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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of Sphera Franchise Group S.A.

Report on the Audit of the Separate Financial Statements

### Opinion

We have audited the separate financial statements of Sphera Franchise Group S.A. (the Company) with official head office in Bucharest, 239 Calea Dorobanti Street, Romania, identified by sole fiscal registration number 37586457, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the separate financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policy information.

In our opinion, the accompanying separate financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at December 31, 2023, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Order of the Minister of Public Finance no. 2844/2016, approving the accounting regulations compliant with the International Financial Reporting Standards, with all subsequent modifications and clarifications.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs), Regulation (EU) No. 537/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 ("Regulation (EU) No. 537/2014") and Law 162/2017 („Law 162/2017"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Separate Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) as issued by The International Ethics Standard Board for Accountants (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to the audit of the financial statements in Romania, including Regulation (EU) No. 537/2014 and Law 162/2017 and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Key audit matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the separate financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

For each matter below, our description of how our audit addressed the matter is provided in that context.

We have fulfilled the responsibilities described in the “Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the separate financial statements” section of our report, including in relation to these matters. Accordingly, our audit included the performance of procedures designed to respond to our assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the separate financial statements. The results of our audit procedures, including the procedures performed to address the matters below, provide the basis for our audit opinion on the accompanying separate financial statements.

### Key audit matter:

Recoverability of the carrying value of investments in subsidiaries and loans granted to those subsidiaries

The gross value of the investments in subsidiaries and of loans granted to subsidiaries amounted to RON 760,459 thousand as at 31 December 2023.

Under the International Financial Reporting Standards, an entity is required to assess, at least at each reporting date, whether triggers for potential impairment of its assets exist and, if they exist, an impairment test is required.

The assessment of whether there is an indication that an asset may be impaired and the determination of recoverable amounts of the Company investments in subsidiaries and of the loans granted to them relies on management’s estimates of future cash flows and their judgment with respect to the subsidiaries’ performance including future restaurants opening, growth rates, gross and net operating margins, working capital needs, capital expenditure and discount rates, as well as economic assumptions such as the evolution of salaries in the economy and inflation.

An impairment test was performed for its subsidiaries where triggers for impairment were identified which, in case of American Restaurant System SA, resulted in an additional impairment adjustment of RON 4,369 thousand recorded as at 31 December 2023.

Due to the uncertainty of forecasting and discounting future cash flows, the level of management’s judgement involved and the significance of the Company’s investment in subsidiaries and loans granted as at 31 December 2023, this audit area is considered a key audit matter.

The Company disclosures about investments in subsidiaries and loans granted, the related impairment triggering events analysis as well as impairment test performed is presented in Notes 10 and 19 to the separate financial statements.

How our audit addressed the key audit matter

Our work was focused on, but was not limited to, the following procedures:

We assessed the methodology used by management to identify impairment indicators and to estimate the recoverable value of the investments in subsidiaries and of loans granted to them.

We included our evaluation specialists in our team to assist us in evaluating the Company's key assumptions and estimates used to determine the discount rate, the future operating cash flows, the growth rates, operating margins, working capital needs and the capital expenditure.

- In this context, we evaluated whether or not certain assumptions on which the valuation was based, individually and taken as a whole, considered: i) the economic environment of the industry and the economic circumstances of the Group to which the Company belongs, including the impact of the Ukraine war and Israel-Palestine conflict consequences; ii) existing market information; iii) the business plans of the Group to which the Company belongs, including management's expectations; iv) the risks associated with the cash flows, included the potential variability in the amount and timing of cash flows and the related effect on the discount rate; v) specific requirements of IFRS; vi) benchmarking against general performance of peer companies and against the Group's historical financial performance and trends;
- Tested the mathematical accuracy of the discounted cash flow computation;
- Assessed the historical accuracy of management's budgets and forecasts by comparing them to actual performance and to prior year;
- Evaluated the management's sensitivity analysis over key assumptions in the future cash flow model in order to assess the potential impact of a range of possible outcomes.

We further assessed the adequacy of the disclosures notes presented in the separate financial statements about the Company investments in subsidiaries, loans granted to subsidiaries and impairment test performed.

Other information

The other information comprises the Annual Report (that includes the Directors' Report), the Remuneration Report and the Sustainability Report, but does not include the separate financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. We obtained the Annual Report and the Remuneration Report, prior to the date of our auditor's report, and we expect to obtain the Sustainability Report, as part of a separate report, after the date of our auditor's report. Management is responsible for the other information.

Our audit opinion on the separate financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the separate financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the separate financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed on the other information obtained prior to the date of the auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Separate Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the separate financial statements in accordance with the Order of the Minister of Public Finance no. 2844/2016 approving the accounting regulations compliant with the International Financial Reporting Standards, with all subsequent modifications and clarifications, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of separate financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the separate financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Separate Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the separate financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these separate financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the separate financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the separate financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the separate financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the separate financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the separate financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters.

## Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

### Reporting on Information Other than the Separate Financial Statements and Our Auditors' Report Thereon

In addition to our reporting responsibilities according to ISAs described in section "Other information", with respect to the Directors' Report and Remuneration Report, we have read these reports and report that:

- a) in the Administrators' Report we have not identified information which is not consistent, in all material respects, with the information presented in the accompanying separate financial statements as at December 31, 2023;
- b) the Administrators' Report identified above includes, in all material respects, the required information according to the provisions of the Ministry of Public Finance Order no. 2844/2016 approving the accounting regulations compliant with the International Financial Reporting Standards, with all subsequent modifications and clarifications, Annex 1 articles 15 - 19;
- c) based on our knowledge and understanding concerning the entity and its environment gained during our audit of the separate financial statements as at December 31, 2023, we have not identified information included in the Administrators' Report that contains a material misstatement of fact;
- d) the Remuneration Report identified above includes, in all material respects, the required information according to the provisions of article 107 (1) and (2) from Law 24/2017 on issuers of financial instruments and market operations.

Other requirements on content of auditor's report in compliance with Regulation (EU) No. 537/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council

### Appointment and Approval of Auditor

We were appointed as auditors of the Company by the General Meeting of Shareholders on 4 February 2022 to audit the separate financial statements for the financial year end December 31, 2023. Total uninterrupted engagement period, including previous renewals (extension of the period for which we were originally appointed) and reappointments for the statutory auditor, has lasted for 7 years, covering the financial periods end December 31, 2017 till December 31, 2023.

### Consistency with Additional Report to the Audit Committee

Our audit opinion on the separate financial statements expressed herein is consistent with the additional report to the Audit Committee of the Company, which we issued on 22 March 2024.

## Provision of Non-audit Services

No prohibited non-audit services referred to in Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) No. 537/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council were provided by us to the Company and we remain independent from the Company in conducting the audit.

In addition to statutory audit services and non-audit services disclosed in the separate financial statements, no other services were provided by us to the Company, and its controlled undertakings.

Report on the compliance of the electronic format of the separate financial statements, included in the annual report with the requirements of the ESEF Regulation

We have performed a reasonable assurance engagement on the compliance of the separate financial statements presented in XHTML format of Sphera Franchise Group S.A (the Company) for the year ended 31 December 2023, with the requirements of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019 /815 of 17 December 2018 supplementing Directive 2004/109/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to regulatory technical standards on the specification of a single electronic reporting format (the "ESEF Regulation).

These procedures refer to testing the format and whether the electronic format of the separate financial statements (XHTML) corresponds to the audited separate financial statements and expressing an opinion on the compliance of the electronic format of the separate financial statements of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2023 with the requirements of the ESEF Regulation. In accordance with these requirements, the electronic format of the separate financial statements, included in the annual report should be presented in XHTML format.

## Responsibilities of the Management and Those Charged with Governance

The Management of the Company is responsible for the compliance with the requirements of the ESEF Regulation in the preparation of the electronic format of the separate financial statements in XHTML format and for ensuring consistency between the electronic format of the separate financial statements (XHTML) and the audited separate financial statements.

The responsibility of the Management also includes the design, implementation and maintenance of such internal control as determined is necessary to enable the preparation of the separate financial statements in ESEF format that are free from any material non-compliance with the ESEF Regulation.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the financial reporting process for the preparation of separate financial statements, including the application of the ESEF Regulation.

## Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion providing reasonable assurance on the compliance of the electronic format of the separate financial statements with the requirements of the ESEF Regulation.

We have performed a reasonable assurance engagement in accordance with ISAE 3000 (revised) Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information (ISAE 3000 (revised)). This standard requires that we comply with ethical requirements, plan and perform our engagement to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the electronic format of the separate financial statements of the Company is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance ESEF regulation. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risk of material non-compliance with the requirements of the ESEF Regulation, whether due to fraud or error.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but it is not guaranteed that the assurance engagement conducted in accordance with ISAE 3000 (revised) will always detect material non-compliance with the requirements when it exists.

## Our Independence and Quality Management

We apply International Standard on Quality Management 1, Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements, and accordingly, designs, implements and operates a comprehensive system of quality management including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements. We have maintained our independence and confirm that we have met the ethical and independence requirements of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) (IESBA Code).

## Summary of procedures performed

The objective of the procedures that we have planned and performed was to obtain reasonable assurance that the electronic format of separate the financial statements is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of ESEF Regulation. When conducting our assessment of the compliance with the requirements of the ESEF Regulation of the electronic reporting format (XHTML) of the separate financial statements of the Company, we have maintained professional skepticism and applied professional judgement. We have also:

- obtained an understanding of the internal control and the processes related to the application of the ESEF Regulation in respect of the financial statements of the Company, including the preparation of the separate financial statements of the Company in XHTML format;
- tested the validity of the applied XHTML format;



- checked whether the electronic format of the separate financial statements (XHTML) corresponds to the audited separate financial statements.

We believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Opinion on the compliance of the electronic format of the separate financial statements with the requirements of the ESEF Regulation

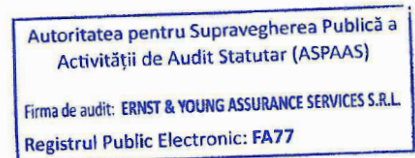
Based on the procedures performed, our opinion is that the electronic format of the separate financial statements is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of ESEF Regulation.

On behalf of,

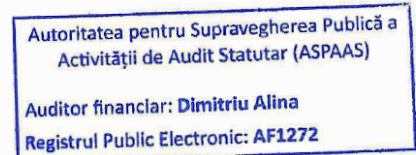
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Autoritatea pentru Supravegherea Publică a  
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Registrul Public Electronic: FA77



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Bucharest, Romania  
27 March 2024