

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY

VERSION 2 – MAY 2023

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Ayomi Financial Services Limited is a Cyprus Investment Firm (CIF) regulated and supervised by the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission (CySEC) with Licence No. 402/21. 171, Arch. Makariou III, Vanezis Business Center, 4th floor, Office 401C, 3027 Limassol, Cyprus.

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to specify the procedures put in place by Ayomi Financial Services Limited (the “Company”), a Cyprus Investment Firm licensed and regulated by the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission (“CySEC”) under license No. 402/21, located at 171, Arc Makariou III, Vanezis Business Center, 4th Floor, Office 401C, 3027, Limassol, Cyprus, for identifying and responsibly managing and controlling and, where necessary, disclosing the conflicts of interests arising in relation to its business and to reduce the risk of client disadvantage and of legal liability, regulatory censure or damage to Company’s commercial interests and reputation and to ensure that it complies with legislative requirements and the departmental and general procedures which are set by its Internal Operation Manual (“IOM”).

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This Policy is issued pursuant to, and in compliance with the requirement of, as amended :

- Directive 2014/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on markets in financial instruments, as amended from time to time (“MiFID II”);
- The Law 87(I)/2017 regarding the provision of investment services, the exercise of investment activities and the operation of regulated markets and other related matters, as amended from time to time (the “Law”);
- The Investment Services and Activities and Regulated Markets Law No 144(I)/2007 to the extent it remains applicable after the enactment of MiFID II;
- The Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/565, supplementing Directive 2014/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to organisational requirements and operating conditions for investment firms and defined terms for the purposes of that Directive;
- Section 2 of the Questions and Answers of the European Securities and Markets Authority (“ESMA”) with respect to the provision of CFDs and other speculative products to retail investors under MiFID.

In accordance with the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/565 Cyprus Investment Firms (CIFs) are required to establish, implement and maintain an effective Conflict of Interest Policy set out in writing and appropriate to the size and organisation of the CIF and the nature, scale and complexity of its business.

In addition, according to the Investment Services Activities and Regulated Market Law No. 87(I)/2017, CIFs must take all appropriate steps to identify conflicts of interest between itself, including its managers and employees, tied agents or other relevant persons, as well as any person directly or indirectly linked to them by control, and their clients or between one client and another, that arise in the course of providing any investment and ancillary services, including those caused by the receipt of inducements from third parties or by the Company’s own remuneration and other incentive structures.

In this respect, CIFs must establish adequate policies and procedures sufficient to ensure compliance, including its managers, employees, tied agents and other relevant persons,

with its obligations pursuant to the Law and the directives issued pursuant to this Law, as well as appropriate rules governing personal transactions by such persons.

POLICY

All employees of the Company must on commencement of their employment read and fully understand the Policy. All employees of the Company are obliged to register their acceptance of having read and understood the Policy in a register, which is to be filed and managed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Company. Any employee that suspects a conflict of interest must immediately inform the Chief Executive Officer who will determine if any conflict does exist or has the potential to arise and will state the reasoning for their findings in a file kept in storage for referral to the Commission should such need arise. All staff must take responsibility to not knowingly create a conflict of interest without reference to this Policy. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action being taken.

In particular, the Company defines a conflict of interest as **any situation where either the Company or an individual is in a position to exploit a professional or official capacity in some way for either corporate or personal benefit**. For the purposes of identifying the types of conflict of interest that arise in the course of providing investment services and whose existence may damage the interests of a client, the Company shall take into account, as a minimum, whether the Company or a relevant person, or a person directly or indirectly linked by control to the Company, is in any of the following situations, whether as a result of providing investment services or activities or otherwise:

