

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

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Under NYSE rules, the Company is permitted, as a listed foreign private issuer, to adhere to the corporate governance rules of our home country in lieu of certain NYSE corporate governance rules.

Corporate governance rules for Italian stock corporations (*società per azioni*) like the Company, whose shares are not listed on a regulated market in the European Union, are set forth in the Civil Code. As described in more detail below, the Italian corporate governance rules set forth in the Civil Code differ in a number of ways from those applicable to U.S. domestic companies under NYSE listing standards, as set forth in the NYSE Listed Company Manual.

As a general rule, Company's main corporate bodies are governed by the Civil Code and are assigned specific powers and duties that are legally binding and cannot be derogated from. The Company follows the traditional Italian corporate governance system, with a board of directors (*consiglio di amministrazione*) and a separate board of statutory auditors (*collegio sindacale*) with supervisory functions. The two boards are separate and no individual may be a member of both boards. Both the members of the board of directors and the members of the board of statutory auditors owe duties of loyalty and care to the Company. As required by Italian law, an external auditing firm (*società di revisione*) is in charge of auditing the Company's financial statements. The members of the Company's board of directors and board of statutory auditors, as well as the external auditor, are directly and separately appointed by shareholder resolution at the shareholders' meetings. This system differs from the unitary system envisaged for U.S. domestic companies by the NYSE listing standards, which contemplate the board of directors serving as the sole governing body.

Below is a summary of the significant differences between Italian corporate governance rules and practices, as the Company has implemented them, and those applicable to U.S. issuers under NYSE listing standards, as set forth in the NYSE Listed Company Manual.

### **Independent Directors**

*NYSE Domestic Company Standards* — The NYSE listing standards applicable to U.S. companies provide that “independent” directors must comprise a majority of the board. In order for a director to be considered “independent,” the board of directors must affirmatively determine that the director has no “material” direct or indirect relationship with the company. These relationships “can include commercial, industrial, banking, consulting, legal, accounting, charitable and familial relationship (among others).”

More specifically, a director is not independent if, *inter alia*, such director or his/her immediate family members has certain specified relationships with the company, its parent, its consolidated subsidiaries, their internal or external auditors, or companies that have significant business relationships with the company, its parent or its consolidated subsidiaries. Ownership of a significant amount of stock, by itself, is not a per se bar to independence.

*Our Practice* — The presence of a prescribed number of independent directors on the Company's board is neither mandated by any Italian law applicable to the Company nor required by the Company's By-laws.

However, Italian law sets forth certain independence requirements applicable to the Company's statutory auditors. Statutory auditors' independence is assessed on the basis of the following rules: a person who (i) is a director, or the spouse or a close relative of a director, of the Company or any of its affiliates, or (ii) has an employment or a regular consulting or similar relationship with the Company or any of its affiliates, or (iii) has an economic relationship with the Company or any of its affiliates which might compromise his/her independence, cannot be appointed to the Company's board of statutory auditors. The law sets forth certain principles aimed at ensuring that any member of the board of statutory auditors who is a chartered public accountant (*iscritto nel registro dei revisori contabili*) be substantively independent from the company subject to audit and not be in any way involved in the company's decision-making process. The Civil Code mandates that at least one standing and one alternative member of the board

of statutory auditors be a chartered public accountant. Each of the current members of the board of statutory auditors is a chartered public accountant.

### **Executive Sessions**

*NYSE Domestic Company Standards* — Non-executive directors of U.S. companies listed on the NYSE must meet regularly in executive sessions, and independent directors should meet alone in an executive session at least once a year.

*Our Practice* — Under the laws of Italy, neither non-executive directors nor independent directors are required to meet in executive sessions. The members of the Company's board of statutory auditors are required to meet at least every 90 days.

### **Audit Committee and Internal Audit Function**

*NYSE Domestic Company Standards* — U.S. companies listed on the NYSE are required to have an audit committee that satisfies the requirements of Rule 10A-3 under the Exchange Act and certain additional requirements set by the NYSE. In particular, all members of this committee must be independent and the committee must adopt a written charter. The committee's prescribed responsibilities include (i) the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of the external auditors; (ii) establishing procedures for the handling of "whistle blower" complaints regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters; (iii) engaging independent counsel and other advisers, as it determines necessary to carry out its duties and (v) determine appropriate funding for payments to the external auditor, advisors employed by the audit committee and other necessary administrative expenses of the audit committee. A company must also have an internal audit function, which may be outsourced, except to the independent auditor.

