



L'AIR LIQUIDE

SOCIETE ANONYME POUR L'ETUDE ET L'EXPLOITATION DES PROCEDES GEORGES CLAUDE

SHARE CAPITAL 2,881,393,779 Euros

Corporate Headquarters:

75, QUAI D'ORSAY, 75007 PARIS

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

April 30, 2024

Notice of waiver of liability.

Please note that this document represents an informal English translation of the French articles of association which legally bind Air Liquide and does not constitute an official translation in any manner. Be aware that only the French articles of association for Air Liquide bind the Company and that the presence of English translation in no means indicates that the Company is bound by American Law, English Law or by the Laws of any other nation.

Articles of association

SECTION I

NAME—PURPOSE—HEAD OFFICE—TERM

Article 1: Form and name

The Company is a joint stock company, with a Board of Directors. This Company will be governed by the laws and regulations in force and these articles of association.

The Company's name is "L'Air Liquide, société anonyme pour l'Étude et l'Exploitation des procédés Georges Claude".

Article 2: Purpose

The Company's corporate purpose includes:

- the study, exploitation, sale of the patents or inventions of Messrs. Georges and Eugène Claude pertaining to the liquefaction of gases, the industrial production of refrigeration, liquid air and oxygen, and the applications or utilizations thereof;
- the industrial production of refrigeration, of liquid air, the applications or uses thereof, the production and liquefaction of gases, and in particular oxygen, nitrogen, helium and hydrogen, the applications and uses thereof in all forms, pure, in blends and combinations, without any distinction as to state or origin, in all areas of application of their physical, thermodynamic, chemical, thermochemical and biological properties, and, in particular, in the domains of propulsion, the sea, health, agri-business and pollution;
- the purchase, manufacturing, sale, use of all products pertaining directly or indirectly to the aforementioned corporate purpose, as well as all sub-products resulting from their manufacturing or their use, of all machines or devices used for the utilization or application thereof and, more specifically, the purchase, manufacturing, sale, use of all products, metals or alloys, derived or resulting from a use of oxygen, nitrogen and hydrogen, pure, blended or combined, in particular of all oxygenated or nitrogenous products;
- the study, acquisition, direct or indirect exploitation or sale of all patents, inventions or methods pertaining to the same corporate purposes;
- the exploitation, directly or through the incorporation of companies, of all elements connected, directly or indirectly, with the Company's purpose or likely to contribute to the development of its industry;
- the supply of all services, or the supply of all products likely to develop its clientele in the industry or health sectors.

The Company may request or acquire all franchises, perform all constructions, acquire or lease all quarries, mines and all real property, and take over all operations connected with its corporate purpose, sell or lease these franchises, merge or create partnerships with other companies by acquiring Company shares or rights, through advances or in any appropriate manner. It may undertake these operations either alone or jointly.

Lastly, and more generally, it may carry out all industrial, commercial, real estate, personal or financial operations pertaining directly or indirectly to the corporate purposes specified above.

Article 3: Head Office

The Company's head office is located at 75, quai d'Orsay, Paris.

It may be transferred upon a Board of Directors' decision to any other location in Paris or a neighboring department, subject to the ratification of such decision by the next Ordinary General Meeting, and anywhere else by virtue of a decision by an Extraordinary General Meeting.

Article 4: Term

The Company's term, initially fixed at 99 years beginning on February 18, 1929, has been extended as of the Extraordinary General Meeting of May 5, 2020 for a period of 99 years, i.e. until May 4, 2119, except in the event of early dissolution or extension.

SECTION II

SHARE CAPITAL—SHARES—IDENTIFICATION OF SHAREHOLDERS

Article 5: Share capital

The share capital has been set at 2,881,393,779 Euros divided into 523,889,778 fully paid-up shares of a par value of 5.50 euros each.

Share capital is increased under the conditions stipulated by law either by issuing ordinary or preferred shares, or by raising the par value of existing shares. It may also be increased by exercising the rights attached to marketable securities granting access to share capital, under the conditions stipulated by law.

In accordance with prevailing legal provisions, unless otherwise decided by the General Meeting, the shareholders have, in proportion to the amount of shares they own, a preferential subscription right to the shares issued in cash in order to increase share capital.

The share capital may also be reduced under the conditions stipulated by law, in particular, by reducing the par value of the shares, or by reimbursing or redeeming shares on the stock exchange and by canceling shares, or by exchanging existing shares for new shares, in an equivalent or lesser number, with or without the same par value, and with or without a cash balance to be paid or received. The General Meeting may always compel the shareholders to sell or purchase existing shares to permit the exchange of existing shares for new shares, with or without a cash balance to be paid or received, even if such reduction is not a result of losses.

