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MAZARS GROUP AT A GLANCE

Mazars SCRL (hereafter ‘Mazars Group, ‘the Group’) is an international, integrated and independent organisation, specialising in Audit and Assurance, Accounting, Consulting, Financial Advisory, Tax and Legal services. Across our 300 offices worldwide, our global partnership brings together 20,100 international experts who share the same vision, the same entrepreneurial and collaborative mindset, and the same determination to create shared value for all our stakeholders: our staff, our clients, the business community and society as a whole.
GROUP GLOBAL TURN OVER 2016 - 2017

- 1.5 Bn Euro

TALENTS

- 20,000 Professionals
- 910 Partners

TURN OVER BY REGION (%)

- 65.6 Europe
- 13.5 Asia-Pacific
- 12.2 North America
- 5.0 Africa & Middle East
- 2.9 Latin America & the Caribbean

2005
- €500M turnover
- 37 countries
- 5,300 professionals
  | Growth in Europe and in America

2016
- €1.2Bn turnover
- 77 countries
- 17,000 professionals
  | Presence on all 5 continents

2020
- €2Bn turnover
- 160 countries and territories
- 25,000 professionals
  | Growth in Asia and in the United States

Figures valid as of 31/08/2017. For always up-to-date information, visit www.mazars.com/keydata
FOREWORD

PHILIPPE CASTAGNAC
Chairman of the Mazars’ Group Executive Board

HERVÉ HÉLIA
Mazars Group CEO
STEWARDSHIP IS THE KEY TO OUR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

We are pleased to introduce the 2017 Transparency Report for Mazars in Bulgaria.

Specializing in audit, advisory, accountancy and tax services, Mazars is a leading integrated and independent organization whose international dimensions are expanding every year. As of December 31, 2017, Mazars is present in 84 countries and territories around the world.

Since its foundation, Mazars has chosen the demanding option of being a truly integrated firm. The Mazars organization is based on democratic partnership. It gives each partner the right to vote on the strategic decisions involving the future of the partnership. This kind of responsibility is central to Mazars principles and practices. It runs throughout the organization and is daily expressed in the way we exercise our profession and in the relationship Mazars maintains with its social and economic environment.

In accordance with art 62 from the Bulgarian Independence Audit Act a registered auditor or auditing company, who performs a compulsory financial audit of a public interest entity’s financial statements, shall publish in their internet websites the annual transparency report. It is in this context that Mazars in Bulgaria issued this report for the period ended December, 2017 which we are pleased to introduce.

Sofia, 30 April 2018

Thanos Petropoulos
Managing Director
OUR UNIQUE BUSINESS STRUCTURE
OUR UNIQUE BUSINESS STRUCTURE

A GLOBAL, INTEGRATED PARTNERSHIP

Since 1995, we have been organised as a global integrated partnership. All our 910 partners and 20,000 professionals in 84 countries and territories in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia-Pacific, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean share the same values and work ethics and the common goal of providing the highest quality client service. Our correspondent firms also enable us to operate in a further 17 countries.

All members of our integrated partnership are member entities of Mazars SCRL (hereafter “Mazars Group”), a Limited Responsibility Cooperative Company incorporated in Brussels, Belgium, through a cooperation agreement setting out the terms of the relationship. The role of the Mazars Group is to “define the strategic objectives of the organisation and to coordinate the implementation of these objectives at the member firm level”, combined with the responsibility for promoting and protecting the Mazars brand globally. Mazars’ integrated international partnership was established with the principal objective of guaranteeing consistent quality in our service to our clients.

“The role of the Group is to define the strategic objectives of the organisation and to coordinate the implementation of these objectives.”

The integrated partnership allows us to provide a quality service to our clients through the quality and diversity of our talent, the robustness of our values, our determination to fully embrace the digital revolution, and our commitment to creating shared value, whilst remaining aware of the challenges that both our organisation and our stakeholders face. Discerning, knowledge-intensive, agile, sustainable: these are the attributes of the modern firm that we strive to be, in order to better serve our clients.

Each country part of our unique integrated partnership has one or more separate legal entities, that is a member entity of the Mazars Group. All shareholders of the Mazars Group are partners or shareholders (collectively “Partners”) in the member entities. As part of being a shareholder of Mazars SCRL, each partner acknowledges the Charter of Association, which governs the operation and governance of the Mazars Group. In certain countries, there are partners or shareholders of their local member entity, who are not shareholders of the Mazars Group.

The financial statements of the “Mazars Group” are consolidated with the results of the member entities and are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS”). The financial statements of the Mazars Group are jointly audited by two independent audit firms.

“We are not simply a collection of national firms, but an integrated organisation of professionals.”

We are therefore unique; we are not simply a collection of national firms, but an integrated organisation of professionals, sharing commitments at global level with respect to investment in technical excellence, serving our clients and developing our teams. New member firms are admitted into the integrated partnership upon criteria of quality of service and human resources, reputation and shared values. All new admissions must be approved by the General Assembly of partners.
OUR UNIQUE BUSINESS STRUCTURE

CREATING VALUE THROUGH QUALITY, OBJECTIVITY & INDEPENDENCE
**AFRICA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Name of entity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAM</td>
<td>Mazars Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NLD</td>
<td>Mazars Nederland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DZA</td>
<td>Mazars Algérie - Audits &amp; Consultants, E-powered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWN</td>
<td>Mazars España</td>
</tr>
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<td>ZM</td>
<td>Mazars Zambia</td>
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**ASIA-PACIFIC**

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHN</td>
<td>Mazars LLP Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HKG</td>
<td>Mazars Risk &amp; Assurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JPN</td>
<td>Mazars Risk &amp; Assurance</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Mazars Risk &amp; Assurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>SGP</td>
<td>Mazars Risk &amp; Assurance</td>
</tr>
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<td>TAJ</td>
<td>Mazars Risk &amp; Assurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWD</td>
<td>Mazars Risk &amp; Assurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>THA</td>
<td>Mazars Risk &amp; Assurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HND</td>
<td>Mazars Risk &amp; Assurance</td>
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**EUROPE**

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<tr>
<td>BUL</td>
<td>Mazars Bulgaria</td>
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<tr>
<td>CZE</td>
<td>Mazars Czech Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEU</td>
<td>Mazars Deutschland</td>
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<tr>
<td>EST</td>
<td>Mazars Estonia</td>
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<td>ISL</td>
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<td>LUX</td>
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<tr>
<td>NLD</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOR</td>
<td>Mazars Norge</td>
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<td>POL</td>
<td>Mazars Polska</td>
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<tr>
<td>POR</td>
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<td>RUS</td>
<td>Mazars Russia</td>
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<tr>
<td>SVK</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWE</td>
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<td>DEU</td>
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**CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE**

