Synthetic holdings of T2 instruments	-	-	N/A
48	(-) T2 instruments of financial sector entities where the institution does not have a significant investment	-	-	N/A
49	(-) T2 instruments of financial sector entities where the institution has a significant investment	-	-	N/A
50	Tier 2: Other capital elements, deductions and adjustments	-	-	N/A

\*According to the Circular C334, CIFs should deduct the additional Cash Buffer of 3 per thousand of the eligible funds and financial instruments of their clients as at the previous year calculated according to paragraph 11(6) of the Directive DI87-07 (operation of the ICF).

### 3.2. Main features of capital instruments

The Group shall disclose the main features of the CET1 and AT1 instruments and Tier 2 instruments issued according to Article 49(b) of IFR. Therefore, the Group's capital instruments' main features are outlined below:

**Table 8: EU IF CCA - Main features of own instruments issued by the firm**

No	Item	CET1 Capital
1	Issuer	GBE Holding GMBH
2	Unique identifier (e.g. CUSIP, ISIN or Bloomberg identifier for private placement)	n/a
3	Public or private placement	Private
4	Governing law(s) of the instrument	German Company Law
5	Instrument type (types to be specified by each jurisdiction)	Ordinary Shares
6	Amount recognised in regulatory capital	€100k
7	Nominal amount of instrument	€100k
8	Issue price	€1
9	Redemption price	N/A
10	Accounting classification	Shareholders' Equity
11	Original date of issuance	28 March 2017
12	Perpetual or dated	Perpetual
13	Original maturity date	No maturity
14	Issuer call subject to prior supervisory approval	N/A
15	Optional call date, contingent call dates and redemption amount	N/A
16	Subsequent call dates, if applicable	N/A
	<i>Coupons / dividends</i>	
17	Fixed or floating dividend/coupon	Floating
18	Coupon rate and any related index	N/A
19	Existence of a dividend stopper	No
20	Fully discretionary, partially discretionary or mandatory (in terms of timing)	N/A
21	Fully discretionary, partially discretionary or mandatory (in terms of amount)	N/A
22	Existence of step up or other incentive to redeem	No
23	Noncumulative or cumulative	Non-cumulative
24	Convertible or non-convertible	Non-convertible
25	If convertible, conversion trigger(s)	N/A
26	If convertible, fully or partially	N/A
27	If convertible, conversion rate	N/A
28	If convertible, mandatory or optional conversion	N/A
29	If convertible, specify instrument type convertible into	N/A

30	If convertible, specify issuer of instrument it converts into	N/A
31	Write-down features	N/A
32	If write-down, write-down trigger(s)	N/A
33	If write-down, full or partial	N/A
34	If write-down, permanent or temporary	N/A
35	If temporary write-down, description of write-up mechanism	N/A
36	Non-compliant transitioned features	N/A
37	If yes, specify non-compliant features	N/A
38	Link to the full term and conditions of the instrument (signposting)	N/A

### 3.3. Balance Sheet Reconciliation

The Group shall disclose the balance sheet included in their audited financial statements for the year-end disclosures. As at the 31 December 2022, the reconciliation of assets and liabilities and regulatory Own Funds is shown in the following table:

**Table 9: EU IFCC2 - Reconciliation of regulatory own funds to balance sheet in the audited financial statements**

No.	Item	Balance sheet as in audited financial statements €'000	Under regulatory scope of consolidation €'000	Cross reference to EU IF CC1
<b>Assets - Breakdown by asset classes according to the balance sheet in the published/audited financial statements</b>				
1	Property, plant and equipment	54	54	N/A
2	Right-of-use assets	89	89	N/A
3	Intangible assets	1	1	19
4	Investors' compensation fund	62	62	27
5	Loans receivable	454	1,090	N/A
6	Receivables	110	220	N/A
7	Loans receivable	-	616	N/A
8	Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	-	914	N/A
9	Refundable taxes	238	239	N/A
10	Cash at bank	37,277	43,231	N/A
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>38,286</b>	<b>46,514</b>	
<b>Liabilities - Breakdown by liability classes according to the balance sheet in the published/audited financial statements</b>				
1	Trade and other payables	22,531	22,538	N/A
2	Lease liabilities	94	94	N/A
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>22,625</b>	<b>22,633</b>	

<b>Shareholders' Equity</b>				
1	Share Capital	2,000	100	4
2	Retained earnings	13,661	23,620	6
3	Non-controlling interests	-	162	N/A
	<b>Total Shareholders' equity</b>	<b>15,661</b>	<b>23,882</b>	

#### 4. OWN FUNDS REQUIREMENTS

The Group as a **Class 2** investment firm group shall at all times have own funds at least the highest of the following:

- Initial minimum requirement,
- Fixed Overhead Requirements and
- K-Factors Requirement.

##### 4.1. Initial Capital Requirement

As per the Title III of the Law, the initial capital of a CIF which is authorised to provide any of the investment services or perform any of the investment activities listed in points (3) and (6) of Part I of Annex I to the Investment Services and Activities and Regulated Markets Law, shall be €750,000 while for a CIF which is authorised to provide any of the investment activities listed in points (1), (2), (4), (5) and (7) and which is not permitted to hold client money or securities belonging to its clients, the initial capital shall be €75,000. For all other CIFs, the initial capital shall be €150,000.

Therefore, since the CIF is authorised to provide the investment service of “*dealing on own account*”, the Group’s initial capital is €750,000.

##### 4.2. Fixed Overheads requirement

The fixed overheads requirement (FOR) applies to all CIFs. The FOR is intended to calculate a minimum amount of capital that a CIF would need available to absorb losses if it has cause to wind-down or exit the market.

It is calculated as the one quarter of the fixed overheads of the preceding year (or business plan where the audited financial statements are not available) in accordance with the provision of Article 13 of IFR.

Further to the above, the solo and consolidated fixed overheads requirement based on the latest solo and consolidated audited financial statements are €1,750k and €1,949k respectively as per the table below:



**Table 10: Fixed Overheads Requirement**

Item	Solo €'000	Conso €'000
<b>Total expenses of the previous year after distribution of profits</b>	<b>17,585</b>	<b>18,398</b>
<b>Total deductions</b>	<b>(10,585)</b>	<b>(10,604)</b>
(-)Staff bonuses and other remuneration	(60)	(60)
(-)Employees', directors' and partners' shares in net profits		
(-)Other discretionary payments of profits and variable remuneration		
(-)Shared commission and fees payable		
(-)Fees, brokerage and other charges paid to CCPs that are charged to customers	(7,360)	(7,360)
(-)Fees to tied agents		
(-)Interest paid to customers on client money where this is at the firm's discretion		
(-)Non-recurring expenses from non-ordinary activities		
(-)Expenditures from taxes	(3,164)	(3,183)
(-)Losses from trading on own account in financial instruments		
(-)Contract based profit and loss transfer agreements		
(-)Expenditure on raw materials		
(-)Payments into a fund for general banking risk		
(-)Expenses related to items that have already been deducted from own funds	(1)	(1)
<b>Annual Fixed Overheads</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>7,794</b>
<b>Fixed Overheads requirement</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>1,949</b>

### 4.3. K-Factors Requirement

The K-factor capital requirements are essentially a mixture of activity- and exposure-based requirements. K-factors applies to an individual investment firm will depend on the MiFID investment services and activities it undertakes.

Capital requirement from applying K-factors formula is the sum of Risk to Client ('RtC'), Risk to Market ('RtM') and Risk to Firm ('RtF').

Further to the above and since the CIF is Class 2 IF which is authorized to provide the investment service of *Dealing on Own Account*, all RtC, RtM and RtF proxies are applicable.

