

A person wearing a white lab coat and white gloves is holding a white tray containing several test tubes. The test tubes have labels with barcodes and numbers. The background is a blurred laboratory setting with blue walls and equipment.

EY Global Law

Corporate meetings & digital
signatures guide

8 June 2021

The EY logo consists of the letters 'EY' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. A yellow triangle is positioned above the 'Y'.

Building a better
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Introduction

We produced the first version of this document last year, when multi-national companies were trying to understand (among other matters) the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on their corporate reporting schedules.

Our updated report has been produced to help legal teams understand the position around the world in relation to two obligations:

- Whether shareholders' meetings and board meetings may be held remotely
- The timeframe for approval, publication and/or filing of annual accounts

We are pleased to present this updated report, covering more than 65 jurisdictions. Our research shows that while a number of jurisdictions have made interim rules permanent regarding remote meetings or e-signatures, the majority of jurisdictions have reverted to their 'business as usual' legal positions in 2021. Some jurisdictions are, of course, still experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic and therefore their legal position is subject to change.

We hope that you find the updated report useful. As not all jurisdictions are reflected in this document, please get in touch with me, your usual EY Law contact or please feel free to consult your local [EY Corporate and Commercial Law professionals](#) to ensure you are up-to-date on the latest developments.

With best wishes,



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Jurisdictions covered (Albania – India)

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - the option was provided by the law.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - the option was provided by the law.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	E-Signature / digital signature is permissible. Scanned hand written signature.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The deadline to hold the shareholders' Annual General Meeting (AGM) was 31 March 2021.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The deadline to publish the annual accounts was 31 March 2021.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>In Argentina, each Province (and the City of Buenos Aires) has its own Public Registry of Commerce (PRC). Each PRC issues its own resolutions which are only applicable for the companies settled on such jurisdiction.</p> <p>The PRC of the City of Buenos Aires (IGJ) has issued the General Resolution No. 11/2020 by means of which it was stated that both board meetings and AGMs can be held by electronic or digital means that allow participants to communicate simultaneously with each other. For such purpose, there are some mandatory conditions to be fulfilled in order to hold a remote meeting, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All participants are allowed to have access• The meeting must take place through a platform that allows the simultaneous transmission of audio and video• The attendees must be able to participate orally and exercise voting rights• The meeting must be recorded on a digital platform• The company's legal representative must keep a digital copy of the meeting for five years• The minutes of the meetings must attest the identification of the people attending the meeting, and be passed to the relevant corporate book and signed by the legal representative afterwards• The summon to the meeting must also clearly explain the communication means to be used

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>2(a) Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic? <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p>On the other hand, the Argentine Securities Exchange Commission (ASEC) has issued the General Resolution No. 830/2020 allowing to hold meetings remotely under similar conditions to the ones established by IGJ. In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The announcement of the meeting must be made by all necessary means (in addition to the ones established in the by-laws)• The meeting must have the required quorum for extraordinary meetings and decide to hold it remotely with the majority required for the by-law's amendment as the first item on the Agenda <p>If this kind of meetings has not been established in the by-laws, the decisions taken by remote meetings must be ratified at the first face-to-face meeting held once the emergency measures have been lifted.</p>
<p>2(b) If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?</p>	<p>Temporary and permanent measures have been implemented.</p> <p>These measures will be in force during the period of "social, preventive and mandatory isolation", as decreed by the National Urgency Decree No. 297/2020 and its extensions for all the companies under IGJ and ASEC jurisdiction. After the isolation measures have ended, companies whose by-laws already allowed to hold meetings using digital media or platforms, will continue to be able to hold them under the terms of Section 84 or 360 of the ICJ General Resolution 7/15 and Sec. 158 of the Argentine Civil and Commercial Code and complying with the requirements established by IGJ's General Resolution No. 11/2020.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

3	<p>Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>"Wet ink" signature only.</p> <p>Please note that only the Simplified Shares' Company (SAS) require digital signature.</p>
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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>No.</p> <p>According to the Argentine Companies Law No. 19.550, the Board Meeting considering the financial statements, and calling the shareholders' meeting to approve same, shall take place no later than four months after the end of the company's fiscal year.</p> <p>Regarding the filing of the financial statements before IGJ, the same shall be done within 15 days after the AGM has taken place.</p> <p>Please note, while both IGJ and ASEC extended the deadlines for the financial statements submission in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, however the administrative deadlines have now resumed at national level and companies must comply with the submission formalities set out by the competent authority. The deadline for meeting these obligations was extended for the final time until 22 December 2020.</p>
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>No.</p> <p>Please refer to comments in Q4.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes - the option was provided by the law.</p> <p>Shareholders' Meetings: Remote shareholders' meetings were allowed under the legislation prior to COVID-19 pandemic (this covered all shareholder meetings of Limited Liability Companies (LLCs), except for annual shareholders' meetings of joint-stock companies (JSCs) which were not allowed to be held remotely.</p> <p>Board meetings: Armenian law does not specify whether board meetings can be held remotely or not, however states that meetings are to be arranged pursuant to a procedure specified under the company charter or Board Rules of Procedure, confirmed by the Shareholders' Meeting. The assumption is that there is discretion here.</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>LLC Law, Article 41(1)</p> <p>JSC law, Art. 69</p>
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes - the option was provided by the law</p> <p>On 31 March 2020, amendments were made to the JSC Law, according to which annual shareholders' meetings of JSCs can also be held remotely.</p> <p>Please refer to: https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?docid=140823</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

2(b) If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure. Until 1 November 2020 companies are allowed to hold meetings remotely regardless of whether such an option is provided under their charter or not.
3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	E-Signature / digital signature is permissible. As a general rule, Armenian law does not prohibit using digital signatures for the board and shareholders' meetings. Please note, that Armenian law provides only for a digital signature, which requires utilization of cryptographic methods in order to achieve a heightened degree of reliability and security.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. Armenian law does not specify a deadline for accounts approval. However, legal entities which are required to publish their annual accounts shall approve them by 30 June of the year following the reporting year, so that they can arrange publication thereof by 30 June as well.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. Legal entities which are required to publish annual accounts shall publish such reports by 30 June of the year following the reporting year, i.e., the relevant entities must publish them by 30 June 2021. Law on Accounting, Art. 27(2)

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>No. The timelines are uncertain.</p> <p>On 5 May 2020, the Corporations (Coronavirus Economic Response) Determination 2020 (Determination) amended the Corporations Act 2001 (Act) to, permit AGMs to be held via video conferencing and to permit companies to execute by split execution and by electronic signature.</p> <p>On 19 March 2021, the Treasury Laws Amendment Bill (2021 Measures No. 1) (Bill), which proposed extending the COVID-19 relief for a further six months (i.e., 15 September 2021), did not receive consent from the upper chamber (Senate) of the Australian Parliament. This Bill has been adjourned until 3 August 2021.</p> <p>Consequently, companies are now restored to the pre-COVID-19 position (i.e., before 5 May 2020), that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AGMs require physical in-person meetings to be held (unless remote/hybrid AGMs is permitted by the company's constitution), and hard copies of notices of meetings should be posted (unless electronic communication is permitted by the shareholders)• Companies executing documents under Sec. 127 of the Corporations Act (i.e., by two directors or a director and company secretary) must sign using "wet ink" signatures and not by electronic signatures <p>Please refer to comments provided in Q3.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>2(a) Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic? <i>(Continued)</i></p>	<p>The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) had adopted a “no action” position in relation to virtual AGMs that are held between 21 March 2021 and 31 October 2021 (or by the date that any measures are passed by the Parliament in relation to virtual AGMs).</p> <p>The ASIC “no action” position, which is temporary, includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting AGMs when using appropriate technology• Facilitating electronic notice communication• Allowing an additional two months to public companies to hold their AGMs <p>However, ASIC has not extended relief in relation to companies executing documents by split execution or by electronic signature.</p>
<p>2(b) If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?</p>	<p>It is a temporary measure.</p> <p>These measures are temporary and have been extended until 21 March 2021.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?

(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))

As referred to the comments provided in Q1, e-signature or digital signature is not permitted for companies executing documents.

Companies executing documents under Sec. 127 of the Corporations Act (i.e., by two directors or a director and company secretary) must sign by "wet ink" signature and not by electronic signature.

Please note that the lapse of COVID-19 relief only applies to companies governed by the Corporations Act. Different rules apply for individuals, certain trusts and partnerships in different jurisdictions in Australia.

For example, the State of Victoria has recently passed legislation to permanently reform electronic signature provisions. The Victorian legislation allows mortgage documents, deeds, wills and powers of attorney to be executed electronically by individuals.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes, it is a temporary measure.</p> <p>Due to the temporary impact of COVID-19 pandemic, for listed and unlisted public companies with a 31 December 2020 financial year end which must hold an AGM by 31 May 2021, ASIC has indicated that no action will be taken if an AGM is postponed for a period of up to two months – i.e., should have been held on or before 31 July 2021.</p> <p>ASIC announced on 29 March 2021 that it would extend its "no action" position where public companies do not hold their AGMs within five months after the end of their fiscal year, for years that end between 7 January 2021 and 7 April 2021, with an extension of up to seven months after year end. For public companies with 31 December 2019 to 7 January 2021 year ends, the "no action" position also applies where holding an AGM in January or February 2021 results in the requirement to hold an AGM in the 2021 calendar year not being met.</p>
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>No, ASIC has not further extended the class relief for financial reports to entities with financial years that end between 8 January 2021 and 7 April 2021.</p> <p>However, ASIC will consider applications for an extension of the reporting deadline for individual entities in appropriate circumstances. Companies must comply with Sec. 340 of the Corporations Act and other relevant ASIC guidance when making these applications.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - the option was provided by the law; Yes - if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution. Shareholder resolutions which do not require notarization/notarial deed can be passed by circular resolution. For example, appointments of managing directors or changes to the Articles of Association require notarization.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, shareholders' meetings which require the involvement of a notary public can be held virtually.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a temporary measure in place until 31 December 2021.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>A qualified electronic signature according to the Australian Signature Act would fulfil the generally requisite written form requirements</p> <p>Further, provided that the notarization/notarial certification is made electronically, the above said also applies to legal acts/declarations which require a notarization/notarial certification. For such legal acts/declarations etc. special rules regarding the use of electronical channels for notarial official acts currently exist due to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes, it is a temporary measure. The period for holding the AGM is extended from eight months to 12 months.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes, it is a temporary measure. The deadline for filing the annual financial statements with the commercial register court, and all documents to be disclosed at the same time (e.g. consolidated financial statements and group management report), is generally extended from nine to 12 months after the balance sheet date.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.
3	<p>Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature permissible</p> <p>In accordance with Art. 3 of the Law on electronic signature and electronic documents, the document executed with certified electronic signature is equal to "wet ink"; If the digital certificate contains information about the authorities, it may be considered equivalent to an official stamp.</p> <p>Although e-government initiatives have been officially launched and the Tax Office issues the digital certificates of incorporation, the reverse practice, i.e., submission of digitally signed corporate documents by companies to the Tax Office (corporate register) is not yet established.</p>

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(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The deadline is 30 April for standalone financial statements and 30 June for consolidated financial statements.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The deadline is not specified in the legislation.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	No.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	In connection with the latest changes in the law, it is allowed to hold meetings remotely, that must be provided for by the Charter of a company. However, such changes in the law are not related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It's a permanent measure (if provided for by the Charter of a company).
3	<p>Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature permissible.</p> <p>By default the law requires wet signature.</p> <p>E-signature may be used (because it is equal to wet), subject to specific requirements. The requirements for a valid e-signature are provided in the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On electronic document and electronic signature".</p>

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. Three months after the financial year end - i.e., 31 March.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. Depending on the industry, the deadlines may vary from 31 March to 30 June.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes - the option was provided by the law;</p> <p>Yes - if provided in the company's articles of association (by-laws/constitution)</p> <p>Both shareholders' meetings and board meetings of companies are allowed to take place through electronic means of communication such as a telephone or web conference.</p> <p>With regard to shareholders' meetings, the articles of association of the company needed to specifically provide for the option to hold a remote meeting.</p> <p>It is a customary practice that board meetings can take place remotely, without the need of a specific mentioning thereof in the articles of association of the company. Although it is implicitly allowed by law, this option may be excluded in the articles of association.</p>
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the new Law of 20 December 2020 has been introduced to enhance the flexibility of board and shareholders' meetings.</p> <p>Shareholders' meetings can be held remotely though the use of electronic means of communication even though this is not foreseen in the articles of association of the company, where it has been decided by the management body. In addition, shareholders may grant a proxy with voting instructions or use a remote voting form.</p> <p>Board meetings are allowed to take place remotely through the use of a telephone or web conference. Please refer to comments provided in Q1.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.
3	<p>Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature partially permissible</p> <p>E-signatures are, in principle, allowed for the signing of board and shareholders' resolutions. For documents that would need to be filed with official instances such as the clerk's office, notary public, bank etc, only verified e-signatures and "wet ink" signatures are allowed.</p> <p>Given the fact that no practice has yet been developed to use advanced e-signatures in official matters, it is recommended to use verified e-signatures or "wet ink" signatures for documents that need to be filed with an official body.</p>

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The filing of the annual accounts must take place one month after the approval of the annual accounts by the AGM and must be filed with the National Bank of Belgium at the latest within seven months after the closing of the financial year (e.g., 31 July 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020).

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1 Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes - the option was provided by the law.