Article 6: Shares

If the new shares are not fully paid up upon issuance, calls for payment shall be performed, on dates set by the Board of Directors, by means of announcements posted one month in advance in one of the Paris official legal publications chosen for the legal publication of the Company's deeds.

Shares not fully paid up shall be held as registered shares until they are fully paid up.

Each payment on any subscribed shares will be registered in an account opened in the name of the subscriber.

All late payments shall automatically bear interest, for the benefit of the Company, as of the due date, without any formal notice or legal action, at the legal interest rate, subject to any personal action that the Company may take against any defaulting shareholder and the compulsory execution measures provided by law.

Article 7: Type of shares

Paid-up shares are registered as registered shares or bearer shares depending on the choice of the shareholder.

The provisions of the aforementioned paragraph also apply to other securities of any nature issued by the Company.

Article 8: Rights and obligations governing shares

Shareholders shall not be liable above the amount of their subscription.

Share ownership automatically binds shareholders to the articles of association and the decisions of the General Meetings.

Subject to legal and regulatory restrictions, voting rights attached to the shares are proportionate to the capital quota they represent and each share confers the right to one vote. In accordance with the option provided by article L. 22-10-46 of the French Commercial Code, double voting rights will not be conferred to paid-up shares and for which a nominative registration for at least two years in the name of the same shareholder can be proved.

Any share grants entitlement, during the Company's term, as in the event of liquidation, to the payment of an identical net amount for any distribution or redemption.

Shares are freely transferable under the conditions provided by law.

Article 9: Identification of shareholders

The Company may avail itself at any time of the legal and statutory provisions in force permitting the identification of the owners of shares conferring immediately or in the future the right to vote in General Meetings, as well as the number of shares they own.

In addition to the legal obligations to notify the Company, any person, acting alone or jointly, coming in direct or indirect possession of a fraction of the Company's capital or voting rights equal to or greater than 2%, or a multiple of 2% of capital or voting rights (including above the 5% threshold), is required to inform the Company within fifteen days as of the date on which the threshold is exceeded and, as the case may be, independently of the effective transfer date of share ownership. The person shall state the number of shares and marketable securities granting entitlement to capital that he or she owns on the date of notification. Any decrease below the 2% threshold or a multiple of 2% of capital or voting rights shall be notified in the same manner.

To determine share capital and voting rights thresholds, the crossing of which must be declared under the previous paragraph, assimilation rules set out in article L. 233-9 of the French Commercial Code are applied.

In the event of a failure to meet this additional notification obligation, one or several shareholders, owning a fraction of the Company's capital or voting rights amounting to at least 2%, may, at a General Meeting, request that the shares exceeding the fraction which should have been reported, be stripped of their voting rights for any General Meeting held until the end of a two-year period following the date on which the notice is rectified. The request is recorded in the Minutes of the General Meeting.

Article 10: Co-ownership and usufruct

As all shares are indivisible from the point of view of the Company, all joint owners of shares are required to be represented vis-à-vis the Company by a single owner selected from among them or proxy under the conditions provided by law.

The voting right attached to the share is exercised by the beneficial owner at both Ordinary and Extraordinary General Meetings. However, the bare-owner shall be entitled to attend all General Meetings. He or she may also represent the beneficial owner at General Meetings.

The heirs, creditors, trustees or successors of a shareholder may not, on any grounds whatsoever, call for the affixing of seals on the Company's assets and securities, request the distribution thereof, or interfere in any manner whatsoever in its administration.

In order to exercise their rights, they must consult the Company's records and decisions of the General Meetings.

SECTION III

MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPANY

Article 11: Composition of the Board of Directors

The Company is managed by a Board of Directors, comprising a minimum of three members and a maximum of 14 members (unless temporarily waived in the event of a merger), physical persons or legal entities.

The members of the Board of Directors are appointed by the Ordinary General Meeting for a term of four years expiring at the close of the General Meeting held to approve the financial statements for the previous year and which is held in the year during which the mandate expires. As an exception to this rule, the members of the first Board of Directors who exercised functions as members of the Supervisory Board in the Company under its former mode of administration shall be appointed for a period equal to the remaining term of their mandate as members of the Supervisory Board.

The members of the Board of Directors may be re-elected.

Each Director must own at least 500 registered shares in the Company during the term of his functions. If, on the date of his appointment, a Director does not own the required number of shares or if, during his term, he ceases to own them, he is deemed to have resigned with immediate effect if he has not rectified the situation within the time limit stipulated in the regulations in force.

In the event of a vacancy of one or more seats due to death or resignation, the Board of Directors may, between two General Meetings, make temporary appointments. Provisional appointments made by the Board of Directors are subject to the approval of the next Ordinary General Meeting. If the number of Directors falls below the legal minimum, the remaining Directors must immediately convene an Ordinary General Meeting in order to make up the numbers of the Board.

No individual over the age of 72 shall be appointed as a member of the Board of Directors if his appointment increases the number of the members of the Board of Directors who have passed this age to over one third. If during their term, the number of the members of the Board of Directors who have passed 72 years of age exceeds one third of the Board's members, the oldest member of the Board of Directors who has not carried out management functions in the Company is deemed to have resigned at the end of the Annual General Meeting held following the occurrence of this event.

During the Company's term, Directors are appointed and their mandates renewed under the conditions provided by law.

They may be dismissed by the Ordinary General Meeting at any time.

Director(s) representing employees

In accordance with statutory requirements, if the number of members of the Board of Directors, calculated in accordance with article L. 225-27-1-II of the French Commercial Code, is less than or equal to eight, the Group Committee in France shall proceed to appoint a Director representing employees.

If the number of members of the Board of Directors, calculated in accordance with article L. 225-27-1-II of the French Commercial Code, is more than eight, and provided this criterion is still fulfilled on the date of the appointment, a second Director representing employees shall be appointed by the European Works Council.

If the number of members of the Board of Directors, calculated in accordance with article L. 225-27-1-II of the French Commercial Code, was originally more than eight members but becomes less than or equal to eight members, the Director appointed by the European Works Council shall remain in office until his term of office expires.

As an exception to the foregoing, the Director representing employees appointed by virtue of this clause is not required to hold at least 500 registered shares during his term of office.

The Director representing employees shall be appointed for a four-year term expiring at the close of the General Meeting called to approve the financial statements for the previous year and which is held in the year in which his term of office expires. The tenure of the Director representing employees may be renewed.

The tenure of the Director representing employees shall be terminated in accordance with statutory requirements and the provisions contained in this clause, particularly in the event of termination of said Director's employment contract; if the criteria for the application of article L. 225-27-1 of the Commercial Code are no longer met, the tenure of the Director(s) representing employees shall expire at the end of the meeting during which the Board of Directors observes that the Company has been released from this obligation.

In the event that the seat of a Director representing employees is vacant for any reason whatsoever, the vacant seat shall be filled under the conditions set forth in article L. 225-34 of the French Commercial Code.

In addition to the provisions of the second paragraph of article L. 225-29 of the French Commercial Code, it is stipulated, if need be, that any failure to appoint a Director representing employees by the body designated herein, in accordance with the law and with this clause, shall not invalidate the resolutions of the Board of Directors.

Article 12: Organization and management of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors elects from among its members who are individuals, a Chairman. It determines his remuneration and sets his term of office which may not exceed his term of office as Director. The Chairman may be re-elected.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors performs the duties entrusted to him by law. He chairs the Board of Directors, organizes and manages its work and reports on such work to the General Meeting. He ensures that the Company's bodies operate properly and, in particular, that the Directors are able to fulfill their assignments.

The Board may also appoint from among its members one or more Vice Chairmen, whose term of office shall be determined within the limit of their term as Director and whose role it is, subject to the legal provisions applicable in the event of the temporary impediment or death of the Chairman, to convene and chair Board meetings or chair General Meetings in accordance with these articles of association when the Chairman is impeded.

No Director who does not also assume the role of Chief Executive Officer may be appointed as Chairman of the Board of Directors after the age of 72. If, during the term of office, this age limit is reached, the Chairman's mandate shall terminate at the close of the General Meeting held to approve the financial statements for the year during which he has reached the age limit.

If the Chairman of the Board of Directors also assumes the role of Chief Executive Officer, the applicable age limit is that applicable to the Chief Executive Officer (other than in exceptional circumstances, if the Board decides at its discretion to apply, on a temporary basis, the age limit for the Chairman referred to in the preceding paragraph).

The Chairman and each Vice Chairman may be dismissed by the Board of Directors at any time. They may also be re-elected.

The Board may appoint a secretary who need not be a shareholder or one of its members.

Article 13: General Management

Management organization

In accordance with the law, the Company's General Management is assumed either by the Chairman of the Board of Directors or by any other physical person, Director or not, appointed by the Board of Directors and who assumes the role of Chief Executive Officer.

The choice between either of the two General Management organizations described above is made by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors makes its decision relating to the choice of General Management organization under the quorum and majority conditions stipulated in article 14 of these articles of association. The shareholders and third parties are informed of the Board of Directors' decision under the conditions stipulated by the regulations in force.

When the Company's General Management is assumed by the Chairman of the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors must appoint, among its members considered as independent by the Board of Directors, a Lead Director. The conditions of appointment, the tasks and powers of the Lead Director (in particular, if applicable, the power to ask to convene a meeting of the Board of Directors), are set out in the Board of Directors' internal regulations.

The choice made by the Board of Directors remains valid until it decides otherwise.

The Board of Directors will review, as necessary, the choice made each time the mandate of the Chairman of the Board of Directors or the Chief Executive Officer comes up for renewal.

Chief Executive Officer

If the Company's Chief Executive Officer is assumed by the Chairman of the Board of Directors, the following provisions relating to the Chief Executive Officer are applicable (apart from the situation referred to in article 12 paragraph 5).

The Board of Directors sets the term of office and determines the remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer.

No individual over the age limit set by law may be appointed as Chief Executive Officer. If, during the term of office, this age limit is reached, the Chief Executive Officer's mandate shall terminate at the close of the General Meeting held to approve the financial statements for the year during which he has reached the age limit set by law.

The Chief Executive Officer may be dismissed at any time by the Board of Directors. The discharge of a Chief Executive Officer who does not assume the role of Chairman may give rise to damages if decided without reasonable cause.

The Chief Executive Officer may always be re-elected.

Powers of the Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer is vested with the broadest powers to act in all circumstances on behalf of the Company within the limit of the Company's corporate purpose, the articles of association, and subject to the powers expressly granted by law to General Meetings and the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors is responsible for defining the decisions of the Chief Executive Officer that require its prior approval. The Board of Directors' prior approval should be sought particularly for external acquisitions or sales of interests or assets, and for investment commitments, in each case under the conditions and exceeding the amounts corresponding to an efficient operation of the Company as set by the Board of Directors. It should also be sought for financing operations of any amount likely to substantially alter the Company's financial structure and for any decision likely to substantially alter the Company's strategic orientations determined by the Board of Directors.

Senior Executive Vice Presidents

On the Chief Executive Officer's proposal, whether he be Chairman of the Board of Directors or any other person, the Board of Directors may appoint one or more physical persons as Senior Executive Vice-Presidents to assist the Chief Executive Officer.

The maximum number of Senior Executive Vice Presidents is set at three.

In accordance with the Chief Executive Officer, the Board of Directors determines the scope and term of the powers granted to the Senior Executive Vice Presidents and sets their remuneration.

The Senior Executive Vice Presidents have the same powers as the Chief Executive Officer vis-à-vis third parties.

In the event of impediment of the Chief Executive Officer or the cessation of his functions, the Senior Executive Vice Presidents shall maintain, unless decided otherwise by the Board of Directors, their functions and powers until a new Chief Executive Officer is appointed.

The Senior Executive Vice Presidents may be dismissed at any time by the Board of Directors, at the Chief Executive Officer's proposal. They are subject to the age limit provided by law.

Senior Executive Vice-Presidents may be re-elected.

Article 14: Board of Directors' meetings and deliberations

The Board of Directors meets as often as the interest of the Company so requires, by notice from its Chairman or in the case of impediment, from the oldest Vice Chairman, if one or more Vice Chairmen have been appointed, at the Head Office or in any other location indicated in the Notice of Meeting.

The agenda is set by the Chairman and may only be finalized at the time of the meeting.

Directors representing at least one third of members of the Board of Directors may, while specifying the meeting's agenda, ask the Chairman to summon the Board if it has not met for more than two months.

Likewise, the Chief Executive Officer, if he does not chair the Board of Directors, may ask the Chairman to summon the Board of Directors on any specified agenda.

The Chairman is bound to the requests made to him.

In the event that the Chairman is impeded or fails in performing the aforementioned tasks, the oldest Vice Chairman, if one or more Vice Chairmen have been appointed, shall have the authority to call the Board and set the meeting's agenda at the request of at least one third of members of the Board of Directors or the Chief Executive Officer, as the case may be. In the absence of a Vice Chairman, the minimum of one third of members of the Board of Directors or the Chief Executive Officer, depending on the case, shall have the authority to call the Board and set the meeting's agenda.

