

Single Market. The Directive is largely aligned with the OECD Model Rules agreed by the Inclusive Framework and published on December 20, 2021 (the so-called "Pillar II"). The aim of the directive is to realize a 15% global minimum effective tax rate at country-per-country level. At this stage, no carve-out for patent box regimes or R&D incentives is included in the directive. This directive could have an impact on the company's future effective tax rate and/or tax attributes. Member States will now have to transpose said directive into their national laws before December 31, 2023.

The Belgian Pillar II rules will enter into force in two steps: *the income inclusion rule* (or "IIR") and *the Qualified Domestic Minimum Top-up Tax* (or "QDMTT") will enter into force for taxable periods starting as of December 31, 2023, whereas the rules regarding *the Undertaxed Profit Rule* (or "UTPR") will enter into force for taxable periods starting as of December 31, 2024.

Our inability to qualify for the abovementioned advantageous tax regimes, as well as the introduction of the minimum taxable base and any other future adverse changes of Belgian tax legislation, may adversely affect our business, results of operations, and financial condition.

Our shareholders residing in countries other than Belgium may be subject to double withholding taxation with respect to dividends or other distributions made by us.

Any dividends or other distributions we make to shareholders will, in principle, be subject to withholding tax in Belgium at a rate of 30%, except for shareholders which qualify for an exemption of withholding tax such as, among others, qualifying pension funds or a company qualifying as a parent company in the sense of the Council Directive (90/435/EEC) of July 23, 1990, or the Parent-Subsidiary Directive, as amended, or that qualify for a lower withholding tax rate or an exemption by virtue of a tax treaty. Various conditions may apply and shareholders residing in countries other than Belgium are advised to consult their advisers regarding the tax consequences of dividends or other distributions made by us. Our shareholders residing in countries other than Belgium may not be able to credit the amount of such withholding tax to any tax due on such dividends or other distributions in any other country than Belgium. As a result, such shareholders may be subject to double taxation in respect of such dividends or other distributions. Belgium and the United States have concluded a double tax treaty concerning the avoidance of double taxation, or the U.S.-Belgium Tax Treaty. The U.S.-Belgium Tax Treaty reduces the applicability of Belgian withholding tax to 15%, 5% or 0% for U.S. taxpayers that are the beneficial owner of the dividend income concerned, provided that the U.S. taxpayer meets the limitation on benefits conditions imposed by the U.S.-Belgium Tax Treaty. The Belgian withholding tax is generally reduced to 15% under the U.S.-Belgium Tax Treaty. The 5% withholding tax applies in cases where the U.S. shareholder, beneficial owner of the income, is a company which holds at least 10% of the voting shares in the company. A 0% Belgian withholding tax applies when the shareholder, beneficial owner of the income, is a U.S. company which has held directly at least 10% of the capital in the company for at least 12 months on the date the dividend is declared, or is, subject to certain conditions, a U.S. pension fund. The U.S. shareholders are encouraged to consult their own tax advisers to determine whether they can invoke the benefits and meet the limitation on benefits conditions as imposed by the U.S.-Belgium Tax Treaty.

Changes in tax law could adversely affect our business and financial condition.

The rules dealing with U.S. federal, state, and local and non-U.S. taxation are constantly under review by persons involved in the legislative process, the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Treasury Department and other taxing authorities. Changes to tax laws or tax rulings, or changes in interpretations of existing laws (which changes may have retroactive application), could adversely affect us or holders of our ADSs. These changes could subject us to additional income-based taxes and non-income taxes (such as payroll, sales, use, value-added, digital tax, net worth, property, and goods and services taxes), which in turn could materially affect our financial position and results of operations. Additionally, new, changed, modified, or newly interpreted or applied tax laws could increase our customers' and our compliance, operating and other costs, as well as the costs of our products. In recent years, many such changes have been made, and changes are likely to continue to occur in the future. As we expand the

scale of our business activities, any changes in the U.S. and non-U.S. taxation of such activities may increase our effective tax rate and harm our business, financial condition, and results of operations.

We believe that we were a passive foreign investment company, or PFIC, for U.S. federal income tax purposes for the 2023 taxable year, but this conclusion is a factual determination that is made annually and thus may be subject to change. Because we believe we were a PFIC for our 2023 taxable year, this could result in adverse U.S. tax consequences to certain U.S. holders.