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRO</td>
<td>Mazars Croatia</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUN</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEM</td>
<td>Mazars Slovenia</td>
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<tr>
<td>CYP</td>
<td>Mazars Cyprus</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEB</td>
<td>Mazars Estonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRB</td>
<td>Mazars Serbia</td>
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**SWITZERLAND**

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<td>SUI</td>
<td>Mazars Schweiz</td>
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**UNITED KINGDOM**

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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>IRL</td>
<td>Mazars Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCO</td>
<td>Mazars Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WLS</td>
<td>Mazars Wales</td>
</tr>
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*Transponder lines*
### NORTH AMERICA

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Name of entity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BERMUDA</td>
<td>Mazars Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANADA</td>
<td>Mazars Harel Drouin, SENCRL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNITED STATES</td>
<td>Mazars USA LLP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MIDDLE EAST

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<th>Country</th>
<th>Name of entity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BAHRAIN</td>
<td>Mazars Chartered Accountants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGYPT</td>
<td>Mazars Mostafa Shawki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISRAEL</td>
<td>Bri, Rotbart, Raz, Mazars Israel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUWAIT</td>
<td>Mazars Hend Abdullah Alsarayea &amp; Co</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEBANON</td>
<td>Mazars Saade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OMAN</td>
<td>Mazars Chartered Accountants &amp; co. LLC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PALESTINE</td>
<td>El Wafa Company for Financial Consulting and Accounting Services*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QATAR</td>
<td>Mazars Ahmed Tawfik &amp; Co. CPL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAUDI ARABIA</td>
<td>AlKhorashi &amp; Co.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</td>
<td>Mazars Chartered Accountants</td>
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</table>

### LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARGENTINA</td>
<td>Estudio Unir S.R.L.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOLIVIA</td>
<td>• Mazañez Auditores Independientes - Sociedad Simple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOLIVIA</td>
<td>• Mazañez Auditores Independientes - Sociedad Simple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILE</td>
<td>• Mazañez Auditores Independientes - Sociedad Simple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLOMBIA</td>
<td>• Mazañez Auditores Independientes - Sociedad Simple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLOMBIA</td>
<td>MCA Auditing &amp; Accounting SAS*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COSTA RICA</td>
<td>MDP Accountants &amp; Auditors N.V.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PANAMA</td>
<td>Hansen-Holm*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECUADOR</td>
<td>• Mazañez Auditores Independientes - Sociedad Simple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEXICO</td>
<td>• Mazañez Auditores Independientes - Sociedad Simple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERU</td>
<td>Contreras y Asociados S.Civil de R.L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URUGUAY</td>
<td>Mazars Uruguay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VENEZUELA</td>
<td>• Adriana, Rodriguez, Cefalo &amp; Asociados, Contadores Publicos - Consultores Gerenciales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Mazars Venezuela</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*correspondent firms
OUR UNIQUE BUSINESS STRUCTURE

STAKEHOLDERS MAP
OUR GLOBAL BUSINESS ORGANISATION

During our last General Assembly of Partners, in December 2016, a new Group Executive Board was elected, on the basis of a strategic platform, called the Next20. The business organisation described below is aimed at fully implementing this new platform.

In order to deliver the best services to our clients, our international structure focuses on sectors and service lines. The three key sectors we have identified are: Financial Services; Industry, Services and Public Sector; Entrepreneurial Businesses.

To organisations of all sizes in each of these sectors, we deliver high quality services via our 6 service lines:

- Accounting and Outsourcing Services (AOS)
- Audit and Assurance Services (AASL)
- Consulting
- Financial Advisory Services (FAS)
- Law
- Tax services (TAX)

In 2018, we will also finalise the creation of 5 regional platforms: Europe, Asia-Pacific, Africa & the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America. Europe will include 4 clusters: Northern, Central, Southern and Western Europe. Africa will include 3 or 4 clusters.

The Global Sector & Services Team (GSST) leaders and Global Support Business (GSB) leaders, along with soon-to-be-appointed regional leaders, make up Mazars’ Global Leadership Team (GLT). It gathers the Group international leaders who carry responsibilities that go across countries, thus requiring coordination of functions, markets, services and other responsibilities.

Our Global Leadership Team (GLT) includes the Global Sector & Services Team (GSST), regional leaders, Quality & Risk Management, Communications and Marketing, Information Systems, Talent Management, Finance and General Secretary (including group projects). GSST and GLT are led by the GEB.

This structure ensures coordination of member entities within the Mazars Group. Our integrated international structure permeates every aspect of our operations:

- Partners and their member entities are linked by a series of agreements intended to achieve maximum consistency and standardisation within the Mazars Group;
- Sectors and service lines are represented in member entities, enabling coordination of assignments and cross-border relations between countries;
- Each assignment requiring an international team is managed and carried out by an integrated team sharing common standards and procedures;
- Each global or international assignment is managed and carried out by an integrated team and coordinated by an engagement partner in charge who takes final responsibility for reporting to the client;
- Partners ad national member entities in which they work are linked by a series of agreements intended to achieve maximum consistency within the Group. They all report to the elected representatives of the Group.

All the entities of the Mazars integrated international partnership are thus committed to enhancing the quality of services provided to large, cross-border groups in an increasingly complex and global environment.
TURNOVER BY SERVICE LINE IN 2016-2017

- 44.8% Audit
- 17.8% Tax
- 8.2% FAS
- 10.7% Consulting
- 17.2% AOS

*does not include data for the ZhengShen ZhangHuan and ZhengShen Yatai practices.*
OUR OPERATIONAL ORGANISATION
The member entity in Bulgaria

Mazars in Bulgaria was established in June 2017 and simultaneously joined Mazars international network partnership. In August, 2017, Mazars in Bulgaria was granted Audit Licence by ICPA with nr.: 169.

In Bulgaria, the member entity of the Mazars Group is Mazars OOD, a limited liability Company with a Board of Directors responsible for setting Mazars national strategy, within the framework of the international strategy, group operating in over 84 countries world-wide. The relationship of Mazars OOD with Mazars group is governed by the Cooperation Agreement existing between Mazars S.A. (Greece) with Mazars Société Coopérative, Société à responsabilité limitée, a limited liability co-operative company incorporated under the laws of Belgium representing the Mazars group association.

As at 31 December 2017, Mazars Bulgaria had as majority shareholder with 90% stake, Mazars S.A. (Greece) and as minority shareholder with 10% stake, Mr. Athanasios Dionysios Petropoulos (Managing Director and local non-audit Partner). In terms of Legal Representation, the company is represented by Mr. Ilias Zafeiropoulos (CPA, Greece) as Manager and Mr. Petropoulos as Procurator.

The 90% of share capital of Mazars OOD is held by Mazars S.A. (Greece) having 5 Partners who are all certified public accountants with long professional experience and they are all members of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Greece and registered in the Hellenic Accounting and Auditing Standards Oversight Board. Since June 30, 2009 shareholders of Mazars S.A. (Greece) are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Reg. HAASOB</th>
<th>Reg. SOEL</th>
<th>ID Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zafeiropoulos Ilias</td>
<td>1281</td>
<td>22811</td>
<td>AM 209641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasouridis Nikos</td>
<td>1361</td>
<td>22511</td>
<td>AB 234545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makris Kostas</td>
<td>1483</td>
<td>26771</td>
<td>AE 006910</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papazoglou Michalis</td>
<td>1642</td>
<td>22921</td>
<td>AM 518103</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tsoukalas George</td>
<td>1845</td>
<td>27621</td>
<td>X 109746</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mazars OOD provides:

- Audit & Assurance
- Financial Advisory
- Corporate Governance & Internal Audit services
- Accounting & Outsourcing
- Tax services

Our approach to operating in Bulgaria

Mazars OOD’s business is run by Mr. Petropoulos in agreement with the common Management of Mazars in Greece. Mr. Petropoulos is particularly responsible for managing results, developing strategies for growth and supporting our staff. As at 31 December 2017, the Service Lines were Audit & Assurance, Financial Advisory, Consulting, Accounting & Outsourcing and Tax services. Each Service Line is responsible for applying the service line strategy; quality standards and risk management; talent management and development; technical training, implementation and innovation according to the firm’s management guidelines.

The allocation of 2017 turnover (limited months) by service line is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Line</th>
<th>2017</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Audit</td>
<td>100,876.16 BGN</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Out of which from PIE</td>
<td>83,524.66 BGN</td>
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<td>- Out of which from other entities</td>
<td>17,351.50 BGN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advisory Services</td>
<td>52,611.83 BGN</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Out of which from PIE</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Out of which from other entities</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A list of the Public Interest Entities in respect of which Mazars Bulgaria has expressed an audit opinion in 2017 is set out in Appendix 1.
LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE
Our two governing bodies distinct roles are defined in the Charter of Association that outlines the functioning of our partnership (“the Charter”). Both our strategic leadership ecosystem and our robust governance structure rely on our ability to make an international community of leaders work efficiently together, in order to ensure the sustainable development of our partnership and of our Group.

OUR STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP ECOSYSTEM
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PARTNERS

All the partners of the Mazars Group meet at least once a year, at the General Assembly of partners, within six months following the end of the financial year.

The General Assembly of Partners is a pivotal point in the governance and decision-making processes of the Mazars Group. The Assembly elects the Group Executive Board and the Group Governance Council, approves major strategic and operational decisions, the admission of new partners and the audited financial statements of the Mazars Group.

The last General Assembly of Partners was held in Berlin in December 2017. The next General Assembly of Partners will be held in Cannes in December 2018.

THE GROUP EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Group Executive Board ("GEB") is Mazars’ executive body. It is in charge of operational management of the partnership with regards to collectively-defined key strategic objectives, under the supervision of the Group Governance Council. It focuses first and foremost on pursuing and accelerating growth, while ensuring the quality and sustainability of our activities. The GEB may comprise between three and nine members. As at August 31st, 2017 there were nine members of the GEB. The current GEB was elected in December 2016 and with an election every four years, the next one is due in 2020.

The GEB is supported in its role by:
- An Operational Committee ("OPCO"), which primarily focuses on delivering transformational change through selected projects and assignments. The OPCO is designed as one team, not as a collection of silo responsibilities, and all members are committed to help other members achieve their projects.
- A global leadership team (GLT), which comprises all Group business leaders (sectors and service lines, including our audit activity), Group Quality & Risk Management leaders, and Group support function leaders.
- Executives in each member entity.
  - These executives, led by a Senior or Managing Partner, have the responsibility for managing that member entity, for leading the business on a day-to-day basis, and for providing strategic and operational coordination.
  - The executives are elected by the partners of the particular member entity, with their candidacy being subject to the consideration of the GEB.

The GEB meets at least monthly; it also meets twice a year with the Country Managing or Senior Partners at “Country Forums”.

Each GEB member is entrusted with specific geographical responsibilities, functional roles and the sponsorship of key strategic projects, such as innovation, diversity, quality and risk management, business development or integration processes for new additions to the partnership.

THE GROUP GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

Elected for the same term as the GEB, the Group Governance Council ("GGC") is the Group’s supervisory body. The GGC has decision-making powers in three specific areas as set out in the partnership’s Charter of Association:
- the approval of partnership candidates and external growth operations;
- the compensation of the members of the Group Executive Board;
- the approval of disciplinary action decided by the latter.

The GGC is required to meet at least every four months. It may comprise between eight and sixteen members including two non-executive independent members; as of August 31st, 2017, there were twelve members of the GGC. Elected every four years, the next GGC elections are due in December 2020.

The two non-executive independent members also constitute the Public Interest Committee ("PIC"), which has specific responsibility in additional to the GGC for matters arising in relation to Mazars in the United Kingdom and Ireland.
LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE IN MAZARS BULGARIA

Mazars Bulgaria is led by Mazars S.A. (Greece), an Audit company having 5 CPA qualified Partners and Mr. Athanasios Petropoulos being the responsible for Mazars operation in Bulgaria. Mazars S.A. (Greece) and Mr. Petropoulos participate in the BoD of the company. The Board of Directors of Mazars in Bulgaria has responsibility for setting Mazars national strategy, within the overarching framework of the international strategy. Its members are Ilias Zafeiropoulos (Manager as per the Commercial Register), Nikos Kasouridis, Kostas Makris, Michalis Papazoglou, George Tsoukalas and Athanasios Petropoulos (Procurist as per the Commercial Register).
OUR COMMITMENT TO QUALITY, OBJECTIVITY & INDEPENDENCE
THE MISSION STATEMENT AND THE NEXT20 Q&RM AREAS OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Quality, objectivity and independence are monitored by Mazars’ Quality & Risk Management Board. Its missions are as follows:

- Safeguarding the development of our people, including training and performance reviews.
- Monitoring application and compliance through Quality control.
- Promoting of Quality Framework across all service lines, through up to date manuals and supporting tools.
- Identifying, prioritizing and mitigating risks through Enterprise Risk Management.
- Contributing to sustainable growth through rigorous acceptance process.
- Interacting with our global stakeholders such as regulators, standard setters, professional organisations, etc.
- Maintaining a Code of Conduct relevant to all.

FOSTERING GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT THROUGH OUR QUALITY AND ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR
DELIVERING AUDIT QUALITY
Delivering audit quality is key to us as a global organisation, as it underpins our core values. We are dedicated to improving the audit work we undertake and the reports and communications to those charged with governance. We invest time in understanding and participating in the evolution of quality within the profession, developing our methodology, reviewing quality recommendations and themes of regulatory inspections, and improving the skills and knowledge of our professional staff. We are continually raising our expectations of what audit quality is as we believe this is something that is constantly evolving.