General note: Bosnia and Herzegovina consists of two entities (Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) and Republika Srpska (RS), with their own legislative competencies (including on company law matters) and one additional administrative unit Brčko Distrikt (BD) that does not belong to either entity and has its own laws. Below you will find the comments reflecting the legislation in all three regions.

LLCs:

Shareholders' meetings:

- FBiH: All or specific matters can be decided on by written votes without convening an assembly and in accordance with the contract or statute.
- RS: Assembly may be validly held, without it being physically convened, if all the present members are in agreement that it should be held, while the absent members do not oppose the Assembly being held or if the company's articles of association or contract of members does not stipulate otherwise.
- BD: The members of the entity can make decisions via a written statement that is adopted by all members, meaning no need for personal attendance at any assembly.

Additional requirements for remote shareholders' and board meetings can be the subject of additional regulation in the company's internal policies and procedures.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>1 Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic? <i>(Continued)</i></p>	<p>Board meetings:</p> <p>In all three jurisdiction, remote sessions are not restricted. However, the final answer to this question can also depend on the internal policies and procedures of the company.</p> <p>JSC:</p> <p>A similar remote decision-making possibility is not stipulated by the law, save for the board meetings in RS, where such possibility is foreseen by the law unless excluded by internal policies and procedures of the company.</p> <p>Moreover, the complexity of convening the JSC assembly gives rise to a question as to how feasible, in general, would it be to conduct the assembly of a JSC in a way that is possible in a LLC.</p> <p>In addition, please note that in the event that the company has been founded by a sole founder, the founder of the company is authorized to make decisions outside the assembly session or remotely.</p>
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Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Contact: Adela Rizvić
- Last Updated: 7 June 2021

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - the option was provided by the law.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure. Please refer to comments in Q1.
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	"Wet ink" signature only. Despite the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina and its entities have adopted the laws on electronic signature, the market response to the possibility of using a e-signature is not yet widespread.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Contact: Adela Rizvić
- Last Updated: 7 June 2021

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The annual meeting needs to be held within six months after the end of the business year of the company.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic? <i>(Continued)</i>	No. Following deadlines are applicable in Bosnia and Herzegovina: FBiH: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual set of financial reports and statements are to be filed no later than the last day in February• Consolidated financial reports are to be filed on or before 30 April• Audit reports (where applicable) are to be filed on or before 30 June, or six months after the end of the business year, if the business year of the company differs from the calendar year

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

5	Has the deadline to publish the 2019 annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Following deadlines are applicable in Bosnia and Herzegovina: RS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual set of financial reports and statements are to be filed not later than last day in February for the previous year• Consolidated financial reports are to be filed until 30 April for the previous year• Audit reports (where applicable) are to be filed until the end of the end of June of the current year for the previous year BD: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual set of financial reports and statements are to be filed within 60 days of the end of the previous business year• Semi-annual reports are to be filed until 31 July of the current year• Consolidated financial reports are to be filed within 60 days upon finalization of the previous year• Audit reports (where applicable) are to be filed until the end of the current year for the previous year
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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Exclusively for publicly-held companies registered in category A with Brazilian Securities Commission - CVM and authorized to trade shares in the stock exchange.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes. Right extended to other types of companies.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	E-Signature / digital signature is permissible. The signatures must be made with a digital certificate issued by an entity accredited by ICP-Brasil, or with any other means to prove authorship and integrity of the documents in electronic format.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes, it was a temporary measure.</p> <p>Note that for the 2020 accounts, the deadline reverts to the usual statutory time frame i.e., the Annual General Meeting shall be held within the first four months after the end of the company's financial year (<i>exercício social</i>).</p>
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes, it was a temporary measure.</p> <p>The deadline to hold the Annual General Meeting was postponed.</p> <p>Note that for the 2020 accounts, the deadline reverts to the usual statutory time frame i.e., all applicable documents must be published at least five days before the date of the scheduled AGM.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>As no legislative changes related to the execution of general meetings and board meetings have taken place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, general rules shall apply.</p> <p>In Bulgaria, AGMs are held remotely if agreed in the Articles of Association, or if all shareholders have stated in writing their consent for this in the minutes of resolutions. This applies to both LLCs and JSCs. The same rule applies also to board meetings.</p>
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Same as Q1.</p> <p>If provided in the Articles of Association or if all shareholders have stated in writing their consent for this in the minutes of resolutions.</p>
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	<p>As mentioned in Q2(a), it is neither permanent, nor temporary measure, but a general rule, applicable before the COVID-19 pandemic. Both shareholders and board meetings may be held remotely if the requirements for execution of such resolutions have been met.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature partially permissible.</p> <p>Bulgarian legislation recognizes both "wet ink" and qualified electronic signatures as feasible for manifesting the will of a person. However, from a technical perspective, some Bulgarian authorities, i.e., Commercial Register and Property Register, may not have the technical capability to read qualified electronic documents, and therefore, may refuse to accept electronically signed documents.</p>
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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes, it was a temporary measure. The deadline to hold the AGM for adoption of the Annual Financial Statement for 2020 was extended from 30 June 2021 to 30 September 2021. The term for holding a general meeting for adoption of the Annual Financial Statement coincides with the deadline for its submission to the Commercial Register.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes, it was a temporary measure. Documents related to the annual compliance of a company include the Annual Activity Report, the Annual Tax Return and the Annual Financial Statement. Terms for publishing these documents have been extended, as a temporary measure applicable only for 2020 reporting, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual Activity Report: Deadline for submission to the National Statistics Institute has been extended from 31 March 2021 until 30 June 2021• Annual Tax Return: Deadline for submission to the National Revenue Agency has been extended from 31 March 2021 until 30 June 2021• Annual Financial Statement: Deadline for submission to the Commercial Register has been extended from 30 June 2021 to 30 September 2021

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - the option was provided by the law; Yes - if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	E-Signature / digital signature permissible.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. These are typically completed by way of resolutions six months following the financial year ended date.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. There are no changes to corporate annual report filing deadlines due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	<p>Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>Yes - the option was provided by the law; Yes - if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution. This was usual for board meetings, but the Chilean regulator (equivalent to the US Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC) issued specific regulations concerning remote shareholders' meetings after the pandemic.</p>
2(a)	<p>Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>Same as Q1.</p>
2(b)	<p>If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?</p>	<p>It is a permanent measure.</p>
3	<p>Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature partially permissible. Scanned, hand-written signatures are generally acceptable, but when the minutes must be executed into a public deed (such as a board meeting that grants powers of attorney or shareholders' meeting that amends company by-laws), then the Notaries Public may request an advanced digital signature (contemplated by local statute).</p>

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The annual meeting must be held in the first quarter after the financial year end. The Chilean SEC issued a special regulation, whereby corporations may request its postponement in 2020. There are no rulings issued for 2021.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The reports required to be submitted by 31 March 2020 were postponed by an additional 15 days. The company boards may have requested additional time if they had justified grounds to do so. However, reports related to 2020 accounts were not postponed.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution. There is no specific provisions in the Company Law for the methods of holding the annual shareholders' meeting or board meetings. Therefore, if complying with the company's Articles of Association, it is understood that the meeting could be remotely held.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	"Wet ink" signature only. Such meeting resolutions shall be executed in "wet ink".

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. With respect to 2020 annual accounts, the local tax authorities have not extended the monthly tax filing due date after 30 June 2020.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - the option was provided by the law; Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	E-Signature / digital signature permissible. Digital signature permissible for electronic minutes books, duly registered before the Chamber of Commerce. The electronic signature must be obtained via a certified agent.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. In general, the meeting must be held within the first quarter of the financial year (calendar year). If the meeting is not held during such time, the shareholders may meet in their own right, on the first business day of the month of April, at 10 a.m., in the office of the main domicile, where the administration of the company takes place.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. Depending on the level of scrutiny, companies shall file their annual financial statements before the Chamber of Commerce or the Office of the Superintendency of Companies: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Filings with the Chamber of Commerce: The documents must be filed within the following month to the date of the approval of the financial statements• Filings with the Office of the Superintendency of Companies: The documents must be filed in accordance with the deadlines established every year for that purpose

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - only if provided that the by-laws/constitution of the company does not prohibit remote shareholders' meetings.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - only if provided that the by-laws/constitution of the company does not prohibit remote shareholders' meetings.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.
3	<p>Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature partially permissible.</p> <p>E-signatures can only be used in shareholders' meetings minutes of companies that have their legal minutes books in digital format.</p> <p>If the company has physical books, the signatures must be original, i.e., "wet ink". At the moment, the only certified and valid electronic signature certificates in Costa Rica are those issued by the Central Bank of Costa Rica.</p>

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. A new reform has been recently passed amending the closing date of the fiscal year in Costa Rica to 31 December. Therefore, the law stipulates an AGM must be held within three months from the closing date.
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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>No.</p> <p>In general, companies are not required to file their financial statements unless expressly requested by the Tax Authorities in the case of an audit.</p> <p>However, companies classified by the Tax Authorities as National Large Taxpayers or Large Territorial Companies have the obligation to produce audited financial statements. In this regard, the audited financial statements should be submitted to the Tax Authorities only upon their request and the company should file them within three months after such request.</p> <p>In addition, National Large Taxpayers are required to update their relevant tax information using a web-based platform called "AMPO" within one month from the end of their fiscal year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deadline to submit annual informative statements to Tax Authority: 28 February of each year. Please note that there are also non-binding monthly returns that may be applicable• Deadline to submit annual income statement to Tax Authority: Within two months and 15 calendar days from closing date (15 March of each year) <p>On the other hand, companies that are supervised by a regulator (e.g., SUGEF) are required to file their financial information in accordance with the requirements and terms set out by each regulator.</p>
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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes. The Cyprus Companies Law, Cap.113 provides that resolutions of the board of directors or the shareholders of a Cyprus company could be in writing in lieu of a duly convened meeting of the board of directors' or of the shareholders', provided that the Articles of Association allow such resolution in writing. Furthermore, it expressly provides that meetings may be held via electronic means.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes. As referred in Q1, as this was a usual practice before the COVID-19 pandemic, remote meetings (meetings via electronic means or resolutions in writing) can be held irrespective of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature permissible.</p> <p>Sec. 9 of the Implementation of the Regulation 910/2014 regarding the Electronic Identification and Trust Services for Electronic Transactions in the Internal Market, repealing Directive 1999/93/EC Law of 2018(55(I)2018), states that an electronic signature, as defined in Art. 3 of Regulation (EE) 910/2014 of 23 July 2014, shall be accepted as admissible evidence in any criminal or civil procedure before a Court and/or an administrative body and shall have the same legal effect as a "wet-ink" signature.</p> <p>Both scanned, hand-written signatures and qualified e-signatures as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 are acceptable.</p>
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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>No.</p> <p>As per the Cyprus Companies Law, Cap. 113, provides that an AGM can be convened up to 15 months, either via electronic means or by distance; The Law has not been amended in any way to approve the postponement of holding the AGM of the shareholders of a Cyprus company.</p> <p>What has been amended is the deadline to file the company's Annual Return with the Registrar of Companies, after which a fine is imposed. The Registrar of Companies has suspended the imposition of a penalty with regards to late filings until 1 June 2021.</p>
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>No.</p> <p>The submission deadline for the Annual Returns form of a Cyprus company has not been changed as such. However, the period of compliance provided by the Cyprus Registrar of Companies within which companies should submit their Annual Returns form without incurring a fine has been extended as per comments in Q4.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.</p> <p>Adoption of per rollam written resolutions is normally possible for LLCs (unless disallowed by the memorandum of association). For JSCs per rollam written resolutions are possible only if specifically allowed in the articles of association.</p> <p>Any truly remote meetings (e.g. by videoconference) which would result in a resolution being adopted are allowed only to the extent stipulated in the company's constitutional documents.</p>
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Until 30 June 2021, remote shareholders' and remote board meetings may be held and decisions may be made outside the meetings, in writing or by technological means, even if the company's by-laws/constitution do not permit it.</p>
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	<p>It is a temporary measure.</p> <p>The exception under Q2(a) will last until 30 June 2021 (currently, there are no legislative proposals that will extend this period).</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature partially permissible.</p> <p>For resolutions which are to be submitted to Czech public authorities, a qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services may be used, although in practice this is not often used. For example, the Registry Courts' clerks are still not comfortable working with such documents.</p> <p>This does not apply to shareholder resolutions, which require the legal form of a notarial deed to be adopted, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any changes to the company's constitutional document• Changes to registered capital• Changes to the number, type or rights connected to shares• Liquidation of the company or participation in any company transformation (merger, spin-off, etc)
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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The AGM to discuss the 2020 accounts shall be held as usual no later than six months from the closing day, e.g. no later than 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The annual accounts have to be published within 30 days from being approved by the AGM. As the deadline for holding the AGM has not been postponed (Please refer to comments provided in Q4), the 30-day publishing period applies.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shareholders' meeting: Fully electronic shareholders' meetings i.e., no physical meeting, are allowed if resolved by a shareholders' meeting and the resolution is reflected in the by-laws/articles of association.• Board meeting: The board can always choose to hold their meetings if such procedure is compatible with the performance of duties of the board of directors. However, any member of the board may demand oral/in-person discussions.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, fully electronic shareholders' meetings, i.e., no physical meeting, may be held even if not provided for in the company's by-laws/Articles of Association</p>
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	<p>It is a temporary measure.</p> <p>After expiry of the temporary measures, the rules described in comments under Q1 will come into force again.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?

(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))

E-Signature / digital signature permissible

E-signature:

The Danish Business Authority generally accepts the use of e-signature if the program used requires a personal login, which ensures that the e-signature can be linked directly to the individual signing. As a result, it is a requirement that the 'person behind the desktop' is authenticated.

In Denmark, digital signing will require that the relevant e-signature program applies login via the national identification system, NemID.

In non-Danish countries, digital signing will require that the relevant e-signature program has a security level in compliance with the OCES standard, qualified certificates or higher. A unique reference for the digital signature must appear on the signed documents, so that it is possible to validate the digital signature.

The Danish Business Authority has confirmed that certain e-signature tools have now been approved.

Scanned, hand-written signature:

A scan of a written signature is permissible.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>The management of Danish businesses whose deadline for submitting annual accounts has been postponed (Please refer to comments provided in Q5) may deviate from relevant deadlines.</p> <p>This includes deadlines stated in the company's articles of association for convening and holding an AGM (or equivalent) at which the annual report is adopted.</p> <p>The AGM must be held in due time to submit the annual reports within the (postponed) deadlines.</p>
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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes, the deadline for filing the annual accounts has been extended to 30 June 2021 for the following entities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Danish businesses, (accounting class B and C, i.e., excluding listed and state-owned public limited companies), whose financial year ended on 31 December 2020• Branches of non-Danish companies whose financial year ended on 31 December 2020 <p>The general extension of one month can be further prolonged to three months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the event of material non-Danish activities, and where it is impossible or unreasonably difficult for the company to meet the deadline• In event that a Danish parent company may submit its foreign parent company's consolidated report for the group and the deadline to submit the consolidated report has been postponed in the foreign parent company's home country due to the COVID-19 pandemic• If due to a ban on gatherings, it is not possible to hold the general meeting in person, and due to exceptional characteristics of the shareholders, it cannot be deemed responsible to remotely hold an electronic general meeting (in full or part) <p>The three month extension also applies to listed and state-owned public limited companies, whose financial year ended on 31 January 2021.</p> <p>The Danish Business Authority must be notified in advance (specific deadlines apply) in case of a prolonged extension.</p>
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Dominican Republic

- Contact: Julio Muñoz Rodríguez
- Last Updated: 7 June 2021

Question

Response

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - the option was provided by the law; Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution If desired, a notary can be invited and prepare an authentic act or minute as a way to strength the legally binding nature of the meeting.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Same as Q1.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	E-Signature / digital signature is permissible. "Scanned hand written signatures" and "electronic signatures" can be used as long as the user is present remotely by any mean that allows the simultaneous communication with the people present, such as videoconferencing, conference calling, etc. If the person is physically present at the moment, they shall use a "wet ink" signature. Digital signature is a qualified signature certificated with a digital certification provided by an authorized entity.

Dominican Republic

- Contact: Julio Muñoz Rodríguez
- Last Updated: 7 June 2021

Question

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes, but the temporary postponement period has now concluded and the authorities have resumed usual timelines for the necessary activities and obligations.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes, but the temporary postponement period has now concluded and the authorities have resumed usual timelines for the necessary activities and obligations.</p> <p>Dominican Law doesn't require private sector companies to publish such documents.</p> <p>However, financial sector participants and securities market listed companies must publish in a national circulation newspaper the annual financial statements duly certified according to applicable regulations of each sub-sector.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	<p>Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>Yes - the option was provided by the law; Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution. The General Shareholder's meeting shall be recorded (audio).</p>
2(a)	<p>Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>Same as Q1. Yes, and it has to comply with all the legal requirements such as the previous meeting notice.</p>
2(b)	<p>If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?</p>	<p>The options were previously covered by regulations in force.</p>
3	<p>Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature partially permissible. The regulations in force do not provide for this type of signature to be incorporated in the General Shareholder's minutes. Nevertheless, this could be applied to this documents. Electronic signature in accordance with the E-Commerce Law requires signatures to contain a "Data message", which is attached to, or logically associated with, the signature and which may be used to identify the signatory by reference to the Data message, and to indicate the signatory's approval and acknowledgement of the information contained in the data message.</p>

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The AGM may be held via video conferencing.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes. The deadline has been postponed until 31 May 2021. Please refer to comments in Q4.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. This modality was only permitted for the Board of Directors of any Salvadoran company (Art. 258 Commercial Code).
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes. Legislative Decree No. 643, issued as a temporary law, allowed shareholders' meetings to be held remotely.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	Yes, it is temporary which was in force until 30 June 2020.
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	"Wet ink" signature only. Even though the temporary law mentioned in Q2(b) establishes the possibility of holding shareholders' meetings (annual or periodical) remotely, the corresponding documents, such as minutes and certifications to be issued, must contain the original signatures of the attendees.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. In El Salvador, all previous years' accounts must be approved within the first five months of the following year by a General Shareholders meeting.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes. The amendments to the Commercial Code and the General Part of Civil Code Act entered into force on 24 May 2020.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	E-Signature / digital signature is permissible. Qualified e-signature as defined by the Commercial Code and the General Part of Civil Code Act. An e-signature shall be given in a manner which allows the signature to be associated with the content of the document, the person signing the document and the time of the document.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The annual report that is filed at the Commercial Register must be previously approved by the shareholders. Please refer to comments provided in Q5.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The usual deadlines for submitting the annual report will apply, i.e., six months after the end of the financial year. Please note, all legal entities whose financial year ended on 31 December 2020 have an obligation to submit an annual report by 30 June 2021 (even if the company was dormant).

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes - the option was provided by the law;</p> <p>Yes - if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.</p> <p>The Finnish Companies Act (FCA) allows participating in the AGMs (i.e., shareholders' meetings) remotely, if the company's Articles of Association (AoA) contains a separate clause allowing this. Even if no such clause is included in the AoA, the Board can decide on the possibility of remote participation, unless this is explicitly prohibited in the company's AoA. Regarding the board meetings, FCA does not include any rules on the place or method of holding a Board Meeting. Therefore, as a general rule board meetings can be held remotely, if so decided by the Board members.</p>
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The FCA has been temporarily amended so that listed companies can also hold their AGMs remotely, and allow the shareholders to vote remotely or vote in advance.</p> <p>However, a listed company shall organize an additional physical meeting, since there are several provisions in the FCA and other legislation the application of which is subject to the date of the AGM. Therefore, the AGM of a listed company may be organized entirely so that only the chairman, secretary and, depending on the company's voting method, the vote counters would participate in the physical meeting, with all other participants joining remotely.</p> <p>Additional extension of the temporary legislation was approved by the Finnish Parliament at the end of the September 2020. The temporary amendments to the FCA and other similar acts (e.g. Co-operatives Act) permitting remote meetings shall remain in force until 30 June 2021. Further extension of the temporary legislation is also being considered, which would (if passed) extend the status quo until 30 June 2022.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>2(b) If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?</p>	<p>It is a temporary measure. The temporary legislation is valid until 30 June 2021. An extension of the temporary legislation is currently under preparation. If approved, the temporary legislation shall be valid until 30 June 2022.</p>
<p>3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature is permissible. E-signature added by using an electronic signature provider is accepted, and also scanned hand written signature is accepted.</p>

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The government's proposal for extending the temporary legislation postponing the deadline for holding an AGM is before the Finnish Parliament. According to the proposal, the new deadline for holding an AGM will be by the end of September 2021 for companies whose financial period ended between 30 September 2020 and 31 March 2021.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. If the extension of the temporary legislation regarding the AGM 2021 deadline (referred to in Q4) is passed, the deadline for submitting the financial accounts to Finnish Trade Register will be 30 November 2021 at the latest.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes the option was provided by law but it is applicable only if provided for in the company's by-laws/constitution.</p> <p>Shareholder meetings: Please note that specific rules may apply depending on the form of the company:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simplified JSC (<i>société par actions simplifiée</i>): Remote shareholders meetings are possible, provided it be explicitly authorized by the by-laws (Art. L.227-9 alinea 1 of the French Commercial Code)• JSCs (<i>société anonyme</i>): The participation in shareholders' meetings by means of telecommunication is possible, provided it has been explicitly authorized in the by-laws (Art. L.225-107 II of the French Commercial Code). Moreover, for non-listed companies, the company's by-laws can specify that all the deliberations of the ordinary and extraordinary general meetings are exclusively authorized by videoconference or by means of telecommunication (Art. L.225-103-1 of the French Commercial Code)• LLCs (<i>société à responsabilité limitée</i>): The participation in a partners' meetings by means of telecommunication is possible (except for the approval of annual accounts), provided it be explicitly authorized in the by-laws. Moreover, except in a few cases, the company's by-laws can specify the terms and conditions of a written consultation of the partners (Art. L.223-27 of the French Commercial Code)
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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic? <i>(Continued)</i>	Board meetings: Please note specific rules may apply depending on the form of the company. For instance, for JSCs, pursuant to Art. L. 225-37 of the French Commercial Code, if the by-laws do not prohibit the participation in meetings of the board of directors by videoconference or other means of telecommunication, the internal regulations may provide for this possibility. This rule does not apply to the finalization of annual accounts. In addition, since the adoption of the Law No. 2019-744 of 19 July 2019, certain decisions specified in the company's by-laws can be made via written consultation of the board of directors.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes. On 25 March 2020, the French government adopted Ordinance No. 2020-321, amending the rules regarding shareholders' meetings and board meetings to address such concerns. The Ordinance was supplemented by Decree No. 2020-418 of 10 April 2020. The Ordinance and the Decree were extended and modified by Ordinance No. 2020-1497 of 2 December 2020 and Decree No. 2020-1614 of 18 December 2020.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

2(a) Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?

The Ordinance allows for any type of company, shareholders' meetings to be held behind closed doors if "at the date of the convocation of the meeting or of the meeting, an administrative measure limiting or prohibiting movement or collective gatherings for health reasons obstructs the physical presence at the assembly of its members." In such case, shareholders may participate or vote using means provided for by the rules governing the concerned company (e.g. distance voting) as modified or completed by the Ordinance. Moreover, for listed companies, the Ordinance reinforces shareholders' rights, notably by permitting live broadcasts and deferred replay of shareholders' meetings behind closed doors, increasing the obligations to provide information to shareholders, and publishing written questions and answers on the company website.

Further, for shareholders' meetings and board meetings, members participating through a conference call or audio-visual conference, as long as it is possible to identify them, are deemed to be attending the meetings, irrespective of the subject matter of any decision on which the meeting shall deliberate. This rule applies regardless of the applicable provisions of the articles of the by-laws.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

2(a) Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?

The written consultation of board meetings may also be envisaged. The law specifies that there is no requirement for the company's constitution/by-laws to grant or prevent such consultation. This possibility of written consultation is granted irrespective of the purpose of the decision.

The written consultation of shareholder meetings may also be envisaged. The law specifies that there is no requirement for the company's constitution/by-laws to grant or prevent such consultation. This possibility of written consultation is granted irrespective of the purpose of the decision. Initially this option to consult the shareholders in writing was reserved only for the corporate forms expressly authorized by the French common law for written consultations. Since Ordinance No. 2020-1497 of 2 December 2020, this option has been extended to all corporate forms except listed companies.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

2(b) If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	This is a temporary measure which was initially applicable until 31 July 2020. The period of application was extended, by Decree No. 2020-925 of 29 July 2020, until 30 November 2020. The measure has since been extended twice. The latest decree, Decree No. 2021-255 of 9 March 2021, extended the application of these measures for board meetings and shareholder meetings to be held on or before 31 July 2021.
3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	E-Signature / digital signature permissible. The French Commercial Code provides specific rules when the decision registry and the minutes of board and shareholders meetings are in electronic form (and, also, for JSCs, when shareholders' meetings are exclusively authorized by videoconference or by means of telecommunication). These minutes can be signed through an electronic signature that meet at least the requirements of an advanced electronic signatures (Art. 26 EU Regulation No. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014). In this case, this signature must be electronically dated by means of a timestamp as a guarantee of proof of signature (notably, for LLCs, Articles R.223-24, R.223-26 of the French Commercial Code; For JSCs, Articles R.225-22, R.225-106 of the French Commercial Code; For simplified JSCs, Art. R.227-1-1 of the French Commercial Code).

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4 Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?

No.

In accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-318 of 25 March 2020, the legal, regulatory or statutory period for approving the annual accounts (and the deadline for convening the related general meetings) was extended by three months. However, it should be noted that Ordinance No. 2020-318 has not been extended and does not apply to annual accounts closed for the period ending 31 December 2020.

