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| ANNEX C- Declaration form: professional suitability of audit firm and auditors - |

*Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/574, each manufacturer of tobacco products shall contract an independent third-party provider for the purpose of establishing a repository, which stores data relating to the tobacco products of the individual manufacturer (hereafter "primary repository"). The activities of the primary repository and its provider shall be monitored on an annual basis by an independent external auditor. The auditor shall be proposed and paid by the tobacco manufacturers.*

I, the undersigned [*insert name and surname*], being [*insert name of position held*] of [*insert name of audit firm*], (hereafter "the audit firm"), located at [*insert full address*] and with the VAT identification number [*insert VAT number*], acting as a legal representative of the aforementioned audit firm, hereby solemnly declare that:

* the audit firm has at least seven years of experience in carrying out audits of medium-sized and/or large-sized enterprises, and at least five years of experience in offering services of IT Audit and Information System Security, including expertise in assessing organisational and physical security, operations security, access control, communications security, business continuity mechanisms, and assets and data integrity;
* the Lead Auditor with responsibility for the audit of the primary repository must be certified as an ISO/IEC 27001 Lead Auditor;
* any other auditor(s) who may be involved in the audit have at least two years of professional experience in carrying out audits in the area of information security management (ISMS).

Place and date:

Signature: