

**THE COMPANIES ACTS 1985 TO 1989****COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES****MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION****IDF GROUP LIMITED****of**

1. The name of the Company is Meridien Group Limited.<sup>1</sup>
2. The registered office of the Company is to be situated in England and Wales.
3. The objects for which the Company is established are:
  - 3.1 To be an investment holding company and to acquire (whether by original subscription, tender, purchase, exchange or otherwise) the whole of or any part of the stock, shares, debentures, debenture stocks, loan notes, bonds and other securities issued or guaranteed by a body corporate constituted or carrying on business in any part of the world or by any government, sovereign ruler, commissioners, public body or authority and to hold the same as investments, and to sell, exchange, carry and dispose of the same and to co-ordinate the business of any companies in which the Company is for the time being interested.
  - 3.2 To engage in any activity of whatsoever nature in which a person may lawfully engage whether with a view to profit or otherwise howsoever including (without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing):
    - (a) carrying on either on the Company's own account or on account of any other person all or any of the businesses of manufacturers, builders, fabricators, general merchants and traders, cash, discount, mail order and credit traders, retailers, wholesalers, buyers, sellers, suppliers, distributors, importers and exporters, and shippers, of, and dealers in all products, goods, wares, substances, materials, merchandise and produce of every description; manufacturers' agents and representatives; mechanical, general, civil, constructional, electrical, marine, radio, electronic, aeronautical, chemical and petrochemical engineers; consultants and advisers of all descriptions; land and property developers, estate agents, dealers in and lessors and developers of land and buildings; mortgage brokers, insurance brokers and consultants, stock brokers, financial agents, advisers, managers and administrators, hire purchase

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<sup>1</sup> The name of the Company changed from Trusthouse Forte Public Limited Company on 03 June 1991 and then from Forte Limited on 20 November 2001. The name of the Company then changed from Meridien Group Limited to IDF Group Limited.

and general financiers, commission agents, capitalists, financiers, bankers; marketing and business consultants, advertising agents and contractors, public relations advisers and consultants; discount traders, mail order traders; haulage and transport contractors, garage and filling station proprietors, owners and operators; repairers, customisers, charterers, hirers and lessors on hire of, and dealers in motor and other vehicles, aircraft, ships, boats, vessels, plant, machinery, apparatus, tools, utensils, equipment and goods of every description, lightermen and carriers of goods and passengers by road, rail, water or air, transport agents, customs agents, stevedores, wharfingers, cargo superintendents, packers, shippers, railway, shipping and forwarding agents, warehouse storekeepers, cold store keepers, general storekeepers, hotel and restaurant proprietors, managers and operators, caterers, publicans, brewers, printers and publishers, travel agents, ticket agents and conductors of agency business of all kinds and generally to render services of all kinds to others, to act as brokers and agents for and to perform subcontracting for any other person;

- (b) participating in, undertaking, performing and carrying on all kinds of commercial, industrial, trading and financial operations and enterprises;
  - (c) engaging in all kinds of artistic, cultural, educational and scientific activities and the promotion thereof and engaging in all kinds of design, invention, research, development and experimentation.
- 3.3 To carry on in any part of the world any other business or activity which may seem to the directors to be capable of being conveniently or advantageously carried on in connection with any of the above businesses or directly or indirectly to further or facilitate the objects of the Company or to enhance the value of or render profitable or more profitable any of the Company's property or assets or utilising its skills, know-how or expertise or otherwise to advance the interests of the Company or any of its members.
- 3.4 To purchase or otherwise acquire or take over the whole or any part of the share capital, business or undertaking, goodwill, property and assets of any person which may in the opinion of the directors be expedient or be capable of being conveniently carried on, or calculated directly or indirectly to enhance the value of or make profitable any of the Company's property or rights or to be suitable for the purposes of the Company and to become interested in, and carry on, dispose of, remove or put an end to the same or otherwise deal with any such business or undertaking and as part of the consideration for such acquisition to undertake all or any of the liabilities of such person or to acquire an interest in, amalgamate or enter into partnership, joint venture or any arrangement for sharing profits, or for co-operation or union of interests or reciprocal concession or for limiting competition, or for mutual assistance, with any person and to subsidise or otherwise assist any such person, and to give or accept by way of consideration for any of the acts or things aforesaid or property acquired, any shares, monies, assets, rights, debentures, debenture stock or other securities that may be agreed, and to hold and retain or sell, mortgage or otherwise deal with any shares, monies, assets, rights, debentures, debenture stock or other securities so received.
- 3.5 To purchase, take on lease, concession, grant or licence, or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire, hold and manage any lands or buildings of freehold, leasehold or

other tenure or any estate or interest therein and any other property of any description, whether real or personal, and easements privileges options or rights over through under the same or in connection therewith, and to develop, improve, manage, or otherwise deal with the same.