Please note that according to the French Commercial Code, the corporate officers may petition the President of the Commercial Court for an extension of the six month period to approve the annual accounts (in accordance with Articles L.223-26 of the French Commercial Code for LLCs; Articles L.225-100 I and R.225-64 of the French Commercial Code for JSCs). Consequently, even though Ordinance No. 2020-318 was not extended, it is still possible to request an extension of time to approve the accounts.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. There are no specific measures adopted for the 2020 annual accounts. Please note that the French Commercial Code provides that the annual accounts must be published within a one month period following the approval of the said accounts (Art. L.232-21 et seq. of the French Commercial Code). Consequently, the commencement of the one month publication deadline depends on the prior approval of the accounts.
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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	"Wet ink" signature only. E-signature is not yet allowed in Gabon. However, a project has been approved on 9 October by the Government and it is now pending with the Parliament.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The deadline is 30 June 2021. However, companies are permitted to apply for a postponement of the deadline to the Court, i.e., for the second semester of the year.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. Publication of annual accounts shall take place within a month after the ordinary general meeting. Where the meeting is postponed by the Court, then the publication is also postponed.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - the option was provided by the law. The option was provided only if all the shareholders and/or the board members could sign the resolution with the qualified electronic signature. The exception is the general meeting of the cooperatives, where it shall be certified by a Notary.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - the option was provided by the law.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	E-Signature / digital signature is permissible. The directors/shareholders can sign the resolutions with the qualified electronic signature as defined by the Law of Georgia on Electronic Documents and Electronic Trust Services of 21 April 2017.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The deadline is not set forth by the laws of Georgia. The shareholders' annual meeting shall be held at least once a year.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. In general, an entity is obliged to submit a financial statement not later than 1 October of the year following the reporting period. If the reporting period of an entity does not coincide with the calendar year, it is obliged to submit a statement upon the financial statement's availability, but not later than nine months from the end of the reporting period.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	For the <i>Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung</i> (GmbH) this was already possible in the past, provided that the articles of association contained a corresponding option. For the stock corporation, this is now regulated by law.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	E-Signature/ digital signature partially permissible. These are permitted if not contradicted by the provisions of the statutes.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. AGM needed to approve the Financial Statements within nine months, or 11 months from financial year end.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. Once approved, Financial Statements should be lodged within 12 months from financial year end.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes - only if provided in the company's Articles of Association.</p> <p>For the Board of Directors: according to Art. 90 para 4 L. 4548/2018, if all members of the Board of Directors agree, the meeting can be held with electronic means.</p>
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes, there was a temporary measure that was effective until 28 February 2021 (Legislative Act dated 20 March 2020 Art.33)</p> <p>In addition, L.4712/2020 amended with permanent effect the articles in L.4548/2018 regarding remote shareholders' and board meetings, and effectively:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For board meetings (Art. 90 par. 4 L. 4548/2018), the notice of meeting may provide that the meeting will be held via video conferencing. The meeting may also be held via video conferencing if there is unanimous agreement • For AGMs (Art.120 par.3 L. 4548/2018), these may be held via video conferencing in the following circumstances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If such provision is incorporated in the company's articles of association • If all shareholders agree (even if the relevant provision is not incorporated in the articles of association)
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	Please refer to comments provided in Q2(a).

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

3	<p>Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>"Wet ink" signature only for the originals.</p> <p>According to Art.15 L.4727/2020, public authorities are obliged to accept copies of Board resolutions and Shareholders' resolutions which have been executed in accordance with qualified electronic signature tools.</p>
4	<p>Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>The shareholders' annual general meeting must be held on or before the tenth calendar day of the ninth month after the end of the corporate year in order to approve the relevant financial statements, according to art. 119 of Law 4548/2018 on Société Anonymes.</p> <p>Currently, the competent authorities have not issued any decision regarding its postponement.</p>
5	<p>Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>20 days following the date of the AGM.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution. The law allows remote shareholder and board meetings but only if the by-laws include such provision.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes, they are permitted providing that the company's articles of incorporation allow the use of video conferencing or similar technology to hold shareholders' or board meetings, and also establishes the mechanism to be used to ensure the authenticity of such meetings.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure. Please refer to Q2(a).
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	Original signatures (wet ink) are not required if the by-laws of the company allow the holding of meetings and board sessions via video conferencing or similar technology. Guatemalan law provides for the validity of electronic signatures and advanced electronic signatures (a form of qualified e-signature). It will depend on the company's by-laws to determine which type of e-signature should be used to ensure the integrity of such communications and decisions.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>On 2 April 2020, Decree 12-2020 came into force, which established a suspension of the administrative and legal deadlines for a period of three months. This law was not extended and currently all the deadlines originally established by law are in force.</p> <p>Currently, all stock corporations are required to hold an AGM within four months after the closing of the previous fiscal cycle (i.e., 31 December of each year). Please note that Guatemalan law does not foresee any type of sanction for non-compliance with the said term.</p>
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>On 2 April 2020, Decree 12-2020 came into force, which established a suspension of the administrative and legal deadlines for a period of three months. This law was not extended and currently all the deadlines originally established by law are in force.</p> <p>At present, all financial statement disclosure and accounting reporting requirements are in effect as per their original deadlines.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes - the option was provided by the law;</p> <p>Yes - if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution</p> <p>It is important to verify the by-laws of the company to determine if these types of meetings are valid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The law "<i>Ley para la Generación de Empleo, Fomento a la Iniciativa Empresarial, Formalización de Negocios y Protección a los Derechos de los Inversionistas</i>" allows these type of meetings, but the legal basis of the Company's incorporation must be verified• If they were incorporated under the Commercial Code, it must be reviewed whether the by-laws allow these types of shareholders' and board meetings
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Same as Q1.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>"Wet ink" signature only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For most companies (Companies incorporated under the Commercial Code) the minutes of the Assembly must be inserted in the Company's book and signed by the President and Secretary of the Assembly; the signature must be "wet ink"• Companies incorporated under the Law "<i>Ley para la Generación de Empleo, Fomento a la Iniciativa Empresarial, Formalización de Negocios y Protección a los Derechos de los Inversionistas</i>" may hold these meetings by electronic means and have the obligation to keep electronic backups of all the Assemblies
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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The Shareholders Assembly must be held within four months after the closing of the fiscal year.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	There is no obligation to publish annual accounts.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Subject to specific requirements in a company's Articles of Association, Sec. 584 of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622) (henceforth, CO), expressly permits a company to hold a general meeting at two or more places by using technology that enables members who are not at the same place to listen, speak and vote. However, a general meeting on entirely virtual / remote basis is usually not recommended due to the legal uncertainty. As such, hybrid shareholders' meetings (namely physical meetings together with a form of electronic participating using tele-conferencing, video-conferencing or other electronic means) are allowed.</p> <p>Subject to specific requirements in a company's Articles of Association, board meetings may be held remotely in Hong Kong. Under common law principles, directors may meet by assenting to a document, or by telephone, videoconference, or other electronic means which caters for a meeting of the attendees' minds (Relying on dicta of Tadgell J in the Australian case of Bell & Another v Burton & Others, quoted in The Bank of East Asia Ltd v Labour Buildings Ltd and Others [2008] HKCFI 54).</p>
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Same as Q1.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure. Please refer to comments in Q1.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature is permissible.</p> <p>Subject to the articles of association of a company, board minutes and written resolutions signed using e-signatures will generally be accepted.</p>
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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4 Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No, the deadline to hold an AGM has not been postponed. According to Sec. 610(1) and (4) of the CO, a company must, in respect of each financial year, hold its AGM within the following period: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For a company limited by guarantee or a private company that is not a subsidiary of a public company: Nine months after the end of its accounting reference period• For any other company: Six months after the end of its accounting reference period. AGMs should be held in compliance with the Prevention and Control of Disease (Prohibition on Group Gathering) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulation (Cap. 599G), and if a meeting involves a group gathering of more than 20 persons, they should be separated in different rooms or partitioned areas, each accommodating not more than 20 persons.
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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

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|---|---|
| 5 Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic? | <p>No, the deadline to publish annual accounts and related reports has not been postponed.</p> <p>A listed issuer is required to observe the Listing Rules of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange (HKSE), which include requirements that listed issuers should produce financial statements within six months after financial year end.</p> <p>However, pursuant to the "Further Guidance on the Joint Statement in relation to Results Announcements in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic", and FAQs, released by the Securities and Futures Commission and the HKSE, it has been decided that issuers can make applications for postponement of the publication of their annual report for a reasonable period, if required and subject to the conditions set out in the Joint Statement.</p> <p>For public companies and companies limited by guarantee, an annual return (attaching a certified copy of the financial statements) should be filed six months after the end of the company's accounting reference period.</p> |
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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution. Shareholders and board members can pass resolutions by voting in writing, or via telephone or video conference calls.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution. This is a permanent measure• If not provided in the Company's by-laws/constitution, the management of the company may establish the necessary internal policies for passing shareholders' or board resolutions in writing or via telephone or video conference calls. This is a temporary measure effective until 31 December 2020
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	Please refer to comments in Q2(a).

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

- 3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?
- (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))

E-Signature / digital signature partially permissible.

The use of digital signatures related to corporate documents depends on whether a court procedure is necessary.

- According to the applicable Hungarian rules, one can file documents with the court of registration only if the document has full probative force. A document is only adequate for such purpose if it has a certified electronic signature. A certified electronic signature is defined as a highly secured electronic signature that is made with a secured signing device, and for its authentication a certificate is issued. This certificate may only be issued by service providers that are registered with the National Media and Infocommunications Authority. This Authority publishes a public list of service providers that are qualified to issue such certificates
- The resolutions on approving the financial statement does not need to be filed with the court, therefore, electronic signatures may be used

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Although the deadline set for holding the AGM was modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic last year to 30 September 2020, there is no such possibility for postponement that would be applicable for the financial year 2020 (i.e., 'normal' rules will apply for holding the AGM, hence, the deadline for holding the AGM is the end of the fifth month after the date of closing of the balance sheet).
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Although the deadline set for approving and publishing the 2019 accounts was modified due to the COVID-19 pandemic last year to 30 September 2020, there is no such possibility for postponement that would be applicable for the financial year 2020 (i.e., 'normal' rules will apply for accounts 2020, hence, the deadline for approving and publishing the accounts 2020 is the end of the fifth month after the date of closing of the balance sheet).

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes - the option was provided by the law.</p> <p>Indian law provides for holding remote meetings/ remote voting in the normal scenario (not occasioned by COVID-19 pandemic).</p> <p>Board meetings:</p> <p>Board meetings may be held through video conferencing or other audio visual means. However, certain critical matters such as approval of the annual financial statements and the Board's report cannot be dealt with in these remote meetings.</p> <p>Shareholders' meetings:</p> <p>As regards shareholders meetings, Indian law provides for e-voting as well as voting by postal ballot for certain categories of companies, such as listed companies, for specified matters. However, there is no specific provision under Indian law for conducting members meetings through videoconferencing or other audio visual means.</p>
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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

2(a)	<p>Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Board meetings: The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has amended the law to prescribe that matters which are otherwise restricted (such as approval of annual accounts) were able to be dealt with in board meetings held through videoconferencing or other audio-visual means on or before 30 June 2021.</p> <p>Shareholders' meetings: The MCA has issued circulars permitting the use of videoconferencing and other audio-visual means for conducting shareholders' meetings. These circulars, dated 8 April 2020, 13 April 2020, 15 June 2020, 28 September 2020, 31 December 2020 and 13 January 2021 set out the framework and requirements for carrying out meetings in this manner.</p>
2(b)	<p>If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?</p>	<p>It is a temporary measure.</p> <p>While this relaxation was previously only valid until 31 December 2020, the MCA has, in its circular dated 31 December 2020, extended the relaxation until 30 June 2021.</p>
3	<p>Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature is permissible.</p> <p>Under Indian law, individual resolutions are not required to be signed by the members/directors. It is the minutes of meeting that are required to be signed by the chairman of the meeting. Indian law prescribes that where the minutes of the meeting are being maintained in electronic form, they may be digitally signed by the chairman.</p>

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. No such relaxation has been granted. For companies whose financial year ends on 31 March 2021, the annual general meeting is required to be held by 30 September 2021.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. No such relaxation has been granted.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Board Meetings:</p> <p>The Companies Act 2014 facilitates the participation of directors' meetings by telephone, video or other electronic means. This is usually expressly provided for in the company's constitution. All participants must be able to hear other directors and to speak at such meetings. A director taking part in the meeting shall be entitled to vote and will be counted in the quorum.</p> <p>When determining the location of such a meeting, the Act states that the meeting occurs at the place where the largest group of those participating is assembled or, if there is no such group as will likely be the case, where the chairperson is situated. If neither such situation applies, the meeting may determine the location for itself.</p> <p>Shareholder Meetings:</p> <p>Temporary legislation has been enacted to enable companies to safely administer their AGMs during the pandemic, applicable until 9 June 2021.</p>
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Please refer to comments provided in Q1.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>2(b) If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?</p>	<p>Shareholder Meetings: Please refer to comments provided in Q1. Other provisions introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic may be adopted on a more permanent basis.</p> <p>For the majority of private limited companies, the provisions regarding countersigning resolutions and convening of telephone or teleconference meetings were already in place for directors' meetings and shareholder meetings.</p>
<p>3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature/digital signature permissible.</p> <p>This is a matter of internal governance practices at each company. However, e-signatures are permitted and there is no prescribed local legislation on the format or type. Resolutions of the board and shareholders are internal documents and must be maintained in the company minute book. The minute book is only accessible to a select number of individuals, all of which have a legal relationship with the company (i.e., directors, shareholders, auditors).</p>

