



**SOKEN LAW FIRM**  
**Attorney at Law**

Sibiu Bar  
29 Negoii STR,  
550275 Sibiu, Sibiu District  
Fiscal Code: 20879657

www.soken.io  
info@soken.io

**Commercial, International**

INTERNATIONAL E-COMMERCE, COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS, CRYPTO PROCEDURES, DATA PRIVACY COMPLIANCE, CONFIDENTIALITY, FINTECH, IT, ETC.

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## **Legal Opinion: NEOM TOKEN**

### **Introduction**

This Legal Opinion was prepared upon request of **Neom Coin Finance Team**, (the team or NEOM COIN FINANCE), to serve as a legal analysis of the business model, the Neom Coin Token (NEOM) and its compliance with the requirements of the Listing Rules for the Trading Venue operated by Exchanges.

The requirements considered hereunder reflect the conditions as prescribed by the publicly available legislation and the legal practice in the matter, as well as any guidelines and rules, final or otherwise, published by the US and European Authorities. To that end, and for the purpose of a continuous update on the development of the cryptocurrency market regulations, the Law Firm is continuously collaborating, at any given time, with at least twelve (12) relevant Law Firms from all major jurisdictions around the world, exchanging information and updates on the crypto development and its associated legal domain.

This Opinion is meant to serve as our legal analysis of the NEOM Token and conclusions are limited to the matters expressly stated herein, are fully based on information and material provided to us by NEOM COIN FINANCE, and no opinion or conclusion is to be inferred or may be implied beyond the opinions and conclusions expressly set forth herein. This Opinion is written in good faith, and cannot be deemed as guarantee or obligation, or ground of liability of our Law Firm.

For the purposes of issuance of the Opinion we have assumed without further inquiry that all factual circumstances stated in the provided documentation are a true and correct representation of actual circumstances surrounding the company and insofar as such factual circumstances are not or may turn out to be not true and correct, they will have no adverse effect on the opinions stated herein. Therefore, and for the avoidance of doubt, the opinion expressed in this Legal Opinion is only being written in light of the applicable legislation at the date of issuance, and shall not cover any future changes, amendments and any additional supplementary legislation that may be enacted.

We hereby state that our Law Firm is EU based, and the interpretation of law is based on authority for Exchanges incorporated in the United States of America, the European Union and other relevant international areas, as hereinafter provided.

### **Business description. Key features.**

As a whole concept, NEOM COIN FINANCE presents itself as a project created for rising Smart Cities of the New World, that allows transfer in seconds worldwide and provides unique services by using technology of Internet of Things (IoT-5G) and much more. Not only humans but also robots with artificial intelligence will be able to perform fast and secure asset transfers with Neom Coin and complete their transactions in seconds.

Neom Coin enables migrant workers and multinational material suppliers in smart city projects to perform global money transfers in a blockchain-based, fast and secure way.

Neom Coin provides this service to migrant workers globally, especially in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region.

As the Cryptocurrency of the New World, Neom Coin offers Smart Solutions to Smart Cities.

The role of the Neom Coin in Smart Cities:

- 1- Fast and secure payment of the construction fees of smart cities to contractors, construction workers and suppliers in seconds globally.
- 2- The cryptocurrency that will be used in social, professional conferences, educational organizations and art events to be held in smart cities.
- 3- A payment tool of intercontinental patient examination and surgery fees by using the Internet of Things (5G-IoT) in smart hospitals by the most successful doctors of the field.
- 4- A payment tool where not only for smart cities, but also humans and robots with artificial intelligence can make their daily, social and professional expenses and payments quickly, easily and reliably online or face-to-face (through an application) in smart cities and other cities.
- 5- An investment tool to be valued with smart cities rising in the New World.
- 6- Currency between humans and robots.

### **The NEOM Token**

First of all, what is the NEOM Token? As stated on the website and in the Whitepaper, NEOM intends to be much more than a utility token, as it will have multiple uses within the Neom Coin Finance Platform. NEOM has a self-sustaining and thriving economy and will provide employment opportunities and a reward mechanism to fairly distribute part of the transaction to all token holders.

The ecosystem's backbone, NEOM, is the sphere's native coin, which is currently hosted on the Binance Smart Chain. NEOM will not be a standard platform cryptocurrency that fits into a single token category. It will be used as the Smart Cities Utility Token's cryptocurrency throughout the ecosystem.