- The Company or a relevant person, or a person directly or indirectly linked by control to the Company, is likely to make a financial gain or avoid a financial loss, at the expense of the client.
- The Company or a relevant person, or a person directly or indirectly linked by control to the Company, has an interest in the outcome of a service provided to the client, or of the transaction carried out on behalf of the client, which is distinct from the client's interest in that outcome.
- The Company or a relevant person, or a person directly or indirectly linked by control to the Company, has a financial or other incentive to favour the interest of another client or group of clients over the interests of the client.
- The Company or a relevant person, or a person directly or indirectly linked by control to the Company, carries on the same business as the client.
- The Company or a relevant person, or a person directly or indirectly linked by control to the Company, receives or will receive from a person other than the client an inducement in relation to a service provided to the client, in the form of monetary or non-monetary benefits or services

“Relevant person in relation to the Company” means any of the following persons:

- a member of the Board of Directors, partner or equivalent, manager or tied agent of the Company;
- an employee of the Company or of a tied agent of the Company, as well as any other

- natural person whose services are placed at the disposal and under the control of the Company or a tied agent of the Company who is involved in the provision by the Company of investment services or/and the performance of investment activities;
- a natural person who is directly involved in the provision of services to the Company or to its tied agent under an outsourcing arrangement for the purpose of the provision by the Company of investment services or/and the performance of investment activities.

The affected parties, if conflict of interest arises, can be the Company, its employees or its clients. More specifically, a conflict of interest may arise between the following parties:

- Between the client and the Company.
- Between two clients of the Company.
- Between the Company and its employees.
- Between a client of the Company and an employee/manager of the Company.
- Between the Company's departments
- Between the Company and its Tied Agent
- Between the Company and its services providers

Conflicts of interest can occur in a number of situations, for example:

The Company takes into account the following situations as potential cases of conflicts of interest:

- The Company, its Tied Agent or a corporate issuer/investor is likely to make a financial gain or avoid a financial loss at the expense of a client.
- The Company, its Tied Agent or a corporate issuer/investor has an interest in the outcome of a service provided to the client that is distinct from the client's interest in that outcome.
- The Company or its Tied Agent has a financial or other incentive to favour the interest of a corporate issuer over the interest of an investor.
- The Company or its Tied Agent receives or will receive from a Corporate Issuer an inducement in relation to a service provided to the client, other than the standard commission or fee for that service.
- The Company or its Tied Agent has a financial or other incentive to provide preferential treatment to a member of a group of clients compared to the rest of the group.

Control and Prevention of Conflicts of Interest

Where conflicts, or potential conflicts, are identified, the Company is committed to ensuring that they are effectively and fairly managed so as to prevent these conflicts from constituting or giving rise to a material risk of damage to the interests of the Company's clients.

The Company has adopted various measures to prevent and manage conflicts of interest, including:

- Separate supervision and segregation of duties/functions.

- Option to refuse the provision of services.
- Implementing Chinese Walls/Management of confidential information.
- Remuneration policies to ensure staff performance does not conflict with clients' best interests.
- Prohibiting inducements in certain circumstances.
- Equal treatment of clients.
- Transparency in operations and project selection.
- Prohibition of certain transaction practices.
- Staff training
- Record keeping
- Regular independent monitoring or review
- Implementation of specific policies and/or procedures with regard to among others, personal transactions, remunerations and inducements.
- Disclosure to clients by updating this Policy accordingly

Personal Transactions of Employees

All employees of the Company that are involved in the investment activities that the Company is authorised to provide must be aware of the restrictions on personal transactions detailed below. This section also includes personal transactions which may be performed by persons who are employed by companies which perform an outsourced activity to the Company, if any. If any prohibited personal transactions are entered into, the Company must be notified promptly. All employees of Ayomi Financial Services Limited must comply with the restricted list and the obligation to report personal transactions to the compliance officer before any order can be executed. This Policy also incorporates other requirements from the Market Abuse Regulation.

For the purpose of this section, a personal transaction shall be **an order in a financial instrument effected by or on behalf of a relevant person, where at least one of the following criteria are met:**

- The relevant person is acting outside the scope of the activities (s)he carries out in his/her professional capacity;
- the trade is carried out for the account of any of the following persons:
 - The relevant person;
 - Any person with whom (s)he has a family relationship, or with whom (s)he has close links;
 - A person in respect of whom the relevant person has a direct or indirect material interest in the outcome of the operation, other than obtaining a fee or commission for the execution of the trade.

