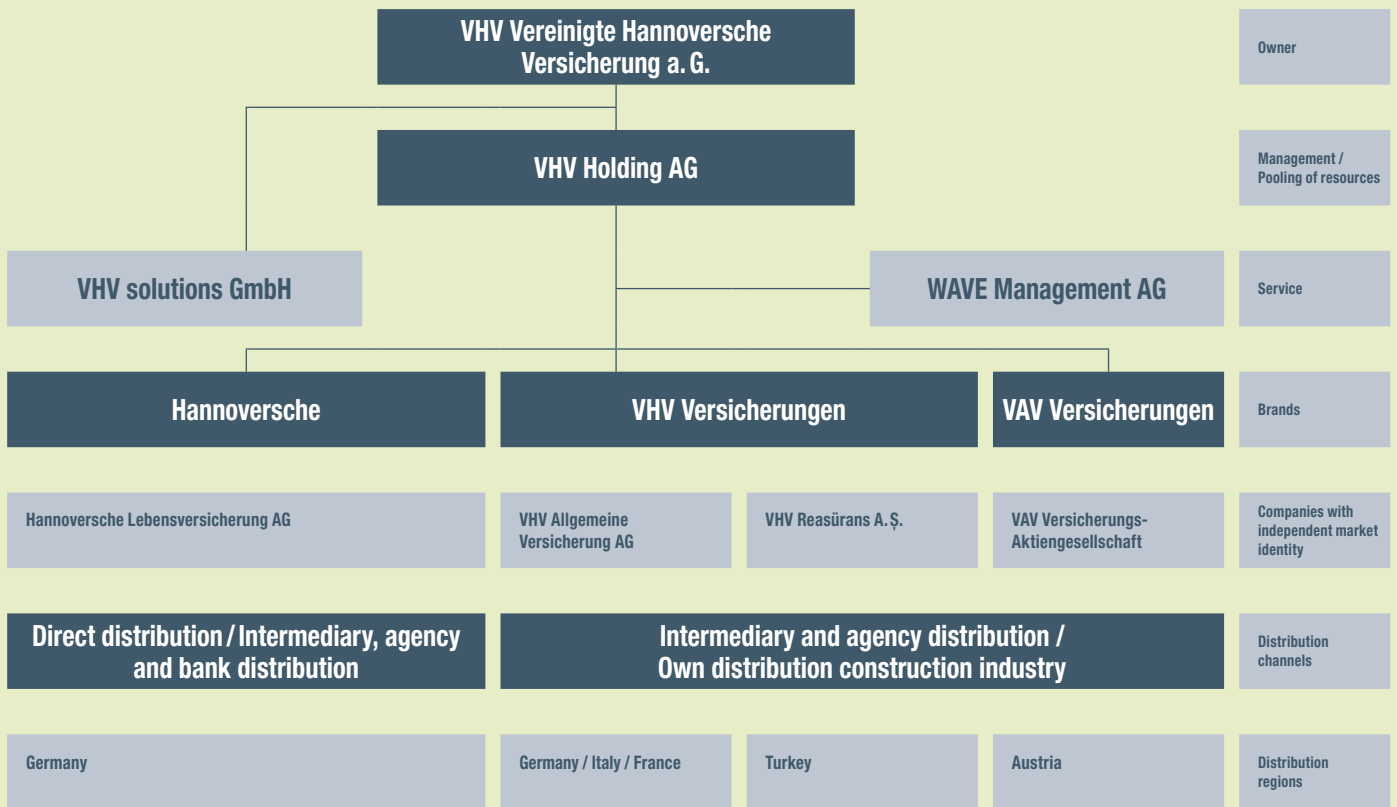


# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

# GROUP STRUCTURE

## KEY COMPANIES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021



**VHV GROUP**

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The annual report of the VHV Group is also available in German. The German version applies.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AG</b>	Aktiengesellschaft (stock corporation)
<b>AGV</b>	Arbeitgeberverband der Versicherungsunternehmen in Deutschland e.V.
<b>AIRR</b>	Additional interest rate reserve
<b>AktG</b>	German Stock Corporation Act
<b>ALM</b>	Asset liability management
<b>AltZertG</b>	Act on the certification of retirement and basic pension plans (Pension Plan Certification Act – AltZertG)
<b>BaFin</b>	German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority, Bonn and Frankfurt am Main
<b>BGB</b>	German Civil Code
<b>BGBI</b>	German Federal Law Gazette
<b>CRO</b>	Chief Risk Officer
<b>DAV</b>	Deutsche Aktuarvereinigung e.V. (German Actuarial Society), Cologne
<b>DAX</b>	German stock index
<b>DeckRV</b>	Ordinance on the calculation basis for actuarial reserves (German Actuarial Reserve Ordinance – DeckRV)
<b>EC</b>	Extended coverage
<b>ECB</b>	European Central Bank, Frankfurt am Main
<b>EEC</b>	European Economic Community
<b>EGHGB</b>	Introductory Act to the German Commercial Code
<b>EIOPA</b>	European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority, Frankfurt am Main
<b>ESG</b>	Sustainability criteria (environment, social, governance)
<b>EstG</b>	Income Tax Act
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>Eucon GmbH</b>	Eucon GmbH, Münster
<b>EUR'000</b>	Thousand euros
<b>e.V.</b>	eingetragener Verein (registered association)
<b>FMA</b>	Austrian Financial Market Authority, Vienna
<b>GDP</b>	Gross domestic product
<b>GDV</b>	Gesamtverband der Deutschen Versicherungswirtschaft e.V. (German Insurance Association), Berlin
<b>GmbH</b>	Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung (limited liability company)
<b>HDB</b>	Hauptverband der Deutschen Bauindustrie e.V. (German Construction Industry Federation), Berlin
<b>HGB</b>	German Commercial Code
<b>HL</b>	Hannoversche Lebensversicherung AG, Hanover
<b>HRB</b>	Commercial register section B
<b>HUR</b>	Liability and accident annuities
<b>IBR</b>	Internal investment guidelines
<b>ICS</b>	Internal control system
<b>IDD</b>	Insurance Distribution Directive

**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>IDW</b>	Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer (Institute of Public Auditors in Germany)
<b>IE</b>	Infrastructure equity
<b>InterEurope AG</b>	InterEurope AG European Law Service, Düsseldorf
<b>IRCF</b>	Independent Risk Controlling Function
<b>IT</b>	Information technology
<b>KfW</b>	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, Frankfurt am Main
<b>OHM</b>	Occupational health management
<b>ORSA</b>	Own Risk and Solvency Assessment
<b>PE</b>	Private equity
<b>Pensionskasse</b>	Pensionskasse der VHV-Versicherungen, Hanover
<b>R.C. Décennale</b>	Responsabilité Civile Décennale
<b>RechVersV</b>	Ordinance on accounting by insurance companies (German Insurance Companies Accounts Regulations – RechVersV)
<b>RfB</b>	Reserves for premium refunds
<b>S&amp;P</b>	Standard & Poor's
<b>SHUT</b>	Property, liability, accident and technical insurance
<b>SICAV</b>	Société d'investissement à capital variable
<b>SIF</b>	Specialised Investment Fund
<b>SWRV</b>	Austrian Equalisation Reserve Regulation
<b>US</b>	United States
<b>USA</b>	United States of America
<b>USD</b>	US dollar
<b>VAG</b>	Act on the supervision of insurance companies (Insurance Oversight Act – VAG)
<b>VAV</b>	VAV Versicherungs-Aktiengesellschaft, Vienna/Austria
<b>VHV a.G.</b>	VHV Vereinigte Hannoversche Versicherung a.G., Hanover
<b>VHV Allgemeine</b>	VHV Allgemeine Versicherung AG, Hanover
<b>VHV Assurance France</b>	VHV Assurance France, Paris/France
<b>VHV digital services</b>	VHV digital services AG, Hanover
<b>VHV Group</b>	VHV Vereinigte Hannoversche Versicherung a.G./Group, Hanover
<b>VHV Holding</b>	VHV Holding AG, Hanover
<b>VHV Re</b>	VHV Reasürans A.Ş., Istanbul/Turkey
<b>VHV solutions</b>	VHV solutions GmbH, Hanover
<b>VMF</b>	Actuarial Function
<b>VVH</b>	VVH Versicherungsvermittlung Hannover GmbH, Hanover
<b>WAVE</b>	WAVE Management AG, Hanover
<b>ZDB</b>	Zentralverband des Deutschen Baugewerbes e.V. (Central Association of the German Construction Industry), Berlin

# GLOSSARY \*)

## A

### **Actuarial interest rate**

The actuarial interest rate is a calculation basis for calculating premiums and the actuarial reserves in life insurance. The maximum permissible actuarial interest rate for actuarial reserves in new business is established in the DeckRV.

### **Actuarial reserve**

Actuarial reserves are the obligations resulting from the life assurance contract or another contract offering long-term insurance protection.

### **Additional interest rate reserve**

Additional reserve prescribed by law for life insurers that provides for a forward-looking increase in reserves with regard to periods of low interest income. The amount of the additional interest rate reserve depends on a reference interest rate. If the reference interest rate falls below a contract's actuarial interest rate, an additional interest rate reserve is created. If the reference interest rate increases, the additional interest rate reserve is gradually reversed. The method for calculating the reference interest rate is stipulated by the German Actuarial Reserve Ordinance (DeckRV).

### **Annual Premium Equivalent**

Total of continuous new business premiums and a tenth of the new business one-off premiums.

### **Availability by phone**

Availability by phone is the ratio of telephone calls answered to incoming calls.

### **Average claims expenditure**

The average claims expenditure is the ratio of claims expenses to the claims registered.

### **Average premium**

The average premium is the ratio of premiums earned to the number of contracts at the year-end.

## B

### **Basic participation in valuation reserves**

The basic participation in valuation reserves is part of the policy holders' surplus allocation in life insurance. The basic participation is the declared minimum participation in the valuation reserve.

### **Business-year claims expenditure**

The business-year claims expenditure is the total claims expenses including claims settlement expenses for claims incurred in the financial year including unknown late claims.

### **Business-year claims ratio**

The business-year claims ratio is the ratio of business-year claims expenditure to premiums earned expressed as a percentage.

## C

### **Cancellation rate**

The cancellation rate indicates the percentage of insurance companies' contracts cancelled or exempted from payment of premiums before the end of the contract.

### **Claims frequency**

Ratio of the number of business-year claims reported to the average number of contracts as at 1 January and as at 31 December of the financial year.

### **Claims ratio**

Ratio of expenses for insurance claims to premiums earned.

### **Combined ratio**

The combined ratio is the ratio of expenses for insurance operations and claims expenses (including processing) to premiums earned.

### **Current average interest**

Current average interest is defined as the ratio of current income from investments less current expenses for investments to the average investments at the beginning of the year and at the year-end.

\*) The glossary applies to all the annual reports produced by the German insurance companies of the VHV Group including the consolidated annual report and is a component of the respective management report.



**Current income from investments**

Current income from investments is understood to be ordinary earnings such as dividends, coupon payments and interest. Other income from investments, which is realised through reversals or the sale of securities, is not covered by this definition.

**D****Deposit accounts receivable/payable**

Deposit of collateral with the primary insurer by the reinsurer.

**Direct deposit**

Form of surplus allocation for policy holders where the amounts are paid out directly from the net profit for the year and allocated to policy holders without their being previously allocated to the reserve for premium refunds.

**Direct-written insurance transactions**

Insurance transactions concluded directly with the policy holder.

**E****Effective interest rate method**

Discounting the expected cash flows over the entire lifecycle of a financial asset or a financial liability at the effective interest rate.

**Equalisation reserve**

Technical reserve in property-casualty insurance and in reinsurance, which is created to offset volatilities in the development of claims in the annual financial statements prepared in accordance with German commercial law.

**Equity exposure**

Equity exposure is the ratio of equities held taking into account any equity derivatives and the total portfolio of investments at market value.

**Expense ratio**

The expense ratio corresponds to the ratio of the personnel and non-labour costs to the gross premiums.

**Expenses for insurance claims**

Expenses for insurance claims comprises the payments made in the financial year for insurance claims and the change in the reserve for insurance claims not yet processed.

**Expenses for insurance operations**

Expenses that an insurance company incurs in connection with the operation of its insurance business. The expenses shown relate either to the conclusion or administration of insurance transactions.

**F****Final surplus share**

The final surplus share is understood as the policy holders' surplus allocation in life insurance, which is not granted until the end of the term of the insurance contract. The final amount is not definite until the year in which the contract ends and may be subject to considerable fluctuation in the previous years.

**G****Gross domestic product (GDP)**

The gross domestic product shows the total value of all goods and services, which were produced in one year within the boundaries of a national economy and are used for final consumption. Goods, that are not used directly but are warehoused, are taken into account in the calculation as changes in inventories.

**Gross new investment**

The total additions to a balance sheet item within a financial year are described as gross new investment.

**Guarantee assets**

Portion of an insurance company's assets that serves to secure policy holders' claims in the event of insolvency.

**H****Hidden reserves**

Components of companies' equity that are not visible from the balance sheet and which can arise from assets being undervalued and liabilities being overvalued.

# GLOSSARY

## I

### **Insurance transactions assumed in reinsurance coverage**

Insurance transactions assumed from a primary insurer or reinsurer in reinsurance coverage.

## M

### **Management expense ratio**

The management expense ratio is the ratio of management expenses to gross premiums earned.

### **Management expenses**

All expenses incurred for the ongoing management of the insurance portfolio.

## N

### **Net asset value (NAV)**

Value of all the tangible and intangible assets of a company or investment fund less all liabilities.

