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**CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY** 



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# 1 GENERAL INFORMATION

# 1.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF APPLICATION

This Policy for the regulation of conflict of interest (the "Policy) provides guidelines to be followed by Nexi Payments S.p.A. (the "Company") in order to identify and manage conflict of interest situations of a material nature, even if only potential.

This Policy applies to Nexi Payments.

# 1.2 REFERENCE REGULATIONS REGEGULATIONS

# Internal reference regulations

- (1) Group Policy n° 28 "Conflict of Interest Policy"
- (2) Group Regulation n°. 012 "Procedure for the governance of transactions with related parties"
- (3) 231 Model and Code of Ethics of the Company

# **External reference regulations:**

- (4) Art. 2391 of the Italian Civil Code
- (5) Legislative Decree no. 231/2001 Administrative Liability of Companies and Entities
- (6) Ministerial Decree n. 169 of 23 November 2020 (the "DM 169/2020")
- (7) Supervisory Provisions for Payment Institutions and Electronic Money Institutions, enforced by order of the Bank of Italy of 23 July 2019
- (8) Supervisory Provisions on the transparency of banking and financial transactions and services and on the fairness of relations between intermediaries and customers, adopted by order of the Bank of Italy on 29 July 2009, as amended and supplemented

# 1.3 **DEFINITIONS**

Clients	"Clients" means any person to whom the Group companies provide one or more services or supply goods.	
Conflict of interest	"Interest" means any financial advantage or benefit, whether direct (in one's own favour) or indirect (in favour of third parties linked to one's personal or professional relations), but also of a political, social or other nature, which a party has reason to believe they may acquire through the conclusion or omission of a certain transaction, or through the conclusion of one of the several specified transactions.	
	Conflict of interest is therefore that situation in which the aforementioned interest tends to affect or interfere with the primary interest of the Company or of Customers, towards which the agent has precise duties and responsibilities.	
Supervised entities	Indicates the company, as a supervised payment institution	
Family member	This includes: spouse or cohabiting "more uxorio", sons, parents, brothers/sisters.	
Personnel	Personnel refers to employees of the Company and all persons who have any employment relationship with the Company, including temporary workers.	



Close Personal	Parental relations of affinity and/or business relations that may also include co-
Relationship	partnerships in companies
Suppliers	Suppliers of goods and services, within the limits of their existing relations with the Company, including external consultants and professionals, as well as all collaborators who in any capacity act in the name of and/or on behalf of the Company.

# 2 GENERAL CATEGORIES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

#### Conflicts of interest can be:

- Real (or current) when the secondary interest proper of the Personnel or a Director employee is likely to influence the pursuit of the primary interest of the Company or of the Customer at the time when the Personnel or a Director is called on, in the performance of his/her duties, to take or contribute to taking a decision, to perform an investigative activity or in any case to contribute, through the performance of his/her work activity, to the decision making;
- Potential (and, therefore, not yet actual) when there is a secondary interest of the Personnel or a Director's own that may, at a later time, interfere with the primary interest of the Company or of the Customer that they might be called on to pursue; in this case, the Personnel or a Director would, at a later time, find themselves in a situation of conflict that has not yet materialised. In the potential conflict, therefore, there are interests of Personnel or a Director that may create a conflict, but that do not affect the tasks currently performed;
- Perceived (or apparent) in the case of a conflict of interest that is not actual but is likely to lead external observers to think that the primary interest of the company may be (or may have been) interfered with by secondary interests, financial or non-financial.

Conflicts of interest relating to Clients are generally situations in which the Company, a Director or an employee:

- is likely to make a financial gain, or avoid a financial loss, at the expense of the Customer;
- has an interest in the outcome of a service provided to the Customer or of a transaction carried out on behalf of a Customer which is distinct from the Customer's interest in that outcome;
- has a financial or other incentive to favour the interest of another Customer or group of Customers over the interest of the said Customer;
- > carries out the same business as the Customer:
- receives or will receive from a person other than the Customer, an inducement in relation to a service provided to the Customer in the form of a financial gain, goods or services other than the standard fee or commission for that service:
- has a financial or other incentive to favour the sale to the Customer of a particular product or service that is not in the best interests of the Customer.