Employees of the Company that are involved in the provision of investment services or other activities must not enter into the personal transactions that which will cause the following:

- enter into a transaction prohibited under section 9 of the Insider Dealing and Market Manipulation (Market Abuse) Law;

- misuse or cause improper disclosure of confidential information;
- enter in a transaction that is likely to conflict with any obligations of the Company, or the employee, that are stated under the Law.

Where the employee has come into contact with information which is not publicly available to clients or cannot readily be inferred from information that is so available, the employees must not act or undertake personal transactions or operation, other than as market makers acting in good faith and in the ordinary course of market making, or in the execution of an unsolicited client order, on behalf of any other person, including the Company.

The employees must not disclose any opinion other than in the normal course of business, if the person who is given the opinion is likely to enter into a transaction which is contrary to the above. The employee also should not provide an advice or provide to anyone any information, other than in the proper course of his/her employment, especially if it is clear that the person who is receiving such information will advise another party who might acquire or dispose of financial instruments to which that information relates.

Any client's orders that have been relayed to any employees of the Company must not be disclosed to another party. An employee of the Company who has knowledge of a potential client's order must not carry out a personal transaction that is the same as the client order, if this will cause a conflict of interest.

The Company shall keep records of the personal transactions notified to or identified by the Company, including, any authorisation or prohibition in connection with such transaction.

Inducements

The Company is dedicated to providing honest, fair and professional investment services to clients. For this reason, Ayomi Financial Services Limited operates on the basic premise that no inducements (monetary and non-monetary benefits) are received in relation to the investment services provided, unless these qualify as a minor non-monetary benefit. Courses and workshops could also qualify as minor non-monetary benefits. In the unlikely event that the Company will receive an inducement, it will return this to the client

The Company will not provide any inducements (monetary and non-monetary) in relation to an investment services to any third party, unless the provision of commissions enhances the quality of the service to the client and it does not impair compliance with the duty to act in the best interests of the clients. Evidence of this will be documented.

Any commissions, fees or monetary or non-monetary benefits will comply with the requirements in Article 25(7), 25(8) and 25(9) of the Law and will be documented in the Conflicts of Interest policy, as well as reflected in the Company's inducements arrangements.

Remunerations

To mitigate conflicts of interest, the Company has a Remuneration Policy in place that ensures that relevant persons are not only remunerated based on quantitative commercial criteria, but equal attention is given to qualitative criteria such as compliance with regulations,

the fair treatment of clients and the quality of services provided to clients. Furthermore, the Company's Remuneration Policy provides that the variable element of the remuneration shall never exceed the fixed element of the remuneration. Retention period of the variable remuneration is also introduced, where the vesting period varies depending on the level of conflict of interest.

The Remuneration Policy has also ensured that where relevant persons are engaged in different activities where a conflict of interest may arise in relation to those activities, there is no direct link to their remuneration.

Reporting Conflicts of Interest

In the case of identification of a possible conflict of interest, a staff member must refer it initially to his/her immediate supervisor to assist in the assessment of a risk of damage and send a completed copy of the disclosure to the Compliance Department with full details to allow regulatory scrutiny, for inclusion within the reports reviewed by the Board of Directors, of:

- corrective and preventive actions;
- how these actions were considered appropriate;
- any conditions imposed; and
- whether there are still ongoing conflicts, how these are being managed and advised to the client;

Management of Conflicts of Interest

The Company wishes to emphasize that the following potential conflicts of interest could exist which are properly managed by the Company in accordance with the "Management of Conflict of Interest" section describe herein.

- a) The Parent company of Ayomi Financial Services Limited, Ayomi SAS is also its IT Service Provider and its Tied Agent for representation in France. The UBO's of the Company are **Non-Executive Directors** at the Board of Directors of the Company and the Directors of Ayomi SAS.