Advantages:

- Cryptocurrency Transfers that are both quick and secure
- Discounted fees and payment via DeFi staking token
- NFT conceptualization platform airdrops NEOM Base pair Gas fee in DEX Fees

The NEOM tokens' multiple use cases will ensure that demand grows over time, and we expect a steady price rise as a result. But that's not all; NEOM has a slew of other features that make it more appealing to its user base

It is, thus, in company's intention that the NEOM Token will be used a utility asset that can transfer a certain value between holders. Utility Tokens are digital assets that are used to finance the network and incentivize its use by providing the customers with a guarantee of being able to benefit of the full range of network's services.

### **Token Specifications**

General Information

Ticker: NEOM

Parent protocol: Neom Coin Finance

Token categorization: Utility token

Fee token

Base pair

Blockchain: Binance Smart Chain (BSC)

Transaction tax: 8%

Coin Economy Model: Stake

Maximum supply: 203,000,000

Initial burn: 0 (Stake Model)

Presale: 2,030,000

Airdrop: 1,000

Liquidity: 203.000.000

Marketing: 143.000.000

To be shared with Smart City Projects: 20.030.000

## **United States of America**

From a US legal standpoint, the institution of “securities” is being regulated by section 2(a)(1) of the Securities Act of 1933, which defines them as: “...any note, stock, treasury stock, security future, security-based swap, bond, debenture, evidence of indebtedness, certificate of interest or participation in any profit-sharing agreement ... investment contract ... or, in general, any interest or instrument commonly known as a ‘security’, or any certificate of interest or participation in, temporary or interim certificate for, receipt for, guarantee of, or warrant or right to subscribe to or purchase, any of the foregoing.”

In order for us to have a deeper understanding of the issue under debate, we should take into consideration the US Supreme Court case SEC v. Howey, 328 U.S. 293 (1946), which provides further clarifications on determining whether an instrument meets the definition of security, or not. In this Supreme Court case, Howey focuses specifically on the term “investment contract” within the definition of “security”. Obviously, not every contract or agreement is an “investment contract”.

The Court determined that a contract constitutes an investment contract that meets the definition of “security” if there is:

1. an investment of money;
2. in a common enterprise;
3. with an expectation of profits;
4. solely from the (entrepreneurial or managerial) efforts of others (e.g., a promoter or third party);

The four factors must be met all together, in order to be legally considered “security”. Because this Supreme Court Decision is widely considered as fundamental to the determining elements of a “security”, we will base our analysis its conditional factors.

1. Is this an investment? Yes! It is generally accepted that an investment of money may include not only the provision of capital, assets and cash, but also of goods, services or of promissory notes. NEOM is being distributed through a token sale by the issuer NEOM COIN FINANCE to purchasers with a price set per token, so the first factor is actually met.

2. Is this a common enterprise? A common enterprise is deemed to exist where investors pool funds into an investment and the profits of each token buyer correlate with those of the other investors. Whether funds are pooled appears to be the key question, and thus in cases where there is no proportional sharing of profits or pooling of funds, a common enterprise may be deemed not to exist. NEOM is unlikely to be deemed a “security” at this stage of the project, and that is taking into consideration the fact that the platform is not yet fully operational. Therefore, NEOM is substantially a utility coin consumed to transfer value across the blockchain with a relatively stable value across various exchanges. The second factor is not met.

3. Is there an expectation of profit? In our legal opinion, this factor is irrelevant to the matter, but we will analyze it in respect of the Supreme Court Decision. From an economic point of view, any type of investment is made with an expectation of profit. But just because there is a return on investment or profit, does not mean that the investment contract is a “security”. Moreover, the main purpose of NEOM is creating a blockchain-based trading and exchange platform, among others. So, the expectation of profit is mainly oriented towards another, subsidiary, category of economic activities, not on NEOM Tokens, which renders somewhat irrelevant the profits from an eventual Token Sale. Even so, this factor is probably met, on a low scale, provided that NEOM is purchased by investors with an expectation of capital gain, even though we clearly express the opinion that this factor should not weigh in decisively on the matter.

4. Is there the “solely on the efforts of others” factor met? No! The profit of the platform user always depends on his own actions. As we said, even though there is also an investment in NEOM Tokens, the expectation of profits results mainly from the economic activity, not from the volatility of the Tokens. So, any such incentives should ideally be derived through their own efforts, rather than through a passive investment. In such a case, the factor is not met.

## **European Union and UK**

From an EU and UK legal standpoint, when we conducted a detailed decomposition and analysis of all online NEOM Token business processes, we were unable to detect and identify any process that can be regarded as a relationship between an investor and an Issuer of securities. On the other hand, if we aim to register the issue of securities, we will not be able to prove to the regulator body that tokens are securities. Moreover, the main token holders are interested in participating in the trading of transactions, and this is peer-to-peer mainly.

