



Ernst & Young Assurance Services SRL
Bucharest Tower Center Building, 21st Floor
15-17 Ion Mihalache Blvd., District 1
011171 Bucharest, Romania

Tel: +40 21 402 4000
Fax: +40 21 310 7193
office@ro.ey.com
ey.com

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of Sphera Franchise Group S.A.

Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Sphera Franchise Group S.A. (the Company) and its subsidiaries (together referred to as "the Group") with official head office in Bucharest, 239 Calea Dorobanti Street, identified by sole fiscal registration number 37586457, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2022, and the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the consolidated financial position of the Group as at December 31, 2022, and of its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Order of the Minister of Public Finance no. 2844/2016, approving the accounting regulations compliant with the International Financial Reporting Standards, with all subsequent modifications and clarifications.

Basis for opinion

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

Key audit matters

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

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



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

Key audit matter

Goodwill impairment testing

On 30 May 2017, Sphera Franchise Group SA acquired 99.9997% of the shares in US Food Network SA (referred hereinafter as USFN) and American Restaurant System SA (referred hereinafter as ARS), in exchange for the Company’s shares. Following the purchase price allocation (in which identifiable assets and liabilities of ARS were recognized at fair value), RON 50,585 thousand resulted as goodwill recorded in the consolidated financial position of the Group.

The Group is required to test the goodwill for impairment at least annually. The impairment assessment made by the Group is considered to be a key audit matter as it incorporates significant judgements made by management in respect of certain factors such as future cash flows, future restaurants opening, growth rates, gross and net operating margins, working capital needs, capital expenditure and discount rates, as well as economic assumptions such as the evolution of salaries in the economy and inflation.

The impairment assessment performed on the goodwill did not result in additional impairment adjustment to be recorded as at 31 December 2022, the net carrying value of goodwill as at 31 December 2022 is RON 35,447 thousand.

The Group disclosures about the impairment test are included in Note 2.4.10 Impairment of non-financial assets, including goodwill and Note 12. Intangible assets.

How our audit addressed the key audit matter

Our audit procedures with respect to the impairment analysis performed as of 31 December 2022 included, but were not limited to, the following procedures:

- Analyzed the methodology used by management in performing the impairment test for American Restaurant System SA cash generating unit (“CGU”), to determine its compliance with IAS 36.
- Evaluated the Group’s key assumptions and estimates used to determine the discount rate, the future operating cash flows, the growth rates, operating margins, working capital needs and the capital expenditure.



- Involved our valuation specialists to assist us in the evaluation of key assumptions and estimates used by the Group, including the determination of the discount rates. In this context, we evaluated whether or not certain assumptions on which the valuation was based, individually and taken as a whole, considered: i) the economic environment of the industry and the Group's economic circumstances, including the subsequent impact of the COVID 19 pandemic and Ukraine war consequences; ii) existing market information; iii) the business plans of the Group including management's expectations; iv) the risks associated with the cash flows, included the potential variability in the amount and timing of cash flows and the related effect on the discount rate; v) specific requirements of IFRS; vi) benchmarking against general performance of peer companies and against the Group's historical financial performance and trends.
- Tested the mathematical accuracy of the discounted cash flow computation;
- Assessed the historical accuracy of management's budgets and forecasts by comparing them to actual performance and to prior year;
- Evaluated the management's prepared sensitivity analysis over key assumptions in the future cash flow model in order to assess the potential impact of a range of possible outcomes;
- We further assessed the adequacy of the disclosures about the impairment test in the notes to the consolidated financial statements.

Other information

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

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

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

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

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

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

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

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

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

- a) in the Directors' Report we have not identified information which is not consistent, in all material respects, with the information presented in the accompanying consolidated financial statements as at December 31, 2022;
- b) the Directors' Report identified above includes, in all material respects, the required information according to the provisions of the Ministry of Public Finance Order no. 2844/2016 approving the accounting regulations compliant with the International Financial Reporting Standards, with all subsequent modifications and clarifications, Annex 1 points 15 – 19 and 26-27;



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- c) based on our knowledge and understanding concerning the entity and its environment gained during our audit of the consolidated financial statements as at December 31, 2022, we have not identified information included in the Directors' Report that contains a material misstatement of fact.
- d) the Remuneration Report identified above includes, in all material respects, the required information according to the provisions of article 107 (1) and (2) from Law 24/2017 on issuers of financial instruments and market operations.

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

Appointment and Approval of Auditor

We were appointed as auditors of the Group by the General Meeting of Shareholders on 4 February 2022 to audit the consolidated financial statements for the financial year end December 31, 2022. Total uninterrupted engagement period, including previous renewals (extension of the period for which we were originally appointed) and reappointments for the statutory auditor, has lasted for 6 years, covering the financial periods end December 31, 2017 till December 31, 2022.