*Our Practice* — Rule 10A-3(c)(3) of the Exchange Act provides that foreign private issuers with a board of statutory auditors established in accordance with local law or listing requirements and meeting specified requirements with regard to independence and responsibilities (including the performance of most of the specific tasks assigned to audit committees by Rule 10A-3, to the extent permitted by local law) (the "Statutory Auditor Requirements") are exempt from the audit committee requirements established by the rule. The Company is relying on this exemption on the basis of its separate board of statutory auditors, which is permitted by the Civil Code and which satisfies the Statutory Auditor Requirements. Nevertheless our board of statutory auditors, consisting of independent and highly professional experts, complies with the requirements indicated at points (i), (iii) and (iv) of the preceding paragraph. The Company also has an internal audit function, which has not been outsourced.

### **Compensation Committee**

*NYSE Domestic Company Standards* — U.S. companies listed on the NYSE are required to have a compensation committee (or equivalent) comprised solely of independent directors and have a written charter addressing certain corporate governance matters. The compensation committee must approved the compensation of the CEO and make recommendations to the board of directors with regard to the compensation of other officers, incentive compensation plans and equity-based plans. Disclosure of individual management compensation information for these companies is mandated by the Exchange Act's proxy rules, from which foreign private issuers are generally exempt.

*Our Practice* — The Company has not established a compensation committee. As a matter of Italian law applicable to Italian stock corporations whose shares are not listed on a regulated market in the European Union and under our By-laws, the compensation of executive directors, including the CEO, is determined by the board of directors, after consultation with the board of statutory auditors, within a maximum amount established by the Company's shareholders, while the Company's shareholders determine the base compensation for all members of the board of directors, including non-executive directors. Compensation of the Company's executive officers is determined by the CEO. The Company does not produce a compensation report. However, the Company discloses aggregate compensation of all of its directors and officers as well as individual compensation of each director in Item 6 of its Annual Report.

### **Nominating Committee**

*NYSE Domestic Company Standards* — Under NYSE standards, a domestic company must have a nominating/corporate governance committee (or equivalent) comprised solely of independent directors, which is responsible for nominating directors, and a written charter addressing certain corporate governance matters.

*Our Practice* — As allowed by Italian laws, the Company has not established a nominating/corporate governance committee (or equivalent) responsible for nominating its directors. Directors may be designated by any of the Company's shareholders but shall be appointed by the shareholders' meeting. If, during the term of the appointment, one or more directors of the Company ends its directorship, the other directors shall replace them by a resolution approved by the board of statutory auditors, provided that the majority is still made up of directors appointed by the shareholders. Replacement directors remain in office until the next shareholders' meeting. If at any time more than half of the members of the board of directors appointed by the shareholders' meeting resigns, such resignation is ineffective until the majority of the new board of directors has been appointed. In such a case, the remaining members of the board of directors (or the board of statutory auditors if all the members of the board of directors have resigned or ceased to be directors) must promptly call an ordinary shareholders' meeting to appoint the new directors. Invest 2003 s.r.l., a company controlled by Mr. Pasquale Natuzzi, by virtue of owning a majority of the outstanding shares of the Company, controls the Company and the appointment of its board of directors.

### **Corporate Governance and Code of Ethics**

*NYSE Domestic Company Standards* — Under NYSE standards, a company must adopt governance guidelines and a code of business conduct and ethics for directors, officers and employees. A company must also publish these items on its website and provide printed copies on request. Section 406 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act requires a company to disclose whether it has adopted a code of ethics for senior financial officers, and if not, the reasons why it has not done so. The NYSE listing standards applicable to U.S. companies provide that codes of conduct and ethics should address, at a minimum, conflicts of interest; corporate opportunities; confidentiality; fair dealing; protection and use of company assets; legal compliance; and reporting of illegal and unethical behavior. Corporate governance guidelines must address, at a minimum, directors' qualifications, responsibilities and compensation; access to management and independent advisers; management succession; director orientation and continuing education; and annual performance evaluation of the board.