### **Net interest**

Net interest is defined as the ratio of all income from investments less expenses for investments and the average investments at the beginning of the year and at the year-end.

### **Net result from investments**

Income from investments less expenses for investments produces the net result.

### **Non-technical result**

The balance of income and expenses that cannot be directly attributed to insurance transactions.

## O

### **Operating costs ratio**

The operating costs ratio is the ratio of gross operating expenses (expenses for insurance operations) to gross premiums earned expressed as a percentage.

## P

### **Premiums**

Premiums written represent gross sales in premium business and contain customers' premiums for the corresponding insurance products. Premiums earned contains the premiums attributable to the financial year plus premiums carried forward from the previous year and less premiums carried forward to subsequent years.

### **Processed/reported claims ratio**

The processed/reported claims ratio is the ratio of the expenses incurred in the financial year for insurance claims, including expenses arising from the processing of insurance claims that accrued in previous years to premiums earned expressed as a percentage.

### **Productivity**

Productivity corresponds to the ratio of processed contracts to internal and external employment levels.

### **Profit segmentation**

In the profit segmentation unadjusted earnings are allocated according to their sources. Consequently, the profit segmentation provides information as to the source of the surplus as part of a product costing analysis. Here, the actual business development is compared with the input variables used to set the premium for each source of earnings.

### **Projected unit credit method**

This is an actuarial measurement method for obligations from occupational pensions where only the part of the obligation that has already accrued at each measurement date is measured.

## R

### **Real estate ratio**

The real estate ratio is the ratio of all real estate investments to the total volume of investments.

### **Reinsurance**

Contract or contracts which have the object of transferring technical risk and which a (primary) insurance company concludes with another insurance company.

**Reserve for insurance claims not yet processed**

This is a technical reserve. It is created for claims that have occurred by the balance sheet closing date but which have not yet been processed.

**Reserves for premium refunds**

This is a technical reserve, which shows policy holders' claims to future surplus allocations, if sufficient surpluses have already arisen or the company has legal obligations irrespective of whether surpluses have arisen or not.

**Retention ratio**

Ratio of net premiums written to gross premiums written.

**Risk-bearing capacity**

Risk-bearing capacity is a company's ability to cover unexpected losses resulting from risks assumed with the defined level of security. If own funds exceed the risk capital required, the company has the necessary risk-bearing capacity. Risk-bearing capacity is defined via the coverage of the risk capital required by own funds.

**S****Settlement**

Settlement is the difference between the claims reserves created in previous years and the claim payments made in reporting year as well as new claims reserves created in the reporting year.

**Solvency**

Solvency is an insurance company's endowment of resources that serve to cover the risks of insurance transactions and consequently to secure policy holders' claims even in the event of unfavourable developments.

**Solvency II**

Solvency II is the current supervisory regime that among other things defines enhanced solvency requirements for insurance companies/groups based on a comprehensive risk assessment. The starting point is the solvency balance sheet, in which assets and liabilities must be recognised at fair value. In addition, Solvency II comprises extensive qualitative requirements for the governance system and enhanced reporting obligations for insurance companies/groups.

**Strategic asset allocation**

The target weighting of the individual investment categories is understood with strategic asset allocation. The strategic asset allocation ensures that sufficient account is taken of the long-term objectives for the specific structure of the portfolio.

**T****Target amount of the equalisation reserve**

The target amount of the equalisation reserve is the upper limit for the creation of or allocation to an equalisation reserve.

**Technical result**

The technical result is the difference between income and expenses solely from insurance transactions.

**Transaction costs ratio**

The transaction costs ratio is the ratio of transaction costs to the total premium of new business.

**Transaction expenses**

Transaction expenses are expenses that arise directly or indirectly from the conclusion of an insurance contract.

**Turnover rate**

The turnover rate calculates the proportion of employees who leave the company each year compared with the average headcount.

**U****Unadjusted earnings**

Surplus of income over expenses before allocation to the reserve for premium refunds and the direct deposits as well as the reserves and dividends in life insurance.

**Unearned premiums**

Unearned premiums are premiums for a specific period after the balance sheet closing date. A technical reserve is created for these in the annual financial statements.

# GLOSSARY

## **Unisex**

Insurance rate, which disregards the gender of the policy holder in the risk assessment.

## **Unit costs**

Unit costs correspond to the ratio of the personnel and non-labour costs incurred to the contracts processed.

## **V**

### **Value-at-risk**

Specific measure of risk with applications in the area of financial risks (risk), particularly insurance sector risks. Starting from a fixed time interval and a specified probability of default (confidence level), the VaR of a financial item is the amount of the loss that will not be exceeded with the specified probability.

## **Z**

### **Zillmerisation**

Zillmerisation is an actuarial procedure for including transaction costs in life insurance that have been incurred but not yet repaid. In the case of a zillmerised tariff, this means the actuarial reserves in the first insurance years may be extremely low or even negative.

# CONSOLIDATED MANAGEMENT REPORT

## VHV VEREINIGTE HANNOVERSICHE

### VERSICHERUNG a. G.

As the Group parent company, VHV a.G. hereby presents the consolidated financial statements and the Group management report dated 31 December 2021.

#### GROUP'S BUSINESS MODEL

The VHV Group is a group of specialists for insurance policies, provisions and assets with a history dating back 100 years. Its customers and sales partners are at the centre of the VHV Group's strategy. The parent company of the VHV Group is organised as a mutual insurance association. This form of organisation allows the company to think and act strategically over the long term and not to focus its entrepreneurial activities on short-term shareholder value.

Through a constant process of improvement, the VHV Group aims to operate more flexibly and in a more customer-focused manner on the market than the competition. The Group is characterised by modern structures, clearly defined business segments, efficient cost management and customer-focused, high-performance products. Customers and sales partners benefit from products and advice with a very good cost/performance ratio.

The companies affiliated with the VHV Group operate independently in clearly defined submarkets. **VHV Holding** controls the Group's strategic development and direction and monitors the progress of the operating units.

The areas of activity of the VHV Group are broken down into domestic/German insurance business and the strategic growth markets, international insurance business, and technology-based insurance-related services.

As a special insurer of the construction industry and a car and liability insurer, **VHV Allgemeine** is one of the major German providers of property-casualty insurance. The more than 14,000 intermediaries offer customers tailored insurance solutions at a competitive price.

Germany's first direct insurer, **HL** has been on the market as a specialist for insurance policies, provisions and assets since 1875. Needs-oriented products at competitive prices have always been its strategy and the basis of its success. HL sets great store by an above-average service focus that is seen to be different from the market.

**VAV** is the VHV Group's property-casualty insurer on the Austrian market. VAV primarily sells its products via independent intermediaries and is established in the property-casualty segment with a broad range of products.

**VHV Re** primarily conducts facultative reinsurance business in Turkey.

**VHV solutions**, the Group's central service company, bundles all the processes of contract processing and claims handling as well as responsibility for all aspects of information technology. This allows the VHV Group to design these processes more efficiently.

**WAVE** primarily manages the VHV Group's investments. WAVE is distinguished by more than 20 years of expertise in stability- and security-oriented investment.

The **Eucon Group** helps companies in the automotive, insurance and real estate industries to digitalise their processes, use data to generate value and realise digital business models.

The **InterEurope Group** is a service provider for claims handling on behalf of insurance companies throughout Europe.

# CONSOLIDATED MANAGEMENT REPORT

## WE ENGAGE IN THE FOLLOWING BRANCHES AND TYPES OF INSURANCE BUSINESS:

### 1. In property-casualty insurance:

#### ACCIDENT INSURANCE

##### General accident insurance

##### Individual accident insurance without premium refund

Complete accident insurance

Insurance for non-work accidents

Aviation accident insurance

Functional disability insurance

##### Group accident insurance without premium refund

Complete group accident insurance

Partial group accident insurance

##### Motor vehicle accident insurance

#### LIABILITY INSURANCE

##### Personal liability insurance

##### Business and professional liability insurance

Construction (including architects and structural engineers)  
Industry, trade and other business operations

##### Environmental liability insurance/Environmental damage insurance

##### Financial losses liability insurance

##### Radiation and nuclear facility liability insurance

##### Fire liability insurance

##### Construction guarantee insurance

##### Construction completion insurance

##### R. C. Décennale

##### Other liability insurance, and liability insurance not classified

#### MOTOR VEHICLE LIABILITY INSURANCE

#### OTHER MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE

##### Full motor vehicle insurance

##### Partial motor vehicle insurance

#### FIRE AND PROPERTY INSURANCE

##### Fire insurance

##### Industrial fire insurance

##### Other fire insurance

##### Associated household contents insurance

##### Associated residential building insurance

##### Other property insurance

##### Burglary and theft insurance

##### Water mains insurance

##### Glass insurance

##### Storm insurance

##### Hail insurance<sup>\*)</sup>

##### Technical insurance

Machinery breakdown insurance

Assembly insurance

Construction services insurance

Electronics insurance

Weather risk insurance

##### Extended coverage (EC) insurance

#### TRANSPORTATION INSURANCE

#### LOAN AND SURETY INSURANCE

##### Surety insurance

##### Commercial credit insurance

#### LEGAL EXPENSES INSURANCE

#### TRANSPORTATION SERVICE INSURANCE

#### OTHER INSURANCE

##### Business interruption insurance

##### Business interruption fire insurance

##### Other business interruption insurance

##### Other indemnity insurance

##### Exhibition insurance

##### Frozen goods insurance

##### Luggage insurance

##### Camping insurance

##### Insurance for loss of rents

##### Dynamic property insurance

##### All risks insurance

##### Cyber risk insurance

##### Nuclear facility property insurance

#### LIFE INSURANCE<sup>\*)</sup>

#### AVIATION INSURANCE<sup>\*)</sup>

<sup>\*)</sup> Only in insurance transactions assumed in reinsurance coverage

**Legal expenses insurance** is passed on to Neue Rechtsschutz-Versicherungsgesellschaft AG, Mannheim.

## 2. In life insurance:

### INDIVIDUAL CAPITAL INSURANCE

Endowment insurance on death and survival

Term insurance with fixed sum insured

Partner term insurance with fixed sum insured

Term insurance with decreasing sum insured

Term insurance with redemption plan

Funeral expenses insurance

### INDIVIDUAL ANNUITY INSURANCE

Immediately commencing and deferred annuity insurance

Immediately commencing and deferred basic annuity in accordance with section 10 paragraph 1 no. 2b of the Income Tax Act

Annuity insurance as private pension plan according to AltZertG

### GROUP INSURANCE

Group term insurance with fixed sum insured

Deferred group annuity insurance

### FUND-LINKED ANNUITY INSURANCE AS INDIVIDUAL INSURANCE

Deferred fund-linked annuity insurance with guaranteed protection in case of death

### CAPITALISATION TRANSACTIONS

Investment for one year

Payment plan

### INSURANCES FOR INCOME GUARANTEES

Occupational disability insurance for payment of an annuity at the time the occupational disability occurs

Work incapacity insurance for payment of an annuity at the time the work incapacity occurs

### SUPPLEMENTARY INSURANCE

Supplementary accident insurance for capital benefit in the case of death by accident

Supplementary occupational disability insurance for exemption from premium payment at the time the occupational disability occurs

Supplementary insurance for survivors' annuity in the case of death of the primary insured person

# CONSOLIDATED MANAGEMENT REPORT

## REPORT ON ECONOMIC POSITION

### Macroeconomic trends

The 2021 financial year saw a recovery in the world economy. The extensive aid programmes on the part of governments and central banks with the aim of overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic were a major driver of this development. Global GDP increased by 5.7 % following a contraction of 4.3 % in the previous year. Industrial sectors made a particularly strong contribution to growth in the early part of the year. However, supply bottlenecks affecting raw materials and precursors led to a slowdown in the economic upturn as the year continued. The situation in the service sectors improved as the restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic were gradually lifted. GDP in the USA increased by 5.8 % in 2021, while euro area GDP rose by 5.2 %. Germany's economic output grew by 2.7 % in 2021.

The Turkish economy benefited from the fact that the central bank continued to pursue an extremely expansionary policy, although currency depreciation and high inflation weighed on the country's performance.

The two leading Asian economies, Japan and China, saw GDP growth of 2.4 % and 8.1 % respectively in 2021.

Inflation increased sharply in 2021. In addition to statistical base effects, this was due in particular to rising energy prices. This development was exacerbated by supply bottlenecks for precursors and raw materials.

Consumer prices in Germany increased by an average of 3.1 % between 2020 and 2021. The euro area reported an inflation rate of 2.6 % for the year as a whole. The US inflation rate was 5.4 %. The core inflation rate in the euro area – not including food and energy – also amounted to 2.6 % at the end of the year.

### Capital markets

In the 2021 financial year, the European bond markets were caught between the conflicting priorities of expansionary monetary policy and inflation that was significantly higher than forecast. 10-year German government bonds saw volatile yield development during the course of

the year, trading at between –60 and –9 basis points. At the end of 2021, the yield on 10-year German government bonds was –18 basis points, 39 basis points higher than at the end of 2020 (–0.57 %). Government bonds with maturities of up to 15 years had negative yields at the end of the year. The yield on 10-year US bonds ranged between 91 and 177 basis points. At the end of the year, the yield on 10-year US bonds was 151 basis points, 60 basis points higher than one year previously.

The global stock markets closed 2021 with gains. The DAX rose by 15.8 %, while the EuroStoxx50 climbed by 21.0 %. Like the DAX, the US markets reached new all-time highs. The Dow Jones Industrial rose by 18.7 %, while the S&P 500 ended the year up 26.9 %.