OUR APPROACH, OUR TOOLS AND OUR METHODOLOGY

Mazars’ Audit Manifesto
We challenge ourselves to make our audit and assurance offerings relevant, bring value to companies and their many stakeholders and have our assignments delivered by experienced, committed and truly independent professionals. The delivery of audit and assurance continues to be at the heart of Mazars’ business in the year ended 31 August 2017, and is a key part of our plans for the future.

Responsibility for quality
The quality and effectiveness of our audit services is critical to all our stakeholders and is an integral part of our commitment to building trust in society. We believe in accountability and our approach to audit quality is driven by our culture, values and behaviours. We are convinced tone at the top is of paramount importance. The GEB is ultimately responsible for ensuring the delivery of technical excellence across all our service lines and this responsibility includes oversight of the quality monitoring processes within the Mazars organisation, including in relation to audit quality.

To this respect, at Group level, we dedicate specific resources to the building and maintaining of high standards in quality, independence, ethics and professional competency, under the supervision of the Quality and Risk Management Board (Q&RM).

Through its International Quality Control Committee (“IQCC”), the Q&RM Board defines the quality monitoring system and the relevant procedures that are required to be implemented across all service lines and monitors their implementation. The executive of each member entity is thus responsible for the implementation of the quality monitoring systems. This quality monitoring system applies both to member and correspondent firms.

Our Audit Quality Assurance framework
The International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) is the global organisation for the accountancy profession dedicated to serving the public interest by strengthening the profession and contributing to the development of strong international economies. Mazars is actively involved in IFAC with a presence on a number of its boards and committees.

Mazars is also a member of IFAC’s Forum of Firms (“FoF”), an association of international networks of accounting firms that perform transnational audits. As members of the FoF we commit to:
- maintain quality control standards in accordance with the International Standard on Quality Control (“ISQC1”) – issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (“IAASB”) – in addition to relevant national quality control standards;
- conduct, to the extent not prohibited by national regulation, regular globally coordinated internal quality assurance reviews;
- have policies and methodologies for the conduct of transnational audits that are based, to the extent practical, on the International Standards on Auditing ("ISAs") issued by the IAASB;
- have policies and methodologies that conform to Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (the "IESBA Code") and any relevant national code of ethics;
- agree to submit to the Secretary of the Forum an annual report, in an approved format, indicating that it meets the membership obligations set forth above.

We have been committed to this since 2007 and make an annual declaration to set this out.

In line with our commitments, our Quality Assurance Framework is presented through our “Quality Assurance Manual” and “Risk Management Manual”, both of which constitute the benchmark for audit quality control for all entities. This Framework covers the following:

- responsibility and leadership;
- independence and objectivity;
- acceptance and continuance of engagements;
- human resources;
- audit methodology and engagement performance;
- planning and supervision of engagements;
- audit documentation;
- technical consultation;
- professional confidentiality and risk management;
- engagement quality control reviews;
- quality monitoring;
- procedures for dealing with and resolving differences of opinion;
- complaints, allegations and claims;
- differences of opinion.

Each member entity has put in place the Quality Assurance Manual in its own country and edits it to include country specifics.

The policies and procedures in our Quality Assurance Manual are complemented by our audit methodology. Our audit software has been developed to allow a structured audit approach in accordance with the most recent auditing standards.

These are updated regularly to include the evolution of international and national standards as a result of operational suggestions by users.

Our compliance with the Quality Assurance Manual is monitored through internal and external inspections. Monitoring of audit quality is integral to maintaining and improving quality in our profession. It allows identification of areas for improvement within our policies and procedures, combined with additional training to allow a consistent quality approach to audit work. The executive of each member entity is responsible for the implementation of the quality monitoring systems. Furthermore, each Executive is required to:

- Promote the firm’s internal culture of quality and reinforce this culture with clear, consistent and frequent messages and initiatives;
- Remind individuals at all levels of the existence of the quality monitoring system;
- Underline the importance of respecting legal and regulatory obligations, particularly with regards to the IESBA code, local ethical requirements and professional standards of practice when accepting and carrying out new assignments.

A CONSISTENT APPROACH ON ALL CLIENT ENGAGEMENTS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR SIZE AND INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE.

Audit policies and methodology
The Mazars Audit Methodology (“MAM”) is a global methodology that Mazars entities apply, supplemented by local regulatory and legal requirements. Using a common methodology allows us to apply a consistent approach and level of quality globally on all client engagements irrespective of their size and international presence. In an increasingly globalised world, the MAM allows us to give assurance to our multinational clients over the quality of our audits across borders. Specific policies and procedures are in place in respect of group audits, including the use of and reliance on other auditors. These procedures include consideration of the results of quality monitoring.
The MAM is continually enhanced as we seek to apply a systematic risk based audit approach, focusing on the things that matter and adjusting the areas of focus and effort based on the level of risk. Our methodology and associated application guidance is also designed to encourage challenge and professional scepticism in our audits.

Audit software is used to support the audit teams in applying our risk based approach, from acceptance to completion of the audit. During the year, Mazars globally has been progressing the development of a new audit software expected to be rolled out in the 2017/2018 financial year. This software will enhance the quality of documentation produced globally by our teams.

We will continue to invest and develop our audit software as new challenges and technology impact on the audit of the future. Data analytics is increasingly becoming a key aspect of our standard audit procedures, particularly with respect to the mandatory requirements to address the risk of management override of controls.

Additional training and tools have been developed in the year to further enhance the skills of our team in this area to drive quality in their work. This was supported by further training and tools to aid the understanding and testing of our clients’ IT environments.

Our ability to maintain quality is not only dependent on the IT tools available to our professional staff, it also relies on the appropriate support being available. The QAM details the circumstances when there is a mandatory requirement to consult within the firm. Our technical experts are also available for audit and financial reporting technical consultations when support is required. To aid the audit quality of specific areas of the audit, our core audit teams have access to our specialist auditors and experts, including IT, tax, actuarial and valuation specialists.

Our audit policies and procedures have been designed and implemented to ensure that we comply and that we can demonstrate compliance with ISAs.

Responsibility for audit quality and the quality assurance framework in Greece

Mr Petropoulos is ultimately responsible for quality control within Mazars Bulgaria including audit quality. It is supported in its role by the Risk, Quality and Audit Committee of Greece.

The Quality Committee is led by a member of the Greek Executive and is required to review compliance, risk management and quality on an annual basis and ensure that communication on quality and the “tone at the top” is appropriate. It also considers other concerns arising, such as complaints or claims. The Quality Committee has formal terms of reference that are reviewed annually.

