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MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT

Introduction

Following the introduction of the UK Modern Slavery Act 2015 ("The Act"), like other similar sized commercial organisations in the UK, Africa Express Line (AEL) is required to publish an annual statement outlining the company's approach to ensuring our operations and supply chains are trafficking and slavery free.

AEL first published this statement in June 2017. As per the requirements of the Act, we are obliged to update our statement each year within 6 months of our financial year end which is 31 December.

The following information demonstrates AEL's commitment to the implementation of the requirements of this Act and the provision of adequate resources, systems and senior management involvement to ensure the continuous review of our broader commercial and business environment in the compliance of it.

Our Business, Structure and Supply chain

AEL is a UK based shipping line running a fleet of specialised modern refrigerated (reefer) vessels to and from West Africa and Europe. Founded in 2001, AEL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Compagnie Fruitiere (CF), a leading producer of fruits in West Africa and based in Marseille, France.

AEL has a turnover of approximately $180 million and employs 21 staff in its offices in Kings Hill, West Malling in England. CF has main farming operations in Cameroon, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Senegal and produces around 500,000 tonnes of fruit annually. The broader CF group comprises around 50 companies also involved in logistics, port operations, ripening, marketing and distribution in Africa and Europe, with around 20,000 staff and consolidated turnover of around 700 million Euros.

Our supply chain is predominately our group plantations for our main northbound cargo, but also some third party growers, and vessel owners for provision of our marine fleet.

Our Policy on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

As a company we value and strive to create an honest, fair and ethical business environment and extend that throughout our dealings with external businesses including our supply chain.

We fully support the key objectives of the Act in rejecting any form of discrimination, forced labour, harassment, human trafficking or child labour in our supply chain.

AEL also communicates these values to their staff and where necessary provides guidance in the process.

Risk Assessment

Our approach to compliance with the Act is based on assessing risk areas. In our opinion, these are mainly confined to the African plantations producing the product the company carries on our ships, and the ships themselves.

We, however, monitor all areas of our business environment and aim for a continued system of surveillance.

Due Diligence

As part of monitoring risk areas, we have approached these supply chain entities for clarification on their position in compliance with the Act.

In particular, for our group plantations we have received a detailed Corporate Social Responsibility Charter (CSR) signed by the President of CF confirming full adoption of the Act. This is supported by CF requiring their supply chain to sign a similar document stating these values are also adopted. These are all further enhanced by the adoption of conformity audits being performed by external parties.

For non-group plantations we require a CSR charter being integrated into contracts, and approach these entities to also raise awareness of the Act and the requirements under this.

AEL continues to work with CF CSR staff to monitor and develop effective compliance verification of all of our supply chain.

Update since last statement

We are pleased to confirm that there have been no cases breaching The Act brought to our attention during the last financial year ending on 31 December 2022, and we continue to monitor all areas of our supply chain to the best of our ability.

Approved by the AEL Board of Directors, on 20th April 2023.

Signed: ……

David Moreau

Managing Director