The euro depreciated against the US dollar, starting at USD 1.22 at the beginning of the year and ending the year at USD 1.14.

### Insurance sector environment

According to the projection published by the German Insurance Association (GDV) as of November, premium growth of 2.2 % and an increase in business-year claims expenditure of 20.3 % can be expected in direct property-casualty insurance transactions in Germany in the 2021 financial year.

The combined ratio will be around 102 % for the 2021 financial year and thus higher than in the previous year.

In motor vehicle insurance, the GDV forecasts moderate growth in premium revenues of 0.4 % and an increase in business-year claims expenditure of 8.0 %. The significant increase in expenses for insurance claims is attributable to the comprehensive insurance segments (motor vehicle liability insurance: 0.0 %, fully comprehensive insurance: +18.0 %, partially comprehensive insurance: +40.0 %). According to the GDV, it is the result of the continued hyperinflationary development of motor vehicle spare part prices as well as the above-average claims forecast for 2021 due to natural hazards. Assuming that the settlement result broadly returns to normal and that the expense ratio remains unchanged, the GDV forecasts that motor vehicle insurance as a whole would see a technical result of around EUR 1.5 billion (previous year: around EUR 2.7 million).



In property insurance and general liability insurance, the GDV is forecasting an increase in premium revenues of 4.2% and 2.5% respectively, while premium revenues in general accident insurance are expected to stagnate at 0.0% as the number of insurance contracts decreases. Expenses for insurance claims in property insurance are expected to increase by 59.1% in 2021 as a result of natural hazards and major fire claims. Accordingly, the GDV is forecasting a combined ratio of around 129%.

In loan, surety and fidelity insurance, 2021 is expected to see a 7.0% increase in premium revenues and a considerable improvement in the combined ratio to around 60% (previous year: 84.8%). According to the GDV, this is due to the robust economic development and a significant reduction in the claims burden (-35.0%) as well as the continued support measures in the first half of the year in the form of the guarantee coverage at federal government level and the commitment by commercial credit insurers to maintain their limits.

As a special insurer of the construction industry, VHV Allgemeine has a keen interest in the economic situation and development of the construction industry. According to their statistical forecast from December, the German construction industry and German construction trades are assuming growth in sales of 0.5% in 2021. In residential construction, sales are expected to increase by 2.0% overall in 2021. Sales are expected to increase by 1.0% in commercial construction, whereas a year-on-year decline is forecast in public sector construction.

According to preliminary figures published by the GDV in January 2022, gross premiums written in life insurance declined in the 2021 financial year. The downward trend in contracts did not continue in 2021. This was most likely due to increased portfolio transfers.

Gross premiums written declined by 1.7% compared with 2020 to EUR 98.3 billion, of which EUR 63.1 billion related to regular premiums (-0.8%) and EUR 35.2 billion to one-off premiums (-5.7%). The number of new insurance contracts fell by 1.3% year-on-year to 4.6 million. The regular premiums for one year for these new contracts increased by 8.5% to EUR 6.3 billion. One-off premiums paid declined by 7.3% to EUR 34.4 billion.

The number of eligible new Riester contracts rose by 12.0% compared with 2021 to a total of 0.3 million contracts. The regular premiums for all new Riester pensions totalled EUR 0.5 billion (+4.3%). The vast majority of the Riester contracts (94.3%) were concluded as individual hybrid insurance policies with guarantees, a further 3.4% were concluded as traditional individual insurance policies, and only 0.1% were concluded as wholly fund-linked individual annuity insurance policies.

0.1 million basic annuities were newly concluded in 2021 (+39.7%). Despite the relatively low number of contracts (around 52,000), capitalisation transactions (including tontine policies) again made a significant contribution of EUR 6.2 billion (or 18.0%) to insurers' new one-off premiums.

In terms of the annual premium equivalent, annuity insurance generated 70.6% of the total new business of life insurers (previous year: 67.7%).

### Group performance

- Consolidated net income up significantly year-on-year and well above expectations
- Contract and premium growth above market level in property-casualty insurance
- New business in life insurance lower than forecast, but contract numbers up on the previous year and regular premiums in new business higher at year-end than in the previous year. Growth in existing contracts above the market average and premiums up on the previous year
- Net interest on investments unchanged compared with the previous year and thus above expectations
- Development of digitalisation projects largely controlled and in line with expectations

The Group reported consolidated net income for the year of EUR 289.8 million (previous year: EUR 183.0 million). This meant that the company's financial resources were also strengthened further in the interests of our policy holders.

# CONSOLIDATED MANAGEMENT REPORT

In property-casualty insurance business, a technical result for own account of EUR 238.8 million (previous year: EUR 174.6 million) was achieved. The improvement was primarily due to the result generated by VHV Allgemeine.

The increase in the number of insurance contracts and the growth in premiums at VHV Allgemeine accompanied by largely stable average premiums was in line with our expectations. The operating result was up significantly on the previous year, thereby exceeding our expectations.

The branch of VHV Allgemeine in France, VHV Assurance France, was established on 24 November 2020 and approved by the French supervisory authority on 15 March 2021. Positioned as a special insurer of the construction industry, its primary target group is small and medium-sized French construction companies.

VAV again exceeded its own expectations in terms of growth. Premiums earned again increased significantly in 2021. The combined ratio deteriorated considerably on the back of the sharp rise in claims due to natural hazards, but the reinsurance coverage concluded meant that this did not have a negative impact. The operating result declined due to a higher addition to the equalisation reserve.

The financial year for VHV Re was characterised by significant premium growth in line with the previous year's expectations.

The life insurance business closed with a technical result of EUR 77.1 million (previous year: EUR 55.5 million). The increase in the technical result is primarily attributable to the improved result of WAVE SICAV Teilfonds Leben.

In total, the technical result for own account was EUR 315.9 million (previous year: EUR 230.1 million).

## PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT FOR DIRECT-WRITTEN INSURANCE TRANSACTIONS

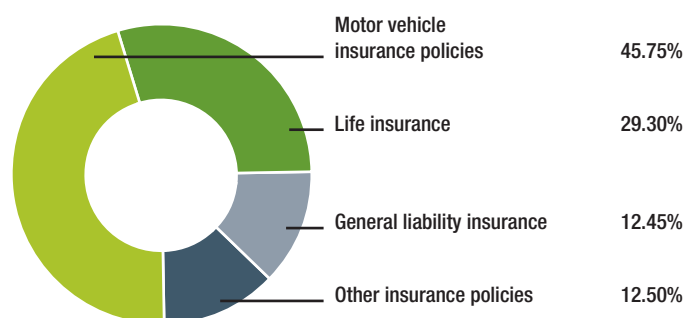
	NUMBER OF CONTRACTS			GROSS PREMIUMS EARNED		
	31.12.2021 Number	31.12.2020 Number	Change	2021 EUR'000	2020 EUR'000	Change
<b>Accident insurance</b>	517,554	463,900	11.6 %	52,899	49,019	7.9 %
<b>Liability insurance</b>	1,695,490	1,662,443	2.0 %	434,168	403,286	7.7 %
<b>Motor vehicle liability insurance</b>	3,615,970	3,523,462	2.6 %	952,668	934,713	1.9 %
<b>Other motor vehicle insurance</b>	2,853,893	2,764,022	3.3 %	639,023	624,229	2.4 %
<b>Fire and property insurance</b>	1,029,837	1,001,260	2.9 %	223,816	204,087	9.7 %
of which:						
Associated household contents insurance	489,937	482,691	1.5 %	50,481	49,313	2.4 %
Associated residential building insurance	131,743	131,629	0.1 %	54,536	52,413	4.1 %
Other property insurance	354,322	335,484	5.6 %	98,744	85,308	15.7 %
of which: Technical insurance	81,245	73,406	10.7 %	62,745	55,229	13.6 %
<b>Loan and surety insurance</b>	61,211	59,619	2.7 %	104,989	100,556	4.4 %
<b>Legal expenses insurance</b>	35,003	33,205	15.0 %	4,182	3,762	11.2 %
<b>Transportation service insurance</b>	1,359,811	1,299,115	4.7 %	13,543	12,801	5.8 %
<b>Other insurance</b>	65,600	62,721	0.2 %	10,457	9,709	7.7 %
<b>Total property-casualty</b>	<b>11,234,369</b>	<b>10,869,747</b>	<b>3.4 %</b>	<b>2,435,745</b>	<b>2,342,162</b>	<b>4.0 %</b>
<b>Total life insurance</b>	<b>1,095,779</b>	<b>1,071,973</b>	<b>2.2 %</b>	<b>1,059,393</b>	<b>1,033,751</b>	<b>2.5 %</b>
<b>Total for the VHV Group</b>	<b>12,330,148</b>	<b>11,941,720</b>	<b>3.3 %</b>	<b>3,495,138</b>	<b>3,375,913</b>	<b>3.5 %</b>

# CONSOLIDATED MANAGEMENT REPORT

## RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Gross premiums earned for the Group amounted to a total of EUR 3,616.0 million (previous year: EUR 3,509.1 million).

### PREMIUMS EARNED (share in %)



Premiums earned were generated in the amount of EUR 3,495.1 million (previous year: EUR 3,375.9 million) in direct-written insurance transactions and EUR 120.9 million (previous year: EUR 133.2 million) in insurance transactions assumed in reinsurance coverage. Including the reinsurance premiums ceded of EUR 131.7 million (previous year: EUR 140.4 million), the premiums for own account amounted to EUR 3,484.3 million (previous year: EUR 3,368.7 million). This corresponded to a retention ratio of 96.4 % (previous year: 96.0 %).

Expenses for the Group's insurance operations amounted to 17.6 % of gross premiums earned (previous year: 17.5 %).

The net result from investments amounted to EUR 537.8 million (previous year: EUR 527.1 million), resulting in net interest of 3.1 % (previous year: 3.1 %). Current average interest increased to 2.9 % (previous year: 2.6 %).

Current income from investments increased by 15.9 % to EUR 530.4 million (previous year: EUR 457.5 million). This development was driven in particular by current income from investments in the amount of EUR 123.0 million (previous year: EUR 77.1 million) and investments in affiliated and associated companies in the amount of EUR 83.0 million (previous year: EUR 17.6 million).

Gains from the divestiture of investments declined in comparison with the previous year, from EUR 128.1 million to EUR 35.5 million.

At EUR 1.7 million, losses from the divestiture of investments were EUR 0.4 million higher than in the previous year.

Appreciation increased by EUR 13.2 million to EUR 14.3 million, while write-downs fell by EUR 20.4 million to EUR 17.0 million.

Write-downs in the amount of EUR 8.9 million (previous year: EUR 1.4 million) were avoided due to the valuation of investment assets and bearer bonds with a total carrying amount of EUR 9,114.7 million (previous year: EUR 8,937.1 million) as non-current assets in accordance with section 341b (2) HGB in conjunction with section 253 (3) sentence 5 HGB (moderate lower of cost or market principle).

## PERFORMANCE IN PROPERTY-CASUALTY INSURANCE TRANSACTIONS

The figures on the business development are based on gross amounts (before reinsurance) unless stated otherwise.

Premiums earned in property-casualty insurance transactions totalled EUR 2,556.6 million (previous year: EUR 2,475.4 million). Of this figure, EUR 2,435.7 million was attributable to direct-written insurance transactions and EUR 120.9 million to transactions assumed in reinsurance coverage.

Net premiums earned for own account for the overall business increased by 3.8 % year-on-year to EUR 2,432.3 million (previous year: EUR 2,342.3 million).

The business-year claims ratio in direct-written insurance transactions increased from 73.4 % in the previous year to 80.3 % in the financial year. Expenses for insurance claims increased in line with our expectations. The upturn in the business-year claims ratio was attributable to higher average claims and significantly higher expenses for insurance claims in connection with natural hazards. Taking into account the year-on-year increase in the business-year claims ratio, the reported claims ratio in direct-written insurance transactions increased from 64.7 % in the previous year to 68.2 % in the financial year.

In the financial year, the operating costs ratio of direct-written insurance transactions declined from 21.6 % in the previous year to 21.5 %. This was mainly due to the downturn in management expenses.

Taking into account the increase in the business-year claims ratio and the improvement in the settlement result compared with the previous year, the combined ratio in direct-written insurance transactions increased from 86.2 % in the previous year to 89.7 % in the financial year.

All in all, the pandemic did not have an adverse impact on business development.

Regarding the individual classes and types of insurance for direct-written insurance transactions, the following is reported (not including the investment income generated in the division or any consolidation effects that are negligible for this purpose):

#### **Accident insurance**

In accident insurance, the number of contracts increased by 11.6 % to 517,554 (previous year: 463,900). In addition, the positive premium growth of previous years continued due to the continued competitiveness of the products and a product-oriented acceptance policy. Premiums earned increased by 7.9 % (previous year: 6.2 %) to EUR 52.9 million (previous year: EUR 49.0 million), thereby meeting our expectations.

Expenditure for business-year claims increased by 8.3 %. This is due to the higher number of claims (9.2 %). The business-year claims ratio deteriorated by 0.2 percentage points to 63.1 % (previous year: 62.9 %). Taking into account the positive settlement result at below the prior-year level and the improved operating costs ratio, the combined ratio amounted to 76.8 % (previous year: 62.3 %).

Following a withdrawal from the equalisation reserve of EUR 21 thousand (previous year: addition of EUR 1.1 million), a technical result for own account of EUR 12.1 million was recorded (previous year: EUR 17.0 million).

#### **General liability insurance**

The number of contracts for general liability insurance increased by 2.0 %, from 1,662,443 in the previous year to 1,695,490 in the financial year.

