

Report by the Management Board on <u>item 8</u> of the agenda in accordance with Sections 203 (2), Sentence 2 and 186 (4) Sentence 2 of the German Stock Corporation Act

The Management Board and the Supervisory Board propose that the current Authorised Capital 2018 be cancelled and that new Authorised Capital 2021 of EUR 29,000,000.00 be created. As a convertible bond for EUR 470,000,000.00 was issued in August 2020 subject to the exclusion of the shareholders' pre-emptive subscription rights and the shares or bonds issued subject to the exclusion of the shareholders' pre-emptive subscription rights count towards the cap, there is no longer any scope under the existing Authorised Capital 2018 for issuing shares that are subject to the exclusion of the shareholders' pre-emptive subscription rights. For this reason, new Authorised Capital 2021 is to be created in the same amount as Authorised Capital 2018 with corresponding scope for excluding the shareholders' pre-emptive subscription rights.

With this proposed authorisation to create new authorised capital, which will equal just under 20% of the Company's share capital, the Management Board will obtain a flexible instrument for structuring the Company's funding. With the proposed Authorised Capital 2021, the Management Board will also be able to continue raising the capital required for the Company's ongoing development in the short term by issuing new shares and making use of favourable market conditions for covering future financial requirements without delay. In addition, the Management Board will still be able to make use of opportunities for acquisitions arising in the market for which new shares are issued on a non-cash basis and used as an "acquisition currency".

The Management Board is to be authorised to exclude the shareholders' pre-emptive subscription rights for any fractional amounts. In this way, it will be possible to set simple and practicable subscription ratios in connection with future equity issues. Fractional amounts arise when it is not possible to distribute all new shares evenly to shareholders on account of the subscription ratio or the amount of the equity issue. Fractional amounts are of subordinate importance in the light of the total value of the equity issue. Accordingly, the disadvantages for the shareholders as a result of the exclusion of pre-emptive subscription rights for fractional amounts are negligible in the light of the procedural advantages for the Company.

In addition, the Management Board is to have the possibility of excluding the shareholders' pre-emptive subscription rights subject to the Supervisory Board's approval as far as this is necessary in the event of an offer directed at all shareholders or the issue of fresh equity subject to the shareholders' pre-emptive subscription rights in order to grant shares to the holders of option or convertible bonds issued by the Company or a group member to the extent that these holders have a right to subscribe to shares in the Company after the exercise of the option or conversion rights or the settlement of the corresponding obligations. Bonds must exhibit such protection from dilution to facilitate placement in the capital market. This protection is provided by granting the holders of bonds in connection with ensuing share capital issues a subscription right with respect to new shares equivalent to that accruing to shareholders. This ensures that holders of bonds are placed in the position which they would have if they were already shareholders. The shareholders' pre-emptive subscription rights to such shares must be excluded to ensure that the bonds receive the necessary protection from dilution. This facilitates the placement of the bonds and thus serves the shareholders' interest in ensuring an optimum financial structure for the Company. In addition, the exclusion of the shareholders' pre-emptive subscription rights in favour of the holders of bonds granting a conversion and/or option right or giving rise to a conversion and/or option obligation offers a further advantage in that, if the authorisation is utilised, the option or conversion price for the holders of existing bonds granting a conversion and/or option right or giving rise to a conversion and/or option obligation does not have to be reduced in accordance with the applicable terms and conditions for the issue of the bonds and the Company is not required to provide any other form of protection from dilution, e.g. compensation payments.

In addition, the Management Board is to be authorised to acquire real estate, real estate portfolios, companies, parts of companies, equity interests in other entities or other assets from third parties (including receivables against the Company) by issuing shares. This will substantially heighten the Management Board's flexibility in competition with others as the consideration rendered for the acquisition of business entities and interests is increasingly taking the form of shares issued by the acquiring party. Given the fact that the enterprises which are the subject of such transactions are increasingly growing in size, it is frequently not possible to provide consideration in cash form without exerting undue pressure on the Company's liquidity or raising unreasonable debt. The use of authorised capital for this purpose is contingent upon the ability to exclude subscription rights. It is only possible to issue new shares as consideration for the acquisition of real estate, real estate portfolios, companies, parts of companies, equity interests in other entities or other assets (including receivables against the Company) if the current shareholders' pre-emptive subscription rights are excluded. In such cases, the Management Board is therefore to be authorised to exclude the pre-emptive subscription rights. The price at which the new shares are utilised in this case depends on the individual circumstances. In determining the measurement ratios, the Management Board will in all cases take reasonable account of the shareholders' interests and base its decision on the Company's interests. In measuring the value of the shares granted as consideration, the Management Board will take as a guide the listed price of the Company's shares. However, there is no provision for a firm link with the listed price at any particular point in time so as to avoid jeopardising the results of negotiations as a result of fluctuations in the trade price.