Generally, if, for any taxable year, at least 75% of our gross income is passive income, or at least 50% of the value of our assets is attributable to assets that produce passive income or are held for the production of passive income, including cash, we would be characterized as a passive foreign investment company, or PFIC, for U.S. federal income tax purposes. For purposes of these tests, passive income includes dividends, interest, and gains from the sale or exchange of investment property and rents and royalties other than rents and royalties which are received from unrelated parties in connection with the active conduct of a trade or business. Our status as a PFIC depends on the composition of our income and the composition and value of our assets (for which purpose the total value of our assets may be determined in part by reference to the market value of the ADSs and our ordinary shares, which are subject to change) from time to time. Because we believe we were a PFIC for the 2023 taxable year, certain U.S. holders of the ADSs may suffer adverse tax consequences, including, but not limited to, having gains realized on the sale of the ADSs treated as ordinary income, rather than capital gain, losing the preferential rate applicable to dividends received on the ADSs by individuals who are U.S. holders, and having interest charges apply to distributions by us and the proceeds of sales of the ADSs. See “Item 10.E.—Taxation—Certain Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations to U.S. Holders—Passive Foreign Investment Company Considerations.”

Based upon the value of our assets, including any goodwill, and the composition of our income and assets, we believe that we were a PFIC for our 2023 taxable year. However, our status as a PFIC is a fact-intensive determination made on an annual basis, and we cannot provide any assurances regarding our PFIC status for the current, prior or future taxable years. Because we were a PFIC for the 2022 taxable year, we will provide information necessary for our U.S. holders to make a “qualified electing fund,” or QEF, election with respect to us for the 2023 taxable year and expect to provide such information for any subsequent year if we believe we are a PFIC. We will provide such information on our website.

We believe that we were not a controlled foreign corporation, or CFC, for U.S. federal income tax purposes for the 2023 taxable year. If we were to qualify as a CFC, this could result in adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences to certain U.S. holders.

Each “Ten Percent Shareholder” (as defined below) in a non-U.S. corporation that is classified as a “controlled foreign corporation,” or a CFC, for U.S. federal income tax purposes generally is required to include in income for U.S. federal tax purposes such Ten Percent Shareholder’s pro rata share of the CFC’s “Subpart F income” and investment of earnings in U.S. property, even if the CFC has made no distributions to its shareholders. Subpart F income generally includes dividends, interest, rents and royalties, gains from the sale of securities, and income from certain transactions with related parties. For tax years beginning after December 31, 2017, each Ten Percent Shareholder of a CFC is also required to include in income such Ten Percent Shareholder’s share of “global intangible low-taxed income” with respect to such CFC. In addition, a Ten Percent Shareholder that realizes gain from the sale or exchange of shares in a CFC may be required to classify a portion of such gain as dividend income rather than capital gain. A non-U.S. corporation generally will be classified as a CFC for United States federal income tax purposes if Ten Percent Shareholders own, directly or indirectly, more than 50% of either the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of such corporation entitled to vote or of the total value of the stock of such corporation. A “Ten Percent Shareholder” is a United States person (as defined by the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”)) who owns or is considered to own 10% or of either (1) the total combined voting power of all classes of stock entitled to vote of such corporation or (2) the total value of all classes of stock of such corporation. The determination of CFC status is complex and includes attribution rules, the application of

which is not entirely certain. In addition, recent changes pursuant to U.S. tax reform to the attribution rules relating to the determination of CFC status may make it difficult to determine our CFC status for any taxable year.

To our best knowledge, we do not believe that we were a CFC for the taxable year ended December 31, 2023. Furthermore, it is possible that our non-United States subsidiaries will be CFCs for the taxable year ended December 31, 2023 (or future taxable years) even if we are not a CFC for such taxable year(s). However, we cannot provide any assurances regarding our status or the status of our subsidiaries as a CFC for the 2023 taxable year or any future taxable years. U.S. holders should consult their own tax advisors with respect to the potential adverse U.S. tax consequences of becoming a Ten Percent Shareholder in a CFC. If we are classified as both a CFC and a PFIC, we generally will not be treated as a PFIC with respect to those U.S. holders that meet the definition of a Ten Percent Shareholder during the period in which we are a CFC.

We may be forced to repay the technological innovation grants if we fail to comply with our contractual obligations under the applicable grant agreements.

