

Date

12 February 2026

Our reference

z2019-16795

2023-300368

Contact

070 8888 500

Subject

Decision approving Controller Binding Corporate Rules of ABB

The Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens,

Pursuant to the request by **ABB B.V.**, on behalf of the group **Asea Brown Boveri / ABB Ltd** (hereinafter '**ABB**'), received on **17 July 2019**, reference **2023-300368**, formerly z2019/16795, for approval of their binding corporate rules for controller;

Having regard to Articles 47, 57 and 64 of the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation or GDPR);

Having regard to the judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union in Data Protection Commissioner v. Facebook Ireland Ltd and Maximillian Schrems, C-311/18 of 16 July 2020;

Having regard to EDPB Recommendations 01/2020 on measures that supplement transfer tools to ensure compliance with the EU level of protection of personal data of 18 June 2021;

Having regard to EDPB Recommendations 1/2022 on the Application for Approval and on the elements and principles to be found in Controller Binding Corporate Rules (Art. 47 GDPR) of 20 June 2023 (hereinafter "the Recommendations 1/2022");

Makes the following observations:

1. Article 47(1) of the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR), provides that the competent Supervisory Authority shall approve Binding Corporate Rules (BCRs) provided that they meet the requirements set out under this Article.
2. The implementation and adoption of BCRs by a group of undertakings is intended to provide guarantees to controllers and processors established in the EU as to the

protection of personal data that apply uniformly in all third countries and, consequently, independently of the level of protection guaranteed in each third country.

3. Before carrying out any transfer of personal data on the basis of the BCRs to one of the members of the group, it is the responsibility of any data exporter in a Member State, if needed with the help of the data importer, to assess whether the level of protection required by EU law is respected in the third country of destination in the case of the specific data transfer, including onward transfer situations. This assessment has to be conducted in order to determine whether any legislation or practices of the third country applicable to the to-be-transferred data may impinge on the data importer's and/or the data exporter's ability to comply with their commitments taken in the BCR, taking into account the circumstances surrounding the transfer. In case of such possible impingement, the data exporter in a Member State, if needed with the help of the data importer, should assess whether it can provide supplementary measures in order to exclude such impingement and therefore to nevertheless ensure, for the envisaged transfer at hand, an essentially equivalent level of protection as provided in the EU. Deploying such supplementary measures is the responsibility of the data exporter and remains its responsibility even after approval of the BCRs by the competent Supervisory Authority and as such, they are not assessed by the competent Supervisory Authority as part of the approval process of the BCRs.
4. In any case, where the data exporter in a Member State is not able to implement supplementary measures necessary to ensure an essentially equivalent level of protection as provided in the EU, personal data cannot be lawfully transferred to a third country under these BCRs. In the same vein, where the data exporter is made aware of any changes in the relevant third country legislation that undermine the level of data protection required by EU law, the data exporter is required to suspend or end the transfer of personal data at stake to the concerned third countries.
5. In accordance with the cooperation procedure as set out in the Working Document WP263 rev01,¹ the Controller BCRs application of **ABB** was reviewed by the Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens as the competent supervisory authority for the BCRs (BCR Lead) and by two Supervisory Authorities (SA) acting as co-reviewers, *in this case the Finnish and Irish SAs*. The application was also reviewed by the concerned SAs to which the BCRs were communicated as part of the cooperation procedure.
6. The review concluded that the Controller BCRs of **ABB** comply with the requirements set out by Article 47(1) of the GDPR as well as the Recommendations 1/2022 and in particular that the aforementioned BCRs:

¹ Endorsed by the EDPB on 25 May 2018.

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- i) Are legally binding and contain a clear duty for each participating member of the Group including their employees to respect the BCRs by entering in an Intra-Group Agreement (*Section 5 of the application form and Article 1.3 of the BCRs*);
- ii) Expressly confer enforceable third-party beneficiary rights to data subjects with regard to the processing of their personal data as part of the BCRs (*Articles 10.1 and 10.2 of the BCRs*);
- iii) Fulfil the requirements laid down in Article 47(2) of the GDPR:
 - a) The structure and contact details of the group of undertakings and each of its members are described in the Application form of the Recommendations 1/2022 that was provided as part of the file review in *Section 5 of the application form and Article 6 of the BCRs*;
 - b) the data transfers or set of transfers, including the categories of personal data, the type of processing and its purposes, the type of data subjects affected and the identification of the third country or countries in question are specified in *Appendix 2 to the BCRs*;
 - c) the legally binding nature, both internally and externally, of the Controller BCRs is recognized in *Article 1.3 of the BCRs*;
 - d) the application of the general data protection principles, in particular purpose limitation, data minimisation, limited storage periods, data quality, data protection by design and by default, legal basis for processing, processing of special categories of personal data, measures to ensure data security, and the requirements in respect of onward transfers to bodies not bound by the binding corporate rules are detailed in *Article 2 of the BCRs*;
 - e) the rights of data subjects in regard to processing and the means to exercise those rights, including the right not to be subject to decisions based solely on automated processing, including profiling in accordance with Article 22 of the GDPR, the right to lodge a complaint with the competent supervisory authority and before the competent courts of the Member States in accordance with Article 79 of the GDPR, and to obtain redress and, where appropriate, compensation for a breach of the binding corporate rules which are set forth in *Article 2.9 and 10, and Appendix 6 to the BCRs*;
 - f) the acceptance by the controller or processor established on the territory of a Member State of its liability for any breaches of the binding corporate rules by any member concerned not established in the Union as well as the exemption from that liability, in whole or in part, only if the concerned party proves that that member is not responsible for the event giving rise to the damage are specified in *Article 10.3 of the BCRs*;