#### 5.1.1. Risk to Client

The risk to Client proxy captures the risk that may be inflicted onto the clients. RtC exists in the activities/services of the firm which are related to the client and are measured as a percentage of Clients Money Held (CMH), Assets Under Management (AUM), Assets Safeguarded & Administered (ASA) and Clients' Orders Handled (COH).

The Group is required to calculate the following K-Factors requirements as part of the RtC:

### **K-AUM: Assets Under Management**

K-AUM captures the risk of harm to clients from an incorrect discretionary management of client portfolios or poor execution and provides reassurance and client benefits in terms of the continuity of service of ongoing portfolio management and investment advice.

AUM is the value of assets an IF manages for its clients under both discretionary portfolio management and non-discretionary arrangements constituting investment advice of an ongoing nature.

#### ***Calculation***

AUM shall be the rolling average of the value of the total monthly assets under management, measured on the last business day of each of the previous 15 months, excluding the 3 most recent monthly values.

K-AUM shall be the arithmetic mean of the remaining 12 monthly values multiplied by the relevant coefficient of 0.02%.

Since the Company did not provide any portfolio management or investment advice services during the year ending 31 December 2022, the Company was not subject to the risk relating to this K-factor.

### **K-CMH: Clients Money Held**

K-CMH captures the risk of potential for harm where an investment firm holds the money of its clients, taking into account whether they are on its own balance sheet or in third-party accounts and arrangements under applicable national law provided that client money is safeguarded in the event of bankruptcy, insolvency, or entry into resolution or administration of the investment firm.

CMH is the amount of client money that an investment firm holds or controls. It excludes client money that is deposited on a (custodian) bank account in the name of the client itself, where the investment firm has access to these client funds via a third-party mandate. (on segregated or nonsegregated basis).

#### ***Calculation***

CMH shall be the rolling average of the value of total daily client money held, measured at the end of each business day for the previous 9 months, excluding the 3 most recent months.

K-CMH shall be the arithmetic mean of the daily values from the remaining 6 months multiplied by the relevant coefficient (0.4% for segregated accounts and 0.5% for non-segregated accounts).

As at 31 December 2022, the K-CMH was €275k. The table below shows the average CMH values in segregated accounts and non-segregated accounts for the 4th quarter of 2022 in accordance with the Article 18(1) of IFR:

**Table 11: Total CMH (average amounts)**

	Factor amount		
	December 2022 €'000	November 2022 €'000	October 2022 €'000
CMH - Segregated (average amounts)	36,637	36,279	35,194
CMH - Non-segregated (average amounts)	25,736	24,651	24,124

### **K-ASA: Assets Safeguarded and Administered**

K-ASA captures the risk of safeguarding and administering client assets, and ensures that investment firms hold capital in proportion to such balances, regardless of whether they are on its own balance sheet or in third-party accounts.

ASA means the value of assets that an investment firm safeguards and administers for clients – ensures that investment firms hold capital in proportion to such balances, regardless of whether they are on its own balance sheet or in third-party accounts.

#### **Calculation**

It is calculated as the rolling average of the daily total value of assets under safekeeping and administration, measured at the end of each business day for the previous 9 months, excluding the 3 most recent months.

K-ASA shall be the arithmetic mean of the daily values from the remaining 6 months multiplied by the relevant coefficient of 0.04%.

During the year under review, the Company was not subject to the risk relating to K-ASA since it was safeguarding clients' positions in CFD products. It is noted that the safeguarding of clients' positions in CFD products is captured under K-CMH in consideration of the nature of CFD products.

### **K-COH: Client Orders Handled**

K-COH captures the potential risk to clients of an investment firm which executes orders (in the name of the client, and not in the name of the investment firm itself), for example as part of execution-only services to clients or when an investment firm is part of a chain for client orders.

COH captures the potential risk to clients of an investment firm which executes its orders (in the name of the client). This is the value of orders that an investment firm handles for clients, through the reception and transmission of client orders and execution of orders on behalf of clients.

#### **Calculation**

COH shall be the rolling average of the value of the total client orders handled, measured throughout each business day for the previous 6 months.

K-COH shall be the arithmetic mean of the daily values of the remaining 3 months multiplied by the relevant coefficient (0.1% for cash trades and 0.01% for derivative trades).

The Company executes its clients' orders by acting as principal to their trades, therefore the risk reflected by this K-factor does not apply.

### 5.1.2. Risk to Market

The Risk to market proxy captures the risk an IF can pose to market access. The K-factor for RtM is based on the rules for market risk, for position in financial instruments in foreign exchange and in commodities in accordance with the CRR.

#### K-NPR: Net Position Risk

A Class 2 investment firm must calculate its K-NPR requirement by reference to trading book positions and positions other than trading book positions where the positions give rise to foreign exchange risk or commodity risk. The K-NPR requirement is calculated in accordance with Title IV of Part Three of the CRR.

The Group is exposed to market risk resulting from exposure to:

- FX Risk;
- Commodity Risk
- Equity Risk
- Traded Debt Instrument Risk

As at 31 December 2022, the K-NPR capital requirements for both solo and consolidated is amounted to €2,387k, as shown in the table below:

**Table 12:K-NPR capital requirement**

K-NPR	Solo €'000	Conso €'000
Foreign Exchange Risk	1,887	1,887
Commodities Risk	321	321
Position risk in equities	176	176
Position risk in traded debt instruments	3	3
<b>K-NPR</b>	<b>2,387</b>	<b>2,387</b>

#### Foreign Exchange Risk

The Group's reporting currency is Euro. Foreign currency risk arises when future commercial transactions and recognized assets and liabilities are denominated in a currency that is not the Group's functional currency.

The foreign exchange risk in the Group is effectively managed by setting and controlling foreign exchange risk limits, such as through the establishment of a maximum value of exposure to a particular currency pair as well as through the utilization of sensitivity analysis.

The Company's foreign exchange risk capital requirement is €1,887k emanating from a net foreign exchange exposure of €29,976k based on the latest relevant calculations of the Company's capital requirements, as at 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2022.

The Group continues to regularly monitor the impact of exchange rate risks and if deemed necessary corrective actions will be taken to minimize the effect.

### ***Closely Correlated Currencies***

Following the EBA's Final draft Implementing Technical Standards on Closely Correlated Currencies under Article 354 (3) of CRR, the Group may apply lower own funds requirements against positions in relevant closely correlated currencies as these are disclosed by EBA. In this respect, for the calculation of the foreign exchange risk for matched positions on closely correlated currencies, a capital requirement of 4% instead of 8% is used.

The Group's matched positions in closely correlated currencies for the period up to 31 December 2022 were €12,775k. In this respect, please find below the analysis of the Group's exposure to Foreign Exchange Risk as at 31 December 2022:

**Table 13: Foreign Exchange Risk capital requirements**

	Net Positions		2% total own funds	Positions Subject to Capital Charge			Capital Req.
	Long	Short		Long	Short	Matched	
<b>TOTAL POSITIONS</b>	<b>53,744</b>	<b>29,976</b>	<b>476</b>	-	<b>20,129</b>	<b>12,775</b>	<b>1,887</b>
Currencies closely correlated	48,676	15,703		-	2,928	12,775	511
of which: reporting currency	35,902	-		-	-		
All other currencies	5,068	14,190		-	17,118		1,369
Gold	-	84		-	84		7

FX risk analysis is the same for both solo and consolidated basis.

### **Commodities Risk**

Commodities Risk is the risk of the unexpected changes in commodities prices. These commodities are split into precious metals (except gold), base metals, agricultural products and other energy products (oil, gas).

