IMPERIAL BRANDS FINANCE NETHERLANDS B.V.

Joure, the Netherlands

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

30 SEPTEMBER 2023

Contents

Directors' report	**3**
Directors' report	4
Financial Statements	**6**
Balance sheet as at 30 September 2023	7
Income statement for the year ended 30 September 2023	8
Cash flow statement for the year ended 30 September 2023	9
Notes to the financial statements as per 30 September 2023	10
Events after the balance sheet date	24
Other information	**25**
Other information to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2023	26

Directors' report

Directors' Report for the financial year ended 30 September 2023

Principal activities

Imperial Brands Finance Netherlands B.V. ("IBFN" or the "Company") was set up as a European Union domiciled financing vehicle, partly as a result of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union in 2019. The principal activity of the Company is to raise external finance for Imperial Brands PLC ("IB") and its subsidiaries (the "Group"). The Company is a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Van Nelle Tobacco International Holdings B.V. ("VNTIH") and a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of IB, which is the ultimate parent company within the Group. The Company doesn't have own employees. The Directors and administrator are under formal employment of sister companies being part of the Group with relevant costs and fees cross-charged to the Company.

IB is the fourth largest international tobacco company in the world which is listed at the London Stock Exchange. Details about and annual accounts of IB can be found at its website www.imperialbrandsplc.com or copies obtained from the Company Secretary, Imperial Brands plc, 121 Winterstoke Road, Bristol, BS32LL, United Kingdom. The annual accounts and the website also contain details on the various codes of conduct the Company follows and complies with. It also includes reference to any international conventions and guidelines it adheres to. The annual accounts of IB also include details on bonds issued including those by the Company.

The Directors of the Group manage operations at a Group level. For this reason, the Company's Directors believe that analysis using key performance indicators for the Company is not necessary or appropriate for an understanding of the development, performance or position of the business of the Company. The Company is part of the fiscal unity headed by the Dutch Branch of Imperial Tobacco Overseas Holdings Ltd ("ITOHL DB") who files a collective corporate income tax return.

Performance review, future developments and outlook

In March 2023 , the Company paid its second-year interest on the 12-year EUR 1 billion bond which was issued in 2021. At the same time, it received the interest on its corresponding loan to IBF PLC. In addition, it issued an additional €950mn in bonds albeit with a slightly higher margin of 10.87 basis points. Together with the margin of 9.18 basis points between the first incoming loan and outgoing bond, this resulted in the reported profit of EUR 1,269,387 which is equal to the profit after tax, as the corporation tax is consolidated at fiscal unity level. Shareholders' equity as at the reporting date increased to EUR 4,393,887 following the allocation of profit to the reserves.

The main assets of the Company are loan receivables from a related company which belong to the same Group of which the Company forms part of and which are guaranteed by the ultimate parent, IB. The ongoing war in the Ukraine has little to no impact on the Company. Similar to last year, the increase in energy prices and resulting inflationary effects had little effect nor on the Company's borrowers or guarantors as cost price increases where they cannot be absorbed were passed on into consumer prices. Effect on energy prices has been limited due to contracts in place or have been mitigated through energy process improvements. Neither do the directors expect current inflation to have any overall material effect on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. No changes are envisaged to the Company's business model in the foreseeable future.

Despite an apparent ongoing volatile external environment, the directors assess the outlook for the next financial year to be similar to that of the current financial year.

Principal risks or uncertainties

The Company is mainly exposed to credit risk to the extent that the related company IBF fails to meet its obligations (principal and interest) towards the Company, when due in contract terms. The related company has never forfeited on any of these obligations. Furthermore, the Company's directors monitor the borrower's performance on an annual basis.

The Company's balance sheet includes financial assets and liabilities that have been contracted at fixed interest rates. These assets and liabilities mainly concern lending of funds from financial institutions and on-lending of these funds to a Group company on a back-to-back basis with a margin. Any change in market rates effects both assets and liabilities. The Company is therefore not exposed to interest rate risks.

As both the financing and lending is denominated in euros, the exposure to currency risk is nil. In addition, the Company does not have a concentration of liquidity risks as the terms and conditions of the loan are aligned to those of the bond issued, also in date and time. Furthermore, the Company runs limited risks regarding the valuation of financial fixed assets as there is a fixed margin in place between the bond issued and the loan.

The board is not aware of any other risks to the Company that might be material. Neither are there any uncertainties that might have a material effect. Regulation towards the Company a relatively straightforward and operations are not complex.

Dividends and reserves

The Company did not pay any dividends during the period. The balance of retained earnings amounting to EUR 1,269,382 is being carried forward to the next financial period.

Subsequent events

There have been no significant events effecting the company's business since year end. With regard to the recent up flare of conflict in the Middle East, this is not expected to have an impact on the Company. Meanwhile high inflation rates which could have impacted the underlying business of the guarantor IB, where not absorbed through efficiency gains, were passed on into consumer price increases. Because of the repetitive nature of the underlying business this has so far had little effect on sales revenue of IB.

The Board of Directors,

R. Neef | B.F.T. Alkemade | M.E. Slade

Joure, the Netherlands, 22 December 2023.

Financial statements

Of Imperial Brands Finance Netherlands B.V.