We have received several technological innovation grants to date, totaling €37.2 million as of December 31, 2023, from an agency of the Flemish government to support various research programs and technological innovation in Flanders. These grants carry clauses which require us to maintain a presence in the Flemish region for a number of years and invest according to pre-agreed budgets. If we fail to comply with our contractual obligations under the applicable technological innovation grant agreements, we could be forced to repay all or part of the grants received. Such repayment could adversely affect our ability to finance our research and development projects. In addition, we cannot ensure that we will then have the additional financial resources needed, the time or the ability to replace these financial resources with others.

We may be exposed to significant foreign exchange risk.

We hold portions of our cash and cash equivalents and current financial investments in currencies other than the euro, in particular, the U.S. dollar. We also incur portions of our expenses and derive revenues, in currencies other than the euro, in particular, the U.S. dollar. As a result, we are exposed to foreign currency exchange risk as our reporting currency is the euro. We currently do not engage in exchange rate hedging transactions to protect against uncertainty in future exchange rates between particular foreign currencies and the euro. Therefore, for example (without any limitation), an increase in the value of the euro against the U.S. dollar could be expected to have a negative impact on our revenue and earnings growth as U.S. dollar revenue and earnings, if any, would be translated into euros at a reduced value. We cannot predict the impact of foreign currency fluctuations, and foreign currency fluctuations in the future may adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

The requirements of being a U.S. public company may strain our resources and divert management's attention.

We are required to comply with various corporate governance and financial reporting requirements under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, the Exchange Act, and the rules and regulations adopted by the SEC and the U.S. Public Corporation Accounting Oversight Board, or PCAOB, and other applicable securities rules and regulations imposing various requirements on non-U.S. public companies. Further, compliance with various regulatory reporting requires significant commitments of time from our management and our directors, which reduces the time available for the performance of their other responsibilities. Our failure to track and comply with the various rules may materially adversely affect our reputation, ability to obtain the necessary certifications to financial statements, lead to additional regulatory enforcement actions, and could adversely affect the value of the ADSs or our ordinary shares. However, these rules and regulations are often subject to varying interpretations, in many cases due to their lack of specificity, and, as a result, their application in practice may evolve over time as new guidance is provided by regulatory and governing bodies. This could result in continuing uncertainty regarding compliance matters and higher costs necessitated by ongoing revisions to disclosure and governance practices.

Risks related to ownership of our ordinary shares and ADSs

The market price of the ordinary shares and ADSs could be subject to wide fluctuations.

The market price of the ordinary shares and ADSs could be subject to wide fluctuations in response to many risk factors listed in this section, and others beyond our control, including (without any limitation):

- actual or anticipated fluctuations in our financial condition and operating results;
- actual or anticipated changes in our growth rate relative to our competitors;
- competition from existing products or new products that may emerge;
- announcements by us, our partners or our competitors of significant acquisitions, strategic partnerships, joint ventures, collaborations, or capital commitments;
- failure to meet or exceed financial estimates and projections of the investment community or that we provide to the public;
- issuance of new or updated research or reports by securities or industry analysts;
- fluctuations in the valuation of companies perceived by investors to be comparable to us; share price and volume fluctuations attributable to inconsistent trading volume levels of our shares;
- additions or departures of key management or scientific personnel;
- disputes or other developments related to proprietary rights, including patents, litigation matters, and our ability to obtain patent protection for our technologies;
- changes to coverage policies or reimbursement levels by commercial third-party payers and government payers and any announcements relating to coverage policies or reimbursement levels;
- announcement or expectation of additional debt or equity financing efforts;
- public concern relating to the commercial value or safety of any of our products or product candidates;
- changes in government regulations;
- positive or negative results of testing and clinical trials by us, strategic partners or competitors;
- outcome of regulatory review of our product candidates;
- sales of the ordinary shares and ADSs by us, our insiders or our other shareholders; and
- general economic and market conditions.

In addition, although the ordinary shares are listed on Euronext Brussels and Euronext Amsterdam, and the ADSs are listed on the Nasdaq Global Select Market stock exchange, we cannot assure that a trading market for those securities will be maintained.

These and other market and industry factors may cause the market price and demand for the ordinary shares and ADSs to fluctuate substantially, regardless of our actual operating performance, which may limit or prevent investors from readily selling their ordinary shares and ADSs and may otherwise negatively affect the liquidity of our capital shares. In addition, the stock market in general, and biotechnology and biopharmaceutical companies in particular, have experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations that have often been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of these companies.

