

# **Stichting Bescherming Privacybelangen**

## **Claim Code Compliance Document 2025**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Stichting Bescherming Privacybelangen (also trading under the name ‘Privacy Protection Stichting’, the “**Foundation**”) was established in 2021 to represent the interests of users, former users and/or their legal guardians of any product or service capable of processing personal data regarding the users who are, or at any time have been, subject to a Privacy Intrusion committed by one or more Google entities (as defined in clause 1 of the Articles of Association of the Foundation (the “**Articles**”)) and to investigate and establish the liability of one or more Google entities either directly or indirectly for such Privacy Intrusion and all consequences therefrom or otherwise and to perform all activities or further activities that are incidental to these ends.

The Foundation endorses the Claim Code that entered into force on 1 July 2011, as amended on 4 March 2019 (the “**Claim Code**”). The Claim Code consists of principles (the “**Principles**”) with elaborations that are considered to be broadly accepted general guidelines and views on how interest groups, such as the Foundation, should represent collective interests, including in litigation. The Principles create a set of standards for the founders, directors, supervisory boards, consultants, funders and advisors engaged by that interest group, in this instance the Foundation.

The Foundation currently has a management board (the “**Board**”) consisting of three board members and a supervisory board (the “**Supervisory Board**”) consisting of three supervisory board members. The Board is charged with the management of the Foundation and requires prior written approval of the Supervisory Board (amongst others) for certain resolutions that significantly affect the Foundation and/or the interests of the individuals it represents

### **PRINCIPLE I: COMPLIANCE WITH THE CLAIM CODE**

The Board and Supervisory Board discuss adherence to the Claim Code annually in a joint meeting. Should the Board ever wish to deviate from one or more Principles, it requires prior written approval of the Supervisory Board on the basis of clause 7.1 of the Articles. The Board is required to explain the reasons for such deviation in the Claim Code Compliance Document.

This document describes the headlines of the governance of the Foundation and its adherence to the Claim Code as set out in clause 7.2 of the Articles and in Principle I.1 Claim Code, and is published on the Foundation's website: <https://stichtingbeschermingprivacybelangen.com/documenten>.

### **PRINCIPLE II: PROTECTING COLLECTIVE INTERESTS ON A NOT-FOR-PROFIT BASIS**

The Foundation is a not-for-profit organization. The Foundation acts in the collective interests of users, former users and/or their legal guardians, of any product or service capable of Processing personal data regarding the users who are, or at any time have been, subject to a Privacy Intrusion (as defined in the Articles) committed by one or more Google Entities, Google Officers and/or affiliated processors and/or joint controllers, while having their domicile in the Netherlands, and who are persons whose interests the Foundation represents pursuant to its object, all terms broadly defined (the “**Aggrieved Parties**”).

The Board represents the Foundation. The authority to represent the Foundation is also vested on two board members that act jointly (Principle II.1 Claim Code and clause 15.2 Articles). The Foundation does not generate revenue by requiring the Aggrieved Parties to pay a registration fee. Thus, there is no risk of inappropriate use of such funds as identified by the Claim Code in Principle II and for which the Claim Code provides important safeguards.

According to Principle II.3 Claim Code the articles should contain a provision that any liquidation surplus be distributed in line with the statutory object of the Foundation to the effect that it should either be distributed amongst the Aggrieved Parties or to benefit a charity organization under Dutch law (“ANBI-instelling”). Clause 27.5 of the Articles provides that upon adoption of a resolution to dissolve the Foundation, the Board will need to stipulate how any surplus funds on winding up be allocated in line with the objects of the Foundation and employed for an institution serving the public good. The resolution to dissolve the Foundation (including the allocation of a possible surplus) is subject to prior written approval of the Supervisory Board (clause 27.2 in conjunction with clause 26.1 of the Articles).