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>No.</p> <p>In Ireland, shareholders do not approve the annual accounts. The annual accounts are approved by the Board. There is currently no extension for companies with financial years which ended on 31 December 2020.</p> <p>Please note: The Companies (Miscellaneous Provisions) (COVID-19) Act 2020 has amended the Companies Act 2014 for an interim period ending on 9 June 2021 (unless further extended). A company may hold its 2020 AGM (for the financial year ended 31 December 2019) at any time before 9 June 2021.</p> <p>The AGM will not be determined as being held late if held either, after nine months has elapsed since the year end or 15 months has elapsed since holding the last AGM, provided it is held before 9 June 2021. This applies to all companies who cannot dispense with holding their AGM. It is of particular relevance to Public Limited Companies.</p>
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes, companies with an Annual Return Date of 30 September 2020 (i.e., a financial year end of 31 December 2019) have an extension to file the Annual Return and Financial Statements on or before 28 May 2021.</p> <p>There is currently no extension for companies with financial years which ended on 31 December 2020.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes. Art. 106 of Legislative Decree 18/2020, as amended by Legislative Decree no. 183/2020, envisages the possibility of expressing the vote electronically or by correspondence as well as attending the meeting via video conferencing, without the chairman or secretary of the meeting being in the same place.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a temporary measure. In particular, at this time the provision applies for those meetings to be held on or before 31 July 2021.
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	E-Signature / digital signature partially permissible. Where the entity is a Società a Responsabilità Limitata (SRL), a decision can be taken in writing, if permitted under by-laws, and in any case during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore it appears that e-signature can be used. As this measure is available during COVID-19 pandemic, E-signature is partially permissible.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes, it is a temporary measure.</p> <p>The term has been extended to 180 days from the closing date of annual accounts. This is usually only possible for serious exceptions to the general rule which is, that accounts must be filed within 120 days from closing.</p> <p>Therefore, the financial statements closing on 31 December 2020 can be approved by the AGM within the extended term of up to or including 29 June 2021 (i.e., 180 days from closing date), instead of 29 April 2021.</p>
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>No.</p> <p>The deadline remains unchanged, i.e., 30 days from approval, as usual (but approval has been postponed).</p> <p>For example financial statements closing on 31 December 2020 which were approved by the AGM on 29 June 2021 must be filed with the Register of Companies on or before 29 July 2021 (i.e., within 30 days).</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - both were allowed under law.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - both can be held under law.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.
3	<p>Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	Digital seals/e-signatures are permissible but some documents (e.g., documents for appointment of a representative director) require that the digital seal/e-signature to be certified by government authorities, and other documents (e.g., minutes of meeting of the board of directors) require that the digital seal/e-signature to satisfy the requirements under the Companies Act and other relevant laws and regulations.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

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4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	The time for holding the annual shareholders meeting is generally provided in the articles of incorporation of the company. The Ministry of Justice has expressed the view that if the annual shareholders meeting cannot be held by the time specified due to special circumstances (such as the COVID-19 pandemic), then the shareholders meeting may be held within a reasonable period after such special circumstances are resolved.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	The financial statements of the company must be published without delay after the annual shareholders' meeting.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.</p> <p>Pursuant to the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan "on limited liability partnerships" (LLPs), the decision of GMP can be adopted without holding a meeting by absentee voting. GMP in absentia is not entitled to make decisions on the issues related to the exclusive GMP competence, such as amending the Charter, decision on the reorganization or liquidation and decision on pledge of all property of the partnership.</p> <p>For JSCs, decisions of the general meeting of shareholders may also be taken by absentee voting. However, the Charter of the company, with the exception of public companies, may prohibit the adoption of decisions by absentee voting on all or certain issues.</p> <p>Other collective management bodies (Supervisory Board and Executive Management Board) in both LLPs and JSCs may hold meetings in the form prescribed by their charters and internal regulations. The law does not prescribe the form of the meeting.</p>
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.</p> <p>No specific regulation. General regulations as described in Q1 should apply.</p>
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature is permissible.</p> <p>An electronic digital signature is equivalent to a handwritten signature and has the same legal consequences if it meets the requirements of the law. However, despite the fact that Kazakhstan provides electronic signing in the framework of certain document exchanges, it is rarely used in practice.</p> <p>Please also note that, the electronic signature of foreign persons must comply with the requirements of the law for its recognition in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan.</p>
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(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. LLP: Pursuant to the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, a meeting devoted to approving the annual financial statements of a LLP shall be held no later than three months after the end of the reporting financial year. JSC: The AGM must be held within five months of the end of the financial year. This period can be extended to three months if it is impossible to complete the company's audit for the reporting period.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. Pursuant to the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, JSCs and financial organizations (with the exception of banking and insurance holdings) shall submit their approved annual financial statements to the Depository and publish it in the Mass media no later than 31 August of the year following the reporting year.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	No, remote shareholders' meetings were not allowed. The conduct of board meetings is not directly regulated by the Commercial Law.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes. Regulation for remote shareholders' meetings has been introduced into the Commercial law and the said law does not prohibit remote board meetings.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	E-Signature/digital signature is permissible but one needs to prove acceptance. Requirements for e-signature/digital signature: In the circulation of electronic documents between State and local government institutions or between these institutions and natural persons and legal persons, an electronic document shall be considered to be duly signed if it has a secure electronic signature (a qualified electronic signature within the meaning of Art. 3(12) of Regulation No 910/2014/EU) and time stamp, unless agreed otherwise. If agreed, this requirement may be applicable to other company relationships such as with commercial partners or stakeholders.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes. For the financial year 2020, the deadline for holding the shareholders' meeting has also been extended by three months, until 30 June 2021. The applicable law does not provide for a deadline to hold the AGM, however the annual accounts and statements for a reporting year should be submitted to the State Revenue Service no later than one month after they have been approved in the AGM.
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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

5 Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes. For the financial year 2020, the deadline has also been extended by three months, until 30 June 2021, depending on the size of the entity (e.g., small, medium, large). Depending also on the legal formation of the entity and the determined reporting period for the financial year, the reporting entity must submit the financial statements to the State Revenue Service via the Electronic Declaration System, together with an explanation as to when those financial statements have been approved, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For small entities: No later than one month after approval of the annual accounts and not later than four months after the end of the reporting year• For medium-sized entities, large entities and parent entities of a group of companies, which prepare a consolidated annual statement: No later than seven months after the end of the reporting year Therefore the usual deadlines have been extended by three months for reporting year 2020.
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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - the option was provided by the law.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.
3	<p>Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature is permissible.</p> <p>Qualified electronic signatures:</p> <p>Qualified E-signature is defined by EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services.</p> <p>Electronic signatures that do not meet the requirements for qualified electronic signatures are not permitted unless the use of such signatures has been agreed in advance.</p>

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>No.</p> <p>Under the Law on Companies, a LLC may allow shareholders to attend the general meeting and to vote by means of electronic communications.</p> <p>Annual financial statements of LLCs must be approved by shareholders no later than within four months of the end of the company's financial year and filed with the Register of Legal Entities no later than within 30 days from approval.</p> <p>For example, if the financial year of an entity corresponds to the calendar year, its annual financial statements should be approved no later than by the end of April and filed no later than by the end of May the following year.</p>
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine conditions, some legal entities may face difficulties in approving and submitting financial statements for 2019. The Register of Legal Entities has announced that this year financial reporting will be assessed flexibly and taking into account objective reasons which may prevent businesses and organizations from timely reporting.</p> <p>Late financial reports will be accepted as well. During this period, the Register of Legal Entities will not apply penalties set out by law. It will not start drawing up protocols of administrative offences and will not initiate procedures for revoking the status of a beneficiary.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes. Presently remote meetings are permitted irrespective of the provisions in the by-laws.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a temporary measure which currently was extended until 30 June 2021 by the Law of 25 November 2020. A new draft law is currently under discussion. If approved, it will extend the application of the temporary measure until 31 December 2021. The extension is limited to the manner in which meetings are held. The new law does not provide an extension for the deadline to approve and publish the annual accounts. Please refer to comments in Q4.
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	E-Signature / digital signature is permissible. The qualified E-signature (as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014) may be used and is recommended. Any other type of electronic/ digital signature is also accepted for corporate documents. However, in this case the signature lacks authenticity given its nature, meaning that if such signature is challenged, the burden of proof will be on the person claiming under this signature to prove authenticity (e.g. copy-paste of a hand written signature).

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>No.</p> <p>There are no draft laws or official press statements announcing a postponement of the deadline corresponding to the 2021 obligations.</p> <p>Therefore, for companies whose financial year ended on 31 December 2020, the last day to approve the annual accounts will be 30 June 2021.</p>
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>No.</p> <p>There are no draft laws or official press statements announcing a postponement of the deadline corresponding to the 2021 obligations.</p> <p>Therefore, for companies with financial years that ended on 31 December 2020, the deadline for the filing and publication of the annual accounts, consolidated accounts and related reports will be 31 July 2021.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Not specifically provided in Law, but resolutions can be adopted by the shareholders or board through unanimous resolutions in lieu of a meeting and such provision must be included in the current by-laws of the company.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Same as Q1. No specific provisions were issued to allow remote meetings.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	Not applicable.
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	Various signature types, including "wet ink", e-signature and digital signature are customarily used. E-signatures must comply with the requirements set out in the Federal Commercial Code and the Mexican official normative NOM-151-SCFI-2016 on the preservation of electronic data communications and document digitalization.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The deadline for holding the annual shareholders' meeting applicable only for public companies is 30 April 2021.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. Please refer to comment provided in Q4.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Shareholders' meetings: No, participation in a general meeting of a company in an electronic manner is only partially possible and only when the Articles of Association facilitate this. It is required that a physical general meeting is convened, meaning that shareholders must have the possibility to physically attend such meeting at a certain location. Also, the board of directors must physically be present. Board meetings: Yes, board meetings may be held by electronic means as Dutch corporate law does not prescribe a specific form to hold said meetings.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a temporary measure.
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	E-Signature / digital signature is permissible. Dutch law does not provide specific requirements relating to signatures on board and shareholder resolutions. Pursuant to Dutch law, qualified E-signatures and scanned hand written signatures are permissible.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes. The Temporary Emergency Legislation enables an extension to prepare the annual accounts up to five months (for a private LLC) by the board of directors. Normally, this extension of a maximum five months is resolved upon by the general meeting and not the board of directors. If said board makes use of this possibility, the general meeting cannot grant any additional extension on top of the five months extension decided upon by the board of directors.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The annual accounts must be filed within 12 months after the end of the financial year, regardless of whether the annual accounts have been actually adopted. The Temporary Emergency Legislation does not postpone this term. Not meeting this filing deadline could lead to directors' liability, but the Temporary Emergency Legislation does stipulate that the board of directors will not be held liable solely on the basis of not meeting the ultimate annual accounts filing deadline if this is due to a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	By default under the Companies Act 1993, both shareholders' and board meetings can be held remotely by video / audio conference. However, that position can be varied by the company's constitution.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>The New Zealand government introduced relief provisions (the COVID-19 Response (Requirements For Entities–Modifications and Exemptions) Act 2020) that allowed certain activities, including calling, holding and voting at meetings, to be done by electronic means where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A company's constitution or rules does not permit the activities to be done electronically or it was unclear as to whether it was permitted; and• It was not reasonably practical to do the activities by non-electronic means due to COVID-19 pandemic. <p>A company relying on the exemption was required to notify the Registrar of Companies.</p>
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	<p>It was a temporary measure.</p> <p>The measures applied for a period from 21 March 2020 to 31 March 2021.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?

(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))

E-Signature / digital signature is permissible.

For documents that are submitted to the Companies Office, electronic signatures may be used if the filing is made online.

A standard for electronic signatures requires that:

- The means of creating the electronic signature must be linked to the signatory, or other authorized person, and to no other person
- An electronic signature must also verify that the information was submitted by a known customer, or other authorized person, that the customer cannot deny having affirmed the document or information provided to the Companies Office, and that the document or information was not altered in transit

The Companies Office will generally reject a document:

- With signatures that have been cut and pasted, or created using a touch screen
- If the document did not capture authentication or time and source details upon application of the electronic signature (when using software), or was modified after an electronic signature was applied

However, the Companies Office has softened that position slightly under an interim guidance where a person is unable to submit a compliant signature due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The interim guidance enables the use of alternative documentation to verify the identity of the signatory and the authenticity of the signature.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. No change has been made to the general requirement to call an annual meeting of shareholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not later than six months after the balance date of the company• Not later than 15 months after the previous annual meeting
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes. Exemptions were granted by the Registrar of Companies to ease compliance obligations on companies, overseas companies, and their administrators, where they were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The exemptions relaxed requirements in regard to a range of procedural and administrative matters in the Companies Act, and applied to acts or omissions during the period 21 March 2020 to 31 March 2021. This provision has now expired. An exemption has been passed giving Financial Market Conduct (FMC) reporting entities (which includes entities that have made public offers of securities, registered banks and insurers) a two month extension to the usual period of four months from the entity's balance date for complying with financial reporting duties. A waiver has also been issued by the New Zealand Exchange (NZX) to give listed issuers an additional 30 days to prepare and release results announcements and an additional two months to prepare and release annual reports.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	E-Signature / digital signature partially permissible E-Signature is permissible only if the company's by-laws/constitution (articles of incorporations) allows it. For general cases, the Nicaraguan digital signature Law establishes the use of a digital signature certificate.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The deadline for the AGM is only provided by the articles of incorporation and by-laws of a company. This is the deadline to follow.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. There is no legal obligation to publish the annual accounts and other related reports unless the company is a financial institution or a bank. In the aforementioned cases, the Bank and Financial Institutions Superintendency has not issued any provision about this matter. In this case, it should be first checked if there is any references in the by-laws/constitution.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>A Limited Company's (Ltd's) annual shareholders' meeting (AGM) can be held by correspondence only if such option is envisaged in the articles of association.</p> <p>In JSCs, the shareholders must be physically present or appoint a proxy for the scheduled AGM. The company may also enable voting by correspondence following a special procedure. In the latter case, the voting must take place the day before the AGM will be held. JSCs with special reporting obligations have additional such obligations and procedures, where voting by correspondence takes place.</p>
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	This is feasible according to the possibilities referred to in Q1.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	Not applicable.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

- 3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?
- (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))

"Wet ink" signature is standard requirement. Use of electronic signatures (with qualified certificate) is rarely used and requires strict compliance with local law/local issuers of certificates.