We may be at an increased risk of securities class action litigation.

Historically, securities class action litigation has often been brought against a company following a decline in the market price of its securities. This risk is especially relevant for us because biotechnology and biopharmaceutical companies have experienced significant share price volatility in recent years. If we were to be sued, it could result in substantial costs and a diversion of management's attention and resources, which could harm our business.

Share ownership is concentrated in the hands of our principal shareholders and management, which may have the effect of delaying or preventing a change of control of our company.

As of the date of this annual report on Form 20-F, our executive officers, Directors, current 5% or greater shareholders and their affiliated entities, including Gilead Sciences, Inc. and its affiliates, together beneficially own approximately 50.01% of our ordinary shares, including shares in the form of ADSs. This concentration of

ownership might have the effect of delaying or preventing a change of control of our company that other shareholders may view as beneficial, and might therefore negatively affect the market price of the ADSs.

Fluctuations in the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the euro may increase the risk of holding the ADSs.

Our ordinary shares currently trade on Euronext Brussels and Euronext Amsterdam in euros, while the ADSs trade on Nasdaq in U.S. dollars. Fluctuations in the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the euro may result in temporary differences between the value of the ADSs and the value of our ordinary shares, which may result in heavy trading by investors seeking to exploit such differences.

In addition, as a result of fluctuations in the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the euro, the U.S. dollar equivalent of the proceeds that a holder of the ADSs would receive upon the sale on Euronext Brussels or Euronext Amsterdam of any ordinary shares withdrawn from the depositary and the U.S. dollar equivalent of any cash dividends paid in euros on our shares represented by the ADSs could also decline.

If securities or industry analysts do not publish research or publish inaccurate research or unfavorable research about our business, the price of the ordinary shares and ADSs and trading volume could decline.

The trading market for the ordinary shares and ADSs depends in part on the research and reports that securities or industry analysts publish about us or our business. If no or few securities or industry analysts cover our company, the trading price for the ordinary shares and ADSs would be negatively impacted. If one or more of the analysts who covers us downgrades the ordinary shares and ADSs or publishes incorrect or unfavorable research about our business, the price of the ordinary shares and ADSs would likely decline. If one or more of these analysts ceases coverage of our company or fails to publish reports on us regularly, or downgrades the ordinary shares and ADSs, demand for the ordinary shares and ADSs could decrease, which could cause the price of the ordinary shares and ADSs or trading volume to decline.

We have no present intention to pay dividends on our ordinary shares in the foreseeable future and, consequently, your only opportunity to achieve a return on your investment during that time is if the price of the ordinary shares and ADSs appreciates.

We have no present intention to pay dividends in the foreseeable future. Even if future operations lead to significant levels of distributable profits, we currently intend that any and all earnings will be reinvested in our business. Any proposal by our Board of Directors to pay dividends will depend on many factors, including our financial condition (including losses carried forward), results of operations, legal requirements, business prospects, cash requirements, new product development, and other factors. Furthermore, pursuant to Belgian law, the calculation of amounts available for distribution to shareholders, as dividends or otherwise, must be determined on the basis of our non-consolidated statutory accounts prepared in accordance with Belgian accounting rules and Belgian generally accepted accounting principles as used by us in the preparation of these accounts. In addition, in accordance with Belgian law and our Articles of Association, we must allocate each year an amount of at least 5% of our annual net profit under our non-consolidated statutory accounts to a legal reserve until such legal reserve equals 10% of our share capital. Therefore, we are unlikely to pay dividends or other distributions in the foreseeable future. If the price of the ordinary shares and ADSs declines before we pay dividends, you will incur a loss on your investment, without the likelihood that this loss will be offset in part or at all by potential future cash dividends. Accordingly, investors cannot rely on cash dividend income from ordinary shares and ADSs and any returns on an investment in the ordinary shares and ADSs will likely depend entirely upon any future appreciation in the price of the ordinary shares and ADSs.

We are a Belgian public limited liability company, and shareholders of our company may have different and in some cases more limited shareholder rights than shareholders of a U.S. listed corporation.

We are a public limited liability company incorporated under the laws of Belgium. Our corporate affairs are governed by Belgian corporate law and our Articles of Association. The rights provided to our shareholders under

Belgian corporate law and our articles of association may differ in certain respects from the rights that you would typically enjoy as a shareholder of a U.S. corporation under applicable U.S. federal and state laws.