Balance sheet

(before appropriation of results and expressed in euros)

	Notes	30 September 2023		30 September 2022	
Assets					
Financial fixed assets					
Long-term loans to group company	**(4)**	1,935,357,213		989,531,009	
Total financial fixed assets			1,935,357,213		989,531,009
Current assets					
Receivables from group company	**(5)**	34,259,964		12,565,674	
VAT receivable		6,425		8,192	
Cash	**(6)**	56,822		47,820	
Total current assets			34,323,211		12,621,686
Total assets			1,969,680,424		1,002,152,695
Equity and liabilities					
Equity	**(7)**				
Share capital		100		100	
Share premium		2,000,000		2,000,000	
Retained earnings		1,124,400		347,008	
Result for the year		1,269,387		777,392	
Total equity			4,393,887		3,124,500
Non-current liabilities	**(8)**				
Bonds		1,935,139,366		989,531,009	
Total non-current liabilities			1,935,139,366		989,531,009
Current liabilities					
Interest on bonds issued	**(10)**	30,078,425		9,445,206	
Payable to group company	**(11)**	14,346		0	
Payables corporation tax	**(18)**	0		0	
Other payables and accruals	**(12)**	54,400		51,980	
Total current liabilities			30,147,171		9,497,186
Total equity and liabilities			1,969,680,424		1,002,152,695

The Board of Directors,

R. Neef | B.F.T. Alkemade | M.E. Slade

Profit and Loss account

(expressed in euros)

	Notes	Year ended 30 September 2023	Year ended 30 September 2022
Financial income	**(14)**	40,982,072	19,418,833
Financial expenses	**(15)**	(39,573,001)	(18,503,196)
Financial result		1,409,071	915,637
General and administrative expenses	**(16)**	(139,684)	(138,245)
Result before taxation		1,269,387	777,392
Tax	**(18)**	0	0
Result for the year		1,269,387	777,392

The Board of Directors,

R. Neef B.F.T. Alkemade M.E. Slade

Cash flow statement for the year ended 30 September 2023

(expressed in euros)

	1 October 2022 - 30 September 2023		1 October 2021 - 30 September 2022	
Cash flows from operating activities				
Result before tax		1,269,387		777,392
Adjustments for:				
Amortization of discount on bonds	1,439,782		1,000,833	
Amortization of discount on loans	(1,439,782)		(1,000,833)	
		0		0
Changes in working capital:				
Receivables and prepayments	(40,110,523)		(19,289,492)	
Payables and accruals	38,149,985		17,505,478	
		(1,960,538)		(1,784,014)
Cash flow from (used in) operations		(691,151)		(1,006,622)
Bonds issued		944,168,575		0
Loans to group company issued		(944,386,422)		0
Interest paid		(17,500,000)		(17,500,000)
Interest received		18,418,000		18,418,000
Income tax paid		0		0
Cash flow from (used in) operating activities		9,002		(88,622)
Cash flows from financing activities				
Dividends paid to shareholder	0		0	
Cash flow from (used in) financing activities		0		0
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		9,002		(88,622)

Movements in cash and cash equivalents can be broken down as follows:

	2023	2022
	EUR '000	EUR '000
At 1 October	47,820	136,442
Movements during the year	9,002	(88,622)
At 30 September	56,822	47,820

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements as at 30 September 2023

1 General

The annual accounts are drawn up in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles based on the provisions of Title 9, Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code. The financial year of the Company runs from 1 October up to and including 30 September. The annual accounts are denominated in euros.

Activities and company structure

Imperial Brands Finance Netherlands B.V. ("IBFN" or 'the Company') is a private limited liability company established on 22 May 2020, having its statutory seat in Amsterdam, the Netherlands and having its place of business in Joure, the Netherlands. The principal activity of the Company is to raise external finance for Imperial Brands PLC ("IB") and its subsidiaries (the "Group"). The Company is a direct wholly owned subsidiary of Van Nelle Tobacco International Holdings B.V. ("VNTIH") and a wholly owned indirect subsidiary of IB, which is the ultimate parent company within the Group.

During the financial year, the Company issued Euro bonds with a face value of EUR 950 million in the European debt capital market (next to the EURO bonds with a face value of EUR 1 billion, which were already issued in the financial year 2021). These bonds were listed for trading on the London Stock Exchange. Relevant details about the bonds issued are included in the note 8. The funds raised were immediately lent to Imperial Brands Finance PLC ("IBF") which is also part of the Group, at terms and conditions similar to the bonds issued and an additional margin of 10.87 basis points which margin was externally benchmarked. Both the bond issued, and the loan are guaranteed by the ultimate parent IB.

Going concern

The Board of Directors evaluated the Company's going concern capability, based on the relevant information, facts and circumstances, of financial, commercial and other natures, including subsequent events occurred after the financial statements report date. In result of this assessment the directors concluded that the Company has adequate resources to proceed its activity, not intending to cease its operations in short-term, and therefore consider adequate use of a going concern basis in the preparation of the Company's financial statements.

Registered office

The Company has its registered and actual address at Slachtedyk 28A, 8501ZA Joure, the Netherlands, and is registered at the Chamber of Commerce under number 78106540.

Use of estimates / judgements

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with the relevant rules requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires the Company to exercise its judgment in the process of applying the Company's accounting policies. If necessary for the purpose of providing the view required under Article 2:362 paragraph 1, Book 2, of the Dutch Civil Code, the nature of these estimates and judgments, including the related assumptions, is disclosed in the notes to the financial statement's items in question.

Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and the underlying assumptions are constantly assessed, regarding impairment, fair value, or other effects. Revisions of estimates are recognized in the period in which the estimate is revised and in future periods for which the revision has consequences.

Significant assumptions are recoverability and fair value of loans. Information about assumptions and estimation uncertainties that have a significant risk of resulting in a material adjustment in the year ended 30 September 2023 is included in the following notes.

In terms of key assumptions underlying recoverable amounts, including the recoverability of loans, please refer to note 4; and determining the fair value of loans and borrowings, please refer to note 4 and 8.

Rising inflation

The increase cost of goods sold through global inflation has shown to have little negative effect. Cost price increases tend to be passed on into consumer price increases with little effect noticed so far in sales volumes. At worst some down trading to lower priced brands or products happens but this tends to work more positively for IB as it tends to be relatively well positioned in these categories. In addition, wages have been going up in line with inflation which helped bolster consumer purchases as well.

Related parties

All legal entities which can control the Company are a related party. In addition, statutory directors, other key management of the Company or the ultimate parent company and close relatives are regarded as related parties.

Transactions with related parties, the main one being the loans to IBF, are at arms' length, validated through external benchmarking and disclosed in the notes. The nature, extent and other information is disclosed if this is necessary to provide the required insight.