Only Responsible Individuals (“RIs”) can be responsible for an audit and sign an audit report. A RI has to hold an ‘appropriate qualification’ commonly known as the audit qualification and be competent to conduct audit work.

Before appointing a new auditor, we satisfy ourselves that the individual is competent to carry out audit work.

OUR AUDIT QUALITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ARE EMBEDDED AS PART OF OUR FIRM’S DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES.

Monitoring audit quality
Monitoring of audit quality is integral to understanding our own audit quality and develop ways to challenge and improve it. It allows identification of areas for improvement within our policies and procedures, combined with additional training to allow for a consistent quality approach to audit work. Our audit quality policies and procedures are embedded as part of our firm’s day-to-day activities.

Engagement quality control reviews (EQCR)
An EQCR is required to be performed on all audits of listed or Public Interest Entities. Other engagements may be identified as subject to EQCR, the criteria for determining whether such other assignments require an EQCR are mainly based around the existence of specific risk situations.

The purpose of an EQCR is to provide an objective evaluation of the significant judgements made by the engagement team and the conclusions reached in formulating the opinion. This review must be performed by a partner with sufficient authority
to be capable of imposing their professional judgement upon the engagement team, and who has not recently had any material responsibility for the engagement. The EQCR is licensed internally and is also subject to rotation.

**Audit quality monitoring reviews**

The assessments undertaken by the IQCC monitor member entities’ compliance with the IFAC standards. The Mazars entities audit quality monitoring reviews organised by the IQCC have several components:

- self-assessment of the entity’s audit methodology, ethics and the Quality Assurance System;
- internal monitoring of the effectiveness of the internal procedures and of the quality of the audit files. This is performed by each entity on an annual basis and constitutes the basis for the completion of the self-assessment;
- Mazars international inspections: these are undertaken by experienced reviewers from other member entities within the organisation, generally every 3 years, and they aim to take an independent view on the results of the self-assessments and the internal monitoring whilst helping to spread best practices;
- external inspections: entities are periodically subject to reviews by the audit regulators or other relevant bodies in their jurisdictions. Results of such reviews are communicated to the IQCC.

The self-assessment includes the entity’s compliance with the IFAC standards as well as reporting on the results of its internal and external audit quality monitoring reviews. This can be the basis for an action plan relating to all areas identified as requiring improvement including those identified through any Mazars international inspections.

Entities are required to communicate internally the results of their audit quality monitoring reviews to their Executive, partners and audit managers. This communication is provided in sufficient detail to enable the necessary corrective measures to take place, both for the particular partner in question, and the overall level of the entity.

As a minimum, the results of the audit quality monitoring reviews include:

- a description of the procedures applied and of the scope of the quality monitoring review;
- the results and conclusions of the reviews of the entity’s procedures and audit engagements;
- detailed action plans, where required.

Entities that are applying to join the Mazars organisation are subject to an inspection organised by the IQCC. The report setting out the results of the review is included in the admission file submitted to the GEB and the GCC for consideration before the vote at the General Assembly of Partners. The report may be accompanied by an action plan, progress against which would be monitored by the IQCC. At Mazars we are passionate about audit quality so this positive feedback was rewarding and reflects the investment we have made in technical training and tools to support our audit teams deliver consistent quality audits.

**The approach to quality control and the quality control reviews in Bulgaria**

Mazars OOD follows closely the internal quality control system of Mazars in Greece, as well as, the principal of independence, both of which are aligned with those of Mazars group which is deemed affective. Similarly, training and professional development and rotation of the auditors follows the rules of ICPA.

Since the establishment of the company no Inspection by the Commission of the Public Oversight of Statutory auditors has been conveyed till the moment of issue of the current Transparency Report;

In Appendix 2 we provide a statement on the effectiveness of these systems.

**WE BELIEVE THAT THE VOICE OF THE AUDIT PROFESSION BRINGS VALUE TO THE STANDARD SETTING PROCESS.**

**Our contribution to the profession**

As a consequence, we are committed to the improvement of financial reporting, corporate governance and overall confidence in the capital markets on a global level. For example: Mazars responds to consultations on a variety of topics including auditing, corporate governance, financial reporting and relevant regulation changes issued by professional bodies such as IFAC and is committees and boards, FEE, EAIQ, PCAOB, IASB; Actively participates in international bodies, such as the IFAC, FEE, ESMA, EFRAG, IASB; Its entities are active in the professional and auditing organisations in their countries.
Our voice in Bulgaria

1. We participated as moderator in the GDPR high level Conference in the context of Bulgarian Presidency of the European Union.
2. We have been Senior Sponsor of the events organized in the context of the 25th Anniversary of the Association of Bulgarian Insurers.
ENSURING OUR OBJECTIVITY & INDEPENDENCE
Objectivity and independence are the cornerstones of our profession, since they are the foundations of the public’s trust in the opinions we provide. We have placed them at the heart of our culture and of everything we do. Our policies, procedures and tools have been designed so that our partners and staff members do comply with the strictest objectivity and independence requirements.

POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND TOOLS

Our Code of Conduct for Objectivity and Independence
The Mazars Group has adopted a Code of Conduct for Objectivity and Independence (the “CCOI”) which complies with the IESBA code. This forms an integral part of all member entities’ professional training programmes and is distributed to all Partners and staff. We also strongly promote ethical culture and values.

Responsibility for maintaining objectivity and independence
The Group Independence and Acceptance Committee is responsible for considering potential issues brought to its attention, reviewing any proposed departures from the CCOI by country and verifying that all changes in international ethical standards are taken into account by the organisation.

Systems to safeguard our objectivity and independence
The systems implemented by Mazars Group and adopted by member entities comprise the following:

| ACCEPTANCE AND CONTINUANCE OF AUDIT ENGAGEMENTS | Procedures that require an evaluation of the client’s related risks, the entity’s ability to perform the engagement and any ethical risks in terms of independence and conflicts of interest. |
| ADDITIONAL SERVICES | The provision of additional services to an audit client is subject to prior authorisation from the lead audit partner and, in some cases, the Head of Ethics. In certain circumstances, this provision is also subject to authorisation by the client’s audit committee, for example when required by auditing standards or when the client has put in place procedures for the prior approval of non-audit services by the auditor. |
| NON-AUDIT SERVICES TO AUDIT CLIENTS | A complete list of non-audit services rendered to audit clients must be maintained. For group audits, this list must be set out in the instructions circulated by the audit co-ordination team. |
| ANNUAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE | All Partners and staff are required to provide an annual declaration of their independence. In this respect:
- The following are not allowed to hold a direct or material indirect financial interest in an audit client:
  - the partners working on the engagement and their immediate family and team members
  - the other partners in the office (and their immediate family) in which the engagement partner practices in connection with the audit engagement.
  - other partners and managerial employees in the office (or their immediate family members) providing non-audit services to an audit client |
or at least two years
ttee, large engagements are placed under
ers rotate, in compliance