Under Belgian corporate law, other than certain limited information that we must make public and except in certain limited circumstances, our shareholders may not ask for an inspection of our corporate records, while under Delaware corporate law any shareholder, irrespective of the size of its shareholdings, may do so. Shareholders of a Belgian corporation are also unable to initiate a derivative action, a remedy typically available to shareholders of U.S. companies, in order to enforce a right of our company, in case we fail to enforce such right ourselves, other than in certain cases of director liability under limited circumstances. In addition, a majority of our shareholders present or represented at our Shareholders' Meeting may release a member of our Board of Directors from any claim of liability we may have, including if he or she has acted in bad faith or has breached his or her duty of loyalty, provided, in some cases, that the relevant acts were specifically mentioned in the convening notice to the Shareholders' Meeting deliberating on the discharge. In contrast, most U.S. federal and state laws prohibit a company from releasing a director from liability altogether if he or she has acted in bad faith or has breached his or her duty of loyalty to the company. Finally, Belgian corporate law does not provide any form of appraisal rights in the case of a business combination. Please see the section of this annual report titled "Item 10.B.—Memorandum and Articles of Association."

The responsibilities of members of our Board of Directors may be different from these in companies governed by U.S. laws. In the performance of its duties, our Board of Directors is required by Belgian law to consider the interests of our company, in all cases with due observation of the principles of reasonableness and fairness. It is possible that some of these parties will have interests that are different from, or in addition to, your interests as a shareholder.

As a result of these differences between Belgian corporate law and our Articles of Association, on the one hand, and the U.S. federal and state laws, on the other hand, in certain instances, you could receive less protection as an ADS holder of our company than you would as a shareholder of a listed U.S. company.

Takeover provisions in Belgian law may make a takeover difficult.

Public takeover bids on our ordinary shares and other voting securities, such as subscription rights or convertible bonds, if any, are subject to the Belgian Act of April 1, 2007, as amended, and to the supervision by the Belgian Financial Services and Markets Authority, or FSMA. Public takeover bids must be made for all of our voting securities, as well as for all other securities that entitle the holders thereof to the subscription to, the acquisition of or the conversion into voting securities. Prior to making a bid, a bidder must issue and disseminate a prospectus, which must be approved by the Belgian FSMA. The bidder must also obtain approval of the relevant competition authorities, where such approval is legally required for the acquisition of our company.

The Belgian Act of April 1, 2007, as amended, provides that a mandatory bid will be triggered if a person, as a result of its own acquisition or the acquisition by persons acting in concert with it or by persons acting on their account, directly or indirectly holds more than 30% of the voting securities in a company that has its registered office in Belgium and of which at least part of the voting securities are traded on a regulated market or on a multilateral trading facility designated by the Royal Decree of April 27, 2007, as amended, on public takeover bids. The mere fact of exceeding the relevant threshold through the acquisition of one or more shares will give rise to a mandatory bid, irrespective of whether or not the price paid in the relevant transaction exceeds the current market price.

There are several provisions of Belgian corporate law and certain other provisions of Belgian law, such as the obligation to disclose important shareholdings and merger control, that may apply to us and which may make an unfriendly tender offer, merger, change in management or other change in control, more difficult. These provisions could discourage potential takeover attempts that third parties may consider and thus deprive the shareholders of the opportunity to sell their ordinary shares at a premium (which is typically offered in the framework of a takeover bid). These provisions may also have the effect of depriving ADS holders of the opportunity to sell their ADSs at potential a premium.

Holders of the ADSs are not treated as shareholders of our company, do not have the same voting rights as the holders of our ordinary shares and may not receive voting materials in time to be able to exercise your right to vote.

Holders of the ADSs are not treated as shareholders of our company, unless they withdraw our ordinary shares underlying the ADSs in accordance with the deposit agreement and applicable laws and regulations. The depositary, or its nominee, is the holder of the ordinary shares underlying the ADSs. Holders of ADSs therefore do not have any rights as shareholders of our company, other than the rights that they have pursuant to the deposit agreement.