- 3.6 To construct, erect, maintain, alter, replace, or remove any buildings, works, shops, factories, offices, erections, plant, machinery, tools or equipment and to work, manage, own and control such things.
- 3.7 To sell, exchange, mortgage, let on rent, share of profit or otherwise, grant licences, easements, options and other rights over, through or under or in connection with, and in any other manner deal with or dispose of all or any part of the undertaking, property, assets, rights and effects of the Company for such consideration as may be thought fit and in particular for shares, stocks, debentures, debenture stock or other obligations or securities, whether fully or partly paid up, of any other company.
- 3.8 Either with or without the Company receiving any consideration or advantage, direct or indirect, therefrom, to transfer by way of gift or at an undervalue or otherwise all or any part of the assets or property of the Company to or enter into any arrangement at an undervalue with any person including without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing any subsidiary or a holding company of the Company or another subsidiary of a holding company of the Company; to waive or release, with or without consideration any rights of, or any debts, liabilities or obligations owed to, the Company from any person including without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing any subsidiary or a holding company of the Company or another subsidiary of a holding company of the Company.
- 3.9 Either with or without the Company receiving any consideration or advantage, direct or indirect, from giving any such guarantee, to guarantee by personal covenant or by mortgaging or charging all or any part of its undertaking, property and assets present and future and uncalled capital or by any combination of such methods or by any other means whatsoever the performance of the obligations (whether legally binding or not) and the payment of any moneys (including but not limited to capital or principal, premiums, dividends or interest, commissions, charges, discount and any costs or expenses relating thereto whether on any stocks, shares or securities or in any other manner whatsoever) by any person including but not limited to any person which is for the time being the Company's holding company or a subsidiary of the Company or of the Company's holding company or any person who is for the time being a member or otherwise has any interest in the Company or is associated with the Company in any business or venture or any other person and for the purposes of this paragraph 3.9 any references to "guarantee" shall include indemnities, sureties and any obligation (howsoever described) to pay, satisfy, provide funds for the payment or satisfaction of (including, without limitation, by advance of money, purchase of or subscription for shares or other securities and purchase of assets or services) or to indemnify against the consequences of any failure by any other person to perform any obligation or make any payment, or otherwise agree to be responsible for, any indebtedness of any other person.
- 3.10 Apply for, purchase or otherwise acquire, register, protect, prolong, extend or renew and to hold in any part of the world any patents, patent rights, brevets d'invention, trademarks, service marks, designs, licences, protections, concessions and intellectual property rights of whatever nature which may appear likely to be advantageous or useful to the Company, and to use and manufacture under or grant licences or privileges in respect of or sell or let the same or any interest therein, and to expend money in experimenting upon and testing and in

improving or seeking to improve any patents, inventions, designs or rights which the Company may hold, acquire or propose to acquire.

- 3.11 To adopt such means for publicising or making known any goods or services provided by the Company and keeping the same before the public as the directors may think fit and in particular to employ advertising, promotion and public relations techniques of all kinds.
- 3.12 To establish or promote or concur in establishing or promoting any company the establishment or promotion of which shall be considered by the directors to be desirable in the interests of the Company and to subscribe for, underwrite, purchase or otherwise acquire and hold, realise, sell or otherwise dispose of the shares (whether credited as paid up in full or in part), stocks, debentures, debenture stock or other securities and obligations of any person.
- 3.13 To co-ordinate the administration, policies, management, supervising, control, research, development, planning, manufacture, trading and any and all other activities of, and to act as financial advisers and consultants to, any company or companies or group of companies now or hereafter formed or incorporated or acquired which may be or may become related or associated in any way with the Company or with any company related or associated therewith and with or without remuneration or on such terms as to remuneration as may be agreed.
- 3.14 To vest any real or personal property, rights or interests acquired by or belonging to the Company in any person on behalf of or for the benefit of the Company, with or without any declared trust in favour of the Company.
- 3.15 To invest and deal with the Company's money and funds in any way the directors think fit and to receive money on deposit on any terms the directors think fit and to vary the investments and holdings of the Company as may from time to time be deemed desirable and to invest and deal with the monies of the Company in any manner.
- 3.16 To borrow, raise money and secure or discharge any debt or obligation of or binding on the Company in such manner as the directors may think fit and in particular by mortgages of or charges upon the undertaking and all or any part of the real and personal property (present and future) and the uncalled capital of the Company or by the creation and issue of debentures, debenture stock or other obligations or securities of any description and to purchase, redeem or pay off such securities and for the purpose of procuring finance or for any other purpose to issue warrants to subscribe for shares on such terms as the directors shall determine including warrants entitling the holder to elect for a cash payment in place of an issue of shares.
- 3.17 To lend and advance money or give credit or receive money on deposit or give financial accommodation to any person with or without security on such terms as may seem expedient to the directors, including but not limited to any company which is for the time being the Company's holding company or a subsidiary of the Company or of the Company's holding company or any person who is for the time being a member or otherwise has any interest in the Company or is associated with the Company in any business or venture or any other person and to customers and others having dealings with the Company.

- 3.18 While the Company remains a private company, and subject to the provisions of the Act, to give financial assistance (within the meaning of the section 152(1)(a) of the Act) for any such purpose as is specified in section 151(1) and / or 151(2) of the Act.
- 3.19 To draw, make, accept, endorse, discount, execute and issue cheques, promissory notes, bills of exchange, bills of lading, warrants, debentures, debenture stock and other negotiable or transferable instruments.
- 3.20 To undertake interest rate and currency swaps, options, swap option contracts, forward exchange contracts, forward rate agreements, futures contracts or other financial instruments including but not limited to hedging agreements and derivatives of any kind and all or any of which may be on a fixed and/or floating rate basis and/or in respect of sterling, the Euro, any other currencies or basket of currencies including but not limited to European Currency Units (as the same may from time to time be designated or constituted) or commodities of any kind and in the case of such swaps, options, swap option contracts, forward exchange contracts, forward rate agreements, futures contracts or other financial instruments including hedging agreements and derivatives of any kind they may be undertaken by the Company on a speculative basis or otherwise.
- 3.21 To apply for, promote, and obtain any Act of Parliament, charter, contract, decree, right, privilege, concession, licence or authorisation of any government, state or municipality, provisional order or licence of the Department of Trade or other authority for enabling the Company to carry any of its objects into effect or for extending any of the powers of the Company, or for effecting any modification of the constitution of the Company, or for any other purpose which may seem expedient to the directors and to carry out, exercise and comply with any such charter, contract, decree, right, privilege, concession, licence or authorisation and to oppose any proceedings or applications which may seem calculated directly or indirectly to prejudice the Company's interests.
- 3.22 To enter into any arrangements with any governments, organisations, associations, clubs, persons or authorities (supreme, municipal, local or otherwise) or any companies that may seem conducive to the objects of the Company or any of them.
- 3.23 To act as trustee of any kind including but not limited to trustee of any deeds constituting or securing any debentures, debenture stock or other securities or obligations and to undertake and execute any trust or trust business (including but not limited to the business of acting as trustee under wills and settlements), and to do anything that may be necessary or assist in the obtaining of any benefit under the estate of any individual and also to undertake the office of executor, administrator, secretary, treasurer or registrar or to become manager of any business and to keep any register or undertake any registration duties, whether in relation to securities or otherwise.
- 3.24 To remunerate any person rendering services to the Company, whether by cash payment or by the allotment of shares, debentures, debenture stock, or other securities of the Company credited as paid up in full or in part or otherwise.
- 3.25 To pay out of the funds of the Company all expenses which the Company may lawfully pay in respect of or incidental to the promotion, formation and registration of or the raising of money for the Company or any other person or the issue of its shares or other securities, including without limitation brokerage and commissions for obtaining applications for or taking, placing or underwriting or procuring the underwriting of shares, debentures,