2 Accounting policies for the balance sheet and profit and loss account

General

The accounting policies have not changed in 2023.

In general, assets and liabilities are stated, at amortized cost, or at the amounts at which they were acquired or incurred, or at fair value. If not specifically stated otherwise, they are recognized at amortized cost. The balance sheet and profit and loss account include references to the notes.

Foreign currencies

Functional currency
The annual accounts is expressed in euros, i.e. the functional and reporting currency of IBFN.

Financial assets

Receivables disclosed under financial assets are recognized initially at fair value plus transaction costs incurred. Subsequently, financial assets are measured at amortized cost using the effective interest rate method, less impairment losses. When a financial asset is uncollectible, it is written off against the allowance account for the financial assets.

Impairment of financial assets

The Company assesses at the end of each reporting year whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired. A financial asset or a group of financial assets is impaired and impairment losses are incurred only if there is objective evidence of impairment because of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the asset (a 'loss event') and that loss event (or events) has an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset or group of financial assets that can be reliably estimated.

The criteria that the Company uses to determine that there is objective evidence of an impairment loss include:

- Significant financial difficulty of the counterparty or guarantor;
- A breach of contract, such as a default or delinquency in interest or principal payments;
- The Company, for economic or legal reasons relating to the borrower's financial difficulty, granting to the borrower a concession that the lender would not otherwise consider;
- It becomes probable that the borrower will enter bankruptcy or other financial reorganization; or
- Observable data indicating that there is a measurable decrease in the estimated future cash flows from a portfolio of financial assets since the initial recognition of those assets, although the decrease cannot

yet be identified with the individual financial assets in the portfolio, including (i) Adverse changes in the payment status of borrowers in the portfolio; and (ii) National or local economic conditions that correlate with defaults on the assets in the portfolio.

The Company first assesses whether objective evidence of impairment exists. The amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows (excluding future credit losses that have not been incurred) discounted at the financial asset's original effective interest rate. The carrying amount of the asset is reduced and the amount of the loss is recognized in the profit and loss account. If a loan has a variable interest rate, the discount rate for measuring any impairment loss is the current effective interest rate determined under the contract.

If, in a subsequent period, the amount of the impairment loss decreases, and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment was recognized (such as an improvement in the debtor's credit rating), the reversal of the previously recognized impairment loss is recognized in the profit and loss account.

Cash

Cash represent cash at bank, being bank balances and deposits with a maturity of less than twelve months, which are available on demand. Cash is stated at face value and is at free disposal of the Company.

Share capital

Ordinary shares are classified as equity and valued at nominal value.

Share premium

The share premium on ordinary shares is classified as equity and valued at nominal value.

Financial liabilities

On initial recognition financial liabilities are recognized at fair value minus transaction costs. After initial recognition financial liabilities are recognized at the amortized cost, being the amount received, taking into account premiums or discounts, less transaction costs.

General principles for the determination of the result

The result is mainly the margin between the interest on the loans issued to the group company and the interest on the Bonds issued. The results on transactions are recognized in the year in which they are realized.

General and administrative expenses

General and administrative expenses comprise costs chargeable to the year that are not directly attributable to the cost of the goods and services sold.

Financial income and expense

Interest income and expense
Interest income and expense is recognized on a time-weighted basis, taking account of the effective interest rate of the assets and liabilities concerned. When recognizing the interest income and the interest expenses, the transaction costs on the loans received and the Bonds issued are taken into account.

Dividend distribution

Dividend distribution to the Company's shareholders is recognized as a liability in the Company's financial statements in the period in which the dividends are approved by the Company's shareholders.

Tax on result

Corporation income tax is calculated on the result before taxation in the profit and loss account, taking into account any losses carried forward from previous financial years (insofar as these are not included in deferred tax assets), tax-exempt items and non-deductible expenses.

As the Company is part of the fiscal unity for corporation tax, the total tax burden will be borne by head of this fiscal unity. Therefore, any taxable profits or losses from the Company (and member of the fiscal unity) are allocated to the head of the fiscal unity.

Provisions and contingencies

Provisions are recognized when the Company has; i) a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events; ii) for which it is more likely than not that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation; and iii) the amount can be reliably estimated. When one of these criteria is not fulfilled or the existence of the liability is dependent upon a future event, the Company discloses it as a contingent liability, except if the outflow of resources to settle it is remote. Contingent assets are not recognized in the Company's balance sheet but are disclosed when an inflow of economic benefits is probable.

Notes to the cash flow statement

The cash flow statement has been prepared using the indirect method. The cash items disclosed in the cash flow statement comprise cash at banks and in hand. Interest paid and received, income taxes paid, and changes in long-term loans and bonds, are included in cash from operating activities.

Events after the reporting year

Post-year-end events that provide additional evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting year (adjusting events), if any, are reflected in the financial statements. Post-yearend events that are indicative of conditions that arose after the end of the reporting year (non-adjusting events) are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

3 Financial instruments

The Company's activities are potentially exposed to a variety of financial risks. The Company's overall risk management program focusses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimize potential adverse effects on the Company's financial performance. Risk management is carried out by the Board of Directors.

Market risk

Currency risk

As the financing and lending of the Company is denominated in euros, the exposure to currency risk is nil.

Price risk

The Company runs limited risks regarding the valuation of financial fixed assets as there is a fixed margin in place between the bond issued and the loan.

Interest rate risk

The Company's balance sheet includes financial assets and liabilities that have been contracted at fixed interest rates. These assets and liabilities mainly concern lending of funds from financial institutions and on-lending of these funds to a Group company on a back-to-back basis with a margin. Any change in market rates effects both assets and liabilities. The Company is therefore not exposed to interest rate risks.