Holders of ADSs may exercise voting rights attached to the ordinary shares represented by the ADSs only in accordance with the provisions of the deposit agreement. The deposit agreement provides that, upon receipt of notice of any meeting of holders of our ordinary shares, the depositary will fix a record date for the determination of ADS holders who shall be entitled to give instructions for the exercise of voting rights. Upon timely receipt of notice from us, if we so request, the depositary shall distribute to the holders as of the record date (1) the notice of the meeting or solicitation of consent or proxy sent by us and (2) a statement as to the manner in which instructions may be given by the holders.

Holders of ADSs may instruct the depositary of their ADSs to vote the ordinary shares underlying their ADSs. Otherwise, ADS holders will not be able to exercise their right to vote, unless they withdraw the ordinary shares underlying the ADSs they hold. However, ADS holders may not know about the meeting far enough in advance to withdraw those ordinary shares. We cannot guarantee ADS holders that they will receive the voting materials in time to ensure that they can instruct the depositary to vote their ordinary shares or to withdraw their ordinary shares so that they can vote them themselves. In addition, the depositary and its agents are not responsible for failing to carry out voting instructions or for the manner of carrying out voting instructions. This means that ADS holders may not be able to exercise their right to vote, and there may be nothing they can do if the ordinary shares underlying their ADSs are not voted as they requested.

We may not be able to complete equity offerings without cancellation or limitation of the preferential subscription rights of our existing shareholders, which may as a practical matter preclude us from timely completion of offerings.

In accordance with the Belgian Companies Code, our Articles of Association provide for preferential subscription rights to be granted to our existing shareholders to subscribe on a pro rata basis and in exchange for contributions in cash, for any issue of new shares, convertible bonds or subscription rights that, unless such rights are cancelled or limited either by resolution of our Shareholders' Meeting or by our Board of Directors in the framework of the authorized capital, as described below. The Extraordinary Shareholders' Meeting authorized the Board of Directors to increase the share capital of Galapagos NV, in one or several times, and under certain conditions set forth in extenso in our articles of association. We refer to this authority for our Board of Directors to increase our share capital as our authorized capital. This authorization consists of two parts. A general authorization for capital increases up to 20% of the share capital at the time of convening the Shareholders' Meeting of October 22, 2019 (i.e. €67,022,402.04) was renewed and is valid for a period of five years from the date of publication of this renewal in the Annexes to the Belgian State Gazette, i.e. November 13, 2019, so until November 12, 2024. A specific authorization for capital increases of more than 20% and up to 33% of the share capital at the time of the convening the shareholders' meeting of April 25, 2017 (i.e. € 82,561,764.93), was renewed and was valid for a period of five years from the date of publication of this renewal in the Annexes to the Belgian State Gazette, i.e. May 31, 2017, so until May 30, 2022. This specific part of the authorized capital can, however, only be used in a number of specific circumstances and upon a resolution of the Board of Directors that all its independent members within the meaning of article 7:87 of the Belgian Companies Code) approve. This specific authorization was not renewed in 2022. As of the date of this annual report, our Board of Directors may decide to issue up to 3,062,207.06 ordinary shares pursuant to the general authorization. Please see the section of this annual report titled "Item 10.B.—Memorandum and Articles of Association." Absent renewal by our shareholders of this authorization of the Board of Directors or absent cancellation or limitation by our shareholders of the preferential subscription rights of our existing shareholders, the requirement to offer our existing shareholders the preferential right to subscribe, pro rata, for

new shares being offered may as a practical matter preclude us from timely raising capital on commercially acceptable terms or at all.

Shareholders may not be able to participate in equity offerings we may conduct from time to time.

If we conduct equity offerings in the future, certain shareholders, including those in the United States, may, even in the case where preferential subscription rights have not been cancelled or limited, not be entitled to exercise such rights, unless the offering is registered or the shares are qualified for sale under the relevant regulatory framework. As a result, there is the risk that investors may suffer dilution of their shareholdings should they not be permitted to participate in preference right equity or other offerings that we may conduct in the future.

Holders of ADSs may be subject to limitations on the transfer of their ADSs and the withdrawal of the underlying ordinary shares.

