

## **Declaration of Compliance**

**of the Administrative Board of GFT Technologies SE concerning the recommendations  
of the “Government Commission on the German Corporate Governance Code”  
pursuant to section 161 AktG (German Stock Corporation Act)**

(As at: 7 December 2022)

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GFT Technologies SE has complied with the recommendations of the “Government Commission on the German Corporate Governance Code” as amended on 16 December 2019, announced in the German Federal Gazette (Bundesanzeiger) on 20 March 2020 subject to the special features of the monistic system of the GFT Technologies SE as outlined in its Declaration of Conformity of December 7, 2021, and with exception of the deviations explained there.

GFT Technologies SE complies and will comply with the recommendations of the “Government Commission on the German Corporate Governance Code” as amended on 28 April 2022, announced in the German Federal Gazette (Bundesanzeiger) on 27 July 2022 (hereinafter referred to as the “Code”) with exception of the deviations explained in section III.

The principles for transferring the recommendations of the Code based on a dual management system to the one-tier management system of GFT Technologies SE are presented in sections I. and II.

### **I.**

#### **Preliminary remark**

As stated in paragraph 3 of its foreword, the objective of the Code is to make the dual German corporate governance system transparent and understandable.

Pursuant to section 5 (1) of its Articles of Incorporation, GFT Technologies SE has a one-tier management and control structure. According to article 43 to 45 Council Regulation (EC) No 2157/2001 of 8 October 2001 on the Statute of the European Company (SE) in conjunction with sections 20 et seq. SE Implementation Act (hereinafter referred to as the “SEAG”), the one-tier system is characterised by the fact that a single governance body, the Administrative Board, is responsible for the management of the company. The Administrative Board manages the company, determines the basic policies of its activity and supervises their implementation by the Managing Directors. The Managing Directors conduct the business of the company and represent the company in and out of court. They are bound by instructions of the Administrative Board.

The principles and recommendations contained in the Code with regard to the dual German corporate governance system are only directly applicable to a one-tier SE to a limited extent. In particular, as is the case for listed credit institutions and insurance undertakings (see paragraph 8 sentence 2 of the foreword to the Code), the principles and recommendations of the Code can only be applied to the extent that they do not contradict any legal stipulations. The transfer of the principles, recommendations and suggestions of the Code to the one-tier structure of GFT Technologies SE is explained below in section II.

## II.

### **Transfer of the principles, recommendations and suggestions of the Code to the one-tier structure of GFT Technologies SE**

GFT Technologies SE transfers the principles, recommendations and suggestions of the Code for the supervisory board to its Administrative Board and for the management board to its Managing Directors.

The following exceptions apply:

1. The governance tasks of the management board set forth in Principles 1 to 5 are the responsibility of the Administrative Board pursuant to section 22 (1) of the SEAG, or section 22 (3) sentence 3 of the SEAG. These include managing and developing the company's strategic alignment, setting targets for the proportion of women in the two management levels below the Administrative Board, establishing an internal control system and risk management system and compliance.
2. The Recommendations A.1 and A.3 in connection with the ecological and social impacts of the enterprise's activities and sustainability-related objectives as well as the Recommendations A.2 (consideration of diversity when making appointments to executive positions), A.4 (establishment of a whistle-blower system) and A.5 (comment upon the appropriateness and effectiveness of the internal control system and risk management system) addressed to the management board are addressed to the Administrative Board in the one-tier structure based on section 22 (1) of the SEAG.
3. According to Principle 6 (paragraph 1), the supervisory board appoints and discharges the members of the management board, supervises and advises the management board in the management of the enterprise and has to be involved in decisions of fundamental importance to the enterprise. The Administrative Board of a one-tier SE combines the management and control.
4. In derogation from Suggestion A.8, the Administrative Board is responsible for convening the General Meeting.
5. According to Recommendation B.3, the first-time appointment of management board members of a stock corporation shall be for a period of no more than three years. Recommenda-

tion B.4 further states that any re-appointment prior to one year before the end of an appointment period at the same time as termination of the current appointment shall only happen if special circumstances apply. These recommendations should be viewed against the background that, pursuant to section 84 (3) AktG, members of the management board of a stock corporation may only be removed if there is good cause.

Pursuant to section 40 (5) SEAG, Managing Directors may be dismissed at any time even without good cause. Against this background, Recommendations B.3 and B.4 are not transferred to the one-tier SE.

6. Recommendations C.6 to C.12 concerning the independence of supervisory board members refer only to those members of the Administrative Board who are not appointed as Managing Directors.

### III.

#### **Deviations from the recommendations of the Code**

***Recommendation C.10 sentence 1*** *“The Chair of the Supervisory Board, the Chair of the Audit Committee, as well as the Chair of the committee that addresses Management Board remuneration, shall be independent from the company and the Management Board.”*

The Chair of the Audit Committee is independent from the Company and from the Managing Directors. To this extent, this recommendation has been complied with.