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- g) how the information on the binding corporate rules, in particular on the provisions referred to in points (d), (e) and (f) of Article 47.2 of the GDPR are provided to the data subjects in addition to Articles 13 and 14 of the GDPR, is specified in *Article 2.7 and Appendix 6 to the BCRs*;
- h) the tasks of any data protection officer designated in accordance with Article 37 of the GDPR or any other person or entity in charge of monitoring the compliance with the binding corporate rules within the group of undertakings, or group of enterprises engaged in a joint economic activity, as well as monitoring training and complaint-handling are detailed in *Article 6 of the BCRs*;
- i) the complaint procedures are specified in *Article 9 and Appendix 7 to the BCRs*;
- j) the mechanisms put in place within the group of undertakings for ensuring the monitoring of compliance with the binding corporate rules are detailed in *Article 8 of the BCRs*. Such mechanisms include data protection audits and methods for ensuring corrective actions to protect the rights of the data subject. The results of such monitoring are communicated to the person or the entity referred to in point (h) above and to the board of the controlling undertaking of the group of undertakings (in this situation to **ABB Ltd.**, as well as to the data privacy organization) and are available upon request to the competent supervisory authority;
- k) the mechanisms for reporting and recording changes to the rules and reporting those changes to the supervisory authorities are specified in *Article 11 of the BCRs*;
- l) the cooperation mechanism put in place with the supervisory authority to ensure compliance by any member of the group of undertakings is specified in *Article 12 of the BCRs*. The obligation to make available to the supervisory authority the results of the monitoring of the measures referred to in point (j) above is specified in *Article 8.1 of the BCRs*;
- m) the mechanisms for reporting, upon request, to the competent supervisory authority any legal requirements to which a member of the group of undertakings is subject in a third country which are likely to have a substantial adverse effect on the guarantees provided by the binding corporate rules are described in *Article 13 of the BCRs*;
- n) finally, provide for an appropriate data protection training to personnel having permanent or regular access to personal data (*Article 7 of the BCRs*).

7. The EDPB provided its **Opinion 4/2026** in accordance with Article 64(1)(f) of the GDPR.



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DECIDES AS FOLLOWING:

1. The Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens approves the Controller BCRs of **ABB** as providing appropriate safeguards for the transfer of personal data in accordance with Article 46(1) and (2) (b) and Article 47(1) and (2) GDPR. For the avoidance of doubt, the Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens recalls that the approval of BCRs does not entail the approval of specific transfers of personal data to be carried out on the basis of the BCRs. Accordingly, the approval of BCRs may not be construed as the approval of transfers to third countries included in the BCRs for which an essentially equivalent level of protection to that guaranteed within the EU cannot be ensured.
2. The approved BCRs will not require any specific authorization from the concerned SAs.
3. In accordance with Article 58(2)(j) GDPR, each concerned SA maintains the power to order the suspension of data flows to a recipient in a third country or to an international organization whenever the appropriate safeguards envisaged by the Controller BCRs of **ABB** are not respected.
4. **Annex 1** forms an integral part of this decision and shall be considered a binding appendix thereto.
5. **Annex 2** contains the Controller BCRs which are approved by this decision, and forms an integral part of this decision.

The Hague, 12-2-2026
Yours sincerely,

Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens

Chair

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Legal remedy

If you do not agree with this decision, you can submit a notice of objection.² The notice of objection must be signed and dated, include the name and address of the (legal) person submitting it and should entail a description of the decision against which the objection is being lodged and the grounds on which it is based. The notice of objection must be received by the Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens within six weeks after this decision is taken. Please address the notice to the Autoriteit Persoonsgegevens and submit the notice via PO Box 93374, 2509 AJ The Hague, The Netherlands.³

It is also possible to submit a notice of objection via our web form on the website, see <https://www.autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl/over-de-autoriteit-persoonsgegevens/bezwaar-maken>.

