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French Data Protection Authority – CNIL

**DECISION No.2023-145 of 21 December 2023 APPROVING PROCESSOR BINDING CORPORATE RULES
OF THALES
(application for approval No. 20005722)**

The « Commission nationale de l'informatique et des libertés » (hereafter “CNIL”),

Pursuant to the request by THALES S.A. on behalf of the group THALES, for approval of their binding corporate rules for processor;

Having regard to Articles 47, 57 and 64 of the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation or GDPR);

Having regard also to the French Data Protection Act 78-17 of 6 January 1978;

On a proposal from Ms. Anne DEBET, Commissioner, and the observations made by Mr. Damien MILIC, Government Commissioner;

Makes the following observations:

1. Article 47(1) of the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR) provides that the French Data Protection Authority (CNIL) shall approve Binding Corporate Rules (BCRs) provided that they meet the requirements set out under this Article.
2. The implementation and adoption of BCRs by a group of undertakings is intended to provide guarantees to controllers and processors established in the European Union (“EU”) as to the protection of personal data that apply uniformly in all third countries and, consequently, independently of the level of protection guaranteed in each third country.
3. Before carrying out any transfer of personal data on the basis of the BCRs to one of the members of the group, it is the responsibility of any data exporter in a Member State, if needed with the help of the data importer, to assess whether the level of protection required by EU law is respected in the third country of destination in the case of the specific data transfer, including onward transfer situations. This assessment has to be conducted in order to determine whether any legislation or practices of the third country applicable to the to-be-transferred data may impinge on the data importer’s and/or the data exporter’s ability to comply with their commitments taken in the BCRs, taking into account the circumstances surrounding the transfer. In case of such possible impingement, the data exporter in a Member State, if needed with the help of the data importer, should assess whether it can provide supplementary measures in order to exclude such impingement and therefore to nevertheless ensure, for the envisaged transfer at hand, an essentially equivalent level of protection as provided in the EU. Deploying such supplementary measures is the responsibility of the data exporter and remains its responsibility even after approval of the BCRs by the competent supervisory authority (SA) and, as such, they are not assessed by the competent SA as part of the approval process of the BCRs

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4. In any case, where the data exporter in a Member State is not able to implement supplementary measures necessary to ensure an essentially equivalent level of protection as provided in the EU, personal data cannot be lawfully transferred to a third country under these BCRs. Therefore, the data exporter commits to waive, suspend or end the transfer of personal data. In the same vein, where the data exporter is made aware of any changes in the relevant third country legislation that undermine the level of data protection required by EU law, the data exporter is required to suspend or end the transfer of personal data at stake to the concerned third countries.
5. In accordance with the cooperation procedure as set out in the Working Document WP263 rev.01¹, the Processor BCRs application of the group was reviewed by the CNIL, as the competent SA for the BCRs (BCR Lead) and by two SAs acting as co-reviewers. The application was also reviewed by the concerned SAs to which the BCRs were communicated as part of the cooperation procedure.
6. The review concluded that the Processor BCRs of the group comply with the requirements set out by Article 47(1) of the GDPR as well as the Working Document WP257 rev.01² and in particular that the aforementioned BCRs:
 - i) Are legally binding and contain a clear duty for each participating member of the group including their employees to respect the BCRs by entering in an Intra-Group Agreement (article 3 of the BCRs, appendix 11 of the BCRs and article 2 of the intra-group agreement);
 - ii) Expressly confer enforceable third-party beneficiary rights to data subjects with regard to the processing of their personal data as part of the BCRs (article 10.2 of the BCRs);
 - iii) Fulfil the requirements laid down in Article 47(2) of the GDPR:
 - a) The structure and contact details of the group of undertakings and each of its members are described in the application form WP265 that was provided as part of the file review and appendix 7 of the BCRs;
 - b) the data transfers or set of transfers, including the categories of personal data, the type of processing and its purposes, the type of data subjects affected and the identification of the third country or countries in question are specified in appendices 1 and 8 of the BCRs;
 - c) the legally binding nature, both internally and externally, of the Processor BCRs is recognized in article 3 of the BCRs, appendix 11 of the BCRs and article 2 of the intra-group agreement;

¹ Endorsed by the EDPB on 25 May 2018.

² Endorsed by the EDPB on 25 May 2018.

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- d) the application of the general data protection principles, in particular purpose limitation, data minimisation, limited storage periods, data quality, data protection by design and by default, legal basis for processing, processing of special categories of personal data, measures to ensure data security, and the requirements in respect of onward transfers to bodies not bound by the BCRs are detailed in articles 4, 5, 8 and 13 of the BCRs;
- e) the rights of data subjects in regard to processing and the means to exercise those rights, including the right not to be subject to decisions based solely on automated processing, including profiling in accordance with Article 22 of the GDPR, the right to lodge a complaint with the competent SA and before the competent courts of the Member States in accordance with Articles 77 and 79 of the GDPR, and to obtain redress and, where appropriate, compensation for a breach of the BCRs which are set forth in articles 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the BCRs;
- f) the acceptance by the processor established on the territory of a Member State of its liability for any breaches of the BCRs by any member concerned not established in the Union as well as the exemption from that liability, in whole or in part, only if the concerned party proves that that member is not responsible for the event giving rise to the damage are specified in article 9 of the BCRs;
- g) how the information on the BCRs, in particular on the provisions referred to in points (d), (e) and (f) of Article 47(2) of the GDPR are provided to the data subjects in addition to Articles 13 and 14 of the GDPR, is specified in article 17.1 of the BCRs;
- h) the tasks of any data protection officer designated in accordance with Article 37 of the GDPR or any other person or entity in charge of monitoring the compliance with the binding corporate rules within the group of undertakings, or group of enterprises engaged in a joint economic activity, as well as monitoring training and complaint-handling are detailed in article 20 of the BCRs and in appendices 2, 3, 5 and 6 of the BCRs;
- i) the complaint procedures, including the obligation for the processor to inform the controller of a request or complaint by a data subject, are specified articles 11 and 12 of the BCRs and in appendices 2 and 3 of the BCRs;
- j) the mechanisms put in place within the group of undertakings for ensuring the monitoring of compliance with the BCRs are detailed in article 19 of the BCRs and appendix 4 of the BCRs. Such mechanisms include data protection audits and methods for ensuring corrective actions to protect the rights of the data subject. The results of such monitoring are communicated to the person or the entity referred to in point (h) above and to the board of the controlling undertaking of the group of undertakings and are available upon request to the competent SA;