Notices may be made by all means, including verbally.

The presence of one half of the members of the Board of Directors is required for the validity of the Board's decisions.

Decisions are made by a simple majority of the votes of the members present or represented. In the event of a tie, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

The Board of Directors will set its internal rules that it may amend by simple resolution.

The Board of Directors may stipulate in its internal rules that the members of the Board of Directors who take part in the Board's meeting by videoconference or telecommunications in accordance with the conditions provided by the regulations in force shall be considered as present for calculating the quorum and voting majority of the members, for all decisions in which the law does not exclude such possibility.

The Board of Directors may make certain decisions by written consultation of the Directors, under the conditions set forth in the regulations in force.

Article 15: Powers of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors determines the orientations of the Company's activities and ensures their implementation, in line with its corporate interest, by taking into account the social and environmental stakes of its activity.

Subject to the powers expressly attributed to General Meetings by law and these articles of association and in accordance with the corporate purpose, the Board deals with any issues concerning the smooth running of the Company and manages corporate business pursuant to its decisions.

The Board of Directors may conduct controls and verifications as it deems appropriate.

It may also decide to create committees of its members responsible for analyzing issues which it itself or its Chairman submits thereto for review. The Board determines the composition and powers of the committees which conduct their activities under its responsibility.

Issues related to the performance, remuneration and, where appropriate, the renewal of the term of office of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, or the Chief Executive Officer, shall be decided by the Board of Directors as and when required, and at least once a year, after analysis by the Committee(s) of the Board of Directors that deal with appointment and remuneration issues.

Article 16: Remuneration

The Ordinary General Meeting may allocate to the members of the Board of Directors, as remuneration for their activity, a fixed annual amount. The Board of Directors is free to distribute the overall sum thus allocated among its members. It may also allocate a greater amount to the Directors who are members of committees set up within the Board than that allocated to the other Directors.

The Board may allocate exceptional sums to remunerate assignments or mandates entrusted to the members of the Board.

SECTION IV

STATUTORY AUDITORS

Article 17: Audit of the Company

At the Ordinary General Meeting, the shareholders appoint the principal Statutory Auditors, under the conditions and with the assignments set by law.

SECTION V

GENERAL MEETINGS

Article 18: General Meetings

The General Meeting is comprised of all the shareholders, regardless of the number of shares they own, provided that all shares are fully paid up and that they are not stripped of voting rights.

The right to attend General Meetings of the Company shall be justified by the recording of the shares, in the book-entry form, in the name of the shareholder or of the intermediary registered on behalf of the shareholder within the time frames and under the conditions provided for by French law.

The owners of registered shares or bearer shares must furthermore have filed a proxy or absentee ballot form, or a single document presented in lieu thereof, or if the Board of Directors has so decided, a request for an admission card, at least three days prior to the meeting. The Board of Directors may however reduce this time period if it deems appropriate. It may also authorize the submission to the Company of the proxy or absentee ballot forms by teletransmission (including electronically) in accordance with prevailing regulatory and legal provisions.

The electronic signature can, when used, take the form of a process that satisfies the conditions defined in the second paragraph of article 1367 of the French Civil Code.

The General Meeting, duly constituted, represents all of the shareholders.

Ordinary and Extraordinary General Meetings, and where necessary, Special General Meetings are convened, meet and deliberate under the conditions provided by law and these articles of association.

Meetings take place at the Head Office or at any other place designated by the author of the notice, even outside of the Head Office or the Head Office's department.

General Meetings are chaired by the Chairman of the Board of Directors or, in his absence, by the Vice Chairman or the oldest Vice Chairman of the Board, if one or more Vice Chairmen have been appointed, or otherwise by a Director specifically appointed for this purpose by the Board. In the event of impediment of the Vice Chairman or Vice Chairmen when Vice Chairmen have been appointed or if the Board has not appointed a Director, the shareholders shall themselves appoint the Chairman.

The two members of the General Meeting with the highest number of votes and having accepted the position act as ballot inspectors for the General Meeting. The officers of the meeting appoint a secretary who need not be a shareholder.

In the event that the meeting is convened by a Statutory Auditor or by a judicial representative, the General Meeting is chaired by the author of the notice.