Credit risk

The Company has only limited external credit risks, as the loans to IBF are guaranteed by the ultimate parent IB. There is a concentration of credit risk as all borrowings are on lent to one Group company, IBF. The maximum exposure to credit risk amounts to EUR 1,969,680,424 (30 September 2022: EUR 1,002,152,695). However, this company does not have a history of non-performance. In addition, the credit risk is monitored on a regular basis by the Company by assessing whether the future cash flow from the Group's operation are sufficient to repay the loans of the Company. Latest credit rating is BBB/Baa3 (stable outlook).

Liquidity risk

As the terms and conditions of the loan are aligned to those of the bond issued, also in date and time, the Company does not have any significant concentrations of liquidity risks.

Contractual maturities of the Company's financial instruments are:

At 30 September 2023	Within 1 year	Between 1 and 5 years	More than 5 years	Total
Long-term loans to group company	0	0	1,950,000,000	1,950,000,000
Interest on loans to group company	69,325,650	277,302,600	244,812,950	591,441,200
	69,325,650	277,302,600	2,194,812,950	2,541,441,200
Bonds	0	0	(1,950,000,000)	(1,950,000,000)
Interest payable on bonds	(67,375,000)	(269,500,000)	(237,125,000)	(574,000,000)
Total Financial Liabilities	(67,375,000)	(269,500,000)	(2,187,125,000)	(2,524,000,000)

At 30 September 2022	Within 1 year	Between 1 and 5 years	More than 5 years	Total
Long-term loan to group company	0	0	1,000,000,000	1,000,000,000
Interest on loan to group company	18,418,000	73,672,000	110,508,000	202,598,000
Total Financial Assets	18,418,000	73,672,000	1,110,508,000	1,202,598,000
Bond	0	0	(1,000,000,000)	(1,000,000,000)
Interest payable on bond	(17,500,000)	(70,000,000)	(105,000,000)	(192,500,000)
Total Financial Liabilities	(17,500,000)	(70,000,000)	(1,105,000,000)	(1,192,500,000)

4 Long-term loans to group company

The long-term loans to group company can be broken down as follows:

		30 September 2023	30 September 2022
At beginning of the year	***1)****	989,531,009	988,530,176
Loans issued to Imperial Brands Finance PLC ("IBF PLC")	***2)****	950,000,000	0
Loan discounts	***2)****	(16,353,000)	0
Loan premium	***3)****	10,739,422	0
Amortization of discounts	***1/2)****	1,439,782	1,000,833
At end of the year	***4)****	1,935,357,213	989,531,009

1)*

Present Agreement

This is an Euro-denominated Intra Group Loan Agreement, which is dated 18 March 2021. On the same date of this Agreement, the Company issued a bond (the Bond) with an aggregate value of EUR 1,000,000,000, which was on lent to the Borrower IBF PLC. The principal amount of this loan (EUR 1,000,000,000) was deducted with an Arrangement Fee (being EUR 12,010,000), which is equal to 1.201 per cent of the amount of the loan. The loan has a termination date, which is equal to the earlier of the maturity date of the Bond, being 18 March 2033, or the date on which the Bond otherwise becomes repayable in full pursuant to the conditions. On this date, the lender IBF PLC should repay the loan in full, including any accrued interest on the amount paid. The interest on the loan is 1.8418% per annum (being Bond rate of 1.75% plus 0.0918%) and is due annually in arrears, for the first time on 18 March 2022. The Arrangement Fee is amortized over a period of 12 years.

2)*

New Agreements

These are two new Euro-denominated Intra Group Loan Agreements. One is dated 15 February 2023 for an amount of EUR 600,000,000, and the other one is dated 12 September 2023 for an amount of EUR 350,000,000. On the same dates of these Agreements, the Company issued bonds (the Bonds) with aggregate values of EUR 600,000,000, and EUR 350,000,000 respectively, which were on lent to the Borrower IBF PLC. The principal amounts of these loans were deducted with Arrangement Fees (being EUR 4,572,000, and EUR 11,781,000 respectively), which is equal to 0.762 per cent, and 3.366 per cent respectively of the amounts of the loans. Both loans have the same termination date, which is equal to the earlier of the maturity date of the Bonds, being 15 February 2031, or the date on which the Bonds otherwise become repayable in full pursuant to the conditions. On this date, the borrower IBF PLC should repay the loan in full, including any accrued interest on the amount paid. The interest on both loans is 5.3587% per annum (being Bond rate of 5.25% plus 0.1087%) and is due annually in arrears, for the first time on 15 February 2024. The Arrangement Fees are amortized over a period of 8, resp 7.4384 years.

3)*

The 209-days accrued interest, as from 15 February 2023 till 12 September 2023, paid to IBF PLC.

4)*

Securities

Imperial Brands PLC ("IB") is the guarantor and irrevocably and unconditionally guarantees to the Company (the Lender) punctual performance by IBF PLC (the Borrower) of all the Borrower's obligations under the

agreements. If the Borrower is in default, the Guarantor will compensate the Lender for any amount due by the Borrower less the lower of:

a) 1% of the amount due and payable under the Agreement, including accrued and unpaid interest thereon; or
b) the pro rata part of EUR 2,000,000 that can be allocated to the obligations under the Agreement relative to any potential additional back-to-back Loans being issued by the Lender

The Company did not identify any objective indicator triggering that the loan to group company might be impaired as at 30 September 2023.

5 Receivables from group companies

Receivables from group companies can be broken down as follows:

		30 September 2023	30 September 2022
Imperial Brands Finance PLC ("Intra Group cash pool facility")	***1)****	3,258,865	2,625,000
Imperial Brands Finance PLC ("Interest receivable within 1 year"	***2)****	31,001,099	9,940,674
	3)*	34,259,964	12,565,674

All receivables fall due in less than one year. The fair value of the receivables approximates the carrying amount due to their short-term character and the fact that provisions for bad debt are recognized, where necessary.