The Company calculates its capital requirement with respect to commodities risk using the Simplified Approach. Each position in commodities or commodity derivatives is expressed in terms of the standard unit of measurement. The spot price in each commodity is expressed in the reporting currency. The capital requirements for each commodity are calculated as the summation of the following:

- 15% x net position (long or short) x spot price for the commodity
- 3% x gross position (long plus short) x spot price for the commodity

As at 31 December 2022, the Commodities risk capital requirements due to commodities risk amounted to **€321k**.

**Table 14: Capital requirements for Commodities risk**

Category	Gross Long €000	Gross Short €000	Net Long €000	Net Short €000	OFR €000
Precious Metals	6	1,556	0	1,550	279
Other	1,359	1,396	595	632	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,365</b>	<b>2,952</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>2,182</b>	<b>321</b>

Commodities risk analysis is the same for both solo and consolidated basis.

### Position Risk

Position Risk is the risk involved with a certain trading position, commonly incurred due to the changes in price of the debt and equity instruments. The Company calculates its capital requirements for position risk as the sum of the own funds requirements for the general and specific risk of its positions in debt and equity instruments.

### Equities

Equity Risk is the risk that the fair value of a financial instrument fluctuates as a result of changes in market prices other than due to the effect of transactional foreign currency exposures or interest rate risks.

The sum of the absolute values of all of the Company's net long positions and all its net short positions is its overall gross position. The Company calculates, separately for each market, the difference between the sum of the net long and the net short positions. The sum of the absolute values of those differences is its overall net position. The specific risk on this individual equity can be ignored if the stock-index future in question is exchange traded and represents a relevant appropriately diversified index.

The Company multiplies its overall gross position by 8% in order to calculate its own funds requirement against specific risk. The own funds requirement against general risk are the Company's overall net position multiplied by 8%.

As at 31 December 2022, the market risk capital requirements, due to position risk in equities amounted to **€176k**.

**Table 15: Position risks in equities**

	Total Exposure €000	Capital Requirements €000
General Risk	1,734	139
Specific Risk	461	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,195</b>	<b>176</b>

Equity risk analysis is the same for both solo and consolidated basis.

**Traded Debt Instruments**

Position Risks in Traded Debt Instruments arising from the investments on Fixed Income instruments such as bonds. The position risk on a traded debt instrument shall be divided into two components in order to calculate the capital required against it:

- a. Specific risk— this is the risk of a price change in the instrument concerned due to factors related to its issuer; and
- b. General risk — this is the risk of a price change in the instrument due to a change in the level of interest rates.

Net positions shall be classified according to the currency in which they are denominated and shall calculate the capital requirement for general and specific risk in each individual currency separately. The capital requirement for general market risk for traded debt instruments is calculated under the maturity-based approach. The instruments’ net positions shall be grouped into the three zones (maturity bands) according to the residual time to maturity and whether their coupon is above/below 3%. The Company’s trading book exposure is presented in the table below. As at 31 December 2022, the market risk capital requirements, due to position risk in traded debt instruments, amounted to **€3k**.

**Table 16: Position Risks in Traded Debt Instruments for EUR currency**

Currency: EUR	Net Positions	Weighting factor	Positions subject to capital charge	Own Funds Requirements
	€000	%	€000	€000
<b>TDI in Trading Book</b>				<b>3</b>
<b>General Risk - Maturity based approach</b>				
Zone 3	40	3.75%	1	3
	21	5.25%	1	

TDI risk analysis is the same for both solo and consolidated basis.

In light of the above, the chart below shows the breakdown of the K-NPR capital requirement as at 31 December 2022.

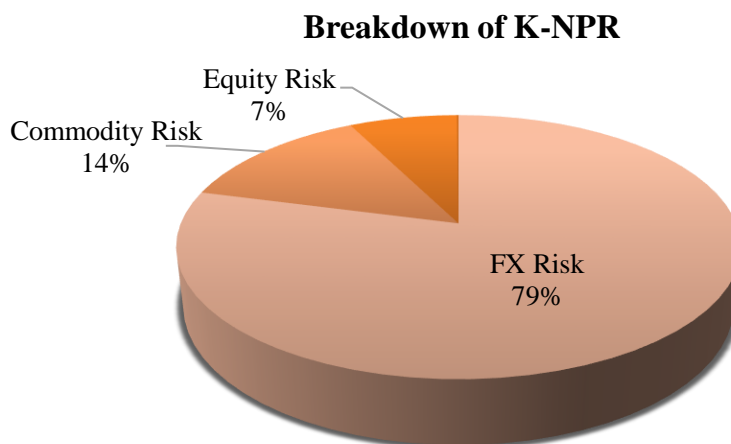


Figure 3: Breakdown of K-NPR



### 5.1.3. Risk to Firm

The Risk to Firm captures the risk that could be inflicted on the Company. The K-factors under RtF capture an investment firm's exposure to their trading counterparties, the concentration risk in an investment firm's large exposures and the operational risk from an investment firm's daily trading flow.

K-factors for K-TCD and K-CON under RtF constitute a simplified application of the rules laid down in the CRR on counterparty credit risk and large exposure risk, respectively. The Group is required to calculate the following K-Factors requirements as part of the RtF:

#### K-TCD: Trading Counterparty Default

K-TCD captures the risk to an investment firm by counterparties to over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives, repurchase transactions, securities and commodities lending or borrowing transactions, long settlement transactions, margin lending transactions, or any other securities financing transactions, as well as by recipients of loans granted by the investment firm on an ancillary basis as part of an investment service that fails to fulfil their obligations, by multiplying the value of the exposures, based on replacement cost and an add-on for potential future exposure, accounting for the mitigating effects of effective netting and the exchange of collateral.

#### Calculation

Calculation based on CRR counterparty credit risk refers to exposure value, credit valuation, replacement cost, potential future exposure and collateral. The following formulas describe the calculation of the capital requirement for K-TCD:

$$K-TCD = a \times EV \times Rf \times CVA$$

Where:

- $a = 1.2$
- $EV = \text{Exposure value calculated in accordance Article 27 of IFR}$
- $RF = \text{the risk factor applicable to the counterparty type as set out in the table 2 in Article 26}$
- $CVA = \text{the credit valuation adjustment calculated in accordance with Article 32 of IFR.}$

Trading Counterparty Default arises primarily as a result of the Company's open CFD positions maintained with clients. For the open positions with clients, the Company sets principles to monitor and manage this risk on a real-time basis.