Upon the decision of the Board of Directors published in the Notice of Meeting or notice of convocation to rely on means of telecommunication, the shareholders who take part in the General Meeting by videoconference or using telecommunications means permitting their identification in accordance with the conditions provided by prevailing law, shall be considered as present for calculating the quorum and voting majority.

Article 19: Powers of General Meetings

Ordinary and Extraordinary General Meetings, and where necessary, Special General Meetings allow shareholders to exercise the powers defined by law and these articles of association.

SECTION VI

INVENTORY—RESERVES—DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS

Article 20: Fiscal year

The fiscal year begins on January 1 and ends on December 31.

Article 21: Inventory, distribution of profits

The Company's net proceeds, established in the annual inventory, after deducting overheads and other costs, including all amortization, depreciation and provisions, constitute the net profits.

From these profits, less, as the case may be, previous losses, a deduction of at least 5% is first of all made to create the reserve required by law. This deduction ceases to be mandatory when the reserve amounts to 10% of the share capital. It is resumed if this reserve is ever used.

The distributable profits are made up of the annual net profits, less previous losses, as well as the sums to be placed on reserve pursuant to law, plus the profit carried forward.

From these profits, a deduction is made of the amount necessary to pay the shareholders, as a first dividend, 5% of the sums paid-up on their shares, and not amortized, and 5% of the sums from premiums on shares issued in cash, and appearing in a "share premium" account, without it being possible, if the profits of a given year do not permit this payment, for the shareholders to claim such amounts from the profits of subsequent years.

The General Meeting may decide to earmark any portion of the available surplus of said profits it wishes for the creation of general or special providence or reserve funds, under any name whatsoever or even simply as an amount carried forward.

The balance constitutes a surplus fund which is intended for the distribution of the second dividend as well as the amount provisionally assessed as necessary to pay a 10% increase to the registered shares satisfying the following conditions.

Starting on January 1, 1996, the shares registered at December 31 of each year in registered form for at least two years, and which remain registered until the date of the payment of the dividend, will entitle their owners to collect a dividend per share which is 10% higher, rounded down if necessary to the lower centime, than the dividend per share distributed in respect of other shares, provided that the amount of the dividend per share prior to any increase is at least equal to the amount of the dividend per share prior to any increase distributed in the preceding year, adjusted to take into account the change in the number of shares from one year to the next resulting in a capital increase by capitalizing premiums, reserves or profits or a share split.

In the event that, starting on January 1, 1996, the Board of Directors, with the approval of the shareholders decides to increase the capital by capitalizing reserves, profits or premiums, the registered shares held on December 31 prior to the attribution for at least two years and that remain held until the day before the share attribution date will entitle their owners to an attribution of shares which is 10% higher than the attribution made in favor of other shares, and according to the same procedure.

The new shares created in this manner will be comparable in all respects to the existing shares from which they are issued, for calculating the entitlement to the higher dividends and the higher attributions.

The increases defined in each of the two preceding paragraphs may be modified or eliminated by simple decision during the Extraordinary General Meeting, according to the procedures it determines.

Pursuant to law, the number of shares eligible for these increases shall not for any given shareholder exceed 0.5% of the Company's share capital.

The General Meeting held to approve the financial statements for the year shall have the possibility of granting to each shareholder, for all or part of the dividend or interim dividends, an option for payment of the dividend or interim dividends in either cash or shares.

SECTION VII

LIQUIDATION

Article 22: Liquidation

At the expiration of the Company's term, or in the event of early dissolution, the shareholders determine the method of liquidation, in accordance with the conditions stipulated by law. They appoint and determine the powers of one or more liquidators.

The liquidators may, pursuant to a decision of the shareholders, transfer to another company or sell to a company or to any other entity or person, all or part of the assets, rights and obligations of the dissolved Company.

The duly constituted General Meeting retains the same prerogatives during the liquidation as during the Company's term. In particular, it has the power to approve the accounts of the liquidation and to grant a discharge thereof.

After the Company's commitments have been settled, the net proceeds from the liquidation are used first to fully redeem the shares, and the surplus is then distributed equally among them.

SECTION VIII

DISPUTES

Article 23: Disputes

All disputes which may arise during the Company's term or liquidation, either between the shareholders and the Company or among the shareholders themselves, regarding Company affairs, are settled in accordance with law and submitted to the jurisdiction of the competent Paris courts.

For this purpose, in the event of disputes, all shareholders shall elect domicile in Paris, and all summonses and notices are duly served at this domicile.

Failing election of domicile, summonses and notices are validly served at the Office of Public Prosecution of the French Republic at the Paris judicial court.