1)*
Increase due to:

- *Company's surplus cash forwarded to IBF PLC (result of positive variance between interest received and paid).*
- *Quarterly interest on the balance of the IG cash pool facility.*
  The average interest rate for the year was 2.3790% (FY22: 0.0000%)

2)*
Accrued interest on long-term loans to Imperial Brands Finance PLC (see note 4).
The interest is paid annually in arrears:

- *As from 18 March 2022 for the EUR 1,000,000,000 IG Loan. The interest is 1.8418% per annum.*
- *As from 15 February 2024 for the EUR 600,000,000 and EUR 350,000,000 IG loans. The interest is 5.3587% per annum.*

3)*
*For securities, see also note 4.4)**

6 Cash

	30 September 2023	30 September 2022
Cash at bank	56,822	47,820
Total	56,822	47,820

Cash at bank consist of current account bank balances which are available on demand. The cash is freely disposable for the Company.

7 Equity

The share capital of the Company, consisting of 100 ordinary shares of EUR 1 each, amounts to EUR 100 (30 September 2022: EUR 100).

The movements in capital and reserves can be summarized as follows:

	30 September 2023	30 September 2022
Share capital		
Balance at the beginning of the year	100	100
Issue new share	0	0
Share capital	100	100
Share premium		
Balance at the beginning of the year	2,000,000	2,000,000
Additional contribution	0	0
Share premium	2,000,000	2,000,000
Retained earnings		
Balance at the beginning of the year	347,008	0
Result previous year	777,392	347,008
Dividend paid previous year	0	0
Balance at the end of the year	1,124,400	347,008
Result for the year	1,269,387	777,392
Total capital and reserves	4,393,887	3,124,500

8 Non-current liabilities

The non-current liabilities can be broken down as follows:

		30 September 2023	30 September 2022
At beginning of the year	*1)**	989,531,009	988,530,176
Bond issued	*2)**	950,000,000	0
Bond discount / transaction costs	*3)**	(16,353,000)	0
Bond premium	*4)**	10,521,575	0
Amortization of discount / transaction costs	*1/2)**	1,439,782	1,000,833
At end of the year	*5)**	1,935,139,366	989,531,009

1)*

The Euro-denominated Bond, which was issued on 18 March 2021 for an amount of EUR 1,000,000,000 and a maturity date of 18 March 2033. The bond is listed at the London Stock Exchange. The coupon is 1.750% per annum.

2)*

Issue of two Euro-denominated Bonds, of which the first one was issued on 15 February 2023 for an amount of EUR 600,000,000 and a second one which was issued on 12 September 2023 for an amount of EUR 350,000,000. Both have a maturity date of 15 February 2031. The bonds are listed at the London Stock Exchange. The coupon is 5.250% per annum.

3)*

This is a combination of:

- *a discount to the face value of the EUR 600,000,000 Bond of EUR 2,682,000 and related bank costs of EUR 1,890,000. The total amount of EUR 4,572,000 is amortized over a period of 8 years.*
- *a discount to the face value of the EUR 350,000,000 Bond of EUR 10,731,000 and related bank costs of EUR 1,050,000. The total amount of EUR 11,781,000 is amortized over a period of 7.4384 years.*

4)*

The 209-days accrued interest, as from 15 February 2023 till 12 September 2023, received from bond holders.

5)*

Securities:

The issued bonds are irrevocably and unconditionally guaranteed by Imperial Brands PLC, Bristol, UK.

9 Financial instruments

Financial instruments at amortized cost

Set out below is a comparison by category of carrying amounts and fair values of all financial assets and liabilities that are carried in the financial statements at amounts other than fair values. All financial assets and liabilities are carried at amortized cost. The carrying amounts of cash and payables and receivables with group companies approximate their fair value and are as a result excluded from the analysis below. No assets are held for sale.

	30 September 2023			30 September 2022	
	Fair value		*Carrying amount*	Fair value	*Carrying amount*
Non-current assets					
Loan of EUR 1,000,000,000 due 2033 (interest bearing at 1.8418%)	718,350,000	***1/2)****	990,531,843	666,660,000	989,531,009
Loan of EUR 600,000,000 due 2031 (interest bearing at 5.3587%)	583,968,000	***1)****	595,784,503	0	0
Loan of EUR 350,000,000 due 2031 (interest bearing at 5.3587%)	340,648,000	***1)****	349,040,867	0	0
	1,642,966,000		1,935,357,213	666,660,000	989,531,009
Non-current liabilities					
Bond of EUR 1,000,000,000 due 2033 (interest bearing at 1.75%)	718,350,000	***1/2)****	990,531,843	666,660,000	989,531,009
Bond of EUR 600,000,000 due 2031 (interest bearing at 5.25%)	583,968,000	***1)****	595,784,503	0	0
Bond of EUR 350,000,000 due 2031 (interest bearing at 5.25%)	340,648,000	***1)****	348,823,020	0	0
	1,642,966,000		1,935,139,366	666,660,000	989,531,009

1)*

The fair value has been determined by reference to market prices as at balance sheet date ("Bloomberg" pricing). The loan being guaranteed and equal to the bond in terms & conditions, other than the margin for handling the fair value, was assessed to similar to the bond.

2)*

Fair Value lower than carrying value. Market rates significantly increased in 2022, which caused fair value significantly go down, subsequently in 2023 improved, as markets stabilized, but still less than carrying value for 1 billion instrument, as market rates still higher than 2021.

10 Interest on bonds issued

		30 September 2023	30 September 2022
Interest payable on EUR 1,000,000,000 bond issued	***1)****	9,445,206	9,445,206
Interest payable on EUR 600,000,000 bond issued	***2)****	19,676,712	0
Interest payable on EUR 350,000,000 bond issued	***2)****	956,507	0
		30,078,425	9,445,206

1)*
The coupon interest is 1.750% per annum.

2)*
The coupon interest is 5.250% per annum.

11 Payables to group companies

Payables to group companies can be specified as follows:

		30 September 2023	30 September 2022
Imperial Tobacco Holdings International B.V.	***1)****	14,346	0
		14,346	0

All payables fall due in less than one year. The fair value of the payables approximates the book value due to its short-term nature.

1)*
Recharged consultancy costs (corporate legal affairs).

