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RESOLUTION No 20

"Operational issues of the Users Committee"

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE GREEK CENTRAL SECURITIES DEPOSITORY SOCIETE ANONYME (ATHEXCSD)

(Meeting 22.02.2021)

Having taken into account the provisions of Article 2.6 of Part 2 of Section I, the provisions of Article 1.3 of Part 1 of Section XIII on the need to set up a Users Committee to assist the Board of Directors of ATHEXCSD in relation to important arrangements affecting its Members, including the criteria for the acceptance of Issuers or Fund Managers, where applicable, and Participants as well as their level of service in accordance with the provisions in force and the provisions of the Rulebook of the Greek Central Securities Depository (hereinafter the "Rulebook")

DECIDES AS FOLLOWS

1. Committee Establishment

1.1 General provisions

- 1. This Resolution establishes a committee entitled "Users Committee", which is entrusted with the powers provided for in Article 1.3 of Part 1 of Section XIII of the Rulebook.
- This Resolution shall also set out all matters relating to the functioning of the Users Committee (hereinafter the "Committee").

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1.2 Definitions

- 1. The terms and definitions contained in this Resolution shall have the same meaning as prescribed in the Regulation, unless otherwise explicitly specified.
- 2. In any case, the provisions of this Resolution shall be construed in accordance with the rules and principles set out in the Scope, as set out in the preamble to the Rulebook.

2. Committee Purpose and Competences

- 2.1. The Users Committee shall assist the Board of Directors of ATHEXCSD (hereinafter referred to as the Board) in its work on the settings of the operating system of D.S.S., in accordance with its operating terms, by adopting the provisions of Article 28 of Regulation (EU) 909/2014.
- 2.2. It shall be the exclusive competence of the User Committee to advise the Board on matters relating to and affecting the members of the Committee, including:
 - 2.2.1. any arrangement relating to the acceptance criteria of Issuers or Fund Operators where applicable, as well as Participants, such as:
 - 2.2.1.1. the procedure for the acquisition of the Participant status
 - 2.2.1.2. the procedure in the case of a business transformation of a Participant
 - 2.2.1.3. the procedure for a Participant's relocation
 - 2.2.1.4. the access conditions of the Listed or Unlisted Issuers and Fund Managers

as set out in the Rulebook and the relevant Resolutions.

2.2.2. the level of service of the above persons by ATHEXCSD.

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2.3. The User Committee may, in addition to the above, submit to the Board of Directors a non-binding opinion, which shall be the product of a reasoned justification regarding the pricing structure of ATHEXCSD.

- 2.4. The results of the independent audits carried out on a regular basis with regard to the functions of ATHEXCSD, the risk management procedures and the compliance and internal auditing mechanisms shall be notified to the members of the User Committee, in a form by which competitive advantage is not provided vis-a-vis the other Members, in the following exhaustive list of cases, in compliance with the terms of the Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/392 of the Commission:
 - 1. where the findings relate to any part of the mandate of the User Committee
 - 2. where the findings may affect the level of the services provided by ATHEXCSD, including ensuring its business continuity.

3. User Committee Composition

3.1. The User Committee shall be composed of seven members, including the President, and shall consist of the following persons:

- i) 1 (one) member representative of the association ENEISET (Union of Listed Companies)
- ii) 1 (one) member representative of the Listed Companies that are members of the Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV)
- iii) 1 (one) member representative of the Listed Companies that are members of the Federation of Industries of Greece (SBE)
- iv) 1 (one) member representative of S.ME.X.A association (Association of Members of the Athens Exchanges)

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- v) 1 (one) member representative of the K.S.E.P.E.Y. association (Cyprus Association of Investment Services Companies)
- vi) 2 (two) members, representatives of the H.B.A. association (Hellenic Bank Association) of which 1 (one) should have an international presence.

4. Procedure for the selection of Members of the Users Committee

- **4.1.** Each user group should nominate at least three (3) candidates for representation. The final selection of a member or members from each user group for the composition of the User Committee shall be conducted by the Council.
- **4.2.** The proposed members for the composition of the User Committee should:
 - i. Be persons with sufficient knowledge and credibility.
 - ii. Be persons of the senior management of the representatives of the issuers and of the participants in the settlement systems of the Company, allowing both national and international representation.
 - iii. Have the experience required in financial services and in issues within the competence of the Users Committee concerning the respective user group.
 - iv. Not be persons directly linked with the Company.
- **4.3.** The Board may reject the appointment of a member to the Users Committee only if the member does not meet the criteria mentioned above or if there are other important reasons justifying its rejection, in the reasonable opinion of the Board.
- **4.4.** In the Users Committee, besides the seven (7) members, an ATHEXCSD official may also attend.

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4.5. The members of the Users Committee shall elect the President by a majority of votes at the first regular meeting of the Committee. Each member shall have one vote.

- **3.7.** The Secretary of the Commission shall be an ATHEXCSD official.
- **3.8.** Each member shall be elected for a period of three (3) years. Members may be reelected. If a member leaves his / her permanent employment with his / her main employer, the member must terminate his / her position in the Committee.
- **3.9.** The number of members' terms of office shall not be limited. The power of the member shall enter into force as soon as its name enters the list of members of the Committee. The member shall perform his/her duties until the end of his regular term of office.
- **3.10.** In case of resignation by the President or any member of the Users Committee, the resigned person shall be replaced by a new member appointed in accordance with the above mentioned in paragraph 3.2.
- **3.11.** After a new member is appointed instead of the resigned one, the delegates shall elect a new President by majority of votes at the next regular meeting of the Users Committee.

4. Convening the Users Committee

4.1. The Users Committee shall meet at the ATHEXCSD seat at least on a quarterly or, on an extraordinary basis, upon notice by the President of the Users Committee or, in the event of the President's absence or impediment, upon notice by the Vice-President. The notice must clearly indicate the items of the agenda, otherwise decision making shall only be allowed if all members of the Users Committee are present and no one objects to resolution being reached.

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- **4.2.** The convocation of the Users Committee may also be requested by three (3) of its members participating as the representatives of the Issuers, Fund Managers or Participants, through an application submitted to the President of the Users Committee or the Vice President as his alternate, who shall then be required to convene a Users Committee meeting within a time limit of five (5) business days from the submission date of the application. If the Users Committee is not convoked by the President or the Vice President as his alternate by the above time limit, the members who requested the meeting, may themselves convoke the Users Committee meeting within three (3) business days from the expiry of the above five (5) business day time limit, by notifying the notice to the other members of the Users Committee.
- **4.3.** The Users Committee may issue a resolution, even if there has been no meeting of it, following its convocation under the terms of the preceding paragraphs, provided the minutes have been drafted and signed by all members, indicating the content of the relevant resolution (in turn).

5. Decision making by the Users Committee

- **5.1.** The Users Committee is in quorum and validly meets when all its members are present.
- **5.2.** The Users Committee shall reach absolute majority resolutions of the members present. In case of a tie, the vote of the President or, in his absence or impediment, of the Vice President as his deputy, shall prevail.
- 5.3. Discussions and resolutions of the Users Committee shall be recorded in the minutes, under the responsibility of its secretary, and such minutes shall record the members attending each meeting. The minutes or copies thereof shall be signed by the President of the Users Committee or its Secretary. Similarly, copies of the minutes are ratified when issued at the request of a member of the Committee, either in service,

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or that has resigned for the period during which such member was in service, or upon request of the relevant supervisory or other authorities.

- **5.4.** Immediately following the issuance of a resolution, the Users Committee shall notify the Board of Directors in writing.
- 5.5. In the event that the Board decides not to follow the advice included in the resolutions of the Users Committee, the Users Committee and the Hellenic Capital Market Commission shall be informed immediately.
- **5.6.** The Users Committee may inform the Hellenic Capital Market Commission of any case where it considers that the advice of the Users Committee has not been followed.

6. Obligations - duties

- **6.1.** The main obligation of the members of the Users Committee is the continuous pursuit of the smooth, safe and effective operation of every procedure and regulation that affects its members and the terms of acceptance of the Issuers, Fund Managers and Participants in the D.S.S. by ATHEXCSD.
- **6.2.** To meet the aforementioned objective, Users Committee members are required, while exercising their duties, to act objectively, impartially and independently. In particular, members shall be required to promptly disclose interests that may arise in connection with their activities in the capital market sector to the other members, as well as any other conflict of interests with those of ATHEXCSD that emerge during the performance of their duties.
- **6.3.** If the President or the Vice President of the Users Committee ascertains, in view of, or in the course of a Users Committee meeting, that a member is found to be in a state of actual or potential conflict of interest with a particular agenda item during the meeting, then the said member shall not be allowed to vote on the item in question.
- **6.4.** Users Committee members shall be bound by an obligation of confidentiality in accordance with Article 28 par. 5 of Regulation (EU) 909/2014 regarding data and

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information acquired due to their capacity as members, subject to the right of the Hellenic Capital Market Commission, or any other supervisory authority to receive adequate information on the exercise of their duties.

6.5. The Board members shall refrain from any act that could directly affect the judgment of the Users Committee in the performance of its operations and question its independence.

7. Entry into force

1. This resolution shall be made public via the website <u>www.athexgroup.gr</u>. This shall become effective from its publication, namely from 12.04.2021

The publication hereof shall be subject to the formalities set out in Article 2.6 of Part
2 of Section I of the Rulebook.