Premiums earned were again increased by a total of 7.7 % (previous year: 8.0 %) to EUR 434.2 million (previous year: EUR 403.3 million), which was in line with our forecasts. This was due to rising sales, wage and fee totals and targeted portfolio-related measures, especially in professional liability insurance.

At 10.6 %, the increase in expenditure for business-year claims was more pronounced than the growth in premiums. This was due to higher claim averages. Accordingly, the business-year claims ratio deteriorated by 1.9 percentage points to 72.7 % (previous year: 70.8 %). Taking into account a settlement result at below the prior-year level and a largely unchanged operating costs ratio, the combined ratio amounted to 97.0 % (previous year: 88.1 %).

Following an allocation to the equalisation reserve in the amount of EUR 41.9 million (previous year: EUR 73.7 million), a technical result for own account of EUR -34.1 million was recorded (previous year: EUR -56.2 million).

#### **Motor vehicle insurance policies**

The number of insurance contracts in the motor vehicle segment (including motor vehicle accident and transportation service insurance) rose by 3.6 % year-on-year, from 7,840,101 to 8,120,252.

Premiums earned increased by 2.2 % (previous year: 5.0 %), from EUR 1,577.0 million to EUR 1,611.1 million. This was due in particular to the German motor vehicle segment and was higher than the figure for the German market (0.4 %). This meant that average premiums in the main motor vehicle insurance segments decreased slightly year-on-year.

The consistent enhancement of risk selection and claims management again made a contribution to profitability in motor vehicle insurance in 2021.

#### **Motor vehicle liability insurance**

In motor vehicle liability insurance, the number of contracts increased by 2.6 % (previous year: 6.1 %) from 3,523,462 to 3,615,970.

The premium growth of previous years continued with a rise in premiums earned of 1.9 % (previous year: 5.0 %) from EUR 934.7 million in the previous year to EUR 952.7 million during the financial year.

# CONSOLIDATED MANAGEMENT REPORT

Expenditure for business-year claims increased by 2.1 % year-on-year. Average claims expenditure increased by 2.0 % year-on-year (previous year: 11.9 %). Accordingly, the business-year claims ratio rose by 0.2 percentage points to 78.1 % (previous year: 77.9 %). Taking into account a positive settlement result at above the previous year's level and a global discount on the individual claims reserves (reduction of the claims ratio by 7.7 percentage points), the combined ratio amounted to 78.2 % (previous year: 87.4 %).

After a withdrawal from the equalisation reserve of EUR 21.7 million (previous year: EUR 27.6 million), the technical result for own account amounted to EUR 235.9 million (previous year: EUR 154.5 million).

## Other motor vehicle insurance

In other motor vehicle insurance, the number of contracts increased by 3.3 %, from 2,764,022 in the previous year to 2,853,893 in the year under review.

The premium growth continued with a rise in premiums earned of 2.4 % (previous year: 4.9 %) to EUR 639.0 million (previous year: EUR 624.2 million). 2.9 % of the increase related to full motor vehicle insurance and -0.9 % to partial motor vehicle insurance.

Expenditure for business-year claims increased by 23.1 % year-on-year. This was due to the higher number of claims (13.5 %) on the back of the substantial rise in natural hazards. The increase in claims was higher than anticipated. Accordingly, the business-year claims ratio deteriorated by 16.0 percentage points to 94.6 % (previous year: 78.6 %). Taking into account the positive settlement result compared with the previous year and the slight improvement in the operating costs ratio, the combined ratio amounted to 105.4 % (previous year: 90.1 %).

As a result of the above developments and an addition to the equalisation reserve of EUR 1.3 million (previous year: EUR 48.6 million), the technical result for own account amounted to EUR -15.0 million (previous year: EUR 3.1 million).

## Fire and property insurance

Fire and property insurance includes policies for fire, industrial fire, associated household contents, associated residential buildings, technology, burglary and theft, water mains, storm, glass and extended coverage (EC). Details on associated household contents insurance, associated residential building insurance and technical insurance policies are reported separately.

For the insurance segments not listed separately, premiums earned increased by 18.9 % (previous year: 25.9 %). This was due in particular to growth in fire insurance (17.6 %). This was in excess of our expectations.

Expenditure for business-year claims increased by 50.5 % compared with the previous year. This was due to the higher number of medium-sized losses in fire insurance. The business-year claims ratio amounted to 124.2 % (previous year: 98.2 %). Taking into account the positive settlement result compared with the previous year and the lower operating costs ratio, the combined ratio amounted to 143.3 % (previous year: 130.2 %).

Following a withdrawal from the equalisation reserve of EUR 2.6 million (previous year: addition of EUR 6.2 million), a technical result for own account of EUR -11.3 million was recorded (previous year: EUR -11.7 million).

## Associated household contents insurance

The number of contracts for associated household contents insurance increased by 1.5 % year-on-year to 489,937 (previous year: 482,691). Premiums earned again increased by 2.4 % (previous year: 2.6 %), from EUR 49.3 million to EUR 50.5 million, thereby meeting our expectations.

Expenditure for business-year claims increased by 48.4 % year-on-year. This is due in particular to the significant rise in expenses for natural hazards. Accordingly, the business-year claims ratio rose by 17.6 percentage points to 56.8 % (previous year: 39.2 %). Thanks to a positive settlement result at above the prior-year level and a slight improvement in the operating costs ratio, the combined ratio amounted to 87.2 % (previous year: 74.3 %).

Following a withdrawal from the equalisation reserve of EUR 3.6 million (previous year: EUR 3.3 million), a technical result for own account of EUR 11.9 million was recorded (previous year: EUR 14.1 million).

## Associated residential building insurance

The number of contracts for associated residential building insurance increased by 0.1 %, from 131,629 in the previous year to 131,743 in the year under review.

The premium growth of previous years continued with a rise in premiums earned of 4.1 % (previous year: 6.1 %) from EUR 52.4 million in the previous year to EUR 54.5 million during the financial year. This was due to premium adjustments. Accordingly, business development was in line with our expectations.

Expenditure for business-year claims increased by 72.7 % year-on-year. This is due in particular to the significant rise in expenses for natural hazards. As a result, the business-year claims ratio deteriorated by 35.3 percentage points to 88.7 % (previous year: 53.4 %). Taking into account the positive settlement result compared with the previous year and the slightly higher operating costs ratio, the combined ratio amounted to 112.5 % (previous year: 78.3 %).

Following an allocation to the equalisation reserve in the amount of EUR 5.4 million (previous year: EUR 2.4 million), a technical result for own account of EUR -6.5 million was recorded (previous year: EUR 7.1 million).

### Technical insurance

The positive development in technical insurance policies was continued in the 2021 financial year, with insurance contract numbers increasing by 10.7 % to 81,245 (previous year: 73,406). Premiums earned again increased by 13.6 % (previous year: 11.7 %) to EUR 62.7 million, which exceeded our expectations.

At 30.0 %, the increase in expenditure for business-year claims was more pronounced than the growth in premiums as a result of natural hazards. Accordingly, the business-year claims ratio deteriorated to 76.7 % (previous year: 67.1 %). Taking into account the positive settlement result compared with the previous year and the improvement in the operating costs ratio, the combined ratio amounted to 89.5 % (previous year: 84.2 %).

Following an allocation to the equalisation reserve of EUR 2.2 million (previous year: EUR 3.1 million) a technical result of EUR 6.0 million (previous year: EUR 5.7 million) remained.

### Loan and surety insurance

In loan and surety insurance, the number of insurance contracts increased by 2.7 % to 61,211 (previous year: 59,619). The premium growth continued with a rise in premiums earned of 4.4 % (previous

year: 5.8 %) to EUR 105.0 million (previous year: EUR 100.6 million). This was in line with our expectations.

The liability under the surety bonds issued during the financial year increased by 7.1 % to EUR 2,795.4 million. The business-year claims ratio rose by 7.7 percentage points to 39.0 % (previous year: 31.3 %) as a result of higher average claims. Taking into account the positive settlement result and a largely unchanged operating costs ratio, the combined ratio amounted to 36.0 % (previous year: 44.3 %).

Following an allocation to the equalisation reserve in the amount of EUR 6.8 million (previous year: EUR 8.0 million), a total technical result for own account totalling EUR 60.0 million (previous year: EUR 47.7 million) was recorded.

### Transportation service insurance

The number of contracts increased by 4.7 % year-on-year to 1,359,811 (previous year: 1,299,115). Like in motor vehicle insurance, the premium growth continued with a rise in premiums earned of 5.8 % (previous year: 9.0 %), from EUR 12.8 million in the previous year to EUR 13.5 million in the year under review.

Expenditure for business-year claims increased by 11.3 % year-on-year. As a result, the business-year claims ratio deteriorated by 2.9 percentage points to 59.1 % (previous year: 56.2 %). With a positive settlement result at below the prior-year level and a slightly lower operating costs ratio, the combined ratio amounted to 66.6 % (previous year: 59.0 %).

Taking account of an allocation to the equalisation reserve of EUR 2.7 million (previous year: EUR 1.1 million), the technical result for own account amounted to EUR 1.7 million (previous year: EUR 4.0 million).

### Other insurance

Transportation insurance (predominantly automobile contents insurance), business interruption insurance, other indemnity insurance and legal expenses insurance are included here in summary form.

In the insurance segments considered, premiums earned increased by 8.7 % (previous year: -10.2 %) from EUR 13.5 million in the previous year to EUR 14.6 million in the reporting year. This was due to the 18.1 % rise in business interruption insurance.

# CONSOLIDATED MANAGEMENT REPORT

Expenditure for business-year claims increased compared with the previous year. The business-year claims ratio amounted to 99.7 % (previous year: 99.1 %). Taking into account the positive settlement result and the lower operating costs ratio, the combined ratio amounted to 115.2 % (previous year: 136.2 %).

Following an allocation to the equalisation reserve in the amount of EUR 4.0 million (previous year: withdrawal of EUR 7.6 million), the technical result for own account amounted to EUR -3.0 million (previous year: EUR -0.6 million).

## Insurance transactions assumed in reinsurance coverage

In insurance transactions assumed in reinsurance coverage, which is carried out in the accident, liability, vehicle, fire and property, legal protection, life, air travel, transportation and technical insurance classes, there was a technical result for own account of EUR -12.4 million (previous year: EUR -7.6 million). This was primarily due to the change in the equalisation reserve in the year under review (addition of EUR 15.3 million) compared with the previous year (addition of EUR 5.2 million).

## PERFORMANCE IN LIFE INSURANCE TRANSACTIONS

The number of new insurance contracts amounted to 82,259 (previous year: 80,307). 68.8 % or 56,566 of these contracts relate to individual term life (previous year: 54,696).

Overall, new business premiums increased significantly from EUR 295.1 million in 2020 to EUR 308.2 million in 2021. EUR 62.2 million of this was attributable to regular premiums and EUR 246.0 million to one-off premiums. Not including one-off premiums from capitalisation transactions, pension products with one-off premiums impacted the portfolio in the amount of EUR 77.2 million.

Measured in terms of the sum insured, the insurance portfolio grew by 6.5 % to EUR 126.2 billion (previous year: EUR 118.5 billion). Total new contracts of EUR 14,194.5 million insured (previous year: EUR 13,176.6 million) were partially offset by disposals in the amount of EUR 6,478.6 million insured (previous year: EUR 6,130.7 million).

Premature disposal by repurchasing, conversion to non-premium contracts and other premature disposal amounted to a sum insured of EUR 1,579.6 million (previous year: EUR 1,542.3 million).

Measured in terms of the regular premium, the insurance portfolio increased by 1.6 %, from EUR 782.9 million to EUR 795.8 million. Contrary to the trend in the market, the insurance portfolio increased by 23,806 contracts from 1,071,973 contracts to 1,095,779 contracts.

Gross premiums written increased by 2.4 % from EUR 1,027.6 million to EUR 1,052.7 million. The majority of gross premiums related to regular premiums received of EUR 789.5 million (previous year: EUR 774.6 million). Premiums from one-off payments of EUR 263.2 million (previous year: EUR 253.0 million) include premiums from capitalisation transactions of EUR 168.8 million (previous year: EUR 155.6 million).

This meant a significant increase in gross premiums earned that was in excess of our expectations from the previous year.

At 2.0 %, the cancellation ratio (based on the average regular premium) decreased slightly and was therefore substantially lower than the sector-wide average of 4.2 % in 2021. The 2021 financial year again failed to see a wave of cancellations with significantly higher premium exemptions and surrenders as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Payouts to policy holders for insurance benefits and profit shares increased from EUR 1,268.6 million to EUR 1,355.3 million in the financial year. Of this figure, EUR 950.2 million was attributable to insurance benefits and EUR 405.1 to profit shares. HL reduced its technical reserves and liabilities for future payments to policy holders by EUR 98.4 million to EUR 10,270.4 million in the financial year.

Unadjusted earnings after taxes amounted to EUR 340.6 million (previous year: EUR 341.7 million). Of this amount, HL allocated EUR 126.6 million (previous year: EUR 171.0 million) to the reserve for premium refunds and EUR 184.1 million (previous year: EUR 150.7 million) was distributed as a direct deposit. EUR 30.0 million was attributable to net income (previous year: EUR 20.0 million). Despite further allocations to the additional interest reserve of EUR 26.9 million (previous year: EUR 60.1 million), unadjusted earnings after taxes remained at the prior-year level.



## PERFORMANCE IN VHV SOLUTIONS

Business performance was characterised by an increase in productivity in the area of contracts, claims and IT coordination, resulting in a further improvement in overall productivity including cross-divisional functions. Despite collective wage increases, unit costs declined across the board in the area of contracts, claims and cross-divisional functions, and therefore in operations as a whole.