debenture stock or other securities of the Company or any other person or to contract with any other person to pay the same.

- 3.26 To establish and maintain or procure the establishment and maintenance of, any pension or superannuation funds or schemes (whether contributory or otherwise) for the benefit of and to give or procure the giving of donations, gratuities, pensions, allowances and emoluments to any persons who are or were at any time in the employment or service of the Company, or any of its predecessors in business or of any company which is a subsidiary of the Company or is allied to or associated with the Company or with any such subsidiary, or who may be or have been directors or officers of the Company, or of any such other company as aforesaid, or any persons in whose welfare the Company or any such other company as aforesaid is or has been at any time interested, and the wives, widows, families, relations and dependants of any such persons, and to establish, subsidise and subscribe to any institutions, associations, societies, clubs or funds calculated directly or indirectly to be for the benefit of, or to advance the interests and well-being of the Company or of any other person as aforesaid and to make payments for or towards the insurance of any such persons as aforesaid.
- 3.27 To establish and contribute to any scheme for the purchase or subscription by trustees of shares or other securities of the Company to be held for the benefit of the employees of the Company, any subsidiary of the Company or any person allied to or associated with the Company, to lend money to those employees or to trustees on their behalf to enable them to purchase or subscribe for shares or other securities of the Company and to formulate and carry into effect any scheme for sharing the profits of the Company with employees.
- 3.28 To subscribe or guarantee money for charitable or benevolent objects, or for any exhibition, or for any public, general, charitable, political or useful object, or for any purpose likely directly or indirectly to further the objects of the Company.
- 3.29 To insure the life of any person or to insure against any accident to any person who may, in the opinion of the directors, be of value to the Company as having or holding for the Company interests, goodwill or influence or other assets and to pay the premiums on such insurance.
- 3.30 To establish, grant or take up agencies and to procure the Company and any branch office of the Company to be registered or recognised in any part of the world.
- 3.31 To distribute among the members of the Company in kind any property of the Company or proceeds of sale or disposal of any such property (whether by way of dividend or otherwise) and in particular any shares, debentures, debenture stock or other securities belonging to the Company or of which the Company may have the power of disposing.
- 3.32 To do all or any of the above things in any part of the world, either as principals, agents, trustees, contractors or otherwise and either alone or in conjunction with others and either by or through agents, sub-contractors, trustees or otherwise.
- 3.33 To do all such things as may be deemed incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

In clause 3 reference to :

- (a) a "person" includes a reference to any partnership, firm, association, body corporate, authority, organisation, individual or other person or body of persons whether corporate or unincorporate, and whether domiciled in the United Kingdom or elsewhere and whether incorporated or unincorporated;
- (b) the "Act" is, unless the context otherwise requires, a reference to the Companies Act 1985, as modified or re-enacted or both from time to time; and
- (c) a "subsidiary" or "holding company" is to be construed in accordance with section 736 of the Act.

The objects specified in each of the paragraphs of clause 3 shall be regarded as independent objects, and accordingly shall in no way be limited or restricted (except where otherwise expressed in such paragraphs) by reference to or inference from the terms of any other paragraph or the name of the Company, but may be carried out in as full and ample a manner and construed in as wide a sense as if each of the said paragraphs defined the objects of a separate and distinct company.

4. The liability of the members is limited.
5. The initial authorised share capital of the Company is £433,000,000 divided into 1,732,000,000 ordinary shares of £0.25 each.

## NOTES

1. The Company was incorporated on 30 January 1903 under the name "THE HERFORDSHIRE PUBLIC HOUSE TRUST COMPANY LIMITED". The name of the Company has been changed as follows:

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>NEW NAME</b>
1906	THE HERTS AND ESSEX PUBLIC HOUSE TRUST COMPANY LIMITED
1910	HOME COUNTIES PUBLIC HOUSE TRUST LIMITED
1918	TRUST HOUSES, LIMITED
1959	TRUST HOUSES LIMITED
1968	TRUST HOUSES GROUP LIMITED
1970	TRUST HOUSES FORTE LIMITED
1979	TRUSTHOUSE FORTE LIMITED
1981	TRUSTHOUSE FORTE PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY
1991	FORTE PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY
1996	FORTE LIMITED
2001	MERIDIEN GROUP LIMITED
2005	ZOE GROUP LIMITED