ADSs are transferable on the books of the depository. However, the depository may close its books at any time or from time to time when it deems expedient in connection with the performance of its duties. The depository may refuse to deliver, transfer or register transfers of ADSs generally when our books or the books of the depository are closed, or at any time if we or the depository think it is advisable to do so because of any requirement of law, government or governmental body, or under any provision of the deposit agreement, or for any other reason, subject to the right of ADS holders to cancel their ADSs and withdraw the underlying ordinary shares. Temporary delays in the cancellation of your ADSs and withdrawal of the underlying ordinary shares may arise because the depository has closed its transfer books or we have closed our transfer books, the transfer of ordinary shares is blocked to permit voting at a Shareholders' Meeting or we are paying a dividend on our ordinary shares. In addition, ADS holders may not be able to cancel their ADSs and withdraw the underlying ordinary shares when they owe money for fees, taxes and similar charges and when it is necessary to prohibit withdrawals in order to comply with any laws or governmental regulations that apply to ADSs or to the withdrawal of ordinary shares or other deposited securities.

As a foreign private issuer, we are exempt from a number of rules under the U.S. securities laws and are permitted to file less information with the SEC than a U.S. company. This may limit the information available to holders of ADSs or our ordinary shares.

We are a "foreign private issuer," as defined in the SEC's rules and regulations and, consequently, we are not subject to all of the disclosure requirements applicable to public companies organized within the United States. For example (without any limitation), we are exempt from certain rules under the Securities Exchange Act 1937, as amended, (the Exchange Act) that regulate disclosure obligations and procedural requirements related to the solicitation of proxies, consents or authorizations applicable to a security registered under the Exchange Act, including the U.S. proxy rules under Section 14 of the Exchange Act. In addition, our officers and directors are exempt from the reporting and "short-swing" profit recovery provisions of Section 16 of the Exchange Act and related rules with respect to their purchases and sales of our securities. Moreover, while we currently make annual and semi-annual filings with respect to our listing on Euronext Brussels and Euronext Amsterdam and voluntarily report our results of operations on a quarterly basis, we will not be required to file periodic reports and financial statements with the SEC as frequently or as promptly as U.S. domestic issuers and will not be required to file quarterly reports on Form 10-Q or current reports on Form 8-K under the Exchange Act. Accordingly, there is and will continue to be less publicly available information concerning our company than there would be if we were not a foreign private issuer.

As a foreign private issuer, we are permitted to adopt certain home country practices in relation to corporate governance matters that differ significantly from Nasdaq corporate governance listing standards. These practices may afford less protection to shareholders than they would enjoy if we complied fully with corporate governance listing standards.

As a foreign private issuer listed on the Nasdaq Global Select Market, we are subject to corporate governance listing standards. However, rules permit a foreign private issuer like us to follow the corporate governance practices of its home country. Certain corporate governance practices in Belgium, which is our home country, may differ significantly from corporate governance listing standards applicable to U.S. domestic

issuers. For example (without any limitation), neither the corporate laws of Belgium nor our Articles of Association require a majority of the members of our Board of Directors to be independent, and we could include non-independent board members as members of our Nomination Committee and Remuneration Committee, and our independent board members would not necessarily hold regularly scheduled meetings at which only independent Board members are present. Currently, we intend to follow home country practice to the maximum extent possible. Therefore, our shareholders may be afforded less protection than they otherwise would have under corporate governance listing standards applicable to U.S. domestic issuers. See the sections of this annual report titled “Item 6-Directors, Senior Management and Employees” and “Item 16G –Corporate Governance.”

We may lose our foreign private issuer status in the future, which could result in significant additional cost and expense.

While we currently qualify as a foreign private issuer, and therefore we are not required to comply with all of the periodic disclosure and current reporting requirements of the Exchange Act applicable to U.S. domestic issuers, the determination of foreign private issuer status is made annually on the last business day of an issuer’s most recently completed second fiscal quarter and, accordingly, the next determination will be made with respect to us on June 30, 2024.

In the future, we would lose our foreign private issuer status if we fail to meet the requirements necessary to maintain our foreign private issuer status as of the relevant determination date. In order to maintain our current status as a foreign private issuer, either (a) a majority of our ordinary shares must be either directly or indirectly owned of record by non-residents of the United States or (b) (i) a majority of our executive officers or Directors may not be U.S. citizens or residents, (ii) more than 50% of our assets cannot be located in the United States and (iii) our business must be administered principally outside the United States. As of March 15, 2024, a majority of our executive officers and Directors are not U.S. citizens or residents.