The recommendation that also the Chair of the Administrative Board be independent from the Company and from the Managing Directors is not complied with. Immediately prior to taking office, the Chair of the Administrative Board was Chair of the Managing Directors and Deputy Chair of the Administrative Board. Pursuant to the criteria set forth in Recommendation C.7, he is not deemed to be independent from the company. Given the desire for personnel continuity in the management of the Company, the Administrative Board resolved that the former Chair of the Managing Directors should become the Chair of the Administrative Board.

***Recommendation D.4*** *“The Supervisory Board shall form a Nomination Committee, composed exclusively of shareholder representatives, which names suitable candidates to the Supervisory Board for its proposals to the General Meeting.”*

The Administrative Board has waived the establishment of a Nomination Committee. The Administrative Board as a whole comprises seven members and thus has a manageable size. All members are representatives of the shareholders. In view of this fact, the Administrative Board considers it appropriate that the full Administrative Board does not transfer the task to a Nomination Committee.

**Recommendation G.6** *“The share of variable remuneration achieved as a result of reaching long-term targets shall exceed the share from short-term targets.”*

The company does not comply with this recommendation. Its remuneration system is geared towards long-term and sustainable development. The Administrative Board does not believe that this requires variable remuneration from the achievement of long-term targets to exceed the portion from short-term targets.

The company's remuneration components with a one-year assessment basis are already designed to promote the long-term and sustainable development of the company. For example, one variable remuneration component is linked to the development of revenue in the respective financial year compared with the previous year. This means that two financial years are taken into account and not just one financial year. By defining the performance criteria at the beginning of the term of the respective employment contract without annual adjustments, this ensures that a permanent increase in revenue must be achieved in order to earn the respective variable compensation.

Moreover, the remuneration system stipulates that the total short-term variable remuneration should not be paid out immediately, but that a share of one third to one half should be converted to the respective long-term variable remuneration (LTI). The development of the respective LTI is determined by the performance of the GFT share price. Payment is made after three years. By linking to the weighted average price of GFT shares in the financial year prior to conversion and the weighted average price of GFT shares in the financial year prior to payment, a four-year assessment period was chosen. This also ensures that short-term developments, and in particular fluctuations in the share price, have no effect on long-term variable remuneration.

**Recommendation G.7 sentence 1** *“Referring to the forthcoming financial year, the Supervisory Board shall establish performance criteria for each Management Board member covering all variable remuneration components; besides operating targets, such performance criteria shall be geared mainly to strategic goals.”*

Prior to the respective financial year, the Administrative Board sets the performance criteria for each Managing Director covering all variable remuneration components; besides operational targets, these performance criteria are geared mainly to strategic goals. However, not all performance criteria for variable remuneration components are set for the forthcoming financial year, but also for the conclusion of the respective service agreement. Only one remuneration component is set for the forthcoming financial year.

The Administrative Board is of the opinion that this procedure is appropriate within the framework of the existing remuneration system, which is geared to a long-term and consistent approach.

**Recommendation G.10** *“Taking the respective tax burden into consideration, Management Board members’ variable remuneration shall be predominantly invested in company shares by the respective Management Board member or shall be granted predominantly as share-based remuneration. Granted long-term variable remuneration components shall be accessible to Management Board members only after a period of four years.”*

The company does not comply with this recommendation. The company's remuneration system stipulates that one third to one half of the total short-term variable remuneration is converted to the respective long-term variable remuneration (LTI) after the end of the financial year in question. As a result, the variable remuneration amounts granted are not predominantly invested in shares of the company.

The development of the LTI is determined by the performance of the GFT share price. Payment is made after three years. By linking to the weighted average price of GFT shares in the financial year prior to conversion and the weighted average price of GFT shares in the financial year prior to payment, a four-year assessment period was chosen.

The Administrative Board believes that the provisions of the remuneration system are suitable for encouraging the Managing Directors to focus their efforts on promoting the long-term well-being of the company and ensuring sustainable and long-term corporate success. This is all the more true as the variable remuneration components with a one-year assessment basis are already geared to sustainable and long-term corporate development.

**Recommendation G.11** *“The Supervisory Board shall have the possibility to account for extraordinary developments to an appropriate extent. It shall be permitted to retain or reclaim variable remuneration, if justified.”*

No agreement has been made with the Managing Directors to retain or reclaim variable remuneration in specific cases. The Administrative Board believes that the legal claims and rights, in particular the assertion of claims for enrichment and damages as well as rights of retention, are sufficient to protect the interests of the company.

Stuttgart, 7 December 2022

GFT Technologies SE

The Administrative Board