The Company maintains a compliance department that is independent within the Company, and it has established suitable and adequate internal procedures for monitoring the activity of its Tied Agent and minimize any potential conflicts of interest

➤ **Independence and Segregation of Duties**

The following functions and departments are segregated as measures to prevent or manage conflicts of interest:

- The front office and the back office;
- Corporate Issuer and Investor sales departments
- Acceptance of clients and business and strategic departments
- It & transactions

Furthermore, the following measures have been adopted by the Company for ensuring the requisite degree of independence:

- Measures to prevent or control the exchange of information between relevant persons engaged in activities involving a risk of a conflict of interest where the exchange of that information may harm the interests of one or more clients. (i.e. by establishing a Chinese wall)
- Direct supervision of relevant persons whose principal functions involve carrying out activities on behalf of, or providing services to, clients whose interests may conflict, or who otherwise represent different interests that may conflict, including those of the Company and its Tied Agent. The Company's department whose interests may conflict with clients are the Investment Advice and Investors Departments.
- Removal of any direct link between the remuneration of relevant persons principally engaged with one activity and the remuneration of, or revenues generated by, different relevant persons principally engaged in another activity, where a conflict of interest may arise in relation to those activities: Investment Advice and Strategic Department, Corporate Issuer Onboarding and Investors Departments The same applies to the employees under the Marketing Department.
- Measures to prevent or limit any person from exercising inappropriate influence over the way in which a relevant person carries out and/or promotes investment services or activities. Additionally, the person who decides or influences an individual's bonus may exert undue influence over that individual's integrity of judgment.

➤ **Chinese Walls**

Chinese Walls are essentially information barriers which are used to prevent inside or highly confidential information possessed by one part of the business from being inappropriately passed to, or obtained by, another part of the business.

When a Chinese Wall is used as a way of managing conflicts of interests, individuals on the other side of the wall will not be regarded as being in possession of knowledge denied to them as a result of the Chinese wall. For example, where arrangements have been put in place to ensure that entities belonging to the same group operate independently of each other with effective Chinese walls, the entities shall not be deemed to have knowledge of each other for conflicts of interest purposes. Access to server and clients' data is restricted per department.

In order to restrict the flow of confidential and inside information within the Company, the Company maintains Chinese walls and physical separation of the following departments:

- Compliance Department
- Back Office Department
- Investment Advice
- Business Development (corporate issuer & investors are also separate)

- Marketing Department
- It Department
- Management

➤ **Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

When the measures taken by the Company to manage conflicts of interest are not sufficient to ensure, with reasonable confidence that risks of damage to clients' interest will be prevented, the Company proceeds with the disclosure of conflicts of interest. If the potential conflict of interest may be repercutted to all clients, the disclosure may be included in this Policy and will be published on its website. If the potential conflict of interest concerns only a specific client, the Company prior to carrying out the service, must disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest to the client, made in sufficient time, in a durable mean and shall include sufficient detail, taking into account the nature of the client.

Clients will be given the opportunity to decide whether or not to continue their relationship withus with no unreasonable obstacles.

The Company shall ensure that disclosure to clients pursuant to this section is a measure of last resort that shall be used only where the effective arrangements established by the Company to prevent or manage its conflicts of interest are not sufficient to ensure, with reasonable confidence, that risks of damage to the interests of the client will be prevented.

The disclosure shall:

- Clearly state that the organisational and administrative arrangements established by the Company to prevent or manage that conflict are not sufficient to ensure, with reasonable confidence, that the risks of damage to the interests of the client will be prevented;
- Include specific description of the conflicts of interest that arise in the provision of investment services, taking into account the nature of the client to whom the disclosure is being made. The description shall explain in sufficient detail to enable that client to take an informed decision with respect to the service in the context of which the conflicts arise:
 - The general nature and sources of conflicts of interest;
 - The risks to the client that arise as a result of the conflicts of interest; and
 - The steps undertaken to mitigate risks.