Please note that submitting a notice of objection will not automatically suspend the effect of this decision.

² The Dutch General Administrative Law Act ("Algemene wet bestuursrecht") applies to this procedure.

³ Article 6:7 in conjunction with article 6:8 (1) of the Dutch General Administrative Law Act.



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ANNEX 1 TO THE DECISION

The Controller BCRs of **ABB** that are hereby approved cover the following:

a. Scope.

Article 1.2 of the BCRs:

These Binding Corporate Rules apply to the transfer of Personal Data by ABB Group Companies (as listed in full detail in Appendix 3) to other ABB Group Companies located outside the EEA, in a country not recognised as offering adequate protection for the Personal Data, pursuant to applicable European Laws (including such onward transfers to other ABB Group Companies), where the recipient ABB Group Company is a Data Controller of the Personal Data.

b. EEA countries from which transfers are to be made:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden.

c. Third countries to which transfers are to be made:

Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Botswana, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote D'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Macao, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

d. Purposes of the transfer:

The purposes are detailed in *Appendix 2 to the BCRs*.

They include the following:

- *Human Resources Data:*
- *Recruitment, background screening and onboarding;*
- *HR administration and management (incl. working hours management, succession planning, staff transfer management);*
- *Employee performance management and professional development (incl. providing training);*
- *Payroll, compensation and administration of employee benefits;*
- *Business planning (incl. reorganization, acquisition and sales of activities, business units and companies);*



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- *Security, fraud prevention, investigation, and other risk management purposes (incl. KYC, AML, customs and global trade compliance, sanctioned party list screening and detection of unlawful conduct);*
- *Establish, exercise, or defend legal claims, contract review, integrity investigations and monitoring;*
- *Managing IT resources, Information Systems support, Security*

- *Business Contact data:*
- *Supplier and customer management (incl. tendering, engagement, processing orders, purchases, marketing, administration and management of suppliers, vendors);*
- *Maintaining and building upon customer relationships (incl. business development, customer support, advertising and public relations);*
- *Improving products and services and developing new products and services (incl. development process including collaborative planning, assignment of tasks, requirements and results control, testing and documentation of products/solutions);*
- *Business planning (incl. reorganization, acquisition and sales of activities, business units and companies);*
- *Security, fraud prevention, investigation, and other risk management purposes (incl. KYC, AML, customs and global trade compliance, sanctioned party list screening and detection of unlawful conduct);*
- *Establish, exercise, or defend legal claims, contract review, integrity investigations and monitoring;*
- *Managing IT resources, Information Systems support, website use information, browsing preferences and other usage information.*

e. Categories of data subjects concerned by the transfer:

- *Human Resources Data:* *Current and former: employees, applicants, contractors, other members of staff; Family members, next of kin, dependents and beneficiaries of members of staff*
- *Business Contacts:* *Corporate contacts at customers, suppliers, vendors, partners and prospective customers and other business contacts*

Those categories are specified in Appendix 2 to the BCRs.

f. Categories of personal data transferred:

Personal Data processed for HR purposes:

- *Identification data, e.g. names, passport, driving license, government issued identification numbers, visas and permits), date of birth, home and office contact details (such as phone number, address, e-mail address), position, employee number and job information*
- *Dependents information, e.g. identification data (including but not limited to passport, driving license, government issued identification numbers), contact details, relationship to Staff member; relevant nomination details*



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- *Payroll and retirement data, e.g. bank account numbers (IBAN, BIC), salary, benefits and other compensation information, travel details, national identification, tax and social security numbers, family status, date of birth*
- *Recruitment-related data, e.g. contact details, date of birth, employment history, background checks, education, experience, employee profile, certificates, courses, professional references*
- *IT and workplace data, e.g. user accounts, user credentials, log files, photos, access keys*
- *Work performance related data, e.g. staff development and performance records, work metrics (e.g. personnel file), attendance records, development plans, certificates*
- *Country-specific sensitive data e.g. gender, race, ethnic origin and religion (where legally mandated or allowed, e.g. for social security, special working conditions, equal opportunity and benefits purposes)*
- *Compliance data, e.g. violations of applicable policies, disciplinary procedures, criminal background information (to the extent required for screening purposes related to specific job functions or other legal requirements)*

Personal Data processed for Business Contacts:

- *Personal and contact details, identification data, financial details, company details (e.g. ultimate beneficiary owner), marketing preferences, correspondence, website usage, browsing preferences, login credentials or such other Personal Data as may be required for ABB to conduct business with the customer or supplier.*

Those categories are specified in Appendix 2 to the BCRs.



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ANNEX 2 TO THE DECISION

Copy of the Controller BCRs of **ABB**.