By our opinion, the expertise of NEOM Token under the EU securities legislation cannot be applied to NEOM Token due to the fact that all business processes and relationships within the platform are classic relationships for blockchain platforms, all in a permissionless manner. There is no contribution to any business venture.

Nowadays, the matters of cryptocurrency turnover and production of digital assets has not special legal regulation. There are neither special laws, nor separate legal Institute or branch of law. Therefore, we cannot qualify a token as a unique legal essence.

#### Token taxonomy according to ESMA and EBA

Although not legally binding at a supranational level, it is advisable to refer to the regulatory framework structured on the Advice on Initial Coin Offerings and Crypto-Assets of ESMA<sup>4</sup> and the Report with advice for the European Commission on crypto-assets of EBA<sup>5</sup>; both published on 9th January 2019.

Presently, there is no common taxonomy of crypto-assets in use by international standard-setting bodies. However, even if crypto-assets may have different features or serve different functions, a basic taxonomy of crypto-assets generally comprises three main categories of crypto-assets:

**Payment/Exchange/Currency tokens:** Payment tokens are tokens which have no tangible value, except for the expectation they may serve as a means of exchange or payment to pay for goods or in the services that are external to the ecosystem in which they are built. "Stablecoins" are a relatively new form of payment/exchange token that is typically asset-backed (by physical collateral or crypto-assets) or in the form of an algorithmic "stablecoin".

**Utility tokens:** Utility tokens are tokens which are intended to typically enable access to a specific product or service often provided using a DLT platform but are not accepted as a means of payment for other products or services.

**Investment tokens:** Investment tokens may represent financial assets such as a debt or equity claim on the Issuer. Investment tokens promise, for example, a share in future company earnings or future capital flows. In terms of their economic function, therefore, these tokens are analogous to financial instruments. However, investment tokens may also exclusively reflect the ownership rights of an asset, which may not be deemed as a financial instrument. There is a wide variety of crypto-assets, some of which have features spanning more than one of the categories identified above. The individual token classifications are not mutually exclusive.

We will further analyze the legal qualification of crypto-assets under the European Banking legislation and ESMA's remit (MiFID II), and under the E-Money Act in line with the second Electronic Money Directive (EMD2) and the second Payment Services Directive (PS2). Reflecting on the above, the current perimeter of regulation is such that crypto-assets may, depending on their characteristics, qualify as financial instruments, electronic money, or none of the foregoing.

The definition of a financial instrument is the key element towards determining whether trading services with respect to a Token can be deemed to be regulated in terms of the Banking Act and other relevant laws.

Financial instruments are defined in terms of Section C of the Banking Act as follows:

1. Transferable securities of all classes which are negotiable on the capital market, such as:
  - a) shares in companies and other securities equivalent to shares in companies, partnerships, or other entities, including depositary receipts in respect of such securities;
  - b) bonds or other forms of securitized debt, including depositary receipts in respect of such securities;
  - c) any other securities giving the right to acquire or sell any such transferable securities or giving rise to a cash settlement determined by reference to transferable securities, currencies, interest rates or yields, or other indices or measures;
2. Money-market instruments which are normally dealt in on the money market, such as treasury bills, certificates of deposit, and commercial papers and excluding instruments of payment;
3. Units in undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities, units in investment undertakings, and units in alternative investment funds;
4. Options, futures, swaps, forward rate agreements, and any other derivative contracts relating to securities, currencies, interest rates or yields, emission allowances or other derivatives instruments, financial indices or financial measures which may be settled physically or in cash;

5. Options, futures, swaps, forwards and any other derivative contracts relating to commodities that must be settled in cash or may be settled in cash at the option of one of the parties other than by reason of default or other termination events;
6. Options, futures, swaps, and any other derivative contracts relating to commodities that can be physically settled provided that they are traded on a regulated market, a multilateral trading facility, or an organized trading facility, except for wholesale energy products traded on an organized trading facility that must be physically settled;
7. Options, futures, swaps, forwards and any other derivative contracts relating to commodities that can be physically settled not otherwise mentioned in point 6 and not being for commercial purposes, which have the characteristics of other derivative financial instruments;
8. Derivative instruments for the transfer of credit risk;
9. Financial contracts for differences; or
10. Options, futures, swaps, forward rate agreements and any other derivative contracts relating to climatic variables, freight rates or inflation rates or other official economic statistics that must be settled in cash or may be settled in cash at the option of one of the parties other than by reason of default or other termination events, as well as any other derivative contracts relating to assets, rights, obligations, indices and measures not otherwise mentioned in this Section, which have the characteristics of other derivative financial instruments, having regard to whether, inter alia, they are traded on a regulated market, multilateral trading facility, or organized trading facility.
11. Emission allowances consisting of any units reNEOMnized for compliance with the requirements of Emissions Trading legislation.