The K-TCD as at 31 December 2022 was calculated based on the provisions of Articles 25 to 32 of the IFR, as shown below:

**Table 17: K-TCD Exposures**

Type of contract	Positive Fair Value	Notional Amount	PFE Value	Collateral	Exposure Amount	K-TCD
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Interest Rate	3	61	0	5	1	0



Foreign exchange	4,586	150,730	6,029	1,411	9,221	836
Equity single name	96	601	192	113	175	15
Equity index	1,150	36,468	7,294	1,705	6,739	623
Commodity and emission allowance	154	4,175	751	213	693	41
Other	22	142	46	53	29	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,012</b>	<b>192,177</b>	<b>14,312</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>16,859</b>	<b>1,517</b>

The graph below shows the breakdown of K-TCD capital requirement per assets class:

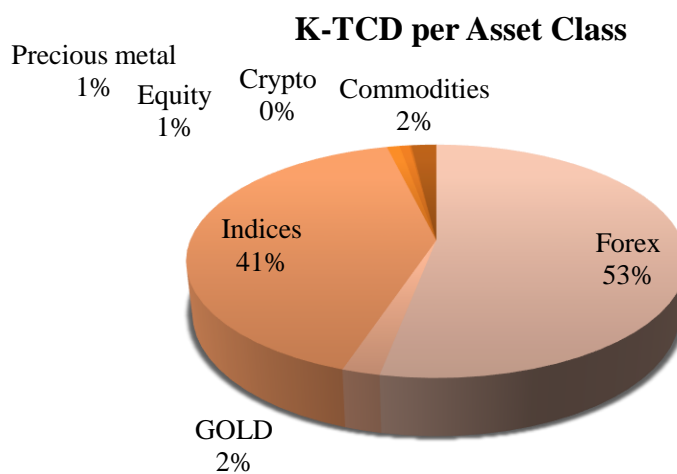


Figure 4: K-TCD Per Asset Class

### K-CON: Concentration Risk on Large Exposures

K-CON captures concentration risk in relation to individual or highly connected private sector counterparties with whom firms have exposures above 25 % of their own funds, or specific alternative thresholds in relation to credit institutions or other investment firms, by imposing a capital add-on in line with CRR for excess exposures above those limits.

All IFs should monitor and control their concentration risk. However only Investment Firms which are subject to a minimum own funds requirement under the K-Factors should report the concentration risk.

#### Limits

Where the client is a credit institution or an investment firm, the limit to concentration will be the higher of 25% of the investment firm's capital or €150m. If the amount of €150m is higher than 25% of the firm's own funds, the limit to concentration should not exceed 100% of the firm's capital.

Where the client is not credit institution or investment firm, the limit to concentration risk remains at 25% of the investment firm's own funds.

### **Calculation**

Where a firm exceeds these limits, it will be required to hold additional own fund requirement based on the excess over the limit multiplied by a factor between 200% and 900%, depending on the size of the excess as per Table 6 of Article 39 of IFR.

Further to the above, Own Funds requirement of the excess shall be calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$OFRE = \frac{OFR}{EV} * EVE$$

Where:

- *OFRE = own funds requirement for the excess;*
- *OFR = own funds requirement of exposures to an individual client or groups of connected clients, calculated by adding together the own funds requirements of the exposures to the individual clients within the group, which shall be treated as a single exposure;*
- *EV = exposure value calculated in TCD and NPR K-factors;*
- *EVE = exposure value excess calculated as Exposure Value minus Limit*

The K-CON own funds requirement shall be the aggregate amount of the own funds requirement calculated for each client or group of connected clients.

The Company calculates and keeps aside an additional capital requirement for any amount that exceeds the applicable K-CON limit. Additionally, the Company reports to CySEC, on a quarterly basis, via the Form 165-01, the amount of exposures exceeding the limits set in Article 37 of the IFR and the name of the relevant counterparty.

As at 31 December 2022, the Company's exposures were within the limit and as such the K-CON was zero.

### **K-DTF: Daily Trading Flow**

K-DTF captures the operational risks to an investment firm in large volumes of trades concluded for its own account or for clients in its own name in one day which could result from inadequate or failed internal processes, people and systems or from external events, based on the notional value of daily trades, adjusted for the time to maturity of interest rate derivatives in order to limit increases in own funds requirements, in particular for short-term contracts where perceived operational risks are lower. DTF means the daily value of transactions that an investment firm enters through dealing on own account or the execution of orders on behalf of clients in its own name, excluding the value of orders that an investment firm handles for clients which are already taken into account in the scope of client orders handled.

### **Calculation**

DTF shall be the rolling average of the value of the total daily trading flow, measured throughout each business day for the previous 9 months, excluding 3 recent months.

DTF= sum of [ABS(Buys) + Abs (Sells)] for both cash trades and derivatives

K-DTF shall be the arithmetic mean of the daily values of the remaining 6 months multiplied by the relevant coefficient (0.1% for cash trades and 0.01% for derivative trades). As at 31 December 2022, the K-DTF was €238k. The table below shows the arithmetic mean amount of DTF in cash trades and derivatives for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2022, in accordance with the Article 20(1) of IFR:

**Table 18: Total DTF (average amounts)**

	Factor amount		
	December 2022 €'000	November 2022 €'000	October 2022 €'000
DTF - Cash trades (average amounts)	-	-	-
DTF - Derivative trades (average amounts)	2,375,654	2,467,748	2,977,077

#### 5.1.4. K-Factors Requirement Results

As at 31 December 2022, the K-Factors Requirement was €4,417k shown in the table below:

**Table 19: K-Factors Results**

Item	Solo		Consolidated	
	Factor Amount €'000	KFR €'000	Factor Amount €'000	KFR €'000
<b>TOTAL K-FACTOR REQUIREMENT</b>		<b>4,417</b>		<b>4,417</b>
<b>Risk To clients</b>		<b>275</b>		<b>275</b>
<i>K-AUM</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>K-CMH (Segregated)</i>	36,637	147	36,637	147
<i>K-CMH (non-Segregated)</i>	25,736	129	25,736	129
<i>K-ASA</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>K-COH (Cash Trades)</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>K-COH (Derivative Trades)</i>	-	-	-	-
<b>Risk to Market</b>		<b>2,387</b>		<b>2,387</b>
<i>K-NPR</i>		2,387		2,387
<b>Risk to Firm</b>		<b>1,755</b>		<b>1,755</b>
<i>K-TCD</i>		1,517		1,517
<i>K-DTF (Cash Trades)</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>K-DTF (Derivative Trades)</i>	2,375,654	238	2,375,654	238
<i>K-CON</i>		-		-

The below figure illustrates the breakdown of the K-Factors requirement.

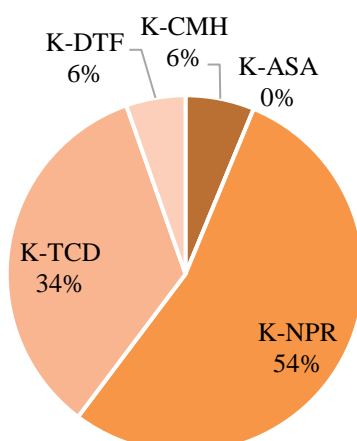
**K-FACTORS REQUIREMENT**


Figure 5: K-Factors Requirement

**4.4. Capital Ratios**

According to the provision 9 of the IFR, Investment firms shall have own funds consisting of the sum of their Common Equity Tier 1 capital, Additional Tier 1 capital and Tier 2 capital, and shall meet all the following conditions at all times:

$$\frac{\text{Common Equity Tier 1 Capital}}{D} \geq 56\%$$

$$\frac{\text{Common Equity Tier 1 Capital} + \text{Additional Tier 1 Capital}}{D} \geq 75\%$$

$$\frac{\text{Common Equity Tier 1 Capital} + \text{Additional Tier 1 Capital} + \text{Tier 2 Capital}}{D} \geq 100\%$$

where D is the own funds requirement calculated in accordance with Article 11.