In the area of motor vehicle insurance, average claim payments in full and partial motor vehicle insurance developed better than the market, while the development in motor vehicle liability insurance was in line with the market. Average claims payments in the property and liability insurance segments developed more positively than forecast. Generally speaking, the quality parameters in the back-office areas contracts and claims developed better than planned.

In the financial year, activities in the areas of IT and contracts focused on the “goDIGITAL” programme as the basis for future digitalisation initiatives within the VHV Group.

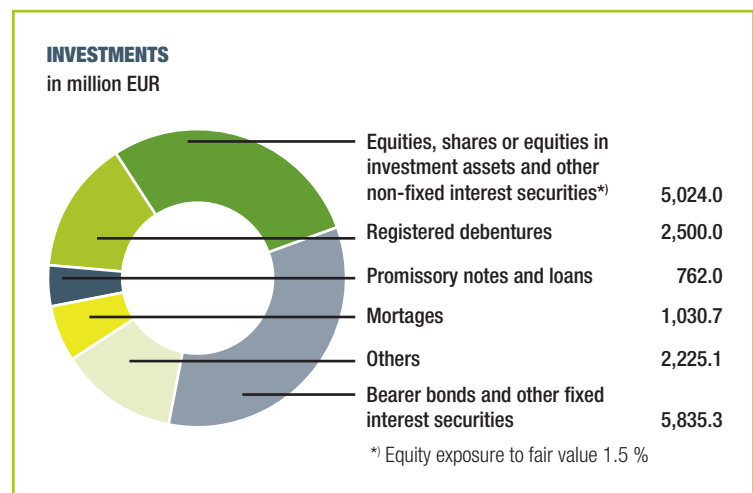
Activities in the area of digital transformation concentrated on the implementation of the Workspace project (introduction of modern work environments with a focus on strengthening mobile work) and support for various aspects of the digitalisation strategy.

## ASSETS

For the VHV Group as an insurance group, the net assets and structure of the balance sheet are largely characterised by insurance transactions even though the Group includes service companies. Assets on the balance sheet are dominated by investments, while under liabilities and shareholders' equity net insurance technical reserves and liabilities make up the largest share of the balance sheet total.

### Investments

The carrying amount of investments increased slightly by 2.0 % to EUR 17,377.0 million in the financial year (previous year: EUR 17,028.4 million).



Interest-bearing investments in the form of bearer bonds, registered debentures, loans to affiliated companies, promissory note loans, loans and advance payments on insurance policies and miscellaneous loans remained the primary focus of the investment portfolio, cumulatively accounting for a share of EUR 9,125.0 million (previous year: EUR 9,575.0 million) or 52.5 %.

This was followed by investment assets, which accounted for 28.9 % of the total investment portfolio and a carrying amount of EUR 5,024.0 million (previous year: EUR 4,495.9 million).

Newly approved mortgage, land charge and annuity charge receivables amounted to EUR 62.9 million in the 2021 financial year (previous year: EUR 93.2 million). With disposals increasing to EUR 104.9 million (previous year: EUR 86.7 million), non-current assets declined to EUR 1,030.6 million (previous year: EUR 1,072.6 million) and accounted for 5.9 % of the total investment portfolio.

Equity exposure to fair value amounted to 1.5 % at the reporting date (previous year: 1.7 %). The equities were held exclusively in the fund portfolio.

As at 31 December 2021, the Group reported a PE/IE portfolio with a carrying amount of EUR 1,886.4 million (previous year: EUR 1,526.8 million). As a proportion of total investments, the PE/IE share was approximately 10.9 % (previous year: 9.0 %) overall.

# CONSOLIDATED MANAGEMENT REPORT

In the area of real estate investments, selective additional purchases and sales were made in 2021. As at 31 December 2021, the Group cumulatively held real estate investment units with a carrying amount of EUR 1,166.1 million (previous year: EUR 1,214.5 million). This corresponded to 6.7 % of the total investment portfolio (previous year: 7.1 %).

## Funds for indemnification

The Group's funds for indemnification increased by 2.5 % and consist of:

### FUNDS FOR INDEMNIFICATION

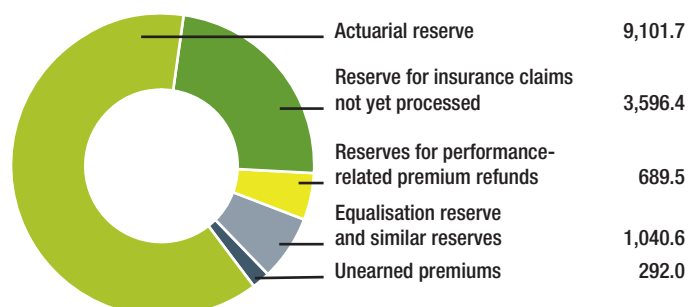
	2021 EUR million	2020 EUR million
Equity	2,316.7	2,016.3
Net technical reserves	14,909.7	14,789.7
<b>Funds for indemnification for own account</b>	<b>17,226.4</b>	<b>16,806.0</b>

## Net technical reserves

The net technical reserves were composed of the following items as at the balance sheet closing date:

### NET TECHNICAL RESERVES

in million EUR



At 61.0 % (previous year: 62.0 %), the majority of net technical reserves relate to the actuarial reserve.

Of the actuarial reserves reported, the majority (42.5 %; previous year: 44.6 %) relate to individual capital insurance policies of the VHV Group's life insurance company. Individual annuity insurance policies account for a share of 22.7 % of the total actuarial reserve (previous year: 20.6 %), followed by group insurance policies with a share of 22.2 % (previous year: 21.8 %). To fulfil future interest obligations, the actuarial reserve includes an additional interest rate reserve of EUR 963.4 million (previous year: EUR 936.5 million).

## FINANCIAL POSITION

### Liquidity

The financial and liquidity situation and changes in cash flows are affected by insurance and investment transactions.

Active liquidity management is carried out to satisfy ongoing obligations. As a result, it is ensured that we can meet our payment obligations at any time both in the previous financial year and in the future.

Premiums received and repayments from investments are considered for this purpose, which are compared with ongoing insurance benefits, reinvestment in investments and ongoing payments resulting from insurance operations.

### ITEM

	2021 EUR'000	2020 EUR'000
Cash flow from operating activities	75,581	107,664
Cash flow from investment activities	-116,476	-113,525
Cash flow from financing activities	3,758	2,738
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>-37,137</b>	<b>-3,123</b>
Change in cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements, changes in the scope of consolidation and measurement	9,398	2,427
Cash at the beginning of the period	216,617	217,313
<b>Cash at the end of the period</b>	<b>188,878</b>	<b>216,617</b>

Cash flow from operating activity, which is determined in accordance with the indirect method, includes in particular incoming and outgoing payments from actuarial practice and other investments.

In the past financial year, outgoing payments exceeded incoming payments from other investments.

Cash flow from investment activity is mainly determined by payments and receipts from investments for fund-linked annuity insurance, participating interests, tangible fixed assets and intangible assets.

Cash flow from financing activity includes loans taken out with KfW, which are passed through to final borrowers in the mortgage loan business.

Please see the cash flow statement on page 63 for additional details.

### Investments

In the 2021 financial year, the VHV Group primarily made financial investments in bearer bonds and other securities with fixed interest rates as well as investment assets. Gross new investment (excluding additions due to changes in the consolidation group) amounted to EUR 1,655.8 million, corresponding to 9.5 % of the total investment portfolio at the end of the year.

In addition, investments were made as part of the “goDIGITAL” programme as a basis for future digitalisation initiatives.

### MISCELLANEOUS

In 2021, the rating agency S&P once again confirmed the rating of VHV a.G. and its core companies VHV Allgemeine and HL as “A+” with a stable outlook.

The decisive factors behind this rating are the capital and earnings strength of the VHV Group with the top “AAA” rating. According to S&P, the strong and sustainable technical results of VHV Allgemeine and the favourable risk/return profile in the life segment make a significant contribution to this.

HL received the top rating “excellent A+++” from the customer-focused Cologne-based rating agency ASSEKURATA for the tenth year in a row and was the only life insurance company rated by the agency in 2021. HL was again given the top “excellent” grade in all four subcategories.

HL again passed the stress test by the analysts Morgen & Morgen with an “excellent” mark in 2021.

## HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

The COVID-19 pandemic also continued to pose considerable challenges for the VHV Group in the 2021 financial year. To successfully overcome these challenges, the VHV Group continued a special working group reporting directly to the Board of Directors with responsibility for monitoring the development of the pandemic and developing and coordinating measures. The members of the working group included employees from risk management, the human resources department, information technology, corporate communication and facility management as well as representatives of the employee bodies. This organisational structure allowed the majority of employees to be given the option of working remotely as a means of protecting their health, with other measures (including a hygiene concept, distancing rules, mandatory face coverings and the provision thereof, testing) being implemented at short notice as the pandemic progressed. From summer 2021 onwards, the VHV Group also offered vaccines to its employees. As the year continued, this programme was extended to include employees’ family members. Booster doses were offered from December 2021 onwards.

The VHV Group is characterised by the high degree of expertise and commitment demonstrated by its employees and executives and the constructive cooperation with employee representatives (including the Remuneration Committee of Executive Employees).

The VHV Group had an average of 3,633 employees in the financial year (previous year: 3,268 employees). The recruitment of significant numbers of new employees in certain areas (e.g. IT) as well as reductions in the number of employees working in other functions (e.g. administrative tasks) and the acquisition of the Eucon Group contributed to this development. The increase in gross premiums earned (+3.0 %) and the number of contracts (+3.3 %) achieved in 2021 combined with a simultaneous improvement in key parameters relating to processing quality demonstrated that our staff also further increased their productivity in 2021.

Human resources activities in the 2021 financial year focused on advising employees on strategic change processes (e.g. the transition to a new work approach at the VHV Group and digitalisation projects like the introduction of new portfolio management systems), further developing executive qualification, and ongoing specialised and methodological qualification of employees.

# CONSOLIDATED MANAGEMENT REPORT

The sickness rate increased to 3.2% in the financial year but continues to be lower than the comparative figure for the insurance market (around 5.4%). Together with the low employee resignation rate of 2.9%, this is evidence of a good working environment with high employee satisfaction.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to all employees whose individual dedication, expertise and experience contributed significantly to us successfully mastering the challenges we faced in 2021. The Board of Directors would also like to thank the Representative Committee of Executive Employees, the company-wide Works Council and the local Works Councils for their constructive and trust-based cooperation.

## PERSONNEL OF THE VHV GROUP<sup>\*)</sup>

	2021	2020
Average number of employees for the year <sup>1)</sup>	3,633	3,268
Number of employees at end of year <sup>1)</sup>	3,678	3,301
Average number of office-based employees <sup>1)</sup>	3,398	3,047
Average age of employees (years)	41.0	44.9
Average length of employment with the company (years)	14.7	16.1
Proportion of university graduates (%)	28.2	29.8

<sup>\*)</sup> Not including apprentices, including temporary employees

## GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

With VHV Allgemeine, the VHV Group is one of the largest motor vehicle insurers in Germany. It continued to improve its market position in this segment. Another focal point in the past year was on strengthening the non-motor vehicle business. This was particularly successful in technical insurance, accident insurance and the general liability insurance segment. Among other things, this was achieved through the establishment of VHV Assurance France, a special insurer of the construction industry that began operations in the reporting year, as well as increased cooperation with underwriting agents in the non-motor vehicle segments. As a special insurer of the construction industry, the VHV Group benefited from the strong performance of this industry, which saw year-on-year sales growth in 2021 despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Positive factors included the continued upturn in employment and rising wage and fee totals, which form the basis for assessing premiums.

The new business volume in life insurance increased significantly compared with the previous year in terms of premiums and the number of contracts alike.

The past financial year again saw a cancellation rate that was well below the market average. The transaction and management expense ratios are also likely to have been below-average compared with the market. HL generated unadjusted earnings after taxes in line with the previous year.

The net result from investments amounted to EUR 537.8 million in the past financial year (previous year: EUR 527.1 million). Contrary to expectations of a downturn, net interest remained at the same level as in the previous year.

Consolidated net income was up significantly on the previous year. As the technical result in property-casualty insurance and life insurance increased as against the previous year and was higher than forecast, consolidated net income exceeded our expectations by some distance.

Given the difficult conditions resulting from the low interest rate environment and the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors is extremely satisfied with the consolidated net income generated in the reporting year.

## OPPORTUNITY AND RISK REPORT

### RISK REPORT

The following remarks are formulated from the Group perspective. In deviation from this, the perspective is expanded in individual cases to include individual entities.

The impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on the macroeconomic development of Germany and the EU cannot be reliably estimated at the present time. The VHV Group is not currently impacted as there are no material exposures in its insurance and investment portfolios. The longer the Russia-Ukraine war goes on, the greater the potential macroeconomic consequences. As it is not possible to conclusively assess the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on the risk situation of the VHV Group at the present time (particularly with regard to technical risk, market and credit risk and operational risk), the information on the risk situation is currently subject to considerable uncertainty.

Risk management activities in the reporting year were again dominated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Since the onset of the pandemic, the VHV Group has taken extensive preventive measures to protect its workforce against infection and curb the spread of the virus and to ensure continued operations. With the business continuity measures taken, the operational effectiveness of the VHV Group and the functionality of the ICS are ensured in full at all times. The investment and actuarial risks have been continuously monitored and analysed since the onset of the pandemic, including in the form of stress tests and scenario analyses. Even in the scenarios examined, the VHV Group continued to have the minimum cover set out in its risk strategy at all times. The COVID-19 pandemic has not materially altered the VHV Group's risk profile. Accordingly, ad hoc reporting on the company's own risk and solvency assessment (ORSA) was not required. The development of the pandemic means the remarks on the risk situation continue to be subject to uncertainty. Based on the information currently available, there are no risks that could jeopardize the VHV Group's existence as a going concern.

### Targets

The VHV Group attaches major importance to risk management. The risk management methods are continuously developed and improved. Risk management serves to secure the appropriate risk-bearing capacity and therefore the long-term and sustainable continued existence of the VHV Group and the individual insurance companies. The primary goals of risk management are to:

- consistently establish the risk culture within the VHV Group,
- support and secure the business strategy,
- create transparency regarding all material risks and appropriate risk management,
- meet legal and supervisory requirements for risk management.

The eligible own funds of the VHV Group and its domestic insurance companies regulated under Solvency II comfortably exceeded the legal solvency requirements in all quarters of 2021. The Pensionskasse meets the legal solvency requirements in accordance with Solvency I.

VHV Allgemeine is extremely well positioned in a market comparison of cover ratios.

Without utilisation of the instruments of the transitional measures subject to approval and without volatility adjustments, HL's excess is well above the market average and particularly expresses HL's security

position in the Solvency II supervisory system through the risk-oriented measurement approach. The independent rating agency ASSEKURATA also assessed HL's security position as excellent.

The opportunity and risk assessment in the Opportunity and Risk Report relates to a forecast period of one year.

### Risk strategy

The VHV Group's risk strategy, which is derived from the business strategy and provides rules for dealing with the resulting risks, forms the starting point for an appropriate management of risks. The risk strategy is reviewed and adopted by the Board of Directors every year. The risk strategy documents the risks that were deliberately entered into in pursuing the business strategy and how these are to be managed. It also serves to create a comprehensive understanding of risk and the establishment of a Group-wide risk culture. The most important element of a healthy risk culture is an open exchange of information on the risk situation within the company. By unequivocally allocating risk responsibility, the Board of Directors seeks to promote the risk culture, increase the commitment of the individuals appointed, and ensure overall transparency through clear contact persons.

### Organisation

Overall responsibility for Group-wide effective risk management is the responsibility of the **Board of Directors** of VHV a.G. and the respective boards of the individual companies, which play an active role in the ORSA process. In particular, the responsibility is in:

- Approving the methods used,
- Discussing and critically reviewing the results of the ORSA process,
- Approving the Group's risk management policy and the ORSA report.

The Risk Committee is established as a Group-wide risk management body in the VHV Group. The key task of the Risk Committee is to ensure the uniform development of risk management systems, methods and procedures throughout the Group on behalf of the Board of Directors. The Risk Committee also provides a platform for Group-wide discussion of the risk situation and can initiate decisions. The members of the Board of Directors of VHV a.G. and VHV Holding, representatives of subsidiaries, the CRO, the Chief Compliance Officer and the Head of Internal Audit are members of the Risk Committee.

# CONSOLIDATED MANAGEMENT REPORT

In addition, a subcommittee of the Risk Committee is established to offer assistance on technical and operational questions regarding the risk models.

To underline its responsibility for sustainability, the VHV Group has created the ESG Committee, which is tasked with controlling the establishment of uniform Group-wide sustainability management in line with the regulatory requirements. Its members are the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the other members of the Board of Directors of VHV a.G. and VHV Holding.

In accordance with the principle of the **separation of functions**, the responsibility for managing and independently monitoring risks in the VHV Group is separated within the organisational structure up to Board level. If the separation of functions is excessive, accompanying measures (e.g. separate reporting channels) are taken instead.

In the **business units**, risk officers who are responsible for the operational management of risks and compliance with limits are appointed in the strict separation of functions from the IRCF. The Group pursues the aim of encouraging the risk culture in the company, in particular, by clearly allocating responsibility for risk and duties internally.

The Risk Committee supports the Supervisory Board in controlling risk management and in all key functions, including the corresponding reporting. At the meetings of the risk committees, the risk strategy and the reports of key functions under Solvency II (IRCF, VMF, Compliance Function and Internal Audit) are discussed with the Board of Directors and the people responsible for the key functions. In particular, this includes the discussion of the ORSA report, the report on solvency and the financial position and the results of the internal review of the business organisation. In addition, the methods and tools of the key functions and changes in the organisation are also discussed.

The **IRCF** is tasked with the operational implementation of a consistent and efficient risk management system. The IRCF is exercised centrally in an organisational unit led by the CRO as the responsible person of the IRCF. The CRO reports directly to the respective Board of Directors of the insurance companies.

The **VMF** at Group level is performed in the central area of Group risk management led by the CRO. The VMF at Group level is responsible among other things for technical risks and the VHV Group's solvency. In addition, the Group VMF coordinates the timing of the VMF reports. The solo VMF of the individual insurance companies is exercised by a different responsible person for each company. The main tasks of the VMFs include coordinating the calculation of the technical reserves and guaranteeing the appropriateness of the methods and basic models used. In addition, the solo VMF submits an opinion on the general underwriting and acceptance policy. The solo VMF also presents the VMF report to the Board of Directors at least once a year, detailing all the VMF's activities, the results achieved and recommendations.

The **Compliance Function** is responsible for guaranteeing compliance with legal and supervisory provisions. The four core tasks of Compliance Function include the advisory role, the early warning role, the risk controlling role and the monitoring for the reduction of legal risk. In addition to the Chief Compliance Officer, Compliance Function in the wider sense also includes other employees as well as company officers and their employees, who in particular cover the topics of supervisory and antitrust law, distribution law, insurance contract law, money laundering law, financial sanctions and embargoes, data protection law, tax law and anti-fraud management.

The tax compliance management system is used to ensure the complete and timely fulfilment of tax obligations and contributes to the early recognition and minimisation of tax risks. The Head of Accounting is responsible for the operation of the tax compliance management system. The Group's tax guideline describes the organisation of the tax compliance management system, stipulates the roles and responsibilities of all organisational units involved and standardises tax-relevant processes.

The topic of data protection is handled together with the information security management system in its own organisational unit that includes the company data protection officers appointed for the VHV Group's domestic insurance companies.

Anti-money laundering and financial crime (including financial sanctions and embargo, anti-fraud management) is performed in its own organisational unit head by the Anti-Money-Laundering Officer.

**Internal Audit** audits all business segments, processes, procedures and systems within the VHV Group independently and independent of the process on the basis of a risk-oriented audit plan to be updated annually. Internal Audit is subject only to instructions of the Board of Directors. Risk Management is regularly audited by Internal Audit on the basis of a risk-oriented audit plan.

### **Risk management process**

We understand the risk management process as all the organisational regulations and measures from risk identification to risk management in their entirety. Risk management at Group level also takes account of accumulations and interactions between the risks of the individual companies.

The aim of **risk identification** is to record and document all key risks. Risk inventories are regularly carried out for this purpose. Relative to reference dates, a company-wide risk assessment is carried out, in which all risks are queried and updated systematically every six months by the risk officers in all divisions and projects of the VHV Group. Individual risks identified are checked for plausibility by the IRCF and then aggregated to determine the overall solvency needs. Process-oriented risks are also identified on the basis of an IT-based system of documenting business processes.

There are also wide-ranging ad hoc reporting requirements to ensure risks or material changes are identified during the year. In addition, risk analyses on an ad hoc basis are prepared for projects relevant to risks, the results of which are taken into account in the decision by the Board of Directors.

**Risk assessment** is understood as all methods and processes that serve to measure and assess identified risks. Operational, strategic and reputation risks are evaluated in the semi-annual risk assessment via an expert assessment of the risk officers using the probability of occurrence and the potential economic loss as criteria. In addition to this quantitative assessment, there is an opinion in accordance with qualitative criteria (appropriateness and reputation). Appropriate procedures are used to aggregate the overall solvency needs for operational risks. Findings from the regular review of the ICS are also taken into account when assessing operational risks. The model calculations of the standard formula provided for the quantitative assessment of the risks under Solvency II and the determination of eligible own funds

are conducted both on an annual basis as at 31 December and on a quarterly basis. To determine the overall solvency needs annually, company-specific circumstances are included in the risk models. The underlying assumptions of the standard formula and risks not shown in the standard formula are assessed for their appropriateness for the insurance companies of the VHV Group.

**Risk monitoring** is ensured at aggregate levels through the IRCF. To this end, a comprehensive limit system has been implemented to apply the risk strategy operationally, which is permanently refined and adapted to environmental changes. The limit system ensures that the risk tolerance variables defined in the risk-bearing capacity concept are monitored through a number of risk parameters. Various escalation processes ensure that there is an early warning in the event of material deviation from targets and that an ad hoc report is submitted to the Board of Directors.

**Reporting** on the company's own risk and solvency assessment is determined on a regular basis and on an ad hoc basis. In addition to quarterly reporting as part of the model calculations of the standard formula, standard reporting takes place in particular via the annual ORSA report and during the year via the monthly limit reports. The ORSA report is approved by the Board of Directors and made available to the members of the Risk Committees of the Supervisory Boards and the supervisory authority. In addition, the IRCF's annual standard reporting includes the results and recommendations of the HGB projections carried out in asset/liability management system and the internal ICS report. Ad-hoc risk analyses are also prepared where necessary. In addition, the results of the risk analyses relevant to the decision and on an ad hoc basis are reported to the Board of Directors.

Taking risk-strategy targets into account, **risk management** is understood as the taking of decisions and the implementation of measures to deal with a risk situation. This includes the conscious acceptance of risk, risk avoidance, risk reduction and risk transfer. In particular, new business segments, new capital market and insurance products as well as outsourcing projects are subjected to a risk assessment by the IRCF and other key functions before any resolution, meaning that the Board of Directors can take risk-orientated decisions that build on this process.

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## Internal control system

The VHV Group has determined mandatory standardised requirements in the Group guideline for the internal control system. The Group guideline is available to all employees. The ICS of the VHV Group consists of all of the internal requirements, organisational measures and controls.

Material business processes, including the risks involved and the associated controls, are assessed and documented according to standardised requirements by the risk officers of the respective organisational units. Risks related to business processes are assessed based on financial criteria (quantitative risks) and qualitative criteria (qualitative risks).

The ICS is systematically reviewed and evaluated across the Group at least once a year according to a standardised procedure on the basis of a control process (ICS control process). The ICS control process is coordinated by the IRCF. The ICS control process is primarily geared towards an assessment of the key controls and a comprehensive confirmation of the functionality of the ICS by all executives of the VHV Group. In addition, findings of the key functions (e.g. Internal Audit results, IRCF risk analyses, compliance activities) are taken into account in the assessment. The results of ICS control processes are reported by the IRCF to the Board of Directors and the Risk Committee of the Supervisory Board at least once a year.

The ICS particularly ensures the completeness and accuracy of accounting and thus of the respective annual financial statements and consolidated financial statement.

## Material risks

The risk categories are described below. According to risk management measures, they are ranked as follows in terms of importance for the VHV Group, derived from Solvency II calculations:

1. Technical risk in property-casualty insurance
2. Market risk
3. Credit/default risk
4. Technical risk in life insurance
5. Operational risk
6. Strategic risk and reputation risk
7. Liquidity risk

Technical risk is one of the material risks to which the VHV Group is exposed. It describes the risk that, due to chance, error or change, the actual expense for claims and benefits differs from the forecast expense.

## Technical risk in property-casualty insurance

The technical risk in property-casualty insurance arises predominantly from the underwritten motor vehicle liability, general liability and comprehensive motor vehicle insurance segments. Technical risk from property-casualty insurance is divided into premium, reserve and disaster risk below.

**Premium risk** is understood as the risk that (apart from disasters) the insurance premiums are not sufficient to cover future claim payments, commissions and other costs. In addition to reinsurance, the premium risk is reduced through the use of actuarial procedures when calculating rates and taking reasonable surcharges into account. The premiums are rated on the basis of applicable actuarial methods. The VMF reviews these regularly. In addition, compliance with major underwriting and acceptance guidelines is monitored independently by an established controlling system. In addition, the underwriting and acceptance policy is regularly assessed by the VMF. Changes in the development of claims are recognised promptly by continuously monitoring claims expenses, so that measures can be introduced where necessary. The premium risk is also reduced through the targeted use of reinsurance. Every year, premium risk is investigated together with disaster risk by the IRCF and the VMF in stochastic analyses of asset/liability management. The pooling of risks and risk diversification between the segments resulted in some random diversification in the claims ratios at aggregate Group level. There are also equalisation reserves through which technical fluctuations can be offset over time.

The table below shows the consolidated reported claims ratios for the property-casualty insurance companies included in the consolidated financial statement as a percentage of premiums earned for own account for the financial years 2012 to 2021.

CLAIMS RATIO PROPERTY-CASUALTY									
2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
77.8	79.1	73.8	68.9	71.3	71.6	71.5	70.7	65.9	65.4



**Reserve risk** is understood as the risk that insurance technical reserves will not be sufficient to meet future claim payments for claims that have not yet been processed or are not yet known. Reserve risks may emerge in particular from unforeseeable claim trends resulting from changes to conditions, changes to medical care and macroeconomic factors, such as inflation, which may have a considerable impact on the settlement result. Reserve risk is limited and the probability of settlement losses reduced by a conservative reservation policy.

Reserves for late claims are also created for claims that have occurred but that are still unknown. In addition, the settlement is continuously monitored, and the insights gained in this process are taken into account in the calculation of technical reserves (including the required reserves for late claims). The settlement potential of the claims reserves is also monitored by the VMF. The settlement results from direct-written insurance transactions shown below (as a percentage of the initial reserves for own account) are proof of the conservative reservation policy.