➤ **Record Keeping**

The Company keeps and regularly updates a record of the kinds of investment service or activity carried out by or on behalf of the Company in which a conflicts of interest entailing a risk of damage to the interests of one or more clients has arisen or, in the case of an ongoing service or activity, may arise.

Senior management shall receive on a frequent basis, and at least annually, written reports on situations referred to in this section.

Responsibilities

The Company's Chief Executive Officer is responsible for clearly allocating responsibility and delegating authority to accountable individuals to ensure that those involved are aware of their involvement and that the Officer in charge has a sufficient level of authority and independence in order to carry out his/her responsibilities effectively.

The Company's Senior Management is required to:

- fully engage in the **implementation of policies**, procedures and arrangements for the identification, management and ongoing monitoring of conflicts of interest; adopt a holistic view to ensure the identification of potential and emerging conflicts within and across business lines and to ensure that informed judgments are made with respect to materiality.
- Raise **awareness and ensure compliance** of relevant individuals by ensuring: regular training (including to contractors and third-party service providers' staff) both at induction and in the form of refresher training; the clear communication of policies, procedures and expectations; that awareness of conflicts procedures forms part of the performance review/appraisal process, and that the best practice is shared throughout the Company.
- Sponsor **robust systems and controls** and effective regular reviews to ensure that strategies and controls used to manage and mitigate risks remain appropriate and effective and that appropriate warnings and disclosures are issued to clients where necessary.
- Utilize management information to remain **sufficiently up-to-date** and informed; and support an independent review of the processes and procedures in place.
- Individuals are required to identify new conflicts of interest arising out of the activities/services that they perform and engage in the process to notify line management upon identifying any potential conflict.

The Company's Compliance Officer who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the implementation of this Policy. In particular, is responsible for:

- establishing the Policy in relation to conflicts of interest;
- providing training oversight and aid;
- monitoring compliance with arrangements;
- the oversight of conflicts management;
- maintaining records in relation to conflicts of interest;
- providing appropriate internal reporting to the Board of Directors.

Conflicts Deadlock

Where line management cannot resolve a conflict to the satisfaction of all parties, the Compliance Officer will have the final say.

Review of the Policy

This Policy shall be reviewed periodically and at least on an annual basis by the Company's Compliance Officer and shall be approved from the Company's Board of Directors. The Company shall take all appropriate measures to address any deficiencies.

Over-reliance on disclosure of conflicts of interest shall be considered a deficiency in the Company's conflicts of interest policy.

Implementation and enforcement of the Policy

Senior management is responsible for establishing procedures for the identification, prevention and control of conflicts of interest. Checks and monitoring are carried out by Risk Management and the Compliance Officer in order to determine whether potential conflicts of interest are controlled. In the event of non-compliance with this Policy, a report is made to Board of Directors and a decision on how to resolve the situation is made in consultation with the management. In the event that a conflict of interest is identified and it is not possible for the Company to prevent or control a conflict of interest, the Company will notify the client accordingly, as mentioned above.

The Risk Officer is responsible to maintaining a register of conflicts of interest and corresponding controls. Conflicts of Interest is an item on the agenda for discussion at least one Board of Directors and Risk Management Committee meetings during the year. Any new potential conflict of interest, or changes to an existing conflict, should be communicated to the Risk and Compliance Officers as soon as the conflict, or potential conflict, has been identified so that the register can be updated accordingly.

All staff must take responsibility to not knowingly create a conflict of interest. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action being taken. At request of the Compliance Officer employees have to declare on an annual basis that they are compliant with this Policy.

Monitoring

On an annual basis, a conflicts of interest evaluation takes place performed by the Compliance Officer and this Policy will be reviewed. If applicable, all appropriate measures will be taken to address any deficiencies.

Record

The Compliance Officer will keep the conflicts of interest register for a period of at least five years from the date of review by the Risk Committee and/or the Board of Directors meeting inline with the record retention Policy.