The own funds, own funds requirement and capital ratio reported as at 31 December 2022, were the following:

**Table 20: Own Funds**

<b>OWN FUNDS COMPOSITION</b>	<b>Solo €'000</b>	<b>Conso €'000</b>
<b>Own Funds</b>	<b>15,568</b>	<b>23,789</b>
<b>OWN FUNDS REQUIREMENTS</b>		
Initial Capital	750	750
Fixed Overheads Requirement	1,750	1,949
K-Factors Requirement	4,417	4,417
<b>Own funds Requirement</b>	<b>4,417</b>	<b>4,417</b>
<b>CAPITAL RATIOS</b>		
<b>CET 1 (min. 56%)</b>	<b>352.49%</b>	<b>538.62%</b>
<b>T1 (min. 75%)</b>	<b>352.49%</b>	<b>538.62%</b>
<b>Total (min. 100%)</b>	<b>352.49%</b>	<b>538.62%</b>
<i>Surplus of Total capital</i>	<i>11,151</i>	<i>19,372</i>

As per the above results, the Group as at 31 December 2022 maintains adequate own funds to cover its capital requirements. However, the Group should monitor the above ratios in order to ensure compliance with the capital adequacy requirements at all times

Further to the above, the Group has implemented a capital adequacy monthly monitoring program in order to ensure compliance with the IFR requirements at all times. In this respect, the Group calculates the capital requirement on a monthly basis in order to assess the capital adequacy ratio for the respective month.

#### **4.5. Reporting requirements**

The Group as a Class 2 investment firm group is required by the Law to report on a quarterly basis the following items:

- a) Level and composition of own funds
- b) Own funds requirements
- c) Own funds requirement calculations
- d) Where the firm is a Class 3 firm – the level of activity, including the balance sheet
- e) and revenue breakdown by investment service and applicable K-factor
- f) Concentration risk
- g) Liquidity requirements

The above information shall be reported to CySEC using the Form165-01 “Reporting for Class 2” on a quarterly basis.

The Senior Management as well as the Risk Manager monitor these reporting requirements and have policies and procedures in place to help meet the specific regulatory requirements. This is achieved through the preparation of accounts to monitor the financial and capital position of the Group.

Moreover, the Company is required to submit immediately to CySEC the prudential Form 165-01 under exceptional reporting, through the TRS, when

- i. the own funds of the CIF have decreased below its own funds requirement,
- ii. the CIF’s liquid assets are below its liquidity requirement, and
- iii. the CIF has exceeded the concentration risk limits, as defined in Articles 37(1) and 37(3) of IFR.

During the year under review, the Group’s own funds never dropped below its own funds requirement and the Group fulfilled its obligations by successfully submitting, on a quarterly basis, the Capital Adequacy Reports.

#### **4.6. Concentration risk requirements**

The concentration risk arising from exposures to each counterparty, including central counterparties, groups of connected counterparties, and counterparties in the same economic sector, geographic region or from the same activity or commodity, the application of credit risk mitigation techniques, and including in particular risks associated with large indirect credit exposures such as a single collateral issuer, must be addressed and controlled including by means of written policies and procedures.

Exposure means any asset or off-balance sheet item without applying the risk weights or degrees of risk. Large Exposure means the exposures in the trading book/banking book of an investment firm to a client or a group of connected clients, the value of which exceeds the limits set.

The CIFs that are categorized as Class 2 IFs should continue to monitor and control their concentration risk with regards to their trading book exposures to a client or a group of connected clients in accordance with Part four of IFR.

In particular, CIFs shall monitor and control their concentration risk so as not to exceed the following limits as per Article 37 of IFR.

**Table 21: Large Exposure Limits**

Type	Limit
Institution	Min {up to 100% of eligible capital, Max (25% of eligible capital, €150m)}
Non-institution	25% of eligible capital

Where any trading book exposure exceeds the limits mentioned above, a CIF shall calculate an additional capital requirement as part of the K-CON requirement.

According to Circular C513, the Company should notify CySEC without delay when the limits referred to in article 37(3) of IFR are exceeded, as required by article 38 of IFR.

Moreover, harm can arise from more than just a concentrated trading book exposure to a client. To mitigate the potential for harm that can arise from different types of concentrated exposures or relationships, the Group should monitor and control all their sources of concentration risk, including:

- exposures in a trading book
- assets (for example, trade debts) not recorded in a trading book
- off-balance sheet items
- the location of client money
- the location of client assets
- the location of its own cash deposits
- the sources of its earnings

However, there are no limits on the banking book exposures of an Investment Firm.

The Group is reporting to CySEC on a quarterly basis the level of concentration risk with respect to the credit institutions, investment firms and other entities where clients' money are held and where client securities are deposited while it shall report the level of concentration risk with respect to the credit institutions where its own cash is deposited as per Article 54(2) of IFR. Moreover, the Group shall report the top five clients from whom the largest amounts of Group's earnings are derived, the top five, if available, largest trading book exposures and largest exposures not recorded in the trading book.

Further to the above, the Company's own corporate funds and clients' funds during the year 2022 were well diversified, as per the provisions of Paragraph 6(2) of Directive DI87-01 and Circular

C418. The Company maintains proper accounting controls in order to identify, monitor and control all exposures including clients' balances and the value of the assets held as financial instruments under pledge.

#### 4.7. Liquidity Requirement

As a Class 2 investment firm, the Company is required to hold an amount of liquid assets equivalent to at least one third of the fixed overheads requirement. The purpose is to ensure that the investment firms have an adequate stock of unencumbered high-quality liquid assets that can be converted easily and immediately in private markets in cash to meet their liquidity needs for a 30-calendar day liquidity stress scenario. The IFR specifies the instruments that are eligible to be qualified as liquid assets to be included in the calculation of the said ratio:

- Coins and banknotes
- Claims on ECB or other Central Banks
- High Quality Covered Bonds
- Shares or units in CIUs

In this respect and as per the Company's latest audited financial statements, the Company has the following liquid assets which is well above the 1/3 of the total fixed overheads requirement.

**Table 22: Liquidity Requirements**

Item	Solo €'000	Conso €'000
<b>Liquidity Requirement</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>650</b>
<b>Liquid Assets</b>	<b>21,030</b>	<b>21,030</b>
<i>Surplus</i>	<i>20,446</i>	<i>20,380</i>

Further to the above, the Group maintains adequate liquid assets to cover the one third fixed overheads requirement. However, the Group should monitor the above in order to ensure compliance at all times.

## 5. OTHER RISKS

### 5.1. Operational Risk

Operational risk means the risk of loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, people and systems or from external events. Operational risk includes legal risk but excludes strategic and reputational risk.

The following list presents some event-type categories, included in operational risk, with some examples for each category:

<b>Internal Fraud</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• misappropriation of assets;</li> <li>• tax evasion;</li> <li>• intentional mismarking of positions;</li> <li>• bribery.</li> </ul>
<b>External Fraud</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• theft of information;</li> <li>• hacking damage;</li> <li>• third-party theft;</li> <li>• forgery.</li> </ul>
<b>Employment Practices and Workplace Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• discrimination;</li> <li>• workers compensation;</li> <li>• employee health;</li> <li>• safety.</li> </ul>
<b>Clients, Products, &amp; Business Practice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• market manipulation;</li> <li>• antitrust;</li> <li>• improper trade.</li> </ul>
<b>Damage to physical assets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• damage to physical assets from a natural disaster, e.g. earthquake</li> </ul>
<b>Business Disruption &amp; Systems Failures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• utility disruptions;</li> <li>• software failures;</li> <li>• hardware failures.</li> </ul>
<b>Execution, Delivery, &amp; Process Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• data entry errors;</li> <li>• accounting errors;</li> <li>• failed mandatory reporting;</li> <li>• negligent loss of Client assets.</li> </ul>

Figure 6: Operational Risk Registry



The Group manages operational risk through a control-based environment in which processes are documented and transactions are reconciled and monitored. This is supported by continuous monitoring of operational risk incidents to ensure that past failures are not repeated.

Furthermore, the Group has in place policies and processes whose implementation assists with the evaluation and management of any exposures to operational risk.