Conflicts of interest relating to the Company are generally situations in which:

- the interest of an employee in the outcome of a particular activity or project differs from that of the Company with which they have the relevant employment relationship;
- an employee (or, where relevant, a family member or a person with whom the employee or the Director has a close personal relationship or any company controlled by the Personnel or the Director or a Member of the relevant family) receives by virtue of their position in the Company a significant financial or other benefit that is improper in nature, as defined in the Code of Ethics;
- a member of Personnel or a Director (or, where relevant, a Family Member or a person with whom the Personnel or the Director has a close personal relationship or any company controlled by the Personnel or the Director or by a Member of the relevant Family) is able to influence the granting of business by the Company or on the administrative or other relevant decisions of the Company in such a way as to obtain personal gain or advantage for themselves, a Family Member or a person with whom they have a close personal relationship or any company controlled by the Personnel or the Director or a Member of their relevant family:
- > a current financial or other interest, or a previous role in a project or activity, or a relationship with another person or company which compromises or may compromise an employee's judgment or objectivity in



fulfilling their duties and responsibilities to the Company;

- > a Company's department favours its own interest over that of another department against the best interests of the Company, including the department's interest in relation to the selection of Suppliers;
- > an actual or perceived conflict of interest arises in connection with a transaction or agreement signed between the Company and a relevant shareholder because of the close relationship between the parties;
- an actual or perceived conflict of interest arises in connection with a transaction or agreement between Group entities (intra-group transactions).

The following is a non-exhaustive list of specific examples of possible transactions and activities that give rise to conflicts of interest and which require appropriate management, mitigation or prevention:

- when hiring and assessing employees during the course of the relationship -, the assessing party has relations with the concerning party that influences their decision making;
- in the context of a litigation process, there is an interest to settle an existing dispute amicably with a "counterparty" who forms part of a personal relationship;
- ➤ a family member of an employee, and/or a person with whom the employee has a close personal relationship, has an interest in a transaction or activity in which a Customer also has an interest and the employee favours the family member and/or the person with whom the employee has a close personal relationship;
- excessive or very generous gifts or invitations to events, as defined in the Code of Ethics, received by an employee which detrimentally influence their judgement or lead to misconduct;
- the Company hires a resource as an employee or in another role in exchange for forbidden barter agreements of any kind
- > an employee recommends a Supplier related to him, as a member of the relevant family or having a close personal relationship, without disclosing such relationship;
- a conflict between the Company and other Group companies, a Customer, a Suppliers or an employee, where the customer suggests not complying with applicable regulations or policies, including tax evasion, fraud or other offences

# 3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST INVOLVING DIRECTORS

Conflicts of interest involving directors are governed by Art. 2391 of the Italian Civil Code:

"Director must inform the other directors and the board of statutory auditors of any interest they have, personally or on behalf of third parties, in a specific company transaction, specifying the nature, terms, origin and relevance thereof.

In case of Managing director, must, furthermore, abstain from carrying out the transaction and inform the management body of such circumstances; sole directors must likewise provide information also at the next shareholders' meeting.

In the cases provided for in the preceding paragraph, the resolution of the Board of Directors shall adequately state the reasons for the transaction and the proper economic advantage ("convenienza") for the company. In the event of non-compliance with the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 above, or in the event of resolutions of the board or of the executive committee adopted with the casting vote of the director concerned, such resolutions, if they are likely to cause damage to the company, may be challenged by the directors and the board of statutory auditors within ninety days of their adoption; challenges may not be lodged by parties who consented with their vote to the resolution, provided that the disclosure obligations set out in the first paragraph were fulfilled. In any event, rights acquired in good faith by third parties on the basis of acts performed in order to implement the resolution shall not be affected.

Director shall be liable for damage caused to the company by their action or omission. Director shall also be liable for any damage caused to the company as a result of the use of data, information or business opportunities acquired during the performance of their duties for their own benefit or for the benefit of third parties."

Regarding disclosure to the other directors and the board of statutory auditors, Article 2391 of the Italian Civil Code focuses on "any interest", i.e. any advantage, both for the natural person holding the office of director as well as for the company, which may be in conflict with the company's interest.