To round up a conclusion we can safely iterate the following:

- The market price of the token does not influence on the company's profit and the company profit does not influence on the token market price.
- There are no declarations in Whitepaper promising "Expectation of Profits" to token buyers. Token holders can receive any income from token by their own efforts, or they can also lose the tokens while trading.
- NEOM Token is clearly not greenhouse emission allowances.
- NEOM Token does not constitute any sort of debt obligation. For essentially the same reason a NEOM Token is not a bond or other tradable debt obligation.
- NEOM Token does not constitute a share because it neither entitles its holder to a dividend nor grants its holder any right to participate in the governance of NEOM COIN FINANCE or of any other company.
- NEOM Token is not a subscription right or other tradable right granting the right to acquire securities. A NEOM Token simply does not give its holder any option to acquire a bond or a share.
- The Company does not propose to use the monies received from the sale of NEOM Tokens for following any defined investment policy for the benefit of the buyers of NEOM Token in question and in their common interests: the buyers of NEOM Token will not have distributed to them any income earned as a result of operating the platform.

Furthermore, a derivative security comprises a tradable security expressing a right or an obligation to acquire, exchange or transfer, provided that its value depends, directly or indirectly, on:

1. the exchange or market price of a security;
2. on any interest rate;
3. securities index, other financial index or financial indicator, including the inflation rate, freight rate, emission allowances or other official economic statistics;
4. currency exchange rates;
5. credit risk and other risks, including climatic variables;
6. the exchange or market price of a commodity.

The NEOM Token does not represent any of such cases.

While the value of a NEOM Token would likely depend on the success of the ecosystem, the content available via that ecosystem does not constitute a commodity. Thus, a NEOM Token is neither a derivative security nor a derivative contract.

Electronic money is commonly defined as a digital alternative to cash allowing users to make cashless payment with money stored over the internet with the final aim to facilitate the emergence of innovative electronic money services and encourages effective competition between all market participants.

A token is to be classified as electronic money if the following conditions are met altogether:

- Is electronically stored;

- Has monetary value;
- Represents a claim on the Issuer;
- Is issued on receipt of funds;
- Is issued for the purpose of making payment transactions;
- Is accepted by persons other than the Issuer.

In our legal view, the NEOM Token shall serve as an integral feature of the core processes of the platform as denoted in the Whitepaper. However, nothing in the Whitepaper provided by the Protocol indicated that NEOM Token holders can have a claim against the issuer's assets arising from funds which were initially placed against such issuance of NEOM and that such holders can redeem their funds at par value. Therefore, NEOM Token falls outside of the scope of the definition of Electronic Money.

Finally, NEOM COIN FINANCE are likewise not depositary receipts. A depositary receipt is a security that represents ownership of the securities of a foreign issuer and which can be admitted to trading on a regulated market independently of the securities of the foreign issuer. To constitute a depositary, receipt a NEOM Token would need to represent an ownership of a security. All the functions of a NEOM Token are listed above. An instrument fulfilling only those functions does not constitute a security.

### **Conclusion**

- 1. The NEOM Token is more likely not to be deemed a “security” under the US, EU and other international legislation.**
- 2. In the future stage, the NEOM Token should maintain the utility legal qualification, based on the Company’s business plan and the technical development of the blockchain.**
- 3. We have found no signs of possible fraud and scam, Ponzi scheme, tort, consumer fraud, known schemes of income laundering and tax evasion.**
- 4. Token buyers do not have any rights to the company profit. The NEOM Token don't give equal rights to their holders. This fact excludes the identification of the token as securities.**
- 5. The founders of NEOM Token do not possess any ability to effect on the token price. The market price of token does not influence on a company profit and the company profit does not influence on the token market price.**
- 6. All scenarios of the turnover of the Token is strictly ordered and implemented on the blockchain by smart contracts. No other scenarios are technically feasible. None of the scenarios of utilizing the token has the signs of securities rights realizing.**



### **Disclaimer:**

The above analysis is based on information obtained from a representative of NEOM COIN FINANCE, the company’s whitepaper, publicly available information, and the law as it exists as of the date hereof. Considered herein were the U.S. federal and the EU securities laws. We have also analyzed other legislations. No opinion is expressed with regard to any other body of law or legal construct, including without limitation the franchise laws of any other country. No court has addressed the question of whether any blockchain-based tokens are “securities” under U.S. federal law; as such, the SEC or a court of competent jurisdiction may reach an alternative conclusion to that stated in this opinion letter. No warranties or guarantees of any kind as to the future treatment of the NEOM Token are being made herein.