The Group has implemented an operational risk management framework designed to ensure that operational risks are assessed, mitigated and reported in a consistent manner consisting of, inter alia, the following components:

- Maintaining a four-eye structure and implementing board oversight over the strategic decisions made by the heads of departments;
- A IT Disaster Recovery Plan has been designed in order to be used in the event of a force majeure affecting the Group's internal systems and databases; and
- Maintenance of Risk Registers in the Context of the ICAAP;
- A Business Continuity Plan has been implemented which helps protect all of the Group's information databases including data, records and facilities.
- The majority of actions occurring in the Group's systems are automated and therefore it is less likely that a human error will occur;
- Review of risks and controls as part of the Internal Audit function;
- Regular review and updating of the Group's policies;

## **5.2. Interest Rate Risk**

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of financial instruments (including currencies) will fluctuate due to changes in the market interest rates. The Group is exposed to interest rate risk in relation to its bank deposits and from the interest charged on the derivative financial instruments that remain open overnight.

The Group monitors interest rate fluctuations and based on the fluctuations of the relevant rates, the necessary hedging activities will be undertaken, as and where applicable.

## **5.3. Reputation Risk**

Reputation risk is the current or prospective risk to earnings and capital arising from an adverse perception of the image of the Group on the part of customers, counterparties, shareholders, investors or regulators. Reputation risk could be triggered by poor performance, the loss of one or more of the Group's key directors, the loss of large customers, poor customer service, fraud or theft, customer claims, legal action and regulatory fines.

The Group has transparent policies and procedures in place when dealing with possible customer complaints in order to provide the best possible assistance and service under such circumstances. The possibility of having to deal with customer claims is very low as the Group provides high quality services to customers.

## **5.4. Strategic Risk**

Strategic Risk could occur as a result of adverse business decisions, improper implementation of decisions or lack of responsiveness to changes in the business environment. The Group's

exposure to strategic risk is moderate as policies and procedures to minimize this type of risk are implemented in the overall strategy of the Group.

### **5.5. Business Risk**

Business Risk includes the current or prospective risk to earnings and capital arising from changes in the business environment including the effects of deterioration in economic conditions. Research on economic and market forecasts are conducted with a view to minimize the Group's exposure to business risk. These are analyzed and taken into consideration when implementing the Group's strategy.

### **5.6. Regulatory Risk**

Regulatory risk is the risk the Group faces by not complying with relevant Laws and Directives issued by its supervisory body. If materialized, regulatory risk could trigger the effects of reputation and strategic risk. The Group has documented procedures and policies based on the requirements of relevant Laws and Directives issued by the Commission; these can be found in the Procedures Manual. Compliance with these procedures and policies are further assessed and reviewed by the Internal Auditors and suggestions for improvement are implemented by management. The Internal Auditors evaluate and test the effectiveness of the Group's control framework at least annually. Therefore, the risk of non-compliance is very low.

### **5.7. Legal and Compliance Risk**

Legal & Compliance risks arise from violations of, or non-conformance with, the Law, Directives and Circulars issued thereof, regulations, prescribed practices, internal policies, and procedures, or ethical standards. This risk exposes the Group mainly to financial losses due to imposed fines from the Regulators. Compliance incidents may also lead to diminished reputation, reduced Group value, limited business opportunities, reduced expansion potential, and possible inability to enforce contracts.

The probability of such risks occurring is relatively low due to the detailed internal procedures and policies implemented by the Group and regular reviews by the Internal Auditors. The structure of the Group is such to promote clear coordination of duties and the management consists of individuals of suitable professional experience, ethos and integrity, who have accepted responsibility for setting and achieving the Group's strategic targets and goals. In addition, the Board meets at least annually to discuss such issues and any suggestions to enhance compliance are implemented by management.

### **5.8. IT Risk**

IT risk could occur as a result of inadequate information technology and processing or arise from an inadequate IT strategy and policy or an inadequate use of the Group's information technology. Specifically, policies have been implemented regarding back-up procedures, software maintenance, hardware maintenance, use of the internet and anti-virus procedures. Materialization of this risk has been minimized to the lowest possible level.

### **5.9. Conduct Risk**

Conduct risk is defined as the risk of an action, by an individual, financial institution or the industry as a whole, which leads to customer detriment or undermines market integrity. This can

bring sanctions and negative publicity. Moreover, EBA has defined conduct risk as the current or prospective risk of losses to an institution arising from inappropriate supply of financial services including cases of wilful or negligent misconduct. Consequently, conduct risk arises from failures of designated liquidity providers located in third countries associated with the Group.

Additionally, the Group is exposed to negative balances with its Liquidity Providers, in case of fast-pacing volatile market, where the LP cannot close a position at the Group's stop out limit. Therefore, the Group may be exposed to conduct risk arising from inadequate agreements with the Liquidity Providers and/or with the third parties that hold client's funds.

As part of the risk management policy and tools, the Group has procedures in place to diversify its liquidity providers and monitors their financial position on an on-going basis. The financial soundness of the liquidity providers is closely monitored and the Group is ready to switch to alternative LPs, if necessary. Furthermore, the receivable/payable amounts with the LPs are monitored on a daily basis. In particular, the Group examines its existing procedures and arrangements with respect to the products offered and services provided.

## 6. INTERNAL CAPITAL ADEQUACY AND RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The purpose of capital is to provide sufficient resources to absorb unexpected losses over and above the ones that are expected in the normal course of business. The Company aims to maintain a minimum risk asset ratio which will ensure there is sufficient capital to support the Company during stressed conditions.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 and Paragraph 18 of the Law, the Company should establish sound, effective and comprehensive arrangements, strategies and processes to assess and maintain on an ongoing basis the amounts, types and distribution of internal capital and liquid assets that they consider adequate to cover the nature and level of risks which they may pose to others and to which the investment firms themselves are or might be exposed. These arrangements, strategies and processes shall be appropriate and proportionate to the nature, scale and complexity of the activities of the Company and they shall be subject to regular internal review.

In light of the above, the ICARA report will present the main business background aspects and developments of the Company, a summary of the Company's business economic environment, the Company's financial summary for the previous and upcoming years, the business and strategic goals, organisational structure and the risk management framework, the overall assessment of the material risks as well as a forward-looking capital and liquidity planning.

The Company recognises the importance of the ICARA and appreciates that it enables the firm to justify its business strategy and risk assessments in such a way to be more diligent in the inclusion of risk factors in the business design process and also to hold less capital than the gross risks to which it is exposed. It is also acknowledged that the ICARA Report is a reasonably intense process, requiring information from many different departments and committees of the company and also it requires senior management time at the design phase, during the risk and financial data collection phase and for the sign-off phase. Therefore, the Board is committed to continuously update the ICARA at least annually to reflect the latest strategic plans and updates.

During the year 2022, the Company replaced its existing ICAAP with the new ICARA by establishing new assessments with respect to the liquidity adequacy of the Company, designing new financial projections and stress tests to reflect the K-Factors requirement and drafting a new report which reflects all provisions under the new regulation. The methodologies of K-Factors and Liquidity Stress tests incorporated into the ICARA process, as well as the updated risk register which focus on a harm-pose approach identifying different potential risk events that may affect the Company's overall capital adequacy position.

The ICARA Report and capital planning for the year 2021 has been prepared and approved by the Board in the third quarter of 2022. The report is being reviewed and updated annually, while it is submitted to CySEC upon its request as laid down at Article 50(b) of the IFR.

## 7. REMUNERATION POLICY

The Group have established remuneration policy that aims to set out the remuneration practices taking into consideration the salaries and benefits of the staff, in accordance with the provisions of Directive as well as the Circular 031 on remuneration policies and practices, where these comply with specific principles in a way and to the extent that is appropriate to the Group's size, internal organization and the nature, scope and Group's remuneration strategy is designed to reward and motivate the people who are committed to maintaining a long term career with the Group and performing their role in the interests of the Group.