The Corporate Governance function reports the conflict of interest declared by the director to the Compliance



department for the purpose of recording it in the Conflict Register.

#### 4 INDEPENDENCE OF JUDGMENT

Ministerial Decree 169/2020 contains the rules concerning eligibility requirements to be appointed as representatives of, among other things, Supervised Entities (Nexi Payments S.p.A.).

Among the requirements and criteria provided therein, art. 15 of Ministerial Decree 169/2020 states the criteria of independence of judgment of the companies representative.

With regard to this criteria, the relevant corporate body of the Supervised Entities is required to assess whether all representatives meet, among other things, the following requirements

- the behavioral skills; and
- the absence and/or management of conflicts of interest that would prevent them to perform their tasks in an independent and objective manner.

Art. 15 of Ministerial Decree 169/2020 identifies the circumstances that are in abstract suitable to compromise the independence of judgment referring to some of which, according to art. 13 of Ministerial Decree 169/2020, affect the independence of the representatives, when required pursuant to legal or regulatory provisions. To clarify, it should be noted that the independence requirement pursuant to art. 13 of Ministerial Decree 169/2020 is not applicable to representatives of Supervised Entities.

The existence of such circumstances does not necessarily means that the appointed representative cannot be considered suitable. This occurs if the conflict of interest implies a significant risk and where it is not possible to prevent, mitigate or adequately manage the conflict of interest on the basis of the policies implemented by the Group and / or by the Supervised Entity.

Art. 13 of the Ministerial Decree 169/2020 includes among the circumstances in abstract suitable to compromise the independence of judgment the fact that a Director "held or [has] held in the last two years in companies [belonging to the Supervised Entities] or companies controlled by [this] office as chairman of the board of directors, executive positions or supervisory or executive officer, or [has] held, for more than nine years in the past

twelve, positions as member of the board of directors, supervisory or management boards as well as executive positions in companies belonging [tof the Supervised Entities] or companies controlled by [this] ".

# 5 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST INVOLVING PERSONNEL AND SUPPLIERS AND RELATED PRESIDIUM

Personnel are responsible for identifying and managing conflicts of interest on an ongoing basis, and the Company requires them to:

- comply with this policy and the applicable rules and procedures relating to the identification, escalation and management of conflicts of interest;
- act with integrity and apply good judgement and common sense in line with the values of the Company;
- act with the necessary degree of independence and objectivity in fulfilling their responsibilities towards the Company;
- avoid, where possible, situations that may give rise to conflicts of interest, and not allow:
  - personal or financial interests or relationships;
  - family members or Parties with whom they have a close personal relationship or interests of any company controlled by a member of Personnel or the Director or a member of the relevant family;
  - past, present or future involvement in an activity or project;
  - · various roles and responsibilities within the Company and, as the case may be, other Group



# companies

to compromise or call into question their judgement, their ability to act objectively or to adequately fulfil their obligations and responsibilities towards the Company and/or Customers; or to entail the risk of reputational damage to the Company, including the risk of suspected non-compliance with respect to the manner in which business is commissioned to or by the Company, resulting in the Company obtaining undue advantages or benefits;

- if participating in decision-making councils, immediately disclose conflicts of interest to the person chairing the meeting;
- not assume a supervisory, subordinate or controlling relationship (influencing employment conditions) with close relatives, including family members or parties with whom they have a close personal relationship;
- > not make improper use of information obtained during the performance of their duties for the Company;
- manage work-related information on the basis of the Company's 'Need to Know' principle (specific need to access certain information), while respecting any limitations on information exchange and confidentiality obligations;

If there is a conflict of interest, even if only potential, the Personnel adopting the final procedures or subordinate procedures must:

- > firstly, refrain from participating in the decision or interacting in any other way with the activity;
- report, immediately and in writing, the actual or potential conflict of interest, or the reason for the suspected undue benefit, to their immediate superior.

It is the employee's responsibility, in the event of a change of organizational structure or change of hierarchical superior, to report the Conflict of Interest to the new superior (by completing the form in Appendix 1).