The local law stipulates that an electronic document is deemed equivalent to a handwritten signed document only if it is signed via qualified electronic signature (QES). However, an e-signature should not be denied legal effect on the grounds that it is in an electronic form or that it does not meet the requirements of the QES. However, the e-signature on electronic documents, shall be deemed valid where such certificate is issued by a national or foreign provider of qualified trusted services that is registered in the national register for trusted service providers or a provider that is incorporated in the EU and registered on the list of trusted services in the EU.

The manner of execution depends on the definitions in the Articles of Association but typically are executed by sending back signed decisions (post or courier).

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No, there was/is no postponements on the deadlines for holding the AGM for approval on the 2020 accounts.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No, there was/is no postponements on the deadline to publish the 2020 annual accounts and related reports.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	<p>Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>Yes - the option was provided by the law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For private limited companies, remote shareholders' meetings are permitted as long as no shareholder has raised any objection to holding the meeting in this method • For public limited companies, there is an option to allow electronic participation in general meetings, if the board so decides • For board meetings, the chairman has the power to decide - if the meeting method can be organized - whether the meeting may be held in writing
2(a)	<p>Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>Yes, but only during the COVID-19 pandemic period.</p> <p>Please note that a preliminary statutory order which provided an exception to the general principle requiring physical board meetings, expanding the possibility to hold all shareholders' and board meetings remotely, expired on 20 November 2020.</p>
2(b)	<p>If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?</p>	<p>It was a temporary measure.</p>
3	<p>Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature is permissible.</p> <p>The Norwegian Companies Act is technology neutral, meaning both physical and electronical signatures are sufficient. Norway has implemented the EU regulation on electronic identification and trust services no. 910/2014.</p>

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. A proposal to adopt an exception to the general deadlines for approval of the 2020 accounts is being considered. The proposal suggests implementing the same postponement of the deadline for the 2020 accounts as the temporary rules applicable to the 2019 accounts, i.e., two months postponement.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. Please refer to comments provided in Q4.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - the option was provided by the law; Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure, unless otherwise contemplated in the by-laws.
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	"Wet ink" signature only.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	There is no legal obligation to hold an annual AGM to approve the prior year's accounts and therefore no related deadline, unless otherwise contemplated in the by-laws.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	There is no legal obligation to publish annual accounts or related reports, unless the organization focuses on certain activities (e.g., banking). However, extensions have been granted for tax payments.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>No.</p> <p>According to the Civil Law, shareholders and board meetings of Stock Corporations (<i>Sociedad Anónima</i> or S.A.) must be held in person and at the company's registered address.</p> <p>For LLCs (<i>Sociedad de Responsabilidad Limitada</i> or S.R.L.) there are no mandatory meetings or formalities required. The Civil Law establishes that if there is no procedure for the meetings of partners in the by-laws of the S.R.L., the rules for S.A. will apply.</p>
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>According to the Decree No 4946/2021, issued on 4 March 2021, which extends Decree No 3605/2020, remote meetings of shareholders and boards is an extraordinary measure until 31 December 2021. The Decree will be regulated by the General Directorate of Legal Entities and Final Beneficiaries, which to date, is pending.</p>
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	<p>It is a temporary measure. Please refer to comments in Q2(a).</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?

(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))

E-Signature / digital signature is permissible.

The Decree No 4946/2021 which extends the term established in the Decree No 3605/2020, states that remote meetings of Shareholders' and Boards is an extraordinary measure until 31 December 2021.

The Decree No 3605/2020 states in Art. 2: "what was deliberated and resolved at the meeting held by telematic means will be transcribed or printed in the corresponding social book, leaving an express record in the minutes of the people who attended and participated, which must be subscribed, in handwritten form or through the use of the digital signature by the attendees, determined by law or by-laws of the company."

Digital signature and electronic signature are regulated in Paraguay by the Law No 4017/2010.

Definitions:

- Digital signature: An electronic signature certified by an accredited provider, which has been created using means that the owner maintains under their exclusive control, so that it is linked only to the owner and to the data to which it refers, allowing the subsequent detection of any modification, verifying the identity of the owner and preventing the integrity of the document and its authorship from being unknown
- Electronic signature: Integrated, linked or associated electronic data set logically to other electronic data, used by the signatory as their means of identification, which lacks any of the legal requirements to be considered a digital signature

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. Please note: According to the Civil Law, the Ordinary Shareholders Meeting must be called four months after the close of fiscal year (April) to consider and resolve the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual report of the Board, balance sheet and profit and loss account, distribution of profits, report of the Trustee and any other measure related to the management of the company that corresponds to resolve, in accordance with the competence recognized by the Civil Law and company by-laws, or that the Board and the Trustees submit by their decision for consideration• Appointment of Directors and Trustees (Syndic) and fixing of their remuneration
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. Regarding the deadline for the 2020 Financial Statements, submission is required before the end of June 2021.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes. Due to the amendments adopted in the Anti-Crisis Act, shareholders' meetings may take place in the form of teleconference or videoconference, unless the Articles of Association of the company explicitly exclude such mode. Detailed rules for electronic shareholders' meetings should be adopted in the form of internal regulation by the supervisory board. For LLCs, which do not have a supervisory board, the shareholders are obliged to adopt such internal regulation.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure. Even though the change was introduced as a measure to combat negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is permanent. There is no need to amend the Articles of Association, but the regulation should be adopted by the supervisory board, which specifies the rules of holding such meetings. For LLCs which do not have a supervisory board, the shareholders are obliged to adopt such internal regulation.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

3	<p>Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature partially permissible.</p> <p>Qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 or trusted profile ePUAP.</p> <p>Handwritten signature is required if the document has to be filed at the commercial register.</p>
4	<p>Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>Yes, it is a temporary measure.</p> <p>As a rule, the extension of the deadline applied to the entities which had financial years ending no earlier than 30 September 2020, but no later than 31 March 2021. For these companies, the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deadline for preparing the financial statements for financial year 2020 was extended by three months• Deadline for approving the financial statements for financial year 2020 was extended by three months <p>The extension does not relate to consolidated financial statements, nor to entities that are regulated by the Polish Financial Supervision Authority.</p>

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes, it is a temporary measure.</p> <p>This deadline itself has not been postponed in the statute, but due to the fact that it is correlated with the approval (which should be completed within 15 days from the approval) in practice it was also postponed by three months for the companies.</p>
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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes - the option was provided by the law.</p> <p>Pursuant to the Portuguese Commercial Code, (Art. 377.6.b) and Art. 410.8), unless forbidden by the company's Articles of Association, both shareholders' and board of directors' meetings may be held remotely.</p>
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes - the option was provided by the law.</p> <p>Law 1-A/2020 of 19 March 2020 (last amended by Law 4-B/2021 of 1 February 2021), which creates certain exceptional and temporary measures in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, also contains a provision confirming the validity of participation via telematic means, given that such circumstances are registered in the respective minutes.</p> <p>As per comments provided in Q1, this validity already exists in the Portuguese Commercial Code, and although it does not expressly mention these meetings in the wording of the relevant provision, the latter has already been interpreted as, exceptionally and temporarily, allowing for the resort to telematic means, even if forbidden by the relevant company's Articles of Association.</p>
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	Please refer to comments in Q2(a).

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature partially permissible</p> <p>Remembering that any minutes books (<i>livro de atas eletrónico</i>) must comply with Portuguese law regarding security and reliability, where a company adopts an entirely electronic/digital format for its corporate bodies' minutes books, the members of the relevant corporate bodies - either shareholders' or board of directors' meetings - may sign the minutes electronically (<i>assinatura eletrónica</i>) using one of the following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The pin of their Portuguese Identity Card• A mobile digital password (<i>Chave Móvel Digital</i>)• A digital certificate issued by an entity recognized by the National Safety Office in the Trusted-Service Status List <p>The electronic signature pursuant to the alternatives referred to in the paragraph above also seems possible if the minutes of the resolutions are in physical format.</p>
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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4 Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes, as a temporary and exceptional measure, the deadline to hold the AGM to approve the annual accounts was once again postponed. As a general rule, Portuguese companies are required to approve annual accounts within three months from the end of each fiscal year, i.e., normally March of each year. This deadline is extended for companies that have consolidated accounts, and also for companies that apply the equity method of accounting (<i>método da equivalência patrimonial</i>), which must approve the accounts within five months from the end of each fiscal year. The deadlines for the approval of the 2020 accounts were extended, in view of the exceptional circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, until 30 June 2021.
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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

<p>5 Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>The following matter has not yet been addressed by Portuguese competent authorities, but it is likely that the deadline will also be postponed considering that the publication of the annual accounts is dependent on the approval of the annual accounts. The deadline for approval of annual accounts has already been postponed, as referred to in comments provided in Q4.</p> <p>Portuguese companies are required to submit an annual single statement/form, which comprises several filing obligations of different public authorities (e.g., financial statements/annual accounts, tax information, such as the corporate income tax annual statement, corporate information and other reporting information). This single statement is called IES (<i>Informação Empresarial Simplificada</i>, in English: Simplified Corporate Information).</p> <p>The registration of the annual accounts with the Portuguese Commercial Registry Office is automatic upon submission of the IES and payment of the respective registration fee and such registration must be completed by 15 July. The deadline for submission of the IES for the 2019 accounts was extended in view of the COVID-19 pandemic until 15 September 2020. No legislation has yet been approved concerning the postponement of this deadline for the 2020 annual accounts.</p>
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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	The general rule is the one indicated under Q1. For board meetings, the general rule is the one indicated under Q1. Please note: In 2020, for a period of two months calculated from the date when the State of Emergency ceased (i.e., from 15 May 2020), AGMs were permitted to take place via correspondence or video conferencing, even where the Articles of Association do not provide for it or even prohibited it. This measure is no longer in place.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It was a temporary measure.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature partially permissible.</p> <p>"Wet ink" signature is the general rule. Extended electronic signature (advanced electronic signature as defined by the EU Regulation 910/2014) was allowed for a period of two months, calculated from 15 May 2020.</p> <p>This measure is no longer in force.</p>
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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>No.</p> <p>The 2020 annual accounts must be submitted within 150 days from the end of the financial year of the company. An AGM to approve the 2020 annual accounts must be held before the submission of the annual accounts to the tax authorities.</p> <p>For example, the AGM for the approval of the 2020 annual accounts must be held before 31 May 2021 if the financial year is the same as the calendar year.</p> <p>Currently, the deadline for submission of the annual accounts for financial year 2020 (and therefore the deadline for holding the AGM) has not been postponed.</p>
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>No.</p> <p>A decision of the authorities for the postponement of the deadline to submit the 2020 annual accounts has not yet been published.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1 Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?

The rule is that an AGM can be held both:

- As a physical meeting (a joint attendance of shareholders)
- Via absentee voting

However, the primary Russian company laws (the Russian Civil Code and the laws on JSCs and LLCs) require that the resolution of any matter mandatorily reserved for the AGM be passed by joint attendance only. Please refer to comments provided in Q2(a).

Holding a meeting of the board of directors in a remote form is possible if the company's by-laws provide for such an option.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>2(a) Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>On 18 March 2020, Federal Law No. 50-FZ came into force to remove the restriction related to Annual Meetings for all JSCs requiring mandatory joint attendance for key decisions, with effect until the end of 2020.</p> <p>By law, each Annual Meeting of a JSC must resolve the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The election of members of the board of directors, if provided for by the company's articles in its corporate governance structure• The election of the internal audit committee (revizionnaya komissiya), if provided for by the company's by-laws in its corporate governance structure• The appointment of an auditor• The approval of the JSC's annual report and annual accounts <p>JSCs are currently able to resolve the above matters at their 2021 Annual Meetings by an absentee vote.</p> <p>On 31 July 2020, Federal Law No. 297-FZ came into force to remove the restriction related to Annual Meetings for all LLCs requiring mandatory joint attendance for key decisions, with effect until the end of 2020.</p> <p>On 24 February 2021, the Federal Law No. 17-FZ extended the status quo until the end of 2021.</p> <p>There were no changes with respect to directors' meetings.</p>
<p>2(b) If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?</p>	<p>It is a temporary measure.</p> <p>As mentioned in Q 2(a), until the end of 2021.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>"Wet ink" signature only.</p> <p>Electronic and digital signatures are not formally permitted nor prohibited, however, currently there is no stable judicial practice of legalisation of the possibility of signing board and shareholders resolutions by electronic or digital signature.</p>
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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The AGM based on the results of 2020 must be held, as a general rule, on or before: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30 June 2021 for JSCs• 30 April 2021 for LLCs
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The temporary postponement of the deadline to the publish the annual accounts which was in place during 2020 has not been extended and, therefore, 2020 accounts should be published as usual.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	In accordance with the Serbian Company Act, remote shareholders and board meetings are permitted, providing that this option is in the company's internal by-laws.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.
3	<p>Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature is permissible.</p> <p>In accordance with the Serbian regulations, only certified electronic signatures issued by one of the certified bodies in Serbia can be used for signing official documents.</p> <p>Certified bodies in Serbia are: Serbian Chamber of Commerce, Ministry of Interior Affairs, PE Post Office, HALCOM and E-Smart Systems DOO Beograd.</p>

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. In accordance with Art. 364 of the Companies Law of the Republic of Serbia, an AGM must be held once a year, not later than six months from the end of the financial year. Please note: The temporary measure adopted for 2019 accounts has not been extended into 2021.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In accordance with Art. 44 of the Accounting Law of the Republic of Serbia, legal entities and entrepreneurs are obliged to submit regular annual financial reports for the reporting year, no later than 31 March of the following year, unless otherwise ordered by a special law• Legal entities which have a business year other than the calendar year are obliged to submit regular annual financial reports for the reporting year, no later than three months from the date of the balance sheet Please note: The temporary measure adopted for 2019 accounts has not been extended into 2021.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>1 Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>Remote shareholders' and board meetings are not expressly provided for in the Companies Act (Cap. 50) of Singapore and the listing rules of the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited (SGX-ST).</p> <p>Nonetheless, board meetings may be held remotely if provided for in the company's constitution and conducted in accordance with the procedures specified therein. If not, board resolutions may also be passed by way of written resolutions in accordance with the constitution.</p> <p>Shareholders' meetings are usually held physically or, for private companies or unlisted public companies, shareholders' resolutions may be passed by way of members' resolutions in writing, if the constitution does not prohibit passing of members' resolutions by written means and the procedures specified in the constitution in relation to passing of members' written resolutions are met. Listed companies are not allowed to pass members' resolutions in writing.</p>
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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

2(a) Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Pursuant to the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Alternative Arrangements for Meetings for Companies, Variable Capital Companies, Business Trusts, Unit Trusts and Debenture Holders) Order 2020 (COVID-19 Order 2020), and for the period from 27 March 2020 to 30 June 2021, a meeting of a company may be convened, held or conducted wholly or partly by electronic means. Access to both an audio broadcast and any audio-visual broadcast must be provided to the members.