### **PRINCIPLE III: EXTERNAL FUNDING**

The Foundation entered into an agreement (the “**Agreement**”) with Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP based in New York, USA (“**LCHB**”). LCHB finances the activities of the Foundation for consumers who, at any time on or after 1 March 2012, have used (at least) one of Google’s many products and services while residing in the Netherlands and are affected by Google’s violations of the law. The Foundation and LCHB have agreed that LCHB can also support the Foundation in performing marketing and advertising activities, advice and information and with website operations, but only if and to the extent it is instructed to do so by the Foundation.

The Foundation has investigated the track record and reputation of LCHB. LCHB has more than 40 years of successful experience with collective actions in the USA and has build in those 40 years a great track record.

LCHB has agreed to fund the litigation initiated by the Foundation through (at least) a judgment on the merits by the Court of First Instance. The members of the management Board, members of the Supervisory Board, and the lawyers of the Foundation are all independent from LCHB and its affiliates. LCHB and its affiliates are independent of the counterparty in the collective action (Google). Furthermore, the Agreement provides for an arrangement that safeguards the independence in the previous two sentences.

The funding conditions do not conflict with the collective interests the Foundation aims to protect on the basis of its Articles. The control over, amongst others, the litigation and settlement strategy of the Foundation as well as the engagement of Attorneys lies exclusively with the Foundation. LCHB has the right to information, but no decision-making power over the Foundation’s policy or course of action. The Board acts independently from LCHB. The Agreement includes a forum choice for the Netherlands’ courts, a choice of law for Dutch law and a stipulation of LCHB to designate an address in the Netherlands for the benefit of the Agreement. The Agreement provides for a notice period as required by Principle III.6 of the Claim Code and an arrangement that ensures confidentiality of information and delineates what information LCHB has access to. The Foundation ensures that all third parties that the Foundation enters into an agreement with, confirm that they can only accept instructions coming from the Foundation.

LCHB is entitled to compensation in return for the risks and costs assumed by LCHB and the services it may provide (if and to the extent instructed to do so by the Foundation). LCHB will be entitled to 18% of the gross compensation of any cash recovery achieved through a collective settlement or litigation. In the event of both cash recovery and non-cash recovery (i.e. in kind compensation), LCHB will also be entitled to receive 18% of the cashequivalent value of the non-cash part of the compensation, provided the cash-equivalent thereof can be readily determined. In the event the cash-equivalent of the non-cash part of the compensation cannot be readily determined, LCHB is entitled to receive between 18% - 25% of the cash recovery. The specific % that LCHB in such scenario is entitled to will be agreed upon between the Foundation and LCHB on the basis of reasonableness in relation to the specific circumstances of the recovery. In the event of non-cash recovery only, where it is not possible to readily determine the cash-equivalent thereof, the compensation to LCHB will not exceed three times the total cost of its services and its funding.

## **PRINCIPLE IV: INDEPENDENCE OF THE FOUNDATION AND AVOIDING CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS**

In accordance with the Claim Code and the Articles, conflict of interest between the Foundation's engaged advisors, the Supervisory Board, and the Board should be avoided. In all cases where, nevertheless, there is a direct or indirect conflict of interest between the interests of the Foundation and the interests of one or more members of the Board and/or the Supervisory Board, the individual with the conflict of interest may not take part in the deliberations and shall abstain from voting with respect to the matter in which he or she has a conflict of interest (clauses 13.1 and 19.2 of the Articles). If all members of the Board have a conflict of interest, the resolution shall be taken by the Supervisory Board (clause 13.2 of the Articles).

In accordance with Principle IV.3 Claim Code and clause 13.3 of the Articles, the Foundation will not conclude an agreement with an entity in which a Board member and/or a Supervisory Board member or its close affiliates is involved as a director, founder, shareholder, supervisory, associate, partner, member or employee. This does not apply to the remuneration of a private legal entity that is solely used for the performance of its duties as a Board member or Supervisory Board member for the Foundation.

None of the Board members or Supervisory Board members are related to each other, related to each other's spouses or to individuals connected with LCHB. The Board members and Supervisory Board members are not involved in positions that may impair the pursuance of the Foundation's statutory object.

## **PRINCIPLE V: COMPOSITION, TASK AND MODUS OPERANDI OF THE BOARD**

The Board represents the Foundation. Principle V.1 Claim Code provides that the Board of the Foundation should consist of at least three individuals. Currently, the Board consists of: Ada van der Veer ((former) board and supervisory board member of various multinational companies (among them financial institutions) and foundations, including a position as supervisory board member at Data Privacy Stichting), Ira Rubinstein (Senior Fellow at the Information Law Institute at NYU Law School, former associate general counsel at Microsoft and board member at Data Privacy Stichting) and Marlies van Eck (Chief Privacy Officer at the Dutch Tax Administration and University Lecturer at the Radboud University Nijmegen). Given the current composition of the Board, it has adequate legal and financial expertise and experience.

The Board runs a website for the Foundation: [www.stichtingbeschermingprivacybelangen.com](http://www.stichtingbeschermingprivacybelangen.com). As required by Principle V.8 Claim Code, this website provides public access to all relevant information, including – but not limited to – the following documents: (i) the Articles, (ii) this Claim Code Compliance Document, (iii) a short biography of the members of the Board and the Supervisory Board, (iv) updates on any pending litigation, (v) the annual report of the Board, (vi) the annual report of the Supervisory Board, (vii) contact information for the Foundation.

The plan of action enabling Aggrieved Parties to decide whether the nature and operations of the Foundation match their personal interests as referred to in Principle V.8 sub (xi) Claim Code and an overview of the legal action filed by the Foundation (Principle V.8 sub (xii) Claim Code) can be found at <https://stichtingbeschermingprivacybelangen.com/en/our-action/>

## **PRINCIPLE VI: REMUNERATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

The decision on whether the Board members receive remuneration for services rendered to the Foundation, lies with the Supervisory Board (clause 6.6 of the Articles). The Board members have the specific expertise (including legal expertise) required for their roles within the Foundation. As

of 1 January 2025, the Supervisory Board deems it justified to provide an hourly rate of EUR 385 / USD 440 (excluding VAT) for time spent by its Board members. In 2022, 2023 and 2024, the Board members each received an average amount of EUR 25,100 (excluding VAT) (2022 total: EUR 76,074, 2023 total: EUR 63,743 and 2024 total: EUR 83,776 (excluding VAT)). In addition to their compensation based on the hourly rate, the Board members are also entitled to reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses.

## **PRINCIPLE VII: THE SUPERVISORY BOARD**

Principle VII Claim Code provides that the Supervisory Board of the Foundation consists of at least three individuals. Currently, the Supervisory Board consists of three individuals: Ben Knüppe (former attorney at law, board member and bankruptcy trustee in high profile bankruptcies in the Netherlands (e.g. the bankruptcy of DSB Bank)), Clive Zietman (Attorney at law and former Head of Commercial Litigation at Stewarts Law LLP (London) specialized in high value and complex disputes and group litigation) and Ari Waldman (Professor of Law at the University of California, Irvine School of Law). Given the current composition of the Supervisory Board, it has adequate legal and financial expertise and experience, in accordance with Principle VII Claim Code. The Supervisory Board meets at least once a year and organizes an annual combined meeting with the Board to discuss, amongst others, the strategy of the Foundation. The Board keeps the Supervisory Board informed on all material matters of the Foundation.

The Supervisory Board is charged with the approval of the annual accounts. As suggested by Principle VII.7 Claim Code, the Articles require the Board to have the annual accounts verified by a registered auditor prior to approval by the Supervisory Board (clause 24.3 and 24.4 Articles). As of 1 January 2025, each member of the Supervisory Board is entitled to a service fee of EUR 8,800 per annum (excluding VAT). As of 1 January 2025, the chair is entitled to an amount of EUR 11,000 per annum (excluding VAT). Any costs and/or out-of-pocket expenses may be charged separately to the Foundation.