12 Other payables and accruals

Other payables and accruals can be specified as follows:

	30 September 2023	30 September 2022
Accrual - Audit fee	49,400	47,500
Accrual - Other assurance	5,000	4,480
	54,400	51,980

All other payables and accrued expenses fall due in less than one year. The fair value of these expenses approximates the book value due to its short-term nature.

13 Commitments not included in the balance sheet

Fiscal unity:

The Company is part of a fiscal unity for corporate income tax purposes, which is headed by ITOH Limited Dutch Branch. Under the Tax Collection Act, the Company is jointly liable for the taxes payable by the group.

14 Financial income

The financial income can be specified as follows:

		Year ended 30 September 2023	Year ended 30 September 2022
Interest income on loans to IBF PLC (see note 4 and 5)	***1)****	39,542,290	18,418,000
Amortization loan discount / transaction cost (see note 4)	***2)****	1,439,782	1,000,833
		40,982,072	19,418,833

1)*

EUR 1,000,000,000 long-term loan: Fixed interest rate @ 1.8418% per annum (being Bond rate of 1.75% plus 0.0918%). To be paid annually in arrears, the first time was on 18 March 2022.

and

EUR 600,000,000 long-term loan: Fixed interest rate @ 5.3587% per annum (being Bond rate of 5.25% plus 0.1087%). To be paid annually in arrears, the first time on 15 February 2024.

and

EUR 350,000,000 long-term loan: Fixed interest rate @ 5.3587% per annum (being Bond rate of 5.25% plus 0.1087%). To be paid annually in arrears, the first time on 15 February 2024.

2)*

EUR 1,000,000,000 long-term loan: Amortization of arrangement fee (EUR 12,010,000), which is amortized over a period of 12 years.

And

EUR 600,000,000 long-term loan: Amortization of arrangement fee (EUR 4,572,000), which is amortized over a period of 8 years.

And

EUR 350,000,000 long-term loan: Amortization of arrangement fee (EUR 11,781,000), which is amortized over a period of 7.4384 years.

15 Financial expenses

The financial expenses can be specified as follows:

		Year ended 30 September 2023	Year ended 30 September 2022
Interest expenses on bonds issued (see note 8 and 10)	*1)**	(38,133,219)	(17,500,000)
Amortization bond discount / transaction costs (see note 8)	*2)**	(1,439,782)	(1,000,833)
Interest on bank account		0	(2,363)
		(39,573,001)	(18,503,196)

1)*

EUR 1,000,000,000 long-term loan: Fixed interest rate @ 1.75% per annum.
To be paid annually in arrears, the first time was on 18 March 2022.

and

EUR 600,000,000 long-term loan: Fixed interest rate @ 5.25% per annum.
To be paid annually in arrears, the first time on 15 February 2024.

and

EUR 350,000,000 long-term loan: Fixed interest rate @ 5.25% per annum.
To be paid annually in arrears, the first time on 15 February 2024.

2)*

EUR 1,000,000,000 long-term loan: Amortization of arrangement fee (EUR 12,010,000), which is amortized over a period of 12 years.

And

EUR 600,000,000 long-term loan: Amortization of arrangement fee (EUR 4,572,000), which is amortized over a period of 8 years.

And

EUR 350,000,000 long-term loan: Amortization of arrangement fee (EUR 11,781,000), which is amortized over a period of 7.4384 years.

16 General and administrative expenses

These costs can be specified as follows:

		Year ended 30 September 2023	Year ended 30 September 2022
Salary expenses	***1)*3)****	(42,087)	(42,072)
Audit fees	***2)****	(59,400)	(65,000)
Office rent	***1)****	(3,465)	(3,193)
Tax advice / Compliance fees		(13,020)	(6,637)
Consultancy fees	***1)****	(11,856)	(19,200)
Listing fees		(6,676)	0
Bank charges		(1,963)	(898)
Other		(1,217)	(1,245)
		(139,684)	(138,245)

*1)**

These expenses include related party charges and recharges.

*2)**

The following audit fee expenses were accrued in the income statement during the year:

	Year ended 30 September 2023	Year ended 30 September 2022
Ernst & Young Accountants LLP		
Audit of financial statements	(49,400)	(65,000)
Other audit services	0	0
Tax services	0	0
Other non-audit services	(10,000)	0
	(59,400)	(65,000)

FY22 includes EUR 17,500 audit fee related to FY21.

*3)**

The salary expenses include a director's remuneration for an amount of EUR 26,599 (FY22: EUR 26,585).

17 Average number of employees

During the financial year 2023, the average number of people working for the Company was 5 (FY2022: 5). There are 3 directors, 1 administrator and 1 legal consultant. None of these people is employed by the Company. The 3 directors receive a fixed remuneration, the legal consultant has been hired externally, and the administrator is partly charged to the Company as he works for more Dutch companies.

18 Tax charge / Corporation tax payable

Tax charge in the year:

		Year ended 30 September 2023	Year ended 30 September 2022
Result before tax		1,269,387	777,392
Permanent differences:			
Dividend received		0	0
Other		0	0
Taxable result		1,269,387	777,392
Loss allocation within fiscal unity	*1)**	(1,269,387)	(777,392)
Taxable result after loss allocation		0	0
Corporation tax credit/(charge)	*2)**	0	0
Withholding tax charge		0	0
Tax credit/(charge) in the year		0	0

*1)**

The Company is part of the Fiscal Unity (FU) for corporation tax. The total tax burden will be borne by the head of the fiscal unity, being ITOH Limited Dutch Branch. Therefore, any taxable profits or losses from the Company (and other members of this fiscal unity), are allocated to the head of the fiscal unity.

*2)**

For calendar year 2023, the tax rate is 19% until EUR 200,000 and 25.8% above EUR 200,000.
For calendar year 2022, the tax rate is 15% until EUR 395,000 and 25.8% above EUR 395,000.