Members must be given the opportunity to ask questions within a reasonable time prior to general meetings, and must be informed of any cut-off time within which questions must be submitted. Members must also be allowed to submit their questions via email or post. Companies may also allow members to submit questions via other electronic means. In addition to allowing members to submit questions ahead of the general meeting, listed companies are encouraged to adopt real-time electronic communication facilities to enable questions to be raised and responded to at the general meeting. All substantial and relevant questions must be addressed by the board of directors and/or management prior to, or at, the general meeting. Listed companies should address any subsequent clarifications sought, or follow-up questions, prior to, or at, general meetings in respect of substantial and relevant matters.

Members may vote at the meeting by appointing the chairman of the meeting as proxy to vote by depositing an instrument of proxy by post or electronic mail in advance of the meeting. Companies may also allow members to submit proxy forms through other electronic means. Members should specifically indicate how they wish to vote for or vote against (or abstain from voting) on the resolutions.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

2(a) Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic? (*continued*)

Provided that certain safeguards are implemented to validate the votes submitted by the members, in addition to allowing members to appoint the chairman of the meeting as proxy, companies may also allow members to vote via real-time remote electronic voting through an electronic voting system, such that members or their proxies may vote remotely through electronic means. If companies conduct general meetings partly by electronic means, members who attend the meeting physically must appoint the chairman of the meeting as proxy in order to vote, unless companies have allowed for real-time remote electronic voting.

Listed companies must publish the notice of general meeting and all documents relating to the business of the general meeting on SGXNET and, if available, the company's corporate website. For non-listed companies, notice of a meeting may be sent by electronic means and published on the company's website (if available), and documents required to be laid or produced before a general meeting may be so laid or produced by being sent with the notice of the meeting.

Listed companies must publish minutes of the meeting on SGXNET and, if available, the company's website within one month after the date of the meeting.

There is no specific COVID-19 legislation providing for remote board meetings, and such meetings, if provided for in the company's constitution, can be held in accordance with the procedures specified in the constitution.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

2(b) If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?

Remote shareholders' meetings provided for under the COVID-19 Order 2020 is a temporary measure.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?

(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))

E-Signature / digital signature is permissible.

Pursuant to the Electronic Transactions Act (Cap. 88) of Singapore (ETA), electronic signatures are permissible if

- A method is used to identify the person and to indicate that person's intention in respect of the information contained in the electronic record
- The method used is either as reliable as appropriate for the purpose for which the electronic record was generated or communicated, in the light of all the circumstances, including any relevant agreement, or proven in fact to have fulfilled the functions described in the above point, by itself or together with further evidence. There are certain matters to which electronic signatures are not permissible, such as wills and documents of title. Generally, it is possible for board and shareholders resolutions to be electronically signed, provided that the company constitution provides for electronic signatures and the procedures and requirements are met

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (*continued*)
(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))

Under the ETA, an electronic signature is a secure electronic signature if, through the application of certain security procedures, it can be verified that the electronic signature was, at the time it was made:

- Unique to the person using it
- Capable of identifying such person
- Created in a manner or using a means under the sole control of the person using it
- Linked to the electronic record to which it relates in a manner such that if the record was changed the electronic signature would be invalidated

A secure electronic signature is presumed under the ETA to be the signature of the person to whom it correlates and be affixed by that person with the intention of signing or approving the electronic record.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Currently, there is no extension of the applicable deadlines. The AGM of a company is required to be held after the end of the financial year within: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four months in the case of a listed company• Six months in the case of a non-listed company
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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

5	Has the deadline to publish the 2019 annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Currently, there is no extension of the applicable deadlines.</p> <p>Every company must lodge its annual return with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority after its AGM within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Five months after the end of its financial year in the case of a listed company• Seven months after the end of its financial year in the case of a non-listed company <p>For companies listed on the SGX-ST, they must also issue their annual reports (which contain the financial statements) to shareholders and the SGX-ST at least 14 days before the date of the AGM.</p>
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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes. Regulated by a special Act N. 62/2020 Coll. on certain extraordinary measures in connection to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a temporary measure. If not stipulated by the company's corporate documentation, a remote shareholders' meeting remains possible only during an officially declared state of emergency or extraordinary situation.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature is permissible.</p> <p>According to the Slovak Commercial Code, the minutes of the general meeting of shareholders must be signed by the chairperson and the secretary. Depending on the content of the general meeting decisions, the notarization of signature of the chairperson may be required. Where general meeting minutes containing such decisions are published in hard copy, the "wet ink" signature needs to be notarized by a public notary. On the other hand, if such general meeting minutes are in electronic form, the notarization of the signature is not required if the chairperson uses the qualified electronic signature with a time stamp, as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014.</p> <p>Furthermore, where shareholders vote remotely, they can either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sign the hardcopies of the ballot papers (notarization of signatures is required)• Send electronic ballot papers signed via qualified electronic signature, together with a time stamp, as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014
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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. In general, the deadline to approve annual accounts at an AGM is 12 months after the end of the relevant accounting period. There is no current legislation postponing the fulfilment of obligations regarding 2020 accounts, i.e., the standard statutory deadlines are applicable.
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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. There is no current legislation postponing the fulfilment of obligations regarding 2020 accounts, i.e., the standard statutory deadlines are applicable.
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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>1 Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>Yes - the option was provided by the law; Yes - if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.</p> <p>LLCs with multiple shareholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public LLC: A management or supervisory body may adopt its decisions via correspondence, by telephone, through electronic media or otherwise if this is agreed by all the members of the management or supervisory body, unless otherwise provided by the Articles of Association or the rules of procedure (Art. 257 of Companies Act).<p>The Articles of Association may set out that shareholders can participate in the general meeting, or vote prior to the general meeting, or at the general meeting, through the use of electronic means without being physically present. (Art. 297 of Companies Act).</p>• LLC: The company members may decide by means of a written statement not to hold a general meeting. A resolution to this effect shall be adopted by all the company members. In this case, the company members shall send their votes to the manager in writing, by telephone, by cable or by other similar technical means (Art. 507 of Companies Act).<p>LLCs with a single shareholder</p><p>These organizations follow a simplified procedure. Resolutions passed by the sole shareholder apply after having been entered into the book of resolutions. It should be noted that holding a remote general meeting is not possible when involvement of a notary is required (applicable for resolutions on certain amendments to the Articles of Association or changes to the subscribed share capital).</p>
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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Same as Q1.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.
3	<p>Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature is permissible.</p> <p>The participation and voting can depend solely on the requirements and limitations which are needed for the identification of shareholders and secure electronic communication, and to an extent which is proportionate to the implementation of the pursued objective - no specific type of e-signature is required. However, in practice, qualified e-signature is needed.</p>

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The deadline is eight months after the end of business year (Art. 58 of the Companies Act).
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	The deadline for submitting any audited annual reports is eight months after the end of business year i.e., for entities with financial year ending 31 December 2020, the deadline is 31 August 2021. In practice, the deadline for submitting Financial statements for entities whose financial year ended on 31 December 2020 was postponed from 31 March 2021 to 30 April 2021. However, the legal basis for such postponement is unclear. In any case, this was a temporary change due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>1 Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>Yes - the option was provided by the law and, additionally, if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.</p> <p>For shareholders' meetings:</p> <p>Provided they are set forth in the by-laws and, when exercising such rights, the shareholders can properly be identified, Spanish law permits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The holding of virtual meetings• The casting of votes in advance of the meeting by electronic/postal/other means <p>An amendment to the Spanish Companies Law, effective from 3 May 2021, states that virtual meetings are possible provided they are set out in the company by-laws. While exercising such rights, the shareholders and their representatives must be properly identified and all attendees must be able to effectively participate in the meeting via appropriate technological means (e.g., audio or video conferencing). The law also states that such technological means must be complemented by the option to exchange written messages during the course of the meeting in order to exercise, in real time, the appropriate shareholder rights (e.g., speaking, receiving information and proposing items for discussion).</p> <p>For board of directors' meetings:</p> <p>Virtual meetings are also possible provided this possibility is set forth in the by-laws.</p> <p>The board of directors can also pass written resolutions (without meeting) as long as none of the members disagree with this process.</p>
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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The Royal Decree-law No. 34/2020, Of 17 November 2020, On Urgent Measures to Support Business Solvency and the Energy Sector, and On Tax Matters establishes that, during 2021, virtual meetings or adoption of written resolutions by other means are valid, even if they are not included in company by-laws.</p> <p>For Shareholders' meetings of public limited companies (i.e., <i>sociedades de responsabilidad limitada</i> or S.R.L.), the following protocols apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The meeting may be held remotely via audio or video conferencing, provided that all persons entitled to attend and their representatives have the necessary means to do so• That the secretary of the body recognizes the attendees' identity and states so in the minutes• Following the meeting, the secretary circulates the minutes by email to all members <p>For Shareholders' meetings of public companies (i.e., <i>sociedades anónimas</i> or S.A.) and listed companies, the meeting may be held remotely via audio or video conferencing, provided the shareholders' identity can be verified and they are also offered the possibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend virtually• Confer a proxy to the chairman of the meeting• Vote via remote means of communication
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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

2(a)	<p>Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>Board meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By tele/videoconference, provided that all persons entitled to attend and their representatives have the necessary means to do so • That the secretary of the body recognizes their identity and states so in the minutes • Following the meeting, the secretary circulates the minutes by email to all board members • The board may adopt written resolutions if the chairman decides or, alternatively, if two members request it
2(b)	<p>If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?</p>	<p>It is a temporary measure. Please refer to comments in Q2(a).</p>
3	<p>Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature partially permissible</p> <p>The types of e-signature permitted are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scanned, hand-written signature (simple electronic signature) • A signature by means of metadata, i.e. digital evidence generated by a user; For example, it would simply be enough for the user to enter a portal or similar with a username and password of their own, which would then generate the signature (Advanced/qualified electronic/digital signature) <p>However, for those documents for which signatures must be verified and notarized to grant the document public status, or when the document needs to be filed with the Commercial Registry, an original (wet ink) signature is required (e.g. certificates of the minutes).</p>

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. There are no particular measures adopted for the 2020 accounts. Please note: The Royal Decree-Law does not regulate the filing period. This would be, according to the relevant law, within one month from the date the accounts were approved by the AGM.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Shareholders' meetings Ltd./LLCs: No Alternative for LLCs only: Written circular resolutions. Board meetings Ltd./LLCs: Only if provided by the company's Articles of Association. Alternative for Ltd./LLCs: Written circular resolutions.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes. According to Art. 27 of the COVID-19 Ordinance 3, the organizer may, regardless of the probable number of participants and without complying with the period of notice for convening meetings, order the participants to exercise their rights exclusively: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In writing or online• Through an independent proxy appointed by the organizer
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a temporary measure. Since 22 June 2020, the measure is provided by the new COVID-19 Ordinance 3 from the Swiss Federal Council. The term of application of this Ordinance shall be extended to 31 December 2021 (Art. 29).

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

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| <p>3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p> | <p>E-Signature / digital signature partially permissible.</p> <p>"Wet ink" signatures may be required if the document needs to be shared with any official Swiss authority.</p> |
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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The general deadline for approving the Financial Statements by the general meeting is within six months of the company's financial year ending.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	There are no filing requirements in Switzerland with regard to the Financial Statements or the annual compliance documentation (except for tax compliance reporting).

