

## **Board's statement regarding proposed appropriation of profits for 2017 Annual General Meeting**

The Board of Holmen AB has proposed that the 2017 Annual General Meeting resolves in favour of paying a dividend of SEK 12 per share - SEK 1.5 per share higher than the preceding year - totalling SEK 1 008 million. The proposal complies with the Board's policy, in that decisions on dividends are to be based on an appraisal of the Group's profitability, future investment plans and financial position.

The proposed dividend corresponds to 70.8 per cent of net profit for 2016 for the Group and means that 4.7 per cent of equity in the Group at 31 December 2016 will be paid out by way of dividend.

The Board has established that the Group should have a strong financial position with a debt/equity ratio - defined as net financial debt in relation to equity - at a maximum of 0.5. The debt/equity ratio at 31 December 2016 was 0.19. Payment of the proposed dividend would raise the debt/equity ratio by around 0.06.

Holmen AB's equity at 31 December 2016 amounted to SEK 10 836 million, of which non-restricted equity was SEK 3 724 million. Assets and liabilities measured at fair value according to Chapter 4 Section 14a of the Swedish Annual Accounts Act had an impact of SEK -167 million on equity. The Group's equity at 31 December 2016 amounted to SEK 21 243 million. In accordance with IFRS, no distinction is made at Group level between restricted and non-restricted equity.

The Board considers that payment of a dividend of the amount proposed is justifiable in view of the demands made on the company and the Group by the nature, extent and risks associated with the business in terms of the amount of equity required, and taking into account the need for consolidation, liquidity and financial position in other respects. The financial position will remain strong after payment of the proposed dividend and is considered to be fully adequate to enable the company to fulfil its obligations in both the short and the long term, as well as to finance such investments as may be necessary.

Stockholm March 2017

**The Board of Directors**