Payable corporation tax:

The payable corporation tax per the end of the year is nil, as the taxable profit is allocated to the head of the fiscal unity, ITOH Limited Dutch Branch.

19 Note to the cash flow statement

The cash flow statement has been prepared using the indirect method. The cash items disclosed in the cash flow statement comprise cash at banks and in hand. Interest paid and received, income taxes paid, and changes in long-term loans and bonds, are included in cash from operating activities.

20 Events after the balance sheet date

There have been no significant events effecting the company's business since year end. With regard to recent high inflation rates as a result of the increase in energy prices, these might have an effect on costs of goods sold by Imperial Brands plc ("IB"), the guarantor of the loan to the Company, but this is expected to have little impact. Possible cost increases, where not absorbed through efficiency gains, tend to be passed on into consumer price increases. Because of the repetitive nature of the underlying business this has so far had little effect on sales revenue of IB.

The Board of Directors,

R. Neef	B.F.T. Alkemade	M.E. Slade

Joure, the Netherlands, 22 December 2023.

Other information

Other information to the financial statements for the year ended 30 Sept 2023

Appropriation of result

According to article 17 of the Company's Articles of Association, the net income is at the disposition of the General Meeting of Shareholders.

Independent auditor's report

The independent auditor's report is included on the next page.

Independent auditor's report

To: the shareholder and the board of directors of Imperial Brands Finance Netherlands B.V.

Report on the audit of the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2023 included in the annual accounts

Our opinion

We have audited the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2023 of Imperial Brands Finance Netherlands B.V. based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Imperial Brands Finance Netherlands B.V. as at 30 September 2023 and of its result for the year then ended in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

The financial statements comprise:

- The balance sheet as at 30 September 2023
- The profit and loss account for the year ended 30 September 2023
- The notes comprising a summary of the accounting policies and other explanatory information

Basis for our opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

We are independent of Imperial Brands Finance Netherlands B.V. in accordance with the Wet toezicht accountantsorganisaties (Wta, Audit firms supervision act), the Verordening inzake de onafhankelijkheid van accountants bij assurance-opdrachten (ViO, Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, a regulation with respect to independence) and other relevant independence regulations in the Netherlands. Furthermore, we have complied with the Verordening gedrags- en beroepsregels accountants (VGBA, Dutch Code of Ethics).

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Information in support of our opinion

We designed our audit procedures in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole and in forming our opinion thereon. The following information in support of our opinion and any findings were addressed in this context, and we do not provide a separate opinion or conclusion on these matters.

Our understanding of the business

Imperial Brands Finance Netherlands B.V. (the company) was incorporated on 22 May 2020 as an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Imperial Brands PLC to raise external finance for Imperial Brands PLC and its subsidiaries (the group). Imperial Brands PLC, headquartered in Bristol, UK, is an international tobacco company.

The main income of Imperial Brands Finance Netherlands B.V. is the interest income on the loans issued to the group company Imperial Brands Finance PLC that are guaranteed by Imperial Brands PLC. Interest risk and foreign exchange risks are offset by the loans to group company in the same currency and having similar terms and conditions, except for an additional margin.

We paid specific attention in our audit to a number of areas driven by the operations of the company and our risk assessment.

We determined materiality and identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error in order to design audit procedures responsive to those risks and to obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Materiality

Materiality	€9.8 million (2022: €5 million)
Benchmark applied	0.5% of total assets as at 30 September 2023
Explanation	We determined materiality based on our understanding of the company's business and our perception of the financial information needs of users of the financial statements. We considered that total assets reflect the source of income and repayments to the holders of the bonds issued by the company. We determined materiality consistent with prior financial year.

We have also taken into account misstatements and/or possible misstatements that in our opinion are material for the users of the financial statements for qualitative reasons.

We agreed with the board of directors that misstatements in excess of €0.5 million, which are identified during the audit, would be reported to them, as well as smaller misstatements that in our view must be reported on qualitative grounds.

Teaming and use of specialists

We ensured that the audit team included the appropriate skills and competences which are needed for the audit of a listed finance company. We made use of specialists in the areas of income taxes including transfer pricing.

Our focus on fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations

Our responsibility

Although we are not responsible for preventing fraud or non-compliance and we cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations, it is our responsibility to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements, taken as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

Our audit response related to fraud risks
We identified and assessed the risks of material misstatements of the financial statements due to fraud. During our audit we obtained an understanding of the company and its environment and the components of the system of internal control, including the risk assessment process and the board of directors' process for responding to the risks of fraud and monitoring the system of internal control, as well as the outcomes. We refer to section Principal risks and uncertainties of the directors' report for the board of directors' risk assessment after consideration of potential fraud risks.

We evaluated the design and relevant aspects of the system of internal control and in particular the fraud risk assessment, as well as the Imperial Brands code of conduct and whistleblowing (Speaking Up) procedures. We evaluated the design and the implementation of internal controls designed to mitigate fraud risks.

As part of our process of identifying fraud risks, we evaluated fraud risk factors with respect to financial reporting fraud, misappropriation of assets and bribery and corruption. We evaluated whether these factors indicate that a risk of material misstatement due to fraud is present.

We incorporated elements of unpredictability in our audit. We also considered the outcome of our other audit procedures and evaluated whether any findings were indicative of fraud or non-compliance.

As in all of our audits, we addressed the risks related to management override of controls. For these risks we have performed procedures among others to evaluate key accounting estimates for management bias that may represent a risk of material misstatement due to fraud, in particular relating to important judgment areas and significant accounting estimates as disclosed in section Use of estimates/judgements in note 1 to the financial statements. We have also used data analysis to identify and address high-risk journal entries and evaluated the business rationale (or the lack thereof) of significant extraordinary transactions, including those with related parties. We particularly evaluated whether transactions with related parties were accounted for at-arm's-length and in accordance with transfer pricing documentation and contractual agreements. These risks did however not require significant auditor's attention during our audit.
We did not identify a risk of fraud in revenue recognition.

