



Additional information on agenda item 5 (election of the auditor and Group auditor for the 2024 financial year)

Under agenda item 5, the Supervisory Board proposes, on the recommendation of its Audit Committee, that PricewaterhouseCoopers GmbH Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft, Frankfurt am Main, be appointed as the company's new auditor and Group auditor for the 2024 financial year at the upcoming Annual General Meeting on June 26, 2024.

The introduction of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) next year will further increase the complexity of our reporting. At the same time, the sustainability report will have to be audited for the first time. In order to meet the new requirements, the Supervisory Board has decided to retender the auditor's mandate for both the audit of the annual and consolidated financial statements and for sustainability reporting.

PricewaterhouseCoopers GmbH provided us with a very competitive offer that was convincing in terms of both quality and price. This supports our efforts to manage costs efficiently while ensuring high quality standards.

The recommendation of the Audit Committee on this proposed resolution is based on a strict selection procedure in accordance with Article 16 of the EU Audit Regulation, in which PricewaterhouseCoopers GmbH and BDO AG Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft were considered. The Audit Committee expressed a preference for PricewaterhouseCoopers GmbH on the basis of the specified evaluation criteria, and the Supervisory Board follows this recommendation with its election proposal.

The Audit Committee has declared that its recommendation is free from undue influence by third parties and that no clause restricting the selection options within the meaning of Art. 16 (6) of the EU Statutory Audit Regulation (Regulation (EU) No. 537/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of April 16, 2014 on specific requirements regarding statutory audit of public-interest entities and repealing Commission Decision 2005/909/EC) has been imposed on it.