The design of the Policy is approved by the people who effectively direct the business, after taking advice from the compliance function, and implemented by appropriate functions to promote effective corporate governance. The people who effectively direct the business are responsible for the implementation of remuneration policies and practices and for preventing and dealing with any relevant risks, that remuneration policies and practices can create. The Board discusses remuneration policy matters at least annually.

Furthermore, the Policy also benefits from the full support of senior management or, where appropriate, the supervisory function, so that necessary steps can be taken to ensure that relevant persons effectively comply with the conflicts of interest and conduct of business policies and procedures. Moreover, the Policy adopts and maintains measures enabling them to effectively identify where the relevant person fails to act in the best interest of the client and to take remedial action.

### Remuneration Committee

It is noted that the Company has considered its size, internal organisation and the nature, scope and complexity of its activities and it does not deem as necessary the establishment of a specific remuneration committee. Remuneration practices are currently set by the Senior Management, in its supervisory capacity. In case the Company shall deem necessary to establish a Remuneration Committee in the future, then this section shall be updated as applicable.

### Remuneration System

The remuneration system and policy is concerned with practices for those categories of staff whose professional activities have a material impact on its risk profile, *i.e. the Senior Management and members of the Board*; the said practices are established to ensure that the rewards for the "executive management" are linked to the Group's performance, to provide an incentive to achieve the key business aims and deliver an appropriate link between reward and performance whilst ensuring base salary levels are not set at artificially low levels. The remuneration is a significant method of attracting and retaining key employees whose talent can contribute to the short and long term success of the business.

The remuneration system takes into account the highly competitive sector in which the Group operates, and the considerable amount of resources the Group invests in each member of the staff. The remuneration includes all forms of benefits provided by the Group to its staff and can be Financial or non-Financial remuneration.

The total remuneration of staff currently consists of a fixed and a variable component.

### ***Fixed Remuneration***

The fixed remuneration varies for different positions/roles depending on each position's actual functional requirements, and it is set at levels which reflect the educational level, experience, accountability, and responsibility needed for a staff member to perform each position/role. The remuneration is also set in comparison with standard market practices employed by the other market participants/ competitors.

The fixed remuneration includes salary, fixed pay allowance and other cash allowances and all are determined based on the role and position of each employee, taking into account the experience, seniority, education, responsibility, and market conditions.

Furthermore, the employee's personal goals and performance evaluation in relation to the objectives set up at the beginning of the period and the employee's professional conduct with clients are taken into account in order to determine the remuneration.

The fixed remuneration is approved by the Board of Directors for all the relevant employees and it is reviewed by the Group at such intervals, as it shall decide at its sole discretion, without affecting the other terms of employment

### ***Variable Remuneration***

The variable remuneration is a performance-based remuneration which motivates, and rewards staff members based on their results in relation with the targets set at the beginning of the year. This kind of remuneration is not guaranteed, and the BoD has determined a maximum percentage of variable remuneration relative to the fixed remuneration in order to ensure a compliant ratio between these two kinds of remuneration.

Furthermore, no remuneration is payable under deferral arrangements (with vested or unvested portions). Finally, the Group did not pay any non-cash remuneration for the year under review, since the Group does not have any non-cash instruments, such as shares or other equivalent non-cash instruments, in place.

The Group recognizes that its remuneration system has some features that increase the mis-selling risk. Therefore, the Group applies effective mitigation controls for each part of the remuneration system.

### ***Other Factors***

Where a variable remuneration is offered, the Group will ensure that the total remuneration remains in competitive levels and that the employees are rewarded based on their performance whilst remaining aligned with the department's and/or the Group's performance.

Other factors taken into account are the following:

- i. the financial viability of the Group;
- ii. the general financial situation of the state in which the Group operates;
- iii. the Employee's personal objectives (such as personal development), compliance with regulatory requirements (including the "best execution policy" and other protective



policies and procedures aiming towards the best interest of the Client), systems and controls, commitment and work ethic.

### **Performance Appraisal**

The Group through its Senior Management and Departmental Heads shall implement a performance appraisal method, which is based on a set of both measurable quantitative indicators and qualitative indicators, developed for each business unit.

The appraisal is being performed as follows:

- i. Quantitative and qualitative objectives are set in the beginning of each month, quarter and/or year (each department is being appraised on different periods) defining what the Group functions, departments and individuals are expected to achieve over an upcoming period of time;
- ii. Performance checks and feedbacks: managers provide support and feedback to the concerned personnel during the time periods decided, during the daily activities or during formal or informal performance reviews; the aim is to assist the respective employees to develop their skills and competencies.

### **Risk takers and control functions**

The remuneration of material risk takers and Employees in control functions is subject to stricter conditions. Once a year, the Board of Directors identifies Employees who may take material risks on behalf of the Group as required within the EBA's guidelines on effective remuneration practices:

- i. Employees dealing in and approving financial instruments;
- ii. Employees who monitor compliance with risk taking limits;
- iii. Management body and Senior Management members
- iv. Staff who have Managerial responsibility for material business units, control and other functions for managing or mitigating material risks in areas impacting the Group's K-Factors
- v. Individual's whose total remuneration exceeds €500k and/or is greater than the average remuneration of members of the management body and senior management
- vi. Where a Group employs over 1000 staff members, the individual which is within the 0.3% of staff awarded the highest total remuneration
- vii. Other employees with a material impact on the Group's risk profile are also subject to the stricter remuneration conditions

Employees in control functions, including Compliance, Finance and Risk Management are eligible for performance-based pay, however such pay must be approved by the Board of Directors on a case to case basis and must be related to achievement related to the function of the relevant employee.

Further to the above, the Policy is designed to manage the conflicts of interest which might if other business areas had undue influence over the remuneration of employees within Control Functions. Moreover, the need to avoid undue influence is particularly important where employees from the Control Functions are embedded in other business areas.



## Remuneration of Senior Management Personnel and Directors

The remuneration policy of the Group is intended to ensure that the Group will attract and retain the most qualified Senior Management Personnel and Directors. The remuneration of the Executive Board consists of a fixed pay and/or bonus entitlement. Members of the Executive Board may also be entitled to Group paid car and/or phone and other benefits.

The table below provides information on the remuneration of Executive Directors, Senior Management and other staff whose activities have a material impact on the risk profile of the Group, broken down by fixed and variable remuneration.

**Table 23: Remuneration split of staff whose activities have a material impact on the risk profile of the Group.**

Annual Remuneration as at 31 December 2022				
Position	No. of Beneficiaries	Fixed Remuneration €	Variable Remuneration €	Aggregated Remuneration €
<b>Executive Directors</b>	2	207,628	369,655	<b>577,283</b>
<b>Senior Management</b> (excl. directors)	10	438,658	28,232	<b>466,890</b>
<b>Non-Executive Directors</b>	2	12,348	-	<b>12,348</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>658,633</b>	<b>397,888</b>	<b>1,056,521</b>

The variable to fixed remuneration ratio as at 31 December 2022 was 62%.

The Article 32 of the IFD sets, among others, the conditions on variable remuneration paid to employees:

- at least 50% of the variable remuneration shall consist of shares/ share-linked instruments/ equivalent non-cash instruments that adequately reflect the credit quality of the IF as a going concern, or non-cash instruments which reflect the instruments of the portfolios managed;
- at least 40% of the variable remuneration is deferred over the three-to-five-year period.