In addition, Personnel acting as supervisors, after receiving the communication, proceeds, while respecting the confidentiality of the information, to:

- perform an "ex ante" assessment of the actual relevance of the conflict, defining the mitigation actions that can be implemented;
- promptly report, in writing (see Annex 1), to the Compliance function of the Company the conflict of interest of the member of Staff, its own assessment performed on the relevance of the conflict and the mitigation actions that it intends to activate
- once the actions to mitigate the reported conflict have been defined, also with the contribution of the Compliance function and, where appropriate, of the HR function, to verify on an ongoing basis the compliance of the reporting personnel with these actions.

On the basis of this report, the Compliance function:

- performs its own "ex ante" assessment on the type of conflict of interest faced by the employee and the validity of the mitigation actions proposed by the direct line manager, and proposes, if necessary, more effective actions. If the conflict of interest management requires action that involves a role/organizational allocation change of the employee, the Compliance function involves the head of the HR of the Company to define the necessary actions;
- provides feedback to the manager on the outcome of its assessment and on the possible involvement of the HR function. In this case, it is the HR function's task, through the HR Business Partner of reference, to contact the manager to illustrate possible management solutions;
- > records the reported conflict of interest situation and the actions defined on a special 'Conflict Register'.

Group companies must also activate appropriate safeguards, including contractual ones, to require suppliers to report any conflicts of interest of their directors, managers and employees with authorisation powers (including family members) with Group company personnel.



The Procurement function, if the supplier reports the conflict, will notify the Compliance function of the report received from the supplier. The Compliance function engages the manager of the reported employee by having him or her complete the form in Appendix 1 to initiate the assessment process described above. The Procurement function refrains from continuing activities with the supplier until the Compliance function communicates the outcome of the assessment.

All documents relating to reports are kept in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and Group policies and procedures.

# 6 ORGANISATIONAL MEASURES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Company maintains and manages organisational, procedural and administrative measures for the identification and management of actual or potential conflicts of interest. Specifically, the following measures should be noted:

# 1) Principles of Internal Governance

The Company is committed to maintaining an *Internal Governance* model in line with international standards and the recommendations contained in the Corporate Governance Code.

In addition, the Company has adopted the Code of Ethics, pursuant to Legislative Decree 231/2001, which sets out the ethical values and principles of conduct which the Company upholds in all its activities with respect to all stakeholders.

# 2) Segregation of functions

The Company implements a clear structural segregation of infrastructure divisions and functions, in such a way that allows them to be managed independently.

In particular, organisational arrangements have been enacted to prevent or control the exchange of information between relevant persons engaged in activities involving a risk of conflict of interest, where the exchange of such information may harm the interests of one or more customers.

In addition, the Company's internal control system consists of three lines of defence: line controls, risk management and regulatory compliance controls (so-called second level controls), internal audit (Audit Function in charge of third-tier controls), in order to achieve the corporate strategies and the objectives of effectiveness and efficiency of business processes, safeguarding the value of assets and protecting against losses, reliability and integrity of accounting and management information, compliance of transactions with the law, supervisory and oversight regulations on the payment system as well as with policies, plans, regulations and internal procedures.

To this end, the recipients to whom this Policy applies should abstain from voting, in the internal committees and/or in the Company's Board of Directors, to the extent that, based on a factual analysis from time to time conducted, participation in the decision-making process may prejudice independence of judgment and / or could imply a conflict of interest situation, even if potential.

# 3) Management of inside information

The Company has adopted specific regulations for the management of inside information in order to avoid unlawful conduct, in line with current legislation on market abuse, and a specific internal regulation governing internal dealing carried out on a personal basis by Insiders.

# 4) Governance of Committees

The Company has internal committees, whose members are obliged to disclose potential conflicts of interest to the chairperson at all times, whereupon the chairperson must take appropriate action to resolve such conflicts. All committee members and participants are obliged to respect the mandates of the committees in which they participate and to promptly disclose any conflicts of interest.



# 7 SYSTEMS, CONTROLS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Company has adopted a series of systems, controls, policies and procedures to manage conflicts of interest, which in turn are based on other internal regulations. A summary of the key requirements and controls is given below. Personnel are required to be familiar with the internal regulations and to comply fully with the requirements set forth therein.