The regulatory and compliance costs to us under U.S. securities laws as a U.S. domestic issuer may be significantly more than costs we incur as a foreign private issuer. As a result, we expect that a loss of foreign private issuer status would increase our legal and financial compliance costs and would make some activities highly time consuming and costly. If we are not a foreign private issuer, we will be required to file periodic reports and registration statements on U.S. domestic issuer forms with the SEC, which are more detailed and extensive in certain respects than the forms available to a foreign private issuer. We would be required under current SEC rules to prepare our financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, rather than IFRS, in U.S. dollars rather than euros and modify certain of our policies to comply with corporate governance practices associated with U.S. domestic issuers. Such conversion of our financial statements to U.S. GAAP will involve significant time and cost. In addition, we may lose our ability to rely upon exemptions from certain corporate governance requirements on U.S. stock exchanges that are available to foreign private issuers such as the ones described above and exemptions from procedural requirements related to the solicitation of proxies.

It may be difficult for investors outside Belgium to serve process on, or enforce foreign judgments against, us or our directors and senior management.

We are a Belgian public limited liability company. Less than a majority of the members of our Board of Directors and members of our Executive Committee are residents of the United States. All or a substantial portion of the assets of such non-resident persons and most of our assets are located outside the United States. As a result, it may not be possible for investors to effect service of process within the United States upon such persons or on us or to enforce against them or us a judgment obtained in U.S. courts. Original actions or actions for the enforcement of judgments of U.S. courts relating to the civil liability provisions of the federal or state securities laws of the United States (as amended from time to time) are not directly enforceable in Belgium. The United States and Belgium do not currently have a multilateral or bilateral treaty providing for reciprocal recognition and enforcement of judgments, other than arbitral awards, in civil and commercial matters. Consequently, a final judgment for payment given by a court in the United States, whether or not predicated

solely upon U.S. securities laws, would not automatically be recognized or enforceable in Belgium. This will depend on the applicable Belgian national rules.

In order for a final and conclusive judgment rendered by U.S. courts based on civil liability to produce any effect on Belgian soil, it is accordingly required that this judgment be recognized or be declared enforceable by a Belgian court in accordance with Articles 22 to 25 of the 2004 Belgian Code of Private International Law, as amended. Recognition or enforcement does not imply a review of the merits of the case and is irrespective of any reciprocity requirement. A U.S. judgment will, however, not be recognized or declared enforceable in Belgium if it infringes upon one or more of the grounds for refusal that are exhaustively listed in Article 25 of the Belgian Code of Private International Law, as amended. Actions for the enforcement of judgments of U.S. courts might be successful only if the Belgian court confirms the substantive correctness of the judgment of the U.S. court and if it is satisfied that:

- the effect of the enforcement judgment is not manifestly incompatible with Belgian public policy;
- the judgment did not violate the rights of the defendant;
- the judgment was not rendered in a matter where the parties transferred rights subject to transfer restrictions with the sole purpose of avoiding the application of the law applicable according to Belgian international private law;
- the judgment is not subject to further recourse under U.S. law;
- the judgment is not compatible with a judgment rendered in Belgium or with a subsequent judgment rendered abroad that might be enforced in Belgium;
- a claim was not filed outside Belgium after the same claim was filed in Belgium, while the claim filed in Belgium is still pending;
- the Belgian courts did not have exclusive jurisdiction to rule on the matter;
- the U.S. court did not accept its jurisdiction solely on the basis of either the nationality of the defendant or the location of the disputed goods; and
- the judgment submitted to the Belgian court is authentic.

Under the Belgian Code of Private International law, in addition to recognition or enforcement and before a Belgian court, a judgment by a federal or state court in the United States against us may also serve as evidence in a similar action in a Belgian court if it meets the conditions required for the authenticity of judgments according to the law of the state where it was rendered. The findings of a federal or state court in the United States will not, however, be taken into account to the extent they appear incompatible with Belgium's (international) public policy.

U.S. judgments ordering to pay a certain amount that are declared enforceable in Belgium are subject to the applicable registration tax in the same way as Belgian judgments. As such, a registration tax at the rate of 3% of the amount awarded is payable by the debtor(s), if the sum of money exceeds EUR 12,500. If multiple debtors were held jointly liable to pay, the debtors are also jointly liable to pay the registration tax.

In light of the above, U.S. investors may not be able to enforce against us, or members of our Board of Directors or members of our Executive Committee who are residents of Belgium or countries other than the United States any judgments obtained in U.S. courts in civil and commercial matters, including judgments under the U.S. federal securities laws (as amended from time to time).