We considered available information and made enquiries of relevant members of the board of directors of Imperial Brands Finance Netherlands B.V. as well of the group auditor of Imperial Brands PLC.

The consideration of the potential risk of management override of controls or other inappropriate influence over the financial reporting process, enquiries and assessment of other available information did not lead to specific indications for fraud or suspected fraud potentially materially impacting the view of the financial statements.

Our audit response related to risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations
We performed appropriate audit procedures regarding compliance with the provisions of those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Furthermore, we assessed factors related to the risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general industry experience, through discussions with the board of directors, reading minutes and performing substantive tests of details of classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures.

We have been informed by the board of directors that there was no correspondence with regulatory authorities. We remained alert to any indication of (suspected) non-compliance throughout the audit. Finally, we obtained written representations that all known instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations have been disclosed to us.

Our audit response related to going concern

As disclosed in section Going concern in note 1 to the financial statements, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. When preparing the financial statements, the board of directors made a specific assessment of the company's ability to continue as a going concern and to continue its operations for the foreseeable future.

We discussed and evaluated the specific assessment with the board of directors exercising professional judgment and maintaining professional skepticism. We considered whether the board of directors' going concern assessment, based on our knowledge and understanding obtained through our audit of the financial statements or otherwise, contains all relevant events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern, including considerations relating to the financial position of Imperial Brands PLC in cooperation with the group auditor. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion.

Based on our procedures performed, we did not identify material uncertainties about going concern. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause a company to cease to continue as a going concern.

Our key audit matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements. We have communicated the key audit matter to the board of directors. The key audit matter is not a comprehensive reflection of all matters discussed.

In comparison with previous year, the nature of our key audit matter did not change.

Valuation of the loans issued to the group company	
Risk	The company is exposed to the risk that the group company, Imperial Brands Finance PLC, defaults on meeting its obligations. As loans to the group company represent the most significant portion of the company's assets, any impairment may have a material impact on the company's financial position and result. Assessing whether there is any objective evidence that financial assets are impaired, and, if any such evidence exists, determining the size of the impairment loss, requires significant judgment and we consider the potential risk of management override of controls or other inappropriate influence over the financial reporting process. As such, we identified valuation of the loans to the group company as key audit matter.

Valuation of the loans issued to the group company	
Risk (continued)	We refer to note Impairment of financial assets (note 2 to the financial statements), where the board of directors has disclosed the accounting policies and procedures in respect of the impairment loss assessment on the loans issued to the group company. As disclosed in note 4 Long-term loans to group company, the board of directors did not identify any objective indicators triggering that the loan to group company might be impaired.
Our audit approach	Our audit procedures included, amongst others, evaluating the appropriateness of the company's accounting policy relating to the impairment of financial assets in accordance with Part 9 of the Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code and Dutch Accounting Standard 290, "Financial instruments" and the criteria set to determine that there is objective evidence of an impairment loss and whether these have been applied consistently. We also evaluated the design of internal controls of the processes underlying the identification and assessment of objective evidence for impairment as part of the financial statement closing process. Furthermore, we challenged the board of directors' assessment based on, amongst others, our analysis of the financial position of the group company and Imperial Brands PLC and by identification of indicators of non-recoverability of loans issued to the group company. This includes an assessment on the fair value developments of the bonds issued and whether the group company met its financial obligations towards the company throughout the year and up to the date of our report, as well by reviewing publicity observable data and by inquiring the group auditor of Imperial Brands PLC. Also, we took the impact of events subsequent to 30 September 2023 into account. Finally, we evaluated the related disclosures in the financial statements in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.
Key observations	Based on our procedures performed, we concur with the board of director's assessment that there is no objective evidence as at 30 September 2023 that the loans to group company are impaired.

Report on other information included in the annual accounts

The annual accounts contain other information in addition to the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Based on the following procedures performed, we conclude that the other information:

- Is consistent with the financial statements and does not contain material misstatements
- Contains the information as required by Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code for the management report and the other information as required by Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code

We have read the other information. Based on our knowledge and understanding obtained through our audit of the financial statements or otherwise, we have considered whether the other information contains material misstatements. By performing these procedures, we comply with the requirements of Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code and the Dutch Standard 720. The scope of the procedures performed is substantially less than the scope of those performed in our audit of the financial statements.

The board of directors is responsible for the preparation of the other information, including the management report in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code and other information required by Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

Engagement

We were engaged by the board of directors as auditor of Imperial Brands Finance Netherlands B.V. on 9 February 2022, as of the audit for the year ended 30 September 2021 and have operated as statutory auditor ever since that date.

Description of responsibilities regarding the financial statements

Responsibilities of the board of directors for the financial statements

The board of directors is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code. Furthermore, the board of directors is responsible for such internal control as the board of directors determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

As part of the preparation of the financial statements, the board of directors is responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern. Based on the financial reporting framework mentioned, the board of directors should prepare the financial statements using the going concern basis of accounting unless the board of directors either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. The board of directors should disclose events and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern in the financial statements.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objective is to plan and perform the audit engagement in a manner that allows us to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence for our opinion.

Our audit has been performed with a high, but not absolute, level of assurance, which means we may not detect all material errors and fraud during our audit.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. The materiality affects the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and the evaluation of the effect of identified misstatements on our opinion.

We have exercised professional judgment and have maintained professional skepticism throughout the audit, in accordance with Dutch Standards on Auditing, ethical requirements and independence requirements. The Information in support of our opinion section above includes an informative summary of our responsibilities and the work performed as the basis for our opinion.

Our audit further included among others:

- Performing audit procedures responsive to the risks identified, and obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion
- Obtaining an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control
- Evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the board of directors
- Evaluating the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures
- Evaluating whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation

Communication

We communicate with the board of directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant findings in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We provide the board of directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with the board of directors, we determine the key audit matters: those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, not communicating the matter is in the public interest.

Amsterdam, 22 December 2023

Ernst & Young Accountants LLP

signed by R.A.J.H. Vossen