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- k) the mechanisms for reporting and recording changes to the rules and reporting those changes to the SAs are specified in article 21 of the BCRs;
 - l) the cooperation mechanism put in place with the SA to ensure compliance by any member of the group of undertakings is specified in article 16 of the BCRs. The obligation to make available to the SA the results of the monitoring of the measures referred to in point (j) above is specified in article 19 of the BCRs;
 - m) the mechanisms for reporting to the competent SA any legal requirements to which a member of the group of undertakings is subject in a third country which are likely to have a substantial adverse effect on the guarantees provided by the binding corporate rules are described in article 8 of the BCRs;
 - n) finally, provide for an appropriate data protection training to personnel having permanent or regular access to personal data (article 18 of the BCRs and appendix 5 of the BCRs).
7. The EDPB provided issued opinion No 32/2023 on 28 November 2023 in accordance with Article 64(1)(f) of the GDPR. The CNIL took utmost account of this opinion.

Decides as following:

1. The CNIL approves the Processor BCRs of THALES as providing appropriate safeguards for the transfer of personal data in accordance with Article 46(1) and (2) (b) and Article 47(1) and (2) GDPR. For the avoidance of doubt, the CNIL recalls that the approval of BCRs does not entail the approval of specific transfers of personal data to be carried out on the basis of the BCRs. Accordingly, the approval of BCRs may not be construed as the approval of transfers to third countries included in the BCRs for which, an essentially equivalent level of protection to that guaranteed within the EU cannot be ensured.
2. The approved BCRs will not require any specific authorization from the concerned SAs.
3. In accordance with Article 58(2)(j) GDPR, each concerned SA maintains the power to order the suspension of data flows to a recipient in a third country or to an international organisation whenever the appropriate safeguards envisaged by the Processor BCRs of THALES are not respected.

The President

Marie-Laure Denis

This decision may be subject to appeal before the Conseil d'État within a period of two months from the date of its notification.

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ANNEX

The Processor BCRs of THALES that are hereby approved cover the following:

- a. **Scope.** The BCRs apply when a BCR member is acting as a data processor (article 2.2 of the BCRs). They apply to transfers of personal data from BCR members within the EEA to BCR members located outside the EEA, as well as to their onward transfers to other BCR members outside the EEA (article 2.3 of the BCRs).
- b. **EEA countries from which transfers are to be made:** France, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Sweden (appendix 7.1 of the BCRs).
- c. **Third countries to which transfers are to be made:** Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroun, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Egypt, Gabon, Hong-Kong, India, Indonesia, Israel, Ivory Coast, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America and Venezuela (appendices 7.2 and 8 of the BCRs).
- d. **Purposes of the transfer:** The purposes are detailed in appendix 1 of the BCRs, as follows:
 1. Data processing within the framework of outsourcing, hosting and administration of IT systems and security services provided by Thales to its customers
 2. Data processing resulting from technical support and maintenance operations carried out on behalf of customers pursuant to a contract
 3. Processing in order to provide technical support and maintenance services to customers of monitoring and navigation systems
 4. Processing intended to ensure the organization, follow-up and performance of training sessions provided by Thales to its customers as a Data Processor
 5. Data collection and processing by Thales on behalf of its airline customers in order to provide services to such airlines.
 6. Data collection and processing by Thales on behalf of its airlines customers in order to provide personalized services to the end customers.
 7. Data collection and processing by Thales on behalf of its customers implying aggregation and redistribution of data to its customers or to third parties designated by its customers
 8. Processing for the purpose of adapting and setting up products in accordance with the customers' needs
 9. Processing of personal data for digital banking management
 10. Processing of personal data for ID verification and facial recognition
 11. Processing of personal data for OnDemand Connectivity to connect devices to cellular networks
 12. Processing of personal data for software licensing solutions

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- e. Categories of data subjects concerned by the transfer:** Those categories are specified in article 2.2 of the BCRs, as follows:
- clients;
 - clients' employees;
 - clients' clients;
 - employees of clients' clients;
 - providers and suppliers;
 - employees of providers and suppliers.
- f. Categories of personal data transferred:** Those categories are included in article 2.2 of the BCRs, as follows:
- identification data;
 - data related to professional life;
 - connection data;
 - biometric data;
 - economic and financial data;
 - location data;
 - driving license; and
 - any publicly available information.