Consistency with Additional Report to the Audit Committee

Our audit opinion on the consolidated financial statements expressed herein is consistent with the additional report to the Audit Committee of the Company, which we issued on 23 March 2023.

Provision of Non-audit Services

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

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

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

We have performed a reasonable assurance engagement on the compliance of the electronic format of the consolidated financial statements of Sphera Franchise Group S.A. (the Company) and its subsidiaries (together referred to as "the Group") for the year ended 31 December 2022, included in the attached electronic file „315700GSVZOHSS7J1457-2022-12-31-en.zip" (identified with the key 4b91b14d951d36a44489cfda0eed039d2fa3ae2676a3f37488b585934886e558) with the requirements of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018 /815 of 17 December 2018 supplementing Directive 2004/109/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to regulatory technical standards on the specification of a single electronic reporting format (the "ESEF Regulation"). Our opinion is expressed only in relation to the electronic format of the consolidated financial statements and does not extend to the other information included in the annual report.



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Description of the subject matter and the applicable criteria

The Management has prepared electronic format of consolidated financial statements of the Group for the year ended 31 December 2022 in accordance and to comply with ESEF Regulation requirements. The requirements for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements in ESEF format are specified in the ESEF Regulation and represent, in our opinion, applicable criteria for us to express an opinion providing reasonable assurance.

Responsibilities of the Management and Those Charged with Governance

The Management of the Group is responsible for the compliance with the requirements of the ESEF Regulation in the preparation of the electronic format of the consolidated financial statements in XHTML format. Such responsibility includes the selection and application of appropriate iXBRL tags using the taxonomy specified in the ESEF Regulation, ensuring consistency between the human-readable layer of electronic format of the consolidated financial statements and the audited consolidated financial statements. The responsibility of Group's Management also includes the design, implementation and maintenance of such internal control as determined is necessary to enable the preparation of the consolidated financial statements in ESEF format that are free from any material non-compliance with the ESEF Regulation.

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

Auditor's Responsibility

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

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

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

Our Independence and Quality Management

We apply International Standard on Quality Management 1, Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements, and accordingly, designs, implements and operates a comprehensive system of quality management including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

We have maintained our independence and confirm that we have met the ethical and independence requirements of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) (IESBA Code).

Summary of procedures performed

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

- obtained an understanding of the internal control and the processes related to the application of the ESEF Regulation in respect of the consolidated financial statements of the Group, including the preparation of the consolidated financial statements of the Group in XHTML format and its tagging in machine readable language (iXBRL);
- tested the validity of the applied XHTML format;
- checked whether the human-readable layer of electronic format of the consolidated financial statements (XHTML) corresponds to the audited consolidated financial statements;
- assessed the completeness of the tagging of information in the consolidated financial statements while using the machine-readable language (iXBRL) under the requirements of the ESEF Regulation;
- assessed the appropriateness of the applied iXBRL tags selected from the core taxonomy and the creation of extensions to the elements in the extended taxonomy specified in the ESEF Regulation when there were no suitable elements in the core taxonomy;
- evaluated the anchoring of the taxonomy extensions to the elements in the extended taxonomy specified by the ESEF Regulation.

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



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Other matter

Legal Uncertainty about the Compliance of the Interpretation of Applicable European Requirements

Due to the conversion process chosen by the Group in relation to the information in the notes to the financial statements in iXBRL format ("block tagging"), the rendering of the consolidated financial statements into ESEF-Format is not completely machine readable in a meaningful way. The legal compliance of the interpretation by management that meaningful machine readability of structured information in the notes is not explicitly required by the Delegated Regulation (EU) 2018/815 for the block tagging of the notes, is subject to legal uncertainty, which therefore also represents an inherent uncertainty in our audit.

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

Based on the procedures performed, in our opinion, the electronic format of the consolidated financial statements of the Group for the year ended 31 December 2022 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of ESEF Regulation.

On behalf of,

Ernst & Young Assurance Services SRL
15-17, Ion Mihalache Blvd., floor 21, Bucharest, Romania

Registered in the electronic Public Register under No. FA 77

**Autoritatea pentru Supravegherea Publică a
Activității de Audit Statutar (ASPAAS)**
Firma de audit: **ERNST & YOUNG ASSURANCE SERVICES S.R.L.**
Registrul Public Electronic: **FA77**

**Autoritatea pentru Supravegherea Publică a
Activității de Audit Statutar (ASPAAS)**
Auditor finanțiar: **Gavrila Felicia Viorica**
Registrul Public Electronic: **AF1513**


Name of the Auditor/ Partner: Felicia Viorica Gavrila
Registered in the electronic Public Register under No. AF1513

Bucharest, Romania
27 March 2023