Finally, Sections 203 (1) and (2) and 186 (3) Sentence 4 of the German Stock Corporation Act permit the exclusion of pre-emptive subscription rights in connection with a cash equity issue if the new shares for which the pre-emptive subscription rights are to be excluded do not account for more than ten percent of the Company's share capital both on the date on which the authorisation takes effect and on the date on which it is exercised and the issue price of the new shares is not materially less than the price at which the Company's shares are trading in the stock market. In this way, the Company's management is able to make use of favourable conditions in the stock market at short notice and thus strengthen the Company's equity base to the greatest possible extent. Experience suggests that by excluding pre-emptive subscription rights it is possible to react substantially more swiftly, something which in turn results in a higher cash inflow than a comparable equity issue with subscription rights. This is due to the fact that the grant of subscription rights normally requires the preparation and publication of an issuing prospectus which must be approved by the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin). Moreover, if subscription rights are granted, a subscription period of at least two weeks must be observed. As a result, the Company would not be able to respond at short notice to favourable or

unfavourable market conditions during the period required for preparing the issuing prospectus and submitting it for approval as well as during the subscription period, possibly impairing its ability to raise the capital required. Although Section 186 (2) Sentence 2 of the German Stock Corporation Act states that the subscription price does not have to be disclosed until the third last day of the subscription period, given the frequent volatility in the equities markets a market risk would arise over several days resulting in risk discounts and thus distorting market conditions. Moreover, the grant of pre-emptive subscription rights may impair the ability to successfully place an issue with third parties or give rise to additional expense due to uncertainty as to the extent to which it is exercised. In addition, access to new shareholder groups can be gained by excluding subscription rights. It should also be noted that the cap of ten percent of the Company's share capital also includes any treasury stock issued or sold by the Company in cases in which the subscription rights have also been excluded in accordance with Section 186 (3) Sentence 4 of the Stock Corporation Act. The cap of ten percent of the share capital additionally includes shares which must be issued for the settlement of any obligations under convertible or option bonds issued subject to the exclusion of the shareholders' pre-emptive subscription rights in accordance with Sections 221 (4) Sentence 2 and 186 (3) Sentence 4 of the German Stock Corporation Act during the term of this authorisation. The cap of ten percent of the share capital will reduce the dilution effects for the shareholders whose subscription rights have been excluded to the greatest possible extent. Given the limited size of the equity issue, the shareholders concerned can restore their share quotas by buying additional shares in the stock markets and, hence, under normal market conditions. In this case, the shareholders' financial interests are protected by the fact that the shares coming within the scope of this authorisation may only be issued at a price which is not materially lower than the price at which the Company's listed stock of the same class is trading. In addition, the Management Board is obliged to determine the value of the shares solely in the light of the interests of the Company and its shareholders.

In connection with all possibilities for excluding the shareholders' pre-emptive subscription rights, the proportionate value of the share capital attributable to the new shares for which pre-emptive subscription rights are excluded may not exceed a total of ten percent of the Company's share capital on the date on which the authorisation takes effect as well as on the date on which it is exercised. Moreover, the shares which are issued or sold under other authorisation subject to the exclusion of the shareholders' pre-emptive subscription rights or new shares which are issued to settle obligations under convertible and/or option bonds issued during the term of this authorisation subject to the exclusion of the shareholders' pre-emptive subscription rights count towards this cap. This will avoid excessive dilution of the previous shareholders' holdings.

The Management Board will consider the individual circumstances carefully before deciding whether to make use of this authorisation. It may only make use of the authorisation if it takes the view that this is in the best interests of the Company and, therefore, of its shareholders and is reasonable and appropriate.

The Management Board will notify the shareholders at the next annual general meeting whenever it makes use of such authorisation.

Hamburg, March 2021

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Management Board

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