



## **OTP Bank Group**

Market: Slovenia

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Category: GSS Announcements

# Amendment to the Companies Act

In the Official Gazette, published on 10 July 2023, amendments to the Companies Act (ZGD-1L) were published.

In order to ensure digitized and simple operation in the local markets, the European Union has adopted several directives that form a set of updated rules in the field of European company law.

Amendment ZGD-1L transposes:

- Directive 2019/1151 on the amendment of Directive (EU) 2017/1132 regarding the use of digital tools and processes in the company law (digitalization directive) and
- Directive (EU) 2019/2121 on the amendment of Directive (EU) 2017/1132 on cross-border conversions, mergers and divisions (Mobility Directive).

Beside other amendments, the amended ZGD-1L also introduces the possibility of holding a virtual general meeting without the physical presence of shareholders, their proxies and other persons. A virtual general meeting will only be possible if it is provided for in the company's articles of association and if the following conditions are met:

- (i) the company will have to ensure transmission of image and tone in real-time for the entire general meeting;
- (ii) the company will have to ensure the conditions for the identification of shareholders or their proxies;
- (iii) the possibility for shareholders or their proxies to vote at the general meeting using electronic means and the conditions for secure electronic communication will have to be established; and

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- Business
- (iv) the possibility to exercise the shareholders' right to information under 305. Article of ZGD-1 by electronic means.

In relation to the virtual general meeting, the Act also anticipates the potential inconveniences of digitization and thus contains a specific provision which provides that a challenge to a resolution of a general meeting cannot be based on a breach of the shareholders' rights resulting from technical interference in the use of technical means at the virtual general meeting, unless the technical interference is the result of gross negligence or willful misconduct of the person in charge of the company for which the meeting was held. For limited liability companies, it will now also be possible to hold a general meeting by telephone or by image and tone transmission, provided that all the members conclude that in a written declaration. It will also be possible to convene a general meeting by electronic means.

### Impact: Legal regulation of virtual assemblies

### Required actions: No action required from clients

Application date: July 10, 2023

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