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allocated to Partners according to the
Under the supervision of the GGC and based on the
a portion of a global
Several countries, including France, have opted to add
entity to which they contribute.
calculate the value
Profits are divided amongst partners according
Partner
sense of responsibility as well as in responding effectively to each client’s specificities.

arbitrate. The two

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under their responsibility. This allocation is reviewed annually as well as when there are any changes in the partner’s situa
allocation of partner responsibilities on recurring audit engagements and major special engagements is decided by
This rotation reduces the risk of “closeness” to the audited company which may impair independence. It e
Within Mazars, rotation is applied to Public Interest Entity engagements on which key audit part
staff, whether internal or external.
responsible partners assist with key stages of the engagement and remain the key contacts for all parties and professional
the responsibility at least two partners, one of whom naturally assumes leadership of the engagement.
Except in specific situations which are approved by the entity’s Executive Committee, large engagements are placed under
the responsibility at least two partners, one of whom naturally assumes leadership of the engagement.
Having a team of partners strengthens independence and brings broader technical expertise to the engagement. The responsible partners assist with key stages of the engagement and remain the key contacts for all parties and professional
staff, whether internal or external.
Within Mazars, rotation is applied to Public Interest Entity engagements on which key audit partners rotate, in compliance
when applicable with the domestic transposition of the European Directive on Statutory Audit or of the IESBA Code of Ethics. This rotation reduces the risk of “closeness” to the audited company which may impair independence. It enables the auditor to have greater independence of mind in dealing with client issues and in expressing opinions on financial statements. The allocation of partner responsibilities on recurring audit engagements and major special engagements is decided by the
entity’s Executive Committee and ensures that partners have the ability to effectively conduct and supervise engagements under their responsibility. This allocation is reviewed annually as well as when there are any changes in the partner’s situation or when any difficulties have been encountered.
In the rare case of disagreements with the technical department’s positions, the Executive Committee is called upon to
arbitrate. The two-partner team in charge remains the final decision maker within the context of the organization’s quality
assurance and procedures. This point is of paramount importance in preserving each partner’s personal commitment and
sense of responsibility as well as in responding effectively to each client’s specificities.

Two-partner teams and rotation to strengthen both independence and services quality

EXCEPT IN SPECIFIC SITUATIONS WHICH ARE APPROVED BY THE ENTITY’S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, LARGE ENGAGEMENTS ARE PLACED UNDER
THE RESPONSIBILITY AT LEAST TWO PARTNERS, ONE OF WHOM NATURALLY ASSUMES LEADERSHIP OF THE ENGAGEMENT.

HAVING A TEAM OF PARTNERS STRENGTHENS INDEPENDENCE AND BRINGS BROADER TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO THE ENGAGEMENT. THE RESPONSIBLE PARTNERS ASSIST WITH KEY STAGES OF THE ENGAGEMENT AND REMAIN THE KEY CONTACTS FOR ALL PARTIES AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF, WHETHER INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL.

WITHIN MAZARS, ROTATION IS APPLIED TO PUBLIC INTEREST ENTITY ENGAGEMENTS ON WHICH KEY AUDIT PARTNERS ROTATE, IN COMPLIANCE
WHEN APPLICABLE WITH THE DOMESTIC TRANSPOSITION OF THE EUROPEAN DIRECTIVE ON STATUTORY AUDIT OR OF THE IESBA CODE OF ETHICS. THIS ROTATION REDUCES THE RISK OF “CLOSENESS” TO THE AUDITED COMPANY WHICH MAY IMPAIR INDEPENDENCE. IT ENABLES THE AUDITOR TO HAVE GREATER INDEPENDENCE OF MIND IN DEALING WITH CLIENT ISSUES AND IN EXPRESSING OPINIONS ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS. THE ALLOCATION OF PARTNER RESPONSIBILITIES ON RECURRING AUDIT ENGagements AND MAJOR SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS IS DECIDED BY THE ENTITY’S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND ENSURES THAT PARTNERS HAVE THE ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY CONDUCT AND SUPERVISE ENGAGEMENTS UNDER THEIR RESPONSIBILITY. THIS ALLOCATION IS REVIEWED ANNUALLY AS WELL AS WHEN THERE ARE ANY CHANGES IN THE PARTNER’S SITUATION OR WHEN ANY DIFFICULTIES HAVE BEEN ENCOUNTERED.

IN THE RARE CASE OF DISAGREEMENTS WITH THE TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT’S POSITIONS, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS CALLED UPON TO
ARBITRATE. THE TWO-PARTNER TEAM IN CHARGE REMAINS THE FINAL DECISION MAKER WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE ORGANIZATION’S QUALITY
ASSURANCE AND PROCEDURES. THIS POINT IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE IN PRESERVING EACH PARTNER’S PERSONAL COMMITMENT AND
SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AS WELL AS IN RESPONDING EFFECTIVELY TO EACH CLIENT’S SPECIFICITIES.

Partner compensation policy

Profits are divided amongst partners according to the number of “base points” they are allocated. Two criteria are used to
calculate the value of the base points: the overall performance of the Mazars Group and the performance of the national
entity to which they contribute. Each factor is measured equally.

SeveraL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING FRANCE, HAVE OPTED TO ADD A BONUS SYSTEM FOUNDED ON INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE. PARTNERS RECEIVE
A PORTION OF A GLOBAL ENVELOPE BASED ON HIS/HER COUNTRY’S PERFORMANCE.

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE GGC AND BASED ON THE RECOMMENDATION RECEIVED FROM THE COUNTRY EXECUTIVE, BASED POINTS ARE
ALLOCATED TO PARTNERS ACCORDING TO THE OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF THE COUNTRY AND THE INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE OF EACH PARTNER.

THIS PERFORMANCE IS ASSESSED THROUGH VARIOUS CRITERIA:

- Professionalism, technical contributions and adherence to business practice norms;
- Partnership spirit;
- Importance and complexity of assignments;
- Contribution to the general development of local entities and the Group;
- Level of managerial responsibility.

None of these criteria is evaluated in isolation, but the greatest weight is placed on technical competence and Partnership spirit.
Financing business activity depends exclusively on each national member entity and follows the same proportionality as the division of profits.

Global whistleblowing procedures
Our values set a platform for what we believe will build long term sustainable success for the organisation. We want to work in a way that promotes our values and ensures we provide the best possible service for our clients, and best possible environment for our team.
Mazars is committed to dealing responsibly, openly and professionally with:
- concerns raised internally, that partners or team members may have about possible malpractice within Mazars firms;
- concerns raised by persons external to Mazars (clients and other stakeholders) on the services provided by Mazars.