**Remuneration practices:** the Group recognises remuneration as a factor that can influence the conduct of Personnel, therefore remuneration policies have been adopted to prevent the adoption of remuneration structures that may encourage Personnel to act against their responsibilities, regulatory requirements or the Code of Ethics.

In line with regulatory requirements, a Group remuneration policy has been developed to ensure that the connections between remuneration practices and the Group's business and risk strategies are clear and clearly understood by all Personnel.

The Board of Directors has established a Nomination and Remuneration Committee to support the definition of remuneration policies, which acts in the absence of conflicts of interest and adopting all the measures necessary in order to guarantee independence of judgment.

**Transactions with Related Parties:** a conflict of interest may also arise in relation to a Related Party (as defined in accordance with the relevant procedure), i.e. in relation to offices or activities undertaken outside their role, in particular with reference to senior management of the Group.

The Nexi Group has adopted policies and procedures aimed at identifying and managing conflicts of interest in such activities, which are governed by the regulations on Transactions with Related Parties.

**Gifts, entertainment and business events:** a conflict of interest may arise if an employee receives or offers a gift or invitation to an event that constitutes an improper incentive for an employee, relevant party, Customer or Supplier to act in a certain way. The Group does not permit the offering or acceptance of gifts or invitations to events by an employee, unless they are considered reasonable and proportionate in nature or related to a legitimate business goal, in compliance with the Code of Ethics and specific company regulations, where present.

Where applicable, the Personnel concerned must obtain pre-approval for gifts and invitations to events from their Company, which shall not approve the offer if it could potentially cause a conflict of interest or it is considered to be of an improper nature or could violate the Group's regulations and the Company's Regulation on gifts and gratuities.

**Suppliers:** the Group adopts various systems, controls, policies and procedures to manage the interaction of any Group companies with Suppliers or other Group companies, performing a due diligence process based on objective and independent criteria.

Group and Company procurement regulations govern the correct management of relations with Suppliers or other Group Companies, and all Personnel are required to comply with them.

The Company takes appropriate measures to ensure that suppliers report the presence of any conflicts of interest of directors, managers and employees with authorization powers (including their close relatives), with Company employees.

**Intra-group relations**: the Company adopts contracts governing the provision of intra-group services/sales, in which the methods of providing services/sales and the fees thereof are established.

**Whistleblowing:** the Company provides appropriate channels for notifying/reporting conflicts of interest within the Company itself, for cases in which the employee considers such channels the most appropriate way to bring a problem to the attention of senior management.



The internal whistleblowing regulation sets out the procedures available to Personnel to report concerns or possible suspected violations of laws, rules or regulations or Group policies, standards or procedures.

**Conflict Register:** a Register is createdfor the Company listing the cases where a conflict of interest arises or may arise within the meaning of this Policy (so-called Conflict Register). The Compliance function is responsible for the maintenance and regular update of the "Conflict Register". The compliance function reports to the company boards on the results of its activities in relation to the maintenance and update of the Conflict Register in its annual report.

**Controls and Risk Assessment**: it is the responsibility of the second and third level control functions to ensure that the controls implemented in the Group are adequate and effective. The Audit function is in charge of verifying ex post the observance and regular application of the procedures adopted for the management of Conflicts of Interest, even if only potential, that are identified. This function is also empowered to perform any other verification considered necessary for the monitoring and management of conflicts of interest.

**Training:** the Company provides periodic training courses on topics related to conflicts of interest in order to allow for adequate awareness and knowledge of conflicts and how to properly manage them.

The Compnay encourages a range of conducts, policies and procedures aimed at fostering a risk culture, including awareness of possible conflict of interest situations.

# 8 VIOLATIONS

If employees are found to be violating this Policy, disciplinary action will be taken against them in accordance with the law, the applicable employment contract and the applicable disciplinary code. Furthermore, where applicable, the malus and claw-back clauses envisaged by the remuneration and / or incentive plans in place from time to time may be applicable in compliance with the Group's internal regulations.

### Attachments:

1 - Fac-simile reporting to Compliance on employee conflicts of interest