2. The words "or elsewhere" were added to paragraphs (C), (D), (E) and (BB) and the last sentence of clause 3 above by Special Resolution passed 26 July 1957.
3. The authorised capital of the Company has been varied as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>No. of Ordinary Shares of £1 each created</b>	<b>No. of unclassified shares of £1 each created</b>	<b>Deferred Shares of 1s. each</b>	<b>Running Total £</b>
1903 (Incorporation)	24,999		20	25,000
1911 (July)		5,000		30,000
1912 (December)		20,000		50,000
1912	25,000			75,000
1913	25,000			100,000
1914	50,000			150,000
1918	350,000			500,000
1919	500,000			1,000,000
1920	1,000,000			2,000,000

Up to this point in the history of the Company the maximum rate of dividend on the Ordinary Shares per annum had been:

1903	£5 per cent.
1914	£7 per cent.
1919	£7 per cent. free of Income Tax

In 1930 the capital of the Company was reorganised so as to consist of six per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each, Ordinary Shares of £1 each and Deferred Shares of 1s. each, all having the rights and privileges set out in the then existing Articles of Association, which provided (inter alia) for the maximum rate of dividend on the Ordinary Shares to be ten per cent. per annum. Subsequent increases in capital were:

Date	No. of unclassified shares of £1 each created	Running Total
1939	250,000	2,250,000
1947	750,000	3,000,000

As a result of the Scheme of Arrangement dated 1 January 1959, the capital became:

Trust Shares of £1 each (issued)	£	25,000
Six per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each (issued) .... .... ....	£	750,000
Ordinary Shares of £1 each (maximum rate of dividend now 20 per cent. per annum) (issued)	£	1,769,995
Unclassified shares of £1 each (unissued)	£	<u>455,045</u>
	£	<u>3,000,000</u>

Subsequent increases in capital were:

Date	No. of 6 per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each created	No. of Ordinary Shares of £1 each created	No. of unclassified shares of £1 each created	Running Total £
1959			1,000,000	4,000,000
1961			1,000,000	5,000,000
1962	100,000	700,000		5,800,000
1963			700,000	6,500,000

In 1964 the capital of the Company was reorganised by way of sub-division as follows:

- (a) by the sub-division of each of the existing issued Ordinary Shares £1, into four Ordinary Shares of 5s. each;
- (b) by the sub-division of each of the existing issued Trust Shares of £1 each, into four Trust Shares of 5s. each;

- (c) by classifying and sub-dividing all but 43,046 of the unissued unclassified shares of £1 each into Ordinary Shares of 5s. each.

At the same time, the capital was increased to £8,000,000 by the creation of 6,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 5s each. As a result of this sub-division and increase, the capital became:

Trust Shares of 5s. each	....	100,000	25,000
Six per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each	....	850,000	850,000
Ordinary Shares of 5s. each	....	28,327,816	7,081,954
Unclassified shares of £1 each		43,046	<u>43,046</u>
			<u>£8,000,000</u>

Subsequent increases in capital were:

Date	No. of Trust Shares of 5s. each	No. of 6 per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each	No. of Ordinary Shares of 5s. each	No. of unclassified Shares of £1 each	Running Total £
1965 (March)	10,000		1,790,000	50,000	8,500,000
1965 (November)			3,000,000		9,250,000
1968	20,000		2,980,000		10,000,000
1968 (July)		155,288	3,378,848		11,000,000
1969			8,000,000		13,000,000

As a result of the Scheme of Arrangement dated 24 March 1970, the capital became:

Trust Shares of 25p each	....	130,000
Ordinary Shares of 25p each	....	<u>51,870,000</u>
		<u>13,000,000</u>

Date	No. of Trust Shares of 25p each	No. of Ordinary Shares of 25p each	Running Total £
1970		44,000,000	24,000,000
1976		24,000,000	30,000,000
1979	130,000	119,870,000	60,000,000
1981	130,000	- 159,870,000	100,000,000
1982		100,000,000	125,000,000
1984	390,000	499,610,000	250,000,000
1994	234,000	299,766,000	325,000,000

In 1996 the capital of the Company was re-organised by the re-designation of the existing issued Trust Shares of 25p each as Ordinary Shares of 25p each.

By a Special Resolution passed 6 August 1996, it was resolved that the Company be re-registered as a private Company and that consequential amendments be made to the Memorandum. The Company was so re-registered as a private company on 7 August 1996.

By a Special Resolution passed 15 August 1996, the authorised share capital of the Company was increased from £325,000,000 to £413,000,000 by the creation of 352,000,000 Cumulative Participating Redeemable Preference Shares of 25 pence each.

By a Special Resolution passed 14 November 1996, the 352,000,000 cumulative participating redeemable preference shares of £0.25 were converted to Ordinary Shares of £0.25 each. The authorised share capital of the Company was increased from £413,000,100 to £433,000,000 by the creation of 80,000,000 Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares of £0.25 each.

By a Special Resolution passed on 3 July 1998, the 80,000,000 Cumulative Redeemable Preference shares of £0.25 each were converted into 80,000,000 Ordinary Shares of £0.25 each.

WE, the several persons whose names, addresses and descriptions are subscribed, are desirous of being formed into a company in pursuance of this Memorandum of Association, and we respectively agree to take the number of shares in the capital of the Company set opposite our respective names.