These group-wide whistleblowing procedures for our staff, our clients and our stakeholders reflect our zero-tolerance policy for unethical behaviours. They have been deployed since 2014 and both external and employee complaint forms are available on our Mazars websites (on the Group website: http://www.mazars.com/Complaint-form). All claims are directly processed through the Group’s Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) except when stated otherwise by the local regulation.

Confidentiality and information security
Confidentiality and information security are key elements of our professional responsibilities. Misuse or loss of confidential client information or personal data may expose the firm to legal proceedings, and may also adversely impact our reputation. The Group’s Chief Information Security Officer is responsible for providing oversight, policy and strategic direction on information risk and cyber security matters. He directly reports to the Chief Compliance Officer and to the Group Executive Board.

Independence and Objectivity in Mazars Bulgaria

The ethical code applied in Bulgaria is Mazars Code of Conduct Objectivity and Independence which is in line with the IFAC Code of Conduct. The Country Specific Provisions addendum to the CCOI is held by the Ethics Manager.

In Appendix 2 we provide a statement on the effectiveness of these systems.
FOSTERING EXCELLENCE IN OUR PEOPLE
As a leading player in advisory, accountancy, tax and legal services, we are talent-intensive and resource-driven. Our clients expect us to provide knowledge and expertise. Human capital is thus at the heart of our business, and we need to make sure we attract, retain and develop the best talent.

Within Mazars we strive to foster excellence by enabling our team to give their best through:
- recruiting, training, developing and retaining the right people;
- our means of operating and rewarding;
- our conduct.

**Talent and performance management**

In order to deliver the high-quality service that our clients expect, our engagement policies and procedures are designed to attract, support and retain the highest quality team members. Based on our common values, management principles and a fulfilling work environment, our Global Talent and Performance Management Programme aims to:
- recruit high potential individuals;
- prepare our talent to meet the market’s evolving needs through long-term technical and managerial education plans;
- offer attractive career opportunities, including international opportunities;
- improve the diversity of our talents;
- engage our talent through modern work environments and codes.

**Recruiting High Potential Individuals**

As knowledge workers, the quality of the talent pipeline is critical to our business. Since young graduates comprise, by far, the largest volume of candidates we recruit, concentrating on getting the right people through the door at this stage has the greatest leverage effect on the quality of our overall recruitments. As a result, many efforts are made to increase our employer branding awareness amongst the best schools for our profession, as well as to hone the effectiveness and interactivity of the recruitment process to identify the candidates that best match in terms of competency, potential, and cultural fit.

In addition, to maintain the attractiveness of the professional services industry in the face of competition for the same graduates from tech companies and start-ups, for example, Mazars has made great efforts to innovate in its recruitment process. We have many awards for both the creativity and results of such initiatives. Key projects include:
- Mazars 360°: encouraging transparency of the employee experience through virtual reality;
- Nothing to Hide: a free website for young grads who wish to “audit” their online footprint to ensure that it is professional;
- Looking for Talent: an engaging interactive video for young grads to send their CVs.

**Long-term Education & Training**

The Mazars Group considers its internal training programme to be of strategic importance, since it serves as a means both to share and update technical and professional skills and knowledge, and to communicate professional conduct and ethics requirements to staff.

In 2008, the Group created Mazars University to harmonize training practices across all Mazars offices. In 2014, Mazars University received the top accreditation for Corporate Universities, awarded by the European Foundation for Management Development, the same body which awards the EQUIS accreditation to top business schools. The focus of the University is to act as a hub for all best learning materials and practices across the group, both in the areas of technical expertise as well as the other skills now required to perform the profession: soft skills, digital skills, and leadership skills. The goal is to have excellent technicians, but enforce the objectivity of our teams, the professional independence and ethical conduct of each individual, and their overall capacity to effectively perform the work we have engaged.

On a local level, each member entity of Mazars keeps a record of all the training courses attended by each Partner and member of staff, in order to ensure that each individual benefits from the complete training programme and that the training received is in line with the individual’s role and responsibilities. Each member entity’s training programme is to include:
- a general technical skills syllabus to be followed by all staff. For audit staff, for example, the objective of this programme is to encourage each staff member’s development and expertise in auditing standards, accounting
standards, corporate governance standards, auditing techniques and engagement management principles; and which can be complemented by external seminars;
- a sector-specific syllabus, particularly for insurance, banking, the public sector and technology;
- a soft skills syllabus to be followed by level of seniority, focused on the areas of communication, team management, innovation, and client care.

This year, thanks to a new partnership with LinkedIn Learning, our professionals will have access to a premium digital skill training path, including certifications in coding and data science, which is becoming an integral part of our profession.

The Next MBA
In the area of executive education, Mazars has innovated a new model of education for senior leaders. Mazars created The Next MBA, which is a 6-week Executive MBA on cutting-edge business topics ranging from client-centric marketing to digital disruption, talent management to sustainable strategy, which is open to both Mazars partners as well as participants from other organisations. The Next MBA aims at preparing tomorrow’s leaders to be insightful about how today’s market transformations will impact business, teams, and industries, and to be agile in identifying new solutions.

Attractive career opportunities
As a global organization, we recognize that gaining international experience is an important element in the development of our teams and leaders. Mazars employees wishing to enhance their careers with an international experience may choose from a range of strategic mobility opportunities, such as:
- short-term assignments are available through our “MOVE” programme, in which high-potential Seniors and Managers can work abroad on two to six months projects;
- longer-term high-level projects ranging from three to five years in length;
- permanent transfers. These programmes play a key role in the flow of ideas with other member entities of the Mazars Group.

Improve the Diversity of our Talents
One of our core values is fostering a diverse and inclusive work environment. Accordingly, Mazars stands guard against all forms of discrimination and offers its professionals equal opportunities and treatment, regardless of their racial or ethnic origin, gender, religion, age or disability.

Gender Diversity
Diversity constitutes a unifying value of the Group and a key factor of success of its strategy. Mazars focuses on a better representation of women in the organisation, mainly in management positions. Our involvement is carried out through various actions of raising awareness internally, developing an internal female network through a collaborative platform of discussions and a programme to identify female talents who will benefit from specific support and development action plans. Since Mazars’ annual Partners’ Conference in Istanbul in 2014, key steps and objectives have been set out.

A steering committee was set-up and Gender Diversity is championed by Antonio Bover, GEB member and Managing Partner of Mazars in Spain. Antonio is helped by a committee composed of a representative variety of partners, numbering 2/3 of female partners and 1/3 of male partners, but also managers and support functions. Focus is on significantly increasing the number of female partners and executives among our firm by 2020. Our guiding principle is no longer to communicate widely on the subject but to work closely with our key 15 countries and follow-up on key development indicators. This decision means that the current GEB and its successors from 2016 will define a detailed plan and promote this objective as part of their Manifesto for election.