*Our Practice* — In January 2011, the Company's board of directors approved the adoption of a compliance program to prevent certain criminal offenses, according to the Italian Decree 231/2001. The task of supervising the application of the compliance program requested by the abovementioned Italian Decree has been entrusted to an autonomous supervisory body ("*Organismo di Vigilanza*") that consists of two (they were three until September 21, 2018) independent and qualified members. In February 2016, the board of directors approved a new code of ethics that applies to all employees and officers of the Company, including the board of directors and the board of statutory auditors, the CEO, the CFO and principal accounting officer. The Company believes that its code of ethics and the conduct and procedures adopted by the Company address the relevant issues contemplated by the NYSE standards applicable to U.S. companies noted above. The code of ethics is available on Natuzzi's website.

### **Certifications as to Violations of NYSE Standards**

*NYSE Domestic Company Standards* — Under NYSE listing standards, the CEO of a U.S. company listed on the NYSE must certify annually to the NYSE that he or she is not aware of any violation by the company of the NYSE corporate governance standards. The company must disclose this certification, as well as the fact that the CEO/CFO certification required under Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 has been made in the company's annual report to shareholders (or, if no annual report to shareholders is prepared, its annual report). Each listed company on the NYSE, both domestic and foreign issuers, must submit an annual written affirmation to the NYSE regarding compliance with applicable NYSE corporate governance standards. In addition, each listed company on the NYSE, both domestic and foreign issuers, must submit interim affirmations to the NYSE upon the occurrence of specified events. A domestic issuer must file such an interim affirmation whenever the independent status of a director changes, a director

joins or leaves the board, a change occurs to the composition of the audit, nominating/corporate governance, or compensation committee, or there is a change in the company's classification as a "controlled company." The CEO of both domestic and foreign issuers listed on the NYSE must promptly notify the NYSE in writing if any executive officer becomes aware of any non-compliance with the NYSE corporate governance standards.

*Our Practice* — Under the NYSE rules, the Company's CEO is not required to certify annually to the NYSE whether he is aware of any violation by the Company of the NYSE corporate governance standards. However, the Company is required to submit an annual affirmation of compliance with applicable NYSE corporate governance standards to the NYSE within 30 days of the filing of its annual report on Form 20-F with the SEC. The Company is also required to submit to the NYSE an interim written affirmation any time it is no longer eligible to rely on, or chooses to no longer rely on, a previously applicable exemption provided by Rule 10A-3, or if a member of its audit committee ceases to be deemed independent or an audit committee member had been added. Under NYSE rules, the Company's CEO must notify the NYSE in writing if any executive officer becomes aware of any material non-compliance by the Company with NYSE corporate governance standards.

#### **Shareholder Approval of Adoption and Modification of Equity Compensation Plans**

*NYSE Domestic Company Standards* — Shareholders of a U.S. company listed on the NYSE must approve the adoption of and any material revision to the company's equity compensation plans, with certain exceptions.

*Our Practice* — Although the shareholders' meeting of the Company must authorize (i) the issuance of shares in connection with capital increases, and (ii) the buy-back of its own shares, the adoption of equity compensation plans does not per se require prior approval of the shareholders.

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#### **About Natuzzi S.p.A.**

*Founded in 1959 by Pasquale Natuzzi, Natuzzi S.p.A. is Italy's largest furniture house and one of the most important global players in the furniture industry with an extensive manufacturing footprint and a global retail network. Natuzzi is the European lifestyle best-known brand in the upholstered furnishings sector worldwide (Brand Awareness Monitoring Report - Ipsos 2018) and has been listed on the New York Stock Exchange since May 13, 1993. Always committed to social responsibility and environmental sustainability, Natuzzi S.p.A. is ISO 9001 and 14001 certified (Quality and Environment), OHSAS 18001 certified (Safety on the Workplace) and FSC® certified (Forest Stewardship Council).*

#### **For information:**

##### **NATUZZI INVESTOR RELATIONS**

tel. +39.080.8820.111; [investor\\_relations@natuzzi.com](mailto:investor_relations@natuzzi.com)