NAMES, ADDRESSES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF SUBSCRIBERS	Number of Shares taken by each subscriber
ALEXANDER FRANCIS PART, 3 Temple Gardens, Temple, E.C., Barrister-at Law	200
ERNEST W THOMAS, Little Kendals, Elstree Wool Broker	200
HELLIER R. H. GOSSELIN-GRIMSHAWE Benego Hall, Hertford, J.P.	50
DUDLEY RYDER, Westbrook Hay, Hemel Hempstead Lieut-Col	50
F. H. NORMAN, 68 Lombard Street, E.C., Banker	300
GEO. B. DODWELL, Coniston, Langley Road, Watford Merchant	500
W. WRIGHT, 20 Copthall Avenue, E.C., Clerk	1

Dated this 29 January, 1903

Witness to the above Signatures of ALEXANDER FRANCIS PART, ERNEST W. THOMAS, HELLIER R. H. GOSSELIN-GRIMSHAWE, DUDLEY RYDER, F. H. NORMAN and GEO. B., DODWELL:

W. WRIGHT  
20 Copthall Avenue, E.C.,  
Clerk.

Witness to the Signature of the above W. WRIGHT

A. RANDELL  
20 Copthall Avenue, E.C.,  
Clerk.

**THE COMPANIES ACTS 1985 TO 1989**

**COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES**

**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

*(Adopted by a Special Resolution passed on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2002)*

**of**

**IDF GROUP LIMITED**

Incorporated on 30 January 1903

Registered No. 76230

# **THE COMPANIES ACTS 1985 TO 1989**

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## **COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES**

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### **ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

**of**

**(Adopted by a Special Resolution passed on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2002)**

**IDF GROUP LIMITED<sup>1</sup>**

### **PRELIMINARY**

#### **1. Table A**

- 1.1 Subject as otherwise provided in these articles the regulations contained in Table A in the schedule to the Companies (Tables A to F) Regulations 1985 (SI 1985/805) as amended by the Companies (Tables A to F) (Amendment) Regulations 1985 (SI 1985/1052) ("Table A") shall constitute the regulations of the Company. In the case of any inconsistency between these articles and the regulations of Table A, the provisions of these articles shall prevail.
- 1.2 Regulations 24, 40, 46, 50, 57, 64 to 69 (inclusive), 73 to 78 (inclusive), 80, 81, 84, 87 to 89 (inclusive), 94, 95, 97, 101, 112, 115 and 118 of Table A shall not apply to the Company.

#### **2. Interpretation**

Words and expressions defined in regulation 1 of Table A have the same meaning when used in these articles. In these articles and in Table A words importing the singular shall include the plural and vice versa, words importing the masculine shall include the feminine, and words importing persons shall include bodies corporate and unincorporated associations. Headings to these articles are inserted for convenience only and shall not affect the construction or interpretation of these articles.

### **SHARE CAPITAL**

#### **3. Share capital**

The share capital of the Company at the date of the adoption of these articles is £433,000,000 divided into 1,732,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each.

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<sup>1</sup> The name of the Company changed from Trusthouse Forte Public Limited Company on 03 June 1991 and then from Forte Limited on 20 November 2001. The name of the Company then changed from Meridien Group Limited.

## SHARES

### 4. *Authority to allot*

- 4.1 Subject to the provisions of Table A and to the provisions of these articles, the directors are generally and unconditionally authorised to exercise any power of the Company to offer, allot or grant rights to subscribe for or convert securities into or otherwise dispose of any shares (or interests in shares) in the Company, or any other relevant securities, up to the authorised share capital of the Company as at the date of adoption of these articles, to such persons, at such times and generally on such terms and conditions as the directors think proper provided that such authority shall only apply insofar as the Company in general meeting shall not have varied, renewed or revoked the same and provided that such authority may only be exercised within five years commencing upon the date of the adoption of these articles.
- 4.2 Any offer or agreement in respect of relevant securities, which is made by the Company prior to the expiration of such authority and in all other respects within the terms of such authority, shall be authorised to be made, notwithstanding that such offer or agreement would or might require relevant securities to be allotted after the expiration of such authority and, accordingly, the directors may at any time allot any relevant securities in pursuance of such offer or agreement.
- 4.3 The authority conferred upon the directors to allot relevant securities may at any time, by ordinary resolution of the Company in general meeting, be revoked, varied or renewed (whether or not it has been previously renewed under these articles) for a further period not exceeding five years.

### 5. *Pre-emption on allotment*

- 5.1 Sections 89(1) and 90(1) to (6) (inclusive) of the Act shall not apply to any allotment of equity securities by the Company.
- 5.2 Unless otherwise determined by special resolution of the Company, any equity securities shall, before they are allotted on any terms to any person, be first offered by the Company on the same or more favourable terms to the members in proportion as nearly as is practicable to the nominal value of the shares in the Company held by the members respectively.
- 5.3 Such offer shall be made by notice specifying the number of equity securities offered and the period, being not fewer than twenty-one days, within which the offer, if not accepted, will be deemed to have been declined. After the expiration of such period, or if earlier on receipt of notice of the acceptance or refusal in respect of each offer so made, the directors may, subject to these articles, dispose of such equity securities as have not been taken up in such manner as they think proper.

## RENOUNCEABLE ALLOTMENT LETTERS

6. Where any renounceable allotment letters or other renounceable documents are issued by the Company in respect of the issue or offer of any shares, the directors may at their discretion impose such restrictions as they may think fit upon the right of any allottee or other person to whom the offer is made to renounce the shares so allotted or offered.

## LIEN

7. In regulation 8 of Table A the words and brackets "(not being a fully paid share)" shall be omitted.

## TRANSFER OF SHARES

8. *Power of refusal*

The directors may, in their absolute discretion and without giving any reason, refuse to register a transfer of a share to any person, whether or not it is a fully paid share or a share on which the company has a lien.

9. *Registration of transfers*

The transferor shall be deemed to remain the holder of the shares until the name of the transferee is entered in the register of members of the Company in respect thereof.

10. *Prohibited transfers*

No shares and no interest in shares shall be transferred to any infant, bankrupt or person of unsound mind and the directors shall refuse to register any such transfer.

## PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS

11. *Quorum*

- 11.1 No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless the requisite quorum shall be present at the commencement of the business and also when such business shall be voted upon. Two members so present and entitled to vote shall be a quorum for all purposes PROVIDED THAT, in circumstances where there is one member only, the quorum for any general meeting shall for all purposes be that member so present.
- 11.2 If a quorum is not present at any such adjourned meeting as is referred to in regulation 41 of Table A, then, provided that the member present holds not fewer than 75% in nominal value of the shares of the Company in issue, any resolution agreed to by such member shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed unanimously at a general meeting of the Company duly convened and held.

- 11.3 Any reference to presence at a general meeting or class meeting shall include presence of a member in person or by proxy or (being a corporation) by a duly authorised representative and shall include presence which is deemed in accordance with these articles (and "present" shall be construed accordingly).

12. *Voting and right to demand a poll*

- 12.1 At any general meeting a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is, before or on the declaration by the chairman of the result of the show of hands, demanded in accordance with article 12.2.
- 12.2 A poll may be demanded at any general meeting by the chairman or by any member present and entitled to vote at that meeting.
- 12.3 If at any general meeting any votes shall be counted which ought not to have been counted, or not be counted which ought to have been counted, the error shall not vitiate the result of the voting unless it is pointed out at the same meeting, and not in that case unless it shall, in the opinion of the chairman of the meeting, be of sufficient magnitude to vitiate the result of the voting.
- 12.4 In regulation 54 of Table A the words ",not being himself a member entitled to vote," shall be deleted.

13. *Participation by conference telephone*

Any member or member's proxy or duly authorised representative (being a corporation) may participate in a general meeting or a meeting of a class of members of the Company by means of conference telephones or similar communications system whereby all those participating in the meeting can hear and address each other. Such participation shall be deemed to constitute presence in person (or by proxy or authorised representative as appropriate) at such meeting for all purposes including that of establishing a quorum. A meeting held by such means shall be deemed to take place where the largest group of participators in number is assembled. In the absence of such a majority the location of the chairman shall be deemed to be the place of the meeting.

#### SINGLE MEMBER

14. *Quorum when single member and record of decisions of single member*
- 14.1 Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in these articles or in Table A, in circumstances where the Company has only one member, that member present in person or by proxy shall be a quorum.
  - 14.2 A single member shall, upon taking a decision which may be taken by the Company in general meeting and which has effect as if agreed by the Company in general meeting (unless that decision is taken by way of written resolution or unanimous assent), provide the Company with a written record of that decision.
  - 14.3 For so long as the Company is a single member Company, all provisions of these articles and of Table A shall be construed so as to be consistent with the Company only having one member.
  - 14.4 If, for any reason, the number of members of the Company increases beyond one and for so long as the number of members is more than one, the provisions of this article shall not apply.

## MEMBERS' ASSENT

15. Pursuant to the rights and powers under common law of all members having the right to receive notice of and to attend and vote at general meetings to assent or agree to any matter, such members' assent or agreement to any matter may (without limitation), if written be evidenced by one or more documents (including a telex, facsimile, cable or telegram) each accurately stating the terms of the assent or agreement and signed by or on behalf of or otherwise emanating from one or more of such members. Any such signature may be given personally or by a duly appointed attorney or in the case of a body corporate by an officer or by its duly authorised corporate representative.
16. The provisions of article 15 are in addition to and not exclusive of:
  - (a) any other rights and powers under common law of all members or any class of members having the right to attend and vote at general meetings to assent or agree to or ratify any matter or to pass any resolution by unanimous written consent; and
  - (b) any statutory rights of the members or any class of members under sections 381A and 381B of and schedule 15A to the Act,

all of which rights and powers may be exercised by the members as an alternative to the unanimous assent or agreement referred to in article 15.

## PROXIES

17. An instrument appointing a proxy and the power of attorney or other authority, if any, under which it is signed or a notarially certified copy of that power or authority may be handed to the chairman of the relevant meeting and regulation 62 of Table A shall be modified accordingly.
18. An instrument appointing a proxy shall be deemed to include authority for the proxy to vote on any amendment of a resolution put to the meeting for which the proxy was appointed in such manner as the proxy sees fit.

## DIRECTORS

19. *Number*

Unless otherwise determined by ordinary resolution the number of directors shall not be subject to any maximum but shall be not fewer than one.

20. *Eligibility*

Any adult person may be appointed or elected as a director whatever may be his age, and no director shall be required to vacate his office by reason of his attaining or having attained the age of seventy years or any other age.

## BORROWING POWERS

21. The directors may exercise all the powers of the Company to borrow or raise money without limit as to amount and upon such terms and in such manner as they think fit and to grant any mortgage or charge over its undertaking, property and uncalled capital, or any part thereof and subject in the case of any security convertible into shares to section 80 of the Act to issue debentures, debenture stock and other securities, whether outright or as security for any debt, liability or obligation of the Company or of any third party.

## DIRECTORS' INTERESTS

22. *Duty to declare interests*

A director who is in any way interested in a contract or a proposed contract with the Company (whether directly or indirectly) must declare the nature of his interest at any meeting of the directors or of a committee of the directors at which such contract or proposed contract is to be discussed, or otherwise by notice to the directors in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Having made such disclosure a director shall be entitled to vote at a meeting of directors or of a committee of the directors in respect of such contract or proposed contract in which he is interested and shall also be counted in reckoning whether a quorum is present or deemed to be present at the meeting of the directors or, if relevant, the committee of the directors.

23. *Remuneration*

A director may, notwithstanding his office, hold and be remunerated in respect of any office or place of profit held in the Company provided that he has previously complied with all requirements of the Act relating to disclosure of interests, and he or any firm, company, or other body in which he has an interest may act in a professional capacity for the Company and be remunerated for such work and shall not by reason of his office be accountable to the Company for any benefit which he derives from any such office or place of profit. Regulation 85 of Table A shall be modified accordingly.

24. *Nature of interests and general notices*

For the purposes of regulation 85 of Table A (as modified by articles 22 and 23) a director shall be considered to be interested in any contract, transaction or arrangement (if he would not otherwise be so interested) in which he is treated as interested for the purposes of section 317 of the Act. In the case of any transaction or arrangement with the Company in which the director is interested, a general notice given by a director and which otherwise complies with regulation 86(a) of Table A shall not be a disclosure as provided in that regulation unless it relates to a specified company or firm or other body in which he is interested or to a specified person who is connected with the director within the meaning of section 346 of the Act. Regulation 86 of Table A shall be modified accordingly.

## DISQUALIFICATION OF DIRECTORS

25. *The office of a director shall be vacated immediately:*

- (a) If (not being precluded from so doing by the terms of any contract with the Company) by notice to the Company he resigns the office of director; or
- (b) If he is or becomes bankrupt or insolvent or enters into any arrangement with his creditors; or
- (c) If he is or becomes incapable by reason of illness, injury or mental disorder of exercising his functions as a director properly; or
- (d) If he is removed from office by a resolution duly passed pursuant to section 303 of the Act; or
- (e) If he is prohibited from being a director by an order made under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 or otherwise by law.

#### ROTATION OF DIRECTORS

26. The directors shall not be liable to retirement by rotation and accordingly the second and third sentences in regulation 79 of Table A shall not apply to the Company nor shall any other references to retirement by rotation in Table A.

#### MEMBERS' APPOINTMENTS

27. A member or members having the right to attend and vote at any general meeting of the Company and holding a majority in nominal value of the shares giving that right may from time to time by notice to the Company remove any director from office or appoint any person to be a director, and any such removal or appointment shall be deemed to be an act of the Company and not only of such member or members. Any such notice may consist of one or more documents (including a telex, facsimile, cable or telegram) each signed by or on behalf of or otherwise emanating from such member or members. Any such signature may be given personally or by a duly appointed attorney or in the case of a body corporate by an officer or by its duly authorised corporate representative.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF DIRECTORS

28. *Regulation of meetings*

The directors may meet together for the despatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings as they think fit.

29. *Calling and notice of meetings*

29.1 A director may, and the secretary on the requisition of a director shall, at any time call a meeting of the directors. Notice of every meeting of the directors shall be given to every director, but the non-receipt of notice by any director shall not invalidate the proceedings at any meeting of the directors. Any director may waive his entitlement to notice of any meeting and such waiver may be prospective or retrospective.

29.2 A director absent or intending to be absent from the United Kingdom shall be entitled to request that notices of meeting of the directors (or any committee of the board) be sent to him at an address or to a fax or telex number given by him to the Company for this purpose, but if no such request is made to the Directors, it shall not be necessary to give notice of a meeting to a director who is for the time being absent from the United Kingdom.

30. *Quorum*

The quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the directors shall be two PROVIDED THAT in circumstances where there is one director only, the quorum for any meeting of directors or committee of directors shall be one and that director or his alternate shall exercise all the powers and discretions expressed to be vested in the directors by the regulations of Table A and by these articles.

31. *Voting*

Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes. The chairman shall not have a second or casting vote at meetings of the board.

32. *Participation by conference telephone*

Any director may participate in a meeting of directors by means of a conference telephone or similar communications system whereby all those participating in the meeting can hear and address each other. Such participation shall be deemed to constitute presence in person at such meeting for all purposes including that of establishing a quorum. A meeting held by such means shall be deemed to take place where the largest group of participants in number is assembled. In the absence of such a majority the location of the chairman shall be deemed to be the place of the meeting.

33. *Provisions where the sole member is also a director*

Where the Company, having only one member, enters into a contract (other than a contract entered into in the ordinary course of the Company's business) with the sole member of the Company and such sole member is also a director of the Company the terms of such contract shall, unless the contract is in writing, be set out in a written memorandum or be recorded in the minutes of the first meeting of directors following the making of the contract.

34. *Committees*

Any meetings of a committee appointed under regulation 72 of Table A shall be governed mutatis mutandis by articles 28 to 33 (inclusive) of these articles.

**SECRETARY**

35. The secretary shall be appointed by the directors for such term, at such remuneration and upon such conditions as they may think fit; and any secretary so appointed may be removed by them. The directors may from time to time by resolution appoint one or more joint, assistant or deputy secretaries to exercise the function of the secretary. Regulation 99 of Table A shall be modified accordingly.

## ALTERNATE DIRECTORS

### 36. *Appointment, removal and cessation*

- 36.1 Any director may at any time appoint another director or any other person to be his alternate director and may at any time terminate such appointment. Any such appointment or removal shall be by notice from the director to the Company.
- 36.2 Any person appointed as an alternate director shall vacate his office as such alternate director if and when the director by whom he has been appointed vacates his office as director otherwise than by retirement and re-election at the same meeting and upon the happening of any event which, if he were a director would cause him to vacate such office.

### 37. *Powers and notices*

An alternate director shall (except when absent from the United Kingdom) be entitled to receive notices of meetings of the directors and shall be entitled to attend and vote as a director, and to be counted in a quorum at, any such meeting at which the director appointing him is not personally present and generally at such meeting to perform all functions of his appointor as a director and for the purposes of the proceedings at such meeting the provisions of these articles shall apply mutatis mutandis as if he were a director. If an alternate director is himself a director, he shall be entitled in such circumstances as aforesaid to exercise the vote of the director for whom he is an alternate in addition to his own vote. If an alternate director's appointor does not sign the same the alternate director's signature to any resolution in writing of the directors shall be as effective as the signature of his appointor. The foregoing provisions of this article 40 shall also apply mutatis mutandis to any meeting of any such committee of which his appointor is a member.

### 38. *Interests*

Any alternate director shall be entitled to contract and be interested in and benefit from contracts or arrangements and be repaid expenses and to be indemnified to the same extent mutatis mutandis as if he were a director but he shall not be entitled to receive from the Company in respect of his appointment as alternate director any remuneration except only such part (if any) of the remuneration otherwise payable to his appointor as such appointor may by notice to the Company from time to time direct.

## PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES

39. The directors may establish and maintain, or procure the establishment and maintenance of, any pension or superannuation funds (whether contributory or otherwise) for the benefit of, and give or procure the giving of donations, gratuities, pensions, allowances and emoluments to any persons who are or were at any time in the employment or service of the Company, or any of its predecessors in business, or of any company which is a holding company or a subsidiary of the Company or is allied to or associated with the Company or with any such holding company or subsidiary, or who may be or have been directors or officers of the Company, or of any such other company as aforesaid, or any persons in whose welfare the Company or any such other company as aforesaid is or has been at any

time interested, and the wives, widows, families, relations and dependants of any such persons, and establish, subsidise and subscribe to any institutions, associations, societies, clubs or funds calculated to be for the benefit of, or to advance the interests and well-being of the Company or of any such other company as aforesaid, or of any such persons as aforesaid, and to make payments for or towards the insurance of any such persons as aforesaid, subject always, if so required by law, to particulars with respect to the proposed payment being approved by the Company, and a director shall be entitled to participate in and retain for his own benefit any such donation, gratuity, pension, allowance or emolument.

#### THE SEAL

40. *Sealing*

If the Company has a seal it shall only be used with the authority of the directors or of a committee of directors. The directors may determine who shall sign any document to which the seal is affixed and unless otherwise so determined it shall be signed by a director and by the secretary or a second director. The obligation under regulation 6 of Table A relating to the sealing of share certificates shall only apply if the Company has a seal.

41. *Foreign seal*

The Company may exercise the powers conferred by section 39 of the Act with regard to having an official seal for use abroad, and such powers shall be vested in the directors.

42. *Dispensation*

The Company may dispense with the need for a company seal insofar as permitted by the Act.

#### NOTICE

43. *Form of notice*

Any notice to be given to or by any person pursuant to these articles shall be in writing except that a notice calling a meeting of the directors need not be in writing. Any notice to be given under these articles may be delivered personally or sent by first class post (airmail if overseas) or by telex or facsimile.

44. *Address for service*

The address for service of any notice shall be as follows:

the case of a member  
or his legal personal representative or  
trustee in bankruptcy:  
in the case of a director:

such member's address as shown in the  
register of members of the Company;

his last known address or at the address  
notified by him to the Company for that

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|  | purpose;                   |
| in the case of a meeting of the directors: | the place of the meeting;  |
| in the case of the Company                 | its registered office;     |
| in the case of any other person            | to his last known address. |
45. *Service*
- 45.1 Any such notice shall be deemed to have been served and be effective:
- (a) if delivered personally, at the time of delivery;
  - (b) if posted, on receipt or at the expiry of two Business Days (or in the case of airmail four Business Days) after it was posted, whichever occurs first;
  - (c) if sent by telex or facsimile, at the time of transmission (if sent during Business Hours) or (if not sent during Business Hours) at the beginning of Business Hours next following the time of transmission ; and
  - (d) if sent by cable or telegram, at the time of delivery.
- 45.2 For the purposes of this article 48, "Business Day" means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or any day which is a public holiday in the place to which the notice in question is sent and "Business Hours" means the hours of 09.00 to 17.30 on a Business Day in the place to which the notice in question is sent.
- 45.3 In proving such service it shall be sufficient to prove that personal delivery was made, or that such notice was properly addressed stamped and posted or in the case of a telex that the intended recipient's answerback code is shown on the copy retained by the sender at the beginning and end of the message or in the case of a facsimile that an activity or other report from the sender's facsimile machine can be produced in respect of the notice showing the recipient's facsimile number and the number of pages transmitted.
- 45.4 In the case of joint holders of a share all notices shall be given to the joint holder whose name stands first in the register of members of the Company in respect of the joint holding. Notice so given shall constitute notice to all the joint holders.

#### WINDING UP

46. In regulation 117 of Table A, the words "with the like sanction" shall be inserted immediately before the words "determine how the division".

#### INDEMNITY

47. *Indemnity*

Every director or other officer of the Company shall be entitled to be indemnified out of the assets of the Company against all losses or liabilities which he may sustain or incur in or

about the execution of the duties of his office or otherwise in relation thereto, including any liability incurred by him in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in his favour or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application under sections 144 or 727 of the Act in which relief is granted to him by the Court, and no director or other officer shall be liable for any loss, damage or misfortune which may happen to or be incurred by the Company in the execution of the duties of his office or in relation thereto. This article shall only have effect insofar as its provisions are not avoided by section 310 of the Act.

48. *Insurance*

The directors shall have power to purchase and maintain for any director, secretary, auditor or other officer of the Company insurance against any liability referred to in section 310(1) of the Act.

**TRANSFER OF SHARES - ADDITIONAL ARTICLE**

49. *Registration of transfers - additional article<sup>1</sup>*

Notwithstanding anything contained in these Articles, the Directors shall not decline to register any transfer of shares, nor may they suspend registration thereof, where such transfer:

- (a) is to any bank or institution to which such shares have been charged by way of security, whether as agent for a group of banks or institutions or otherwise, or to any nominee or any transferee of such a bank or institution (a "Secured Institution"); or
- (b) is delivered to the Company for registration by a Secured Institution in order to perfect its security over the shares; or
- (c) is executed by a Secured Institution pursuant to the power of sale or other power under such security.

<sup>1</sup> Article inserted pursuant to a written resolution of the Company dated 27 May 2004.  
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