A Women Talent Pool has been identified and specific actions have been put in place to support them. A yearly leadership seminar is held: the Women Leaders @ Mazars Seminar was held in Milan in September 2017. This seminar covers a wide variety of topics all essential for the growth and development of high potentials: mentoring, coaching, leadership, public speaking, empowerment, business development...

A group-wide gender diversity survey was held in 2016 and since then 4 core areas have been identified and focus groups are working on delivering Diversity & Inclusion guidebooks around:
- Promoting with Fairness
- Mazars as a great place to work
- Mentoring & Networking
- Measuring Gender diversity at Mazars

Metrics on gender diversity will be included in the global reporting system of Mazars countries. Progress is being made in the form of a “dashboard” format. Parity in recruitment, diversity at managerial level and a female talent pipeline will be explicit
KPIs of group and local Human Resources plans. Finally, ambassadors are being identified in each country to support progress on these initiatives and to become positive role models.

**Modern Work Environments & Codes**
We continue to promote a strong organisational culture of wellness and health which ensures that Mazars remains an employer of choice. The financial auditor or consultant trades are demanding trades in terms of time, personal investment or travel, but these are cyclical trades that have more or less intense periods. At Mazars, we are aware of this difficulty. Our model is by nature decentralised, but we encourage all of our offices to put in place local actions that increase employee satisfaction.

We place great emphasis on office environment – from closed spaces and attributed workspaces to open plans. This is not just a question of following trends, but one of leveraging space to enhance our collective intelligence and enforcing new managerial codes that are more collaborative, participative, and open. Mazars offices from Singapore to Rotterdam, Gabarone to Milan, and London to Paris, to name just a few, are revolutionising their work places with more collaborative work space combined with digitalised tools. The design offers a is more human-centric approach, enable our staff and partners to create the spaces they need to work best.

At the same time, the managerial codes have changed, from “command and control” to co-developing solutions. We want our staff to participate in generating and implementing new ideas – from our internal processes to our client offers.

Therefore, we have made many efforts to both help managers encourage staff to speak up through education and training, as well as develop new tools and processes to support them in this. One tool to be highlighted is BIM – Mazars’ Idea Box, which is an App where Mazarians can propose their ideas, get likes and have the opportunity, if liked enough, to present to the Executive Board, and eventually get awarded an investment to put the idea into action.

**Mazars Bulgaria**

The average number of team members at Mazars OOD during 2017 was 7.

There are two CPAs on full time employment in the company and practice directly by the force of Art. 8 par. 1, item 1 (c) of LIFA:

Mrs. Milena Mladenova, Head of Audit, Certified public accountant, registered in the Bulgarian CPA with ID No. 641 since 2008. Mrs. Mladenova practices the audit profession in the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Mr. Kalin Kanev, Certified public accountant, registered in the Bulgarian CPA with ID No. 791 since 2014. Mr. Kanev practices the audit profession in the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Both very experienced auditors in Bulgaria

Each year Mazars OOD organizes tailored training programs according to:

- Core professional requirements (ISA’s, etc.)
- Staff level per service line
- Personal needs mainly deriving from the staff performance evaluation process
- Market and product expansion strategies

Especially concerning the audit staff, a structured program is in place for all audit trainees to support them throughout their training period. Once qualified a wide range of technical support is provided to help staff maintain their technical competence and provide the quality service on which our reputation is built. The objective of these programs is to encourage each staff member’s development and expertise in auditing & accounting standards, auditing techniques and engagement management principles. This technical content is complemented by a wide range of professional and business skills training programs which
are available to all staff and provides an opportunity for staff from different disciplines to build strong working relationship and share best practice.

To ensure audit staff and Partners maintain their technical competence and meet the respective regulatory and professional institute requirements their continued professional development (CPD) is reviewed on an annual basis, and we ensure suitable personal development plans are in place where required.

Ordinance, issued by the Bulgarian CPA Institute, provides for the minimum professional training requirements for the registered auditors and the training programs are structured accordingly.

Training includes both internal and external courses, including professional qualification training.

The ultimate responsibility for staff training belongs to the firm’s Manager which has authorized the Training Committee to develop the appropriate training programs in cooperation with the HR Committee.

In Appendix 2 we provide a statement on the effectiveness of these systems.
AUDITED PUBLIC INTEREST ENTITIES OF MAZARS GREECE
APPENDIX 1

The Public Interest Entities in respect of which Mazars Bulgaria has expressed an audit opinion in 2017 are as follows: [LIST OF PUBLIC INTEREST ENTITIES AUDIT CLIENTS].

- **First Investment Bank AD** (Name in Bulgarian: Първа Инвестиционна Банка АД; Transliteration in English: Parva Ivestitsionna Banka AD)
- **Groupama Insurance EAD** (Name in Bulgarian: Групама Застраховане ЕАД; Transliteration in English: Groupama Zastrahovane EAD)
- **Groupama Life Insurance EAD** (Name in Bulgarian: Групама Животозастраховане ЕАД; Transliteration in English: Groupama Zhivotozastrahovane EAD)
MAZARS
ORGANISATION STATEMENTS OF COMPLIANCE
APPENDIX 2

Statement on the effectiveness on the Quality Control System

Mazars Group’s and Mazars Bulgaria Quality Control System is designed to provide reasonable assurance that the firm, its partners and staff comply with professional standards and regulatory and legal requirements, work is performed to a consistently high standard and that reports issued by the firm are appropriate.

The management of Mazars Group and Mazars Bulgaria are content that the system is effective in the maintenance and improvement of audit quality. They considered the results of the relevant regulatory inspections in reaching this opinion.

Statement on the effectiveness of our systems to safeguard our objectivity and independence

The operation and effectiveness of Mazars Group’s and Mazars Bulgaria systems to safeguard our objectivity and independence form part of the review of the Quality Control System.

Based on the evidence identified in this review, the management of Mazars confirms, with a reasonable level of assurance, that the independence procedures and practices have been implemented and the system is effective in maintaining independence. Furthermore, management confirms that the practices have been subjected to internal review.

Statement of compliance with the professional training obligations

According to Law requirements as of Art. 30. (1) Every natural CPA shall undergo training to maintain and develop his or her professional qualifications in the course of at least 40 hours in a professional year: (2) The rules are laid down in Art. 71, paragraph 3(4) which establish the terms and procedures for conducting and reporting the training for registered auditors’ professional qualifications maintenance and development. Mazars in Bulgaria complies with previous Articles of the Bulgarian Law.

Partners and all audit personnel are required to provide an annual declaration that they have complied with the relevant requirements.