#### SETTLEMENT RESULTS

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
5.1	4.5	4.6	7.0	6.3	7.0	7.0	8.2	5.9	9.1

The presentation shows consistently positive settlements over recent years. The risk of settlement losses across all segments is low.

**Disaster risk** describes the risk resulting from the fact that actual expenditure for disaster-related claims differs from the percentage calculated in the insurance premium. Disaster risk may occur in the form of natural disasters and “man-made” disasters. With regard to disaster risks in property-casualty insurance, in essence the risk from natural disasters for the VHV Group results in particular from hail, storms, flooding and earthquakes (especially Turkey) and from man-made disasters in the surety insurance and liability insurance segments. There are natural disaster risk concentrations in the insurance transactions conducted due to the risk of earthquakes in Turkey and cumulative risks in Germany. These are analysed on a regular basis and reduced by purchasing reinsurance. The VHV Group predominantly underwrites technical risks in Germany. The VHV Group’s fleet of vehicles and the sum insured in its property business is largely distributed across Germany because of sales by intermediaries nationwide, mean-

ing that the VHV Group is diversified with regard to natural hazards. In addition to taking appropriate account of this when calculating rates, disaster risk is also countered in particular by ensuring reinsurance coverage against natural disasters mentioned above, which safeguards against accumulation risk from natural hazards. The calculation of the requisite reinsurance is based in principle on a 200-year event. The VMF provides an opinion on the appropriateness of the reinsurance agreements at least once a year. In addition, the IRCF provides an opinion on the reinsurance programme. With regard to reinsurance partners, the VHV Group defines requirements for solidity and takes care to avoid concentrations in individual reinsurance groups.

The economic situation remains strained as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Low interest rates and, in particular, the economic aid provided in connection with COVID-19 are continuing to benefit “zombie companies”. In light of the government support, a reduction in the insolvency rate is being observed in loan and surety insurance. There is a risk that the actual number of insolvencies is higher than the number of cases being reported and that the corresponding claims will be reported only at a later date. To reflect this risk, an additional provision for unknown late claims was recognised at the reporting date.

#### Technical risk in life insurance

The insurance technical risk in life insurance includes biometric risks and interest rate guarantee, cost, cancellation and disaster risk. An explanation of the calculation basis used is provided in the notes to the financial statements of the life insurance company in the presentation of the accounting and valuation methods.

**Biometric risks** are understood to mean all risks directly linked to the life of an insured person. These include mortality risk, longevity risk and invalidity risk. In the calculation, tables (in some cases company-specific) are used to determine the probabilities of death or disability, which are based on the probability tables of the Federal Statistical Office or the DAV and include company-specific experiences. Fluctuation charges and change risks are calculated in line with DAV derivation. For annuity insurance, the mortality tables published by the DAV are used. Since 21 December 2012, rates may only be offered where the premiums and benefits no longer differ on a gender specific basis. Company-specific findings about the gender mix to which security margins have been added are used to derive the corresponding unisex calculation basis. With regard to mortality and longevity risk, there could be an erroneous estimation of death probabilities. Should the

# CONSOLIDATED MANAGEMENT REPORT

gender mix of the unisex contracts written differ significantly from the assumptions made in the calculation despite the security margins included, it would be necessary to create an additional reserve in future. To verify the appropriateness of the calculation, portfolio statistics are continuously evaluated and further examinations are performed based on profit segmentation and, if necessary, countermeasures are initiated. Starting at a pre-defined range, biometric risks involving death or invalidity benefits are limited by way of reinsurance solutions.

**Interest guarantee risk** describes the risk that net income generated from investments is not sufficient to fulfil the interest guarantees provided at the beginning of the policy. The interest guarantee risk is constantly controlled and assessed with the aid of analyses of asset/liability management, portfolio projections, internal profit segmentation and stress tests. In this context, the scenario of a period of persistently low-interest rates is also analysed in particular. The investigations show that even a long period of low interest rates is manageable, although additional measures – such as the increased utilisation of valuation reserves – may be necessary in this case. The recognition of the additional interest reserve in accordance with the provisions of DeckRV is another relevant instrument in this respect. The likelihood of cancellation and lump-sum options as well as reduced security margins in the biometric calculation basis were recognised when calculating the additional interest reserve. The reference interest rate for allocation to the additional interest rate reserve continued to fall, amounting to 1.57 % at the end of 2021.

Due to the measures taken in recent years, the low proportion of long-term annuity insurance, the comparatively low remaining terms of the endowment policies and the high proportion of biometric products in the portfolio, the VHV Group will complete the establishment of its additional interest reserve earlier than the market as a whole.

The interest guarantee risk in the Pensionskasse is also constantly controlled and assessed with the aid of asset/liability analyses, portfolio projections and stress tests. This risk has been reduced in recent years by successively extending the duration of investments. Reinforcements of the bases of calculation, such as a reduction in the actuarial interest rate, are financed by the risk-bearing companies.

The **cost risk** is the risk that actual costs may exceed expected costs. The cost risk is monitored continuously (including in connection with profit segmentation) and managed via effective cost management.

The **cancellation risk** represents a shock event in which a high proportion of the contracts are cancelled. A mass-cancellation scenario in the biometrics segment would have significant effects on the VHV Group. The VHV Group's life insurance portfolio has a high proportion of term life insurance. This serves to hedge biometric risks and therefore offers no economic incentive for cancellation by policyholders even in the event of an interest rate rise. In addition, the cancellation rate at HL is well below the market average and is monitored and reported continuously using portfolio movement and performance statistics and via the limit system.

The **disaster risk** in life insurance is mainly the risk of a pandemic with high mortality rates occurring. This could result in an unexpectedly large number of insurance claims.

The COVID-19 pandemic did not result in any significant losses due to excess mortality in the year under review. However, the development of the pandemic and its impact on mortality must continue to be observed critically.

Even in analysed situations with extremely high mortality rates, there are no risks that might jeopardize the VHV Group's existence as a going concern.

## **Market risk**

Market risk describes the risks of a loss or an adverse change in the net assets and financial position arising directly or indirectly from fluctuations in the level and volatility of market prices for assets, liabilities and off-balance sheet financial instruments. The VHV Group's market risk comprises equity, real estate and interest rate risk in particular.

Equity risk primarily results from investments in private and infrastructure equity and the participating interests held. The risks associated with private and infrastructure equity investments are limited by refraining from investing directly in individual target companies. Instead, only multi-level forms of access are permitted. Successful investments are also supported through the careful selection of suitable managers. The profitability of the respective investment is continuously examined during the investment process. This includes taking into account a valuation that is updated on a quarterly basis, reviewing the yield generated, and including private and infrastructure equity investments in stress tests and scenario analyses. In addition, compliance with the quota for private and infrastructure equity resulting from the strategic asset allocation is continuously reviewed.

Market risks in connection with participating interests are monitored continuously in the context of actively managing and controlling participating interests, which covers material risks.

Real estate held via funds is also exposed to additional market risks from falls in market values resulting from the property crisis and from vacancies. The risk of fair value losses in connection with real estate is analysed as part of stress testing.

Quotas are defined as part of strategic asset allocation. The resulting limits are checked every day. With the exception of properties used by the company, investments in real estate may only be made via funds. The corresponding real estate funds are generally focused on Germany. To limit real estate risk, the market is continuously observed by the respective external real estate managers and the internal officers. Suitable properties are always preselected in line with the individual investment criteria (e.g. region, segment, volume, yield). This is followed by a due diligence process in which additional external experts are typically consulted in order to analyse the attractiveness of the property from various perspectives. Due to intra-Group leasing, there is no material risk from the direct real estate portfolio.

Because of the high proportion of bonds, additional market risks mainly result from fluctuations in market interest rates.

In the insurance companies of the VHV Group, a risk-conscious allocation of investments is ensured via regular value-at-risk analyses and within the framework of the company's own risk and solvency assessment. Strategic investment allocation is developed taking into account the risk-bearing capacity and involving Risk Management and the responsible actuary in Life. The core element of this strategic allocation is the fixing of minimum revenues with corresponding safety. Compliance with these is verified via scenario calculations. Compliance with the strategic investment allocation is monitored continuously. As interest rates are expected to remain low for the foreseeable future, new investments are focusing on the asset classes of real estate and private and infrastructure equity, including renewable energies, and unlisted debt instruments in the real estate and infrastructure sectors.

The following charts show examples of the effects of simulated market changes on the value of investments which are sensitive in terms of interest rates and equity prices.

## EQUITIES AND OTHER NON-FIXED INTEREST SECURITIES

Change in equity price <sup>*)</sup>	Change in market value of investments sensitive to equity price	
Decrease of 20 %	EUR	–59 million
Market value on 31.12.2021	EUR	296 million

<sup>\*)</sup> Change in equity price taking account of possible equity derivatives.  
Private equity and participating interests not taken into account.

## SECURITIES WITH FIXED INTEREST AND LOANS

Interest-rate changes	Change in market value of investments sensitive to interest	
Change of +1 percentage point	EUR	–1,146 million
Change of –1 percentage point	EUR	1,245 million
Market value on 31.12.2021	EUR	14,688 million

There is also an exchange rate risk for investments in foreign currency. This is limited through fixed foreign currency rates and monitored on an ongoing basis. In addition, the foreign currency risk is reduced via hedging transactions.

Market risk is one of the material risks to which the VHV Group is exposed.

### Credit/default risk

Credit/default risk describes the risk of a loss or an adverse change in net assets and the results of operations that results because of a default or because of a change in the creditworthiness or the assessment of creditworthiness of securities issuers, counterparties and other debtors (e.g. reinsurers, policy holders and insurance agents) that are liable to the company.

Any economic downturns as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic could lead to a further increase in the risk premiums for bonds, and hence to falling market values. Due to the net valuation reserves at the reporting date, even falling market values would not have a direct accounting impact for the Group at first.

Ratings of the bond portfolio are continuously monitored for corresponding negative changes using a credit limit system. Ratings are also validated internally using a credit analysis tool. Various key figures/

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pieces of information are evaluated for the relevant counterparties from sources including annual reports, credit research reports and information from rating agencies.

The following charts show the composition of the fixed-interest securities and loans at their carrying amounts, along with the respective rating class allocation.

## COMPOSITION OF THE SECURITIES WITH FIXED INTEREST AND LOANS

	EUR million
Fixed-interest securities	9,107
of which debentures	2,748
of which bank bonds	2,576
of which Corporates	2,204
of which loans and treasury bonds	1,579
Mortgages	1,031
Loans and advance payments on insurance policies	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,148</b>

## SHARES OF THE RATING CLASSES IN % (CARRYING AMOUNTS)

	AAA	AA	A	BBB	< BBB	NR <sup>*)</sup>
Fixed-interest securities	51.3	22.2	12.4	2.4	0.1	1.3
Mortgages	–	–	–	–	–	10.2
Loans and advance payments on insurance policies	–	–	0.1	–	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>11.5</b>

<sup>\*)</sup> No rating available

Default risks from receivables from policy holders and insurance agents are reduced by corresponding organisational and technical measures. The value of the receivables portfolio has also been adjusted sufficiently to provide for these losses. Taking account of these value adjustments, receivables from insurance policy holders that are more than 90 days past due amounted to EUR 30.1 million on the balance sheet closing date. There are no material balance sheet risks from possible defaults of receivables from policy holders and insurance agents. The average default rate is calculated as the ratio of value adjustments to gross premiums written and amounts to 0.8 % for the past three years.

On the balance sheet closing date, there were settlement receivables from the reinsurance business amounting to EUR 71.7 million. In the

ceded reinsurance business, the receivables are almost exclusively due from reinsurers with a Standard & Poor's rating of at least A-. With regard to solidity, a minimum rating is defined when selecting reinsurers. In addition, credit rating analyses of the main reinsurance partners are based on key data. Compliance with the defined criteria is monitored continuously in the limit system.

There is a risk of impairment on deferred tax assets if the level of taxable income declines sharply or falls into negative territory. The development of consolidated net income is monitored intensively as part of our multi-year planning. The risk of impairment is estimated as low in the planning period.

Credit/default risk is a material risk for the VHV Group.

**Concentration risk** is understood to be the risk that results from the company assuming individual risks or closely correlated risks that have a significant default potential.

The VHV Group attaches great importance to concentration risk management with regard to investments by defining ranges for each asset class and continuously monitoring the resulting limits. In accordance with the prudent person principle, a broad mix and diversification of investments is ensured. The appropriate requirements are defined in an internal investment catalogue. It also aims to achieve an even greater degree of diversification of issuers in the long term. To ensure this development in operational terms, a comprehensive issuer limit system and a loan portfolio model are used for managing risk.

## Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk describes the risk that a company is not in a position to fulfil its financial obligations when they fall due because of mismatches in the timing of cash flows or because assets cannot be easily converted into cash. The realisation of assets may be necessary if the benefits to be paid and the costs exceed the premiums earned and the income from investments. The VHV Group was able to meet its financial obligations at all times in the 2021 financial year.

The VHV Group controls liquidity risk through active liquidity management. To this end, liquidity planning takes place on a monthly basis and any deviations are analysed subsequently. It also monitors liquidity classes. In the process, investments are classified into different classes according to their convertibility into cash, and sufficient highly liquid

investments are kept available. The minimum amount of highly liquid investments is guided by the identified stress events and is enshrined in the limit system. Long-term liquidity risks are also monitored via our asset/liability management system. Aside from liquidity risks relating to the capital markets, the VHV Group (particularly its insurance companies) is not subject to a significant liquidity risk. This is due to the business model of insurance companies, which usually have sufficient liquidity because they receive regular premium income.

### **Operational risk**

Operational risk describes the loss risk arising from inadequacy or failure of internal processes, employees or systems or from external events.

The VHV Group is exposed to the following operational risk, which are identified and evaluated in the semi-annual risk assessment.

**Legal risk** describes the risk of disadvantages due to insufficient observance of the current legal situation and the incorrect application of a possibly unclear legal situation. Legal risk also includes the risk of legal change arising from a change in legal bases. Legal risk is minimised by employing qualified personnel as well as by obtaining external advice when necessary. In this context, it is ensured that changes in existing legal bases and prevailing jurisprudence are promptly taken into account. To reduce legal risk, a compliance management system has also been established that performs the advisory role, the early warning role, the risk controlling role and the monitoring for the reduction of legal risk. Data protection risk is also reduced by the work of the Data Protection Officer within the framework of his or her legal duties and responsibilities. The employees of the VHV Group receive regular training on data protection regulations, and there are established procedures for reporting and eliminating risks under data protection law. In addition, money laundering risk and fraud risk are explicitly included in the risk management system and reduced via the controls established in the compliance management system. The roles of the Anti-Money-Laundering Officer and the Anti-Fraud Manager have been established in the VHV Group for this purpose. The employees of the companies of the VHV Group that are bound by the German Money Laundering Act receive training on the prevention of money laundering annually and when they join the company. A procedure has been established for the internal and external reporting of suspected cases of money laundering. The same applies to the internal reporting and prosecution of criminal offences.

**Organisational risk** can arise from the organisational structure of the company, e.g. from complex business processes, high coordination complexity or inadequately defined interfaces. In order to reduce this risk, the business organisation is reviewed regularly and there is an internal control system in which all material business processes, including the risks contained therein and the controls associated therewith, have been mapped using uniform process modelling software. Working guidelines are made available to employees via the intranet.

The risk selection processes are generally exposed to operational risks, particularly with regard to individual property-casualty insurance transactions and to life insurance transactions. This risk is minimised as far as possible by painstaking risk assessment and corresponding underwriting guidelines. Compliance with underwriting guidelines is monitored via a controlling system.

The **risk from IT systems** describes the risk of the realisation of losses that could arise from the IT systems' failure to meet one or more protection targets (confidentiality, integrity, availability, authenticity). IT risks result from steadily increasing demands on IT architecture and IT applications caused by changing market requirements and escalating regulatory requirements. This increases the complexity and susceptibility to error of the IT landscape. In addition to operational risks in the event of non-functioning IT, there is also a reputation risk if the IT is not available to our customers and business partners. To secure the long-term future viability of the IT application landscape and modernise IT operations, the "goDIGITAL" digitalisation programme was continued at a high priority in the reporting year. One important milestone in the reporting year was the provision and testing of a new inventory management system for motor vehicle contracts ahead of its roll-out in 2022. In the life segment, a new system landscape for new business in the areas of term life insurance, occupational disability insurance for self-employed people and funeral expenses insurance went live. The "goDIGITAL" programme forms the basis of future digitalisation initiatives within the VHV Group. Reports on the status of IT and the "goDIGITAL" programme are provided on a regular basis in the meetings of the Board of Directors and the Supervisory Board. The existing IT risks are monitored intensively. For the purpose of risk reduction, in particular an online reflection of the most important systems is established at two locations. In light of continually rising technical, statutory and regulatory requirements and growing cyber risks, IT risks at the VHV Group are continuously monitored as part of IT risk management and current methods and applications for identifying and defending against attacks

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are tested and deployed. Cyber attacks relating to new vulnerabilities (e.g. the “log4shell” vulnerability) were also identified and averted and the risk of attack was further reduced through intensified security measures, including in cooperation with the manufacturers of the relevant IT security tools. The effectiveness of security measures is reviewed and documented on a regular basis as part of the IT emergency drills. The risks associated with the implementation of the “goDIGITAL” programme and the challenges of the upcoming transformation are managed according to a cross-programme governance structure. The personnel risk resulting from the transformation is managed via human resources management in IT. In addition to the prevention of failures of data processing systems, service providers, buildings and staff, information security and especially protection against attacks on IT systems are playing a growing role. For this reason, the VHV Group has implemented appropriate precautionary measures and is monitoring their effectiveness.

The **risk from outsourcing** describes risks of wrong decisions, flawed contracts or the incorrect implementation of an outsourcing process and other operational risks that could arise from outsourcing. The companies affiliated with the VHV Group have outsourced their processes to a certain extent to internal and external service providers. Key functions and activities are exclusively outsourced within the Group. These companies are fully integrated in the management mechanisms of the VHV Group. The Group’s outsourcing policy defines binding minimum requirements for the outsourcing process. Risk analyses are prepared for any material outsourcing, which are reviewed in the event of material changes and updated if necessary. Due to the careful selection of partners when outsourcing externally and the corresponding controlling mechanisms, there is no material increase in operational risk.

**Personnel risk** describes risks relating to the employee capacities of the company divisions, employee qualification, any irreplaceable staff members and employee turnover. To address this risk, training and continuing education measures are executed to ensure a high level of specialised qualification of employees. Rules on representation and succession minimise the risk of disruptions in work processes.

In addition to the operational risks described, the **data quality risk**, the **risk from external events and infrastructure** and the **project risk** are systematically identified, evaluated, reported and managed.

The VHV Group also has access to comprehensive protection requirements analyses and carries out regular business impact analyses, such

as a default in IT or buildings, in which extreme scenarios are modelled in order to control operational risk. The findings of these analyses are used to derive emergency plans, which are updated regularly and adjusted to reflect current circumstances (e.g. the COVID-19 pandemic). The VHV Group therefore retains its ability to act if the availability of resources such as employees, buildings or IT systems is limited, ensuring that business operations can be maintained even in emergencies.

The development of the COVID-19 pandemic was actively tracked once again in the reporting year. The extensive preventive measures introduced since the onset of the pandemic to protect the workforce against infection and curb the spread of the virus and to ensure continued operations were adapted to reflect the pandemic situation. In addition to established measures like mobile work and more flexible working hours, the VHV Group offered its employees extensive testing and vaccination services (first, second and booster doses).

The business continuity measures taken to protect the workforce against infection and curb the spread of the virus helped the VHV Group to remain fully operational at all times.

There is only a minor risk as a result of the increased use of remote working and the resulting deviations from the established processes. This is because a large number of processes are digitalised and system-supported. For processes that have not been fully digitalised, the existing specifications were adapted to reflect the exceptional circumstances in order to ensure that the established authorisations and controls (including the principle of dual control) continue to apply. Employees working remotely have access to IT applications via an encrypted connection without any data being stored on their local device.

## Strategic risk

Strategic risk is the risk that results from strategic business decisions. Strategic risk also includes the risk resulting from business decisions not being adapted to changes in the economic environment.

The key markets of the VHV Group are already saturated. They are characterised by low growth rates and extreme competition to avoid being squeezed out of the market. The VHV Group counters this risk by consistent cost management and by renouncing growth in the number of contracts if premiums are not adequate. Additional international activities will be conducted selectively with a focus on the construction industry. The further expansion of the business segment to encompass technology-based insurance-related business models is also being pursued.

Due to its traditionally low level of internationalisation, the VHV Group is also highly dependent on the economic development in Germany. In order to reduce this dependency and participate in growth markets, the VHV Group is selectively expanding its core competencies in chosen foreign markets such as Austria, France, Italy and Turkey. VHV Allgemeine has conducted insurance business in Turkey via the Turkish subsidiary VHV Re since 2016. Risks result from future political, regulatory and economic developments in Turkey and are continuously monitored, particularly in the construction industry and the energy sector.

In property-casualty insurance, the Sales division focuses on the broker segment. In addition, there is a degree of dependence on the motor vehicle sector. Based on the gross premium earned, the VHV Group's dependency on the motor vehicle segments including transportation service insurance currently amounts to 45.7 %. The traditional alignment as a specialist insurer in the construction industry also means a degree of dependence on the development in construction activity.

Against the backdrop of the continuing low level of interest rates and the legal solvency requirement of Solvency II, various market participants are withdrawing from the conventional life insurance business with long-term guarantees. As an alternative, products for insuring against biometric risks with lower capital commitment have been identified in particular. As one of the leading providers of term life insurance, HL is therefore at risk of losing market share to competitors.

For the management of strategic risks, meetings of the Board of Directors and senior management retreats take place on a regular basis. The main projects at the company report regularly to the Board of Directors of VHV Holding as well as reporting directly to the responsible member of the Board of Directors.

The current strategic concentrations of the VHV Group are constantly analysed and are consciously initiated in line with the current business strategy. In particular, those opportunities arising from strong market positions that are intrinsically linked to the existing strategic risk concentrations should also be utilised.

Additional risks could result from the acquisition of the Eucon Group and the InterEurope Group by the VHV Group if the synergy potential arising from the acquisition is not leveraged systematically. A corresponding project structure is in place to ensure that this synergy potential is leveraged.

### **Reputation risk**

Reputation risk is the risk that results from possible damage to the company's reputation as a result of negative perceptions among the general public.

The risk of negative perception by customers, brokers or other stakeholders is countered for example by means of intensive quality management, short handling times in contract and claims processing, and high availability by phone. Service level agreements with internal and external service providers of the VHV Group ensure continuous controlling of essential key data.

Current studies and test results confirm the good service to customers and brokers. Diverse communication activities are also aimed at improving the reputation. At present there are no indications of significant risks to our reputation. Reputation risk is continuously monitored by the central Corporate Communication department.

To counter potential reputation risks, the VHV Group has undertaken to comply with the Code of Conduct for insurance sales and the Code of Conduct for data protection.

### **Emerging risks**

Emerging risks constitute new types of risk where the danger can either not be estimated at all or only with difficulty (including due to climate change or the development of new technologies). They are distinguished by having considerable potential for substantial losses, meaning that identification of these risks at an early stage is of major importance. Emerging risks are therefore explicitly identified and assessed as part of the risk officers' risk assessment in order to increase the time available for countermeasures through early identification.

### **Risk-bearing capacity**

The risk-bearing capacity of the VHV Group was guaranteed in full at all times throughout the reporting period and in line with risk-strategy targets. The VHV Group's financial strength is proving a greater advantage thanks to the risk-oriented measurement approach.

As at 31 December 2021, the VHV Group clearly exceeded the legal solvency requirements with eligible own funds even without the instruments of the transitional measures subject to approval or volatility adjustments.

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In the stress tests and scenario analyses performed, risk-bearing capacity is not at risk even in the stress situations analysed (extreme events) such as an economic crisis. As such, the effects of a shock on the capital market (stock market shock, rating downgrades in the bond portfolio) in connection with increased insolvencies and utilisation of loan insurance that has an effect on cash flow are being investigated.

Sustainability risk management was enhanced in the year under review to reflect the growing importance of sustainability risks.

Please see the report on economic position and the forecast report for information on the market developments in the financial year and expected development in 2022.

## OPPORTUNITY REPORT

The identification of opportunities is a significant component of future-oriented corporate governance. In the context of strategic planning, current conditions are analysed to identify emerging opportunities at an early stage and to act accordingly. The dynamic development of the pandemic means the remarks on opportunities are subject to uncertainty.

### Property-casualty insurance

VHV Allgemeine has positioned itself as a partner of intermediaries/brokers and as a special insurer of the construction industry. This allows it to identify trends and developments that will serve as the basis for competitive products at an early stage in a market environment characterised by intense competition.

The Turkish subsidiary VHV Re is developing according to plan overall and has further potential for growth. The Turkish construction sector is a promising business segment within a challenging market economy and offers the opportunity to use VHV Allgemeine's know-how as a special insurer for the construction industry. This is assisted by the market acceptance of a local Turkish reinsurer with a German parent company.

Additional opportunities could arise from the continued expansion of foreign activities. The selective development of core competencies in chosen foreign markets such as Austria, France, Italy and Turkey could contribute to a further improvement in diversification as well as the attainment of growth targets.

Improvements in profitability and productivity via improved unit costs can also contribute to the competitiveness of our products. The measures already introduced to increase productivity are to be continued for this purpose and the management of external service providers is to become more professional.

Consistent implementation of risk differentiation in all segments of personal and corporate business will result in additional opportunities on the Austrian market. To achieve the strategic target of above-average growth in the non-motor vehicle segments, the broker-base is also to be expanded and the offer for small and medium-sized enterprises emphasised. Our sales success is also to be supported by retaining the agreed levels of service with quick processing times, raising awareness through television and radio advertising and increasing the degree of automation involved in processing business, among other factors.

With regard to the technical result, the expansion of claims management and the development of methods for processing claims offer opportunities to reduce claims costs still further.

### Life insurance

Against the backdrop of low interest rates and the capital requirements under Solvency II, products to insure against biometric risks have increasingly gained in importance, as they are largely independent of the capital market environment and have a positive effect on solvency requirements under Solvency II. As one of the leading providers of term life insurance, we see insuring employees against disability as a growth area.

### Investments

Alternative investments have become increasingly important against the background of persistently low interest rates. The VHV Group made further investments in private and infrastructure equity, real estate funds and unlisted debt instruments in 2021. In addition to portfolio diversification, which is fundamentally positive, there are also opportunities to participate in positive market trends.

### Miscellaneous

The VHV Group's corporate structure with a mutual insurance association as the ultimate parent company provides opportunities in the current market environment. This corporate structure allows the VHV Group to act quickly and efficiently and thus enjoy above-average performance in a dynamic