These points don't apply to the Group since the Company does not fall under the definition of 'significant CIF' (off-balance sheet assets is on average less than €100m over the preceding four-year period).

Moreover, Investment Firms are required to disclose the number of natural persons that are remunerated €1mln or more per financial year, in pay brackets of €1mln, including their job responsibilities, the business area involved and the main elements of salary, bonus, long-term award and pension contribution. Nevertheless, currently there are no natural persons at the Group that are remunerated €1mln or more per financial year and as such the above disclosure is not applicable to the Group.

During the year there were no deferred remuneration, sign-on or severance payments.

The aggregate remuneration of the Group's personnel for the year ended 31st December 2022, broken down by business area, is presented in the following table:

**Table 24: Remuneration split by business area**

<b>Annual Remuneration as at 31 December 2022</b>			
<b>Business Area</b>	<b>Fixed €</b>	<b>Variable €</b>	<b>Total €</b>
Control functions*	358,811	379,655	<b>738,466</b>
Brokerage Department	84,071	5,429	<b>89,500</b>
Back Office Department	48,546	3,700	<b>52,246</b>
Dealing on Own Account Department	39,794	2,603	<b>42,397</b>
Marketing Department	72,468	3,000	<b>75,468</b>
IT Department	42,596	3,500	<b>46,096</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>646,285</b>	<b>397,888</b>	<b>1,044,173</b>

\*Control functions include the Executive Directors, Compliance Officer and Money Laundering Compliance Officer

## **8. INVESTMENT POLICY**

Investment Firms should disclose the following information in accordance with Article 46 of IFR:

- a) the proportion of voting rights attached to the shares held directly or indirectly by the investment firm, broken down by Member State and sector;
- b) a complete description of voting behaviour in the general meetings of companies the shares of which are held in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 46, an explanation of the votes, and the ratio of proposals put forward by the administrative or management body of the company which the investment firm has approved; and
- c) an explanation of the use of proxy advisor firms;
- d) the voting guidelines regarding the companies the shares of which are held in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 46.

CIFs who meet the criteria of Paragraph 26(8)(a) of the Law, whose on-and-off balance sheet assets on average over the 4 year period are less than €100m are exempted from the disclosure requirement regarding investment policy.

The Company does not meet the condition of Paragraph 26(8)(a) of the Law and as such the Group is not required to disclose the requirements regarding investment policy.

## **9. ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE RISKS**

From 26 December 2022, investment firms which do not meet the criteria referred to Paragraph 26(8)(a) of the Law shall disclose information on environmental, social and governance risks, including physical risks and transition risks as per Article 35 of IFD.

The Company does not meet the condition of Paragraph 26(8)(a) of the Law and as such the Group is exempted from disclosures regarding ESG.

**10. APPENDIX – SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO THE IFR**

IFR Reference	High Level Summary	Section
<i>Scope of disclosure requirements</i>		
46 (1)	Requirement to publish market disclosures, on the date of publication of the annual financial statements.	<a href="#">1.3</a>
46 (2)	Requirement to publish market disclosures for small and non-interconnected IFs	N/A
46 (3)	Requirement to publish market disclosures for IFs which do not longer meet the criteria of small and non-interconnected IF	N/A
46 (4)	Market disclosures to be published in an appropriate medium, or provide clear cross-references to other media.	<a href="#">1.4</a>
<i>Risk management objectives and policies</i>		
47	Disclosure of the risk management objectives and policies for each separate category of risk set out in Parts Three, Four and Five of the IFR, including a summary of the strategies and processes to manage those risks and a concise risk statement approved by the investment firm's management body succinctly describing the investment firm's overall risk profile associated with the business strategy	<a href="#">1.5</a> , <a href="#">4</a> , <a href="#">5</a>
<i>Governance</i>		
48 (a)	Disclosure of the number of directorships held by members of the management body	<a href="#">2.4</a>
48 (b)	The policy on diversity with regard to the selection of members of the management body, its objectives and any relevant targets set out in that policy, and the extent to which those objectives and targets have been achieved	<a href="#">2.3</a> , <a href="#">2.5</a>
48 (c)	whether or not the investment firm has set up a separate risk committee and the number of times the risk committee has met annually	<a href="#">2.2</a>
<i>Own Funds</i>		
49 (1) (a)	Full reconciliation of Common Equity Tier 1 items, Additional Tier 1 items, Tier 2 items and applicable filters and deductions applied to own funds of the investment firm and the balance sheet in the audited financial statements of the IF;	<a href="#">3.3</a>
49 (1) (b)	Description of the main features of the Common Equity Tier 1 and Additional Tier 1 instruments and Tier 2 instruments issued by the IF	<a href="#">3.2</a>
49 (1) (c)	Description of all restrictions applied to the calculation of own funds in accordance with the IFR and the instruments and deductions to which those restrictions apply	<a href="#">3.1</a>
49 (2)	EBA shall develop implementation standards for points (a), (b), (c) above.	N/A
<i>Own Funds Requirements</i>		

<b>50 (a)</b>	Summary of IF's approach to assessing adequacy of its internal capital to support current and future activities.	<a href="#">4.4</a>
<b>50 (b)</b>	Result of ICAAP upon request of the competent authority.	<a href="#">6</a>
<b>50 (c)</b>	K-factor requirements calculated in aggregate form for RtM, RtF, and RtC, based on the sum of the applicable K-factors	<a href="#">4.3</a>
<b>50 (d)</b>	Fixed overheads requirement	<a href="#">4.2</a>
<b>Remuneration policy and practices</b>		
<b>51</b>	Remuneration policy, including aspects related to gender neutrality and the gender pay gap, for those categories of staff whose professional activities have a material impact on the risk profile	<a href="#">7</a>
<b>51 (a)</b>	Design characteristics of the remuneration system, including the level of variable remuneration and criteria for awarding variable remuneration, payout in instruments policy, deferral policy and vesting criteria	<a href="#">7</a>
<b>51 (b)</b>	Ratios between fixed and variable remuneration	<a href="#">7</a>
<b>51 (c)</b>	Aggregated quantitative information on remuneration, broken down by senior management and members of staff whose actions have a material impact on the risk profile of the investment firm	<a href="#">7</a>
<b>51 (c)(i)</b>	The amounts of remuneration awarded in the financial year, split into fixed and variable remuneration, and the number of beneficiaries	<a href="#">7</a>
<b>51 (c)(ii)</b>	The amounts and forms of awarded variable remuneration	<a href="#">7</a>
<b>51 (c)(iii)</b>	The amounts of deferred remuneration awarded for previous performance periods	N/A
<b>51 (c)(iv)</b>	The amount of deferred remuneration due to vest in the financial year	N/A
<b>51 (c)(v)</b>	The guaranteed variable remuneration awards during the financial year and the number of beneficiaries of those awards	N/A
<b>51 (c)(vi)</b>	The severance payments awarded in previous periods, that have been paid out during the financial year	N/A
<b>51 (c)(vii)</b>	The amounts of severance payments awarded during the financial year, split into paid upfront and deferred, the number of beneficiaries of those payments and the highest payment that has been awarded to a single person	N/A
<b>51 (d)</b>	Whether the IF benefits from a derogation laid down in Article 32(4) of the IFD	<a href="#">7</a>
<b>Investment policy</b>		
<b>52</b>	Not applicable due to criteria referred to in point (a) of Article 32 (4) of the IFD	<a href="#">8</a>
<b>Environmental, social and governance risks</b>		
<b>53</b>	Not applicable due to criteria referred to in point (a) of Article 32 (4) of the IFD	<a href="#">9</a>