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	<p>Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>Holding a board meeting via video conferencing is permitted under existing law. The same is permitted for shareholders' meetings, provided that the Articles of Incorporation of the company specify that the shareholders' meeting can be held by means of video conferencing.</p> <p>In any case, a public company is not allowed to hold a remote shareholders' meeting by any means.</p>
2(a)	<p>Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>Same as Q1.</p>
2(b)	<p>If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?</p>	<p>It is a permanent measure. Please see comments mentioned in Q1.</p>
3	<p>Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature partially permissible.</p> <p>If the shareholders' meeting is held remotely, the signatures of the shareholders will not be required. According to the Company Act, even if the shareholders' meeting is held physically, the shareholder could exercise their voting power in writing or by way of electronic transmission. When the shareholder exercises their voting power by way of electronic transmission, the shareholder could sign via electronic signature.</p> <p>For board meetings, directors can exercise their voting power by giving written consent without convening a physical meeting if all the directors agree to resolve through written consent, provided that such written resolution approach has been stipulated in the Articles of Incorporation of the company.</p>

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	The regular meeting of shareholders shall be convened within six months after the end of each fiscal year. However, if the company is unable to convene the shareholders' meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it may apply to the relevant authority for an extension.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Listed companies must publish their annual reports by 31 March of the following year. Public companies which are not listed on stock markets must report their annual accounts to the appropriate authority by 30 April of the following year. If the companies mentioned above are not able to prepare their annual reports in time due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they may apply to the relevant authority for an extension.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - the option was provided by the law.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	E-Signature / digital signature is permissible. Turkish legislation recognizes "secure electronic signature" which can be put via a USB device given by the service provider authorized by the Information and Communication Technologies Authority. The board of directors/managers and shareholder's general assembly resolutions can be signed by using the "secure electronic signature" with the USB device for each participant.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

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4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>As per Circular No. 6638, published by the Ministry of Internal Affairs dated 14 March 2021, non-governmental organizations, public professional organizations and their governing bodies, as well as associations and cooperatives, will not be allowed to hold any public meetings, including an AGM, until 17 May 2021.</p> <p>Even though no explicit restriction has been made regarding the AGMs of private companies, given the complete lockdown period between 29 April 2021 and 17 May 2021, private companies that are not exempt from the lockdown cannot hold their AGMs in person during this period.</p> <p>The dividend distribution restriction has expired and has not been further extended.</p>
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Although private companies do not have any requirement to publish their annual accounts and related reports, some specific types of companies (such as banks, independent audit firms, financial leasing, factoring and financing companies etc.) are obliged to report to Turkish Banking Regulation and Supervision Agency. Currently, there is no announcement regarding the postponement of the publication of the 2020 annual accounts and related reports.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>1 Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?</p>	<p>Yes – only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.</p> <p>Under Ukrainian law, the possibility of conducting remote meetings depends on the type of legal entity.</p> <p>JSCs: Generally, remote shareholders' meetings of JSCs are allowed in quite limited cases.</p> <p>Board meeting may be held remotely if it is envisaged by a JSC's charter.</p> <p>LLCs: The shareholders' (participants') meetings of LLCs may be held remotely (for all or some of the participants) in the following forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Videoconference (If it allows seeing and hearing all of the participants; Minutes must be executed and signed by the chairman or an authorized person)• Remote voting when a certain participant votes in a written form (This participant's signature must be notarized)• Voting through survey (Cannot be applied to resolve certain issues; the initiator should send a bulletin with a draft minutes to the participants and the participants must agree to the minutes in full; Further, the draft minutes may be sent in electronic form, if allowed by the LLC's charter) <p>The procedure for holding LLC's board meetings (if applicable) should be specified in the LLC's charter.</p> <p>There is a draft law on JSCs that allows holding JSC's shareholders' meetings via a special state electronic system. It also improves the procedure for meetings via videoconference. However, as of now, it is hard to predict whether the draft would be eventually adopted and what final wording it would have.</p>
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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes. In addition, the state regulator has developed temporary rules for holding remote meetings that apply to JSCs and LLCs which issue securities.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure. Please refer to comments in Q2(a).
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	E-Signature / digital signature partially permissible JSCs: Generally, original (wet ink) signatures are required on shareholders' resolutions of JSCs. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, a qualified e-signature as defined by Ukrainian law is allowed. LLCs: An electronic digital signature as defined by Ukrainian law may be used for shareholders' resolutions of an LLC, if its charter permits.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. Currently, Ukrainian law does not provide for a special deadline for holding AGMs for financial year 2020. Thus, formally, the general legislative deadlines should apply, although it depends on the type of entity, i.e., <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30 April 2021 for JSCs• 30 June 2021 for LLCs
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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic? <i>(continued)</i>	<p>No. Currently, Ukrainian law has no special rules for publishing the annual accounts for financial year 2020. Thus, the general legislative provisions should apply.</p> <p>The deadlines are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30 April 2021, for certain categories of entities:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public interest companies (issuers of securities, banks, insurance companies, non-governmental pension funds and other financial institutions, with some exceptions)• Large entities (except for large entities that do not issue securities)• Public JSCs• State-owned enterprises with a monopoly in certain market(s)• Entities that are involved in extraction of sub-soil resources• 1 June 2021, for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Large entities (that are not securities' issuers)• Medium-sized entities• Certain financial institutions
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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.</p> <p>Limited companies are permitted to hold virtual meetings, subject to the limitations in their Articles of Association.</p> <p>The Financial Reporting Council has provided some flexibility for companies to hold AGMs either electronically or in a hybrid manner.</p>
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution.</p>
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	<p>The process and method of holding AGMs have to be incorporated in the articles of association and whether it is a temporary or permanent measure will depend on the entity's requirements.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature partially permissible, subject to the Company's articles of association and principles of English contract law. An electronic signature is capable in law of being used to execute a document (including a deed), provided that the signatory intends to authenticate the document and that any relevant formalities, such as the electronic signature being witnessed, are satisfied.</p> <p>The UK government has endorsed the Law Commission's report on the use of electronic signature in a statement dated 3 March 2020. The Law Commission's report outlined that the courts have adopted a "pragmatic approach as to what will satisfy a signature requirement". Types of electronic signatures could include digital signature, scanned manuscript, typing of a name and clicking a website button.</p> <p>Best Practice – ensure agreement to use electronic signature, consider ability to verify the authority of the person signing, consider the ability to evidence intention to apply signature as if in manuscript, and seek advice as to the relevant legislative, regulatory or cultural requirements (lawsociety.org.uk).</p> <p>Certain documents must still be signed in "wet ink", for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deeds requiring a company seal• HM Land Registry has its own rules in relation to electronic signatures (e.g. land registrations)• Not all documents bearing an electronic signature are admissible for registration at Companies House (for example, Companies House only accepts documents with "clean electronic signature", i.e. without automated codes / text from electronic signature platforms)
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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. Please note: Companies (both public and private) can still apply for a three-month extension to their filing deadline if they make an application before it expires. This application can be made via the Companies House website.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>The legal regime (Law No. 16,060) of stock companies establishes that the shareholders should meet in the company's offices, or in another domicile within the same locality, and thus, it could be understood that they should be physically. For directors' meetings however, such legal regime does not specifically regulate the way in which such meetings can be performed. Thus, although it is not expressly forbidden to have a remote meeting for these entities, it is arguable whether it is permitted, and general practice before the COVID-19 pandemic was not to perform remote meetings.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there is a new legal type of corporation called "simplified stock company" recently introduced (Law No. 19,820 dated September 2019), which expressly allows assembly meetings to be performed by videoconference or any other means of simultaneous communication. Written consent is also permitted, transmitted by electronic means and without the need to authenticate the vote, as long as the company's by-laws provide for these methods.</p>
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>On 18 December 2020, the National Budget Law for the period 2020-2024 was approved. Art. 722 established that shareholders' meetings (for corporations or <i>Sociedad Anónima Uruguay</i>, or SAU) may be held via video conference, or by any other means of simultaneous communication, that provides certainty regarding the identity of the participants. These must be held in real time.</p> <p>This Law introduced regulations confirming remote AGMs would now be possible in Uruguay.</p>
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	Yes, it is a permanent measure.

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature / digital signature partially permissible.</p> <p>When meetings are to be on site, only "wet ink" signatures are allowed. For "simplified stock companies", written consent transmitted by electronic means is permitted, without the need for authentication, as long as the company's by-laws provide for it.</p> <p>In addition, for SAUs, the Law establishes that, where AGMs are held virtually, the signature of the attending shareholder will not be required in the Shareholders' Meeting Attendance Record Book and it must be expressly stated that the attendance was by virtual means.</p> <p>Please note the new provisions do not make any reference to the type and form of signatures required during the AGM.</p>
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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>No.</p> <p>The deadline has not been postponed, it remains 180 days after the fiscal year end. Nevertheless, in light of Decree No. 93/020 (Declaring the State of Emergency in Uruguay), there are cases of companies that are deciding to postpone such meetings.</p> <p>It is also important to understand that the Decree encourages meetings with high volumes of members not to be convened.</p> <p>Finally, it should be noted that regulations do not provide any sanctions for non-compliance with this deadline.</p>
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>No.</p> <p>In Uruguay, the Financial Statements must be registered at the Internal Audit Office within 180 calendar days after the end of the fiscal year.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/charter.</p> <p>As a general rule, under the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Companies with Limited and Additional Liability (LLC), the decision of the LLC's general meeting can be adopted without holding an in-person meeting (by absentee voting). However, decisions on matters related to the exclusive competence of the respective body may be taken by absentee voting only if it is provided by the LLC's Charter.</p> <p>As for JSCs, the law is unclear about the possibility of conducting remote meetings of shareholders. Generally, remote meetings of shareholders were not allowed in Uzbekistan prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Other management bodies (Supervisory Board and Executive Management Board) in both LLCs and JSCs may hold meetings in the form provided for by their charters and internal regulations. The law does not regulate the format of such meetings.</p>
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, JSCs were also allowed to hold AGMs (to approve the 2019 results) via video conference. No special provisions in this matter were adopted for approving the 2020 results.</p> <p>As for LLCs, please refer to comments in Q1.</p>

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

<p>2(b) If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?</p>	<p>For LLCs, this is a permanent measure.</p> <p>For JSCs, there was a temporary measure regarding 2019 results, but the law is not clear whether this is a permanent measure. The law can be interpreted to mean that this provision was valid only until 1 October 2020.</p> <p>Therefore, there is no clarity as to whether this rule applies to meetings to approve the 2020 results.</p> <p>Please note that recent restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic have been lifted and, thus, in-person meetings are now permitted.</p>
<p>3 Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature?</p> <p>(If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))</p>	<p>E-Signature/digital signature is permissible.</p> <p>The law allows the use of electronic signatures; however, there are some uncertainties around it. For example, foreign citizens and foreign legal entities (non-residents) are unable to use local authorized electronic (digital) signatures until they obtain local tax identification numbers.</p> <p>There is a new law being developed regarding digital signatures. If approved, the draft may regulate the process of recognition of e-Signatures/digital signatures issued by a foreign government.</p>

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4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>No.</p> <p>An AGM for participants/shareholders of LLCs/JSCs should be held within the terms established by the company's charter, but not later than six months after the end of the financial year.</p> <p>Please note that no extension to hold an AGM to approve the prior year's accounts has been granted for 2021.</p>
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>No.</p> <p>Deadlines provided by the law are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For associations, state corporations and holdings, and other state property management bodies: Not later than 15 March of the year following the reporting year• For entities with foreign participation and representative offices of foreign enterprises: Not later than 25 March of the year following the reporting year• State-owned organizations which are legal entities: Once a year, before 15 March of the year following the reporting year• Small enterprises and micro-firms: Not later than 15 February of the year following the reporting year• Other legal entities not listed above points: Not later than 15 February of the year following the reporting year

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - only if provided in the company's by-laws/constitution. Recently, remote shareholders' meetings and board meetings have been accepted/allowed by some mercantile registries and dependent on company's policies and procedures. However, there is no legal provision on this matter.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	"Wet ink" signature only

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. The deadline is still three months after financial year ends.
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	No. Under the Commerce Code, publication of annual accounts or reports is not required. Only decisions affecting third parties and amendments of by-laws must only be published at a mercantile level (mercantile newspaper).

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A. Remote shareholders and board meetings (or similar bodies)

1	Were remote shareholders' and board meetings allowed in your jurisdiction prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - the option was provided by the law. Under the Law on Enterprise 2020 (Art. 157.9.c and Art. 144.3.c), shareholders' and board meetings may be remotely held.
2(a)	Can remote shareholders' and remote board meetings be held in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?	Yes - the option was provided by the law.
2(b)	If so, is it a permanent or temporary measure?	It is a permanent measure.
3	Are original (wet ink) signatures required on the board and shareholder resolutions (meeting or written format) or can the directors sign with electronic/digital signature? (If e-signature is permitted, please clearly indicate in the Additional Comments box the type of e-signature required by national applicable law (for example, "qualified e-signature as defined by the EU Regulation no. 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services", "scanned hand written signature" etc))	E-Signature / digital signature partially permissible. Under the Law on Enterprise 2020, although there is no specific guidance on the execution of board and shareholder resolutions, in practice, such meeting minutes are required to have "wet ink" signatures upon the submission of those documents to the competent authority.

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B. Approval and publication of annual accounts and related reports

(Note: in most jurisdictions the approval of accounts should have been made within six months from the closing date, e.g., 30 June 2021 for accounts closing on 31 December 2020)

4	Has the deadline to hold the shareholders' annual general meeting to approve the prior year's accounts been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<p>Yes, it is a temporary measure.</p> <p>The AGM shall be held within four months of the end of financial year. However, as per the request of the Board of Management, the deadline may be extended - but not beyond six months from the end of the financial year (Law on Enterprise 2020, Art. 139.2).</p>
5	Has the deadline to publish the prior year's annual accounts and related reports been postponed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-listed company guidance (Temporary measure): Under Official Letter No. 157/QLKT-DN, providing guidance for enterprises who are directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the enterprise should send an official letter to the Ministry of Finance presenting the evidence of the COVID-19 pandemic's effect on the submission and disclosure of information. The Ministry of Finance will provide specific guidance and decide the extension on a case by case basis.• Listed company guidance (Permanent measure): Besides instructions in the Official Letter No. 157/QLKT-DN, under Official Letter No. 1265/UBCK-GSDC, the listed company must announce the suspension of information disclosures, state the reason and report the same to the State Securities Commission of Vietnam and the Stock Exchange. <p>There is no specific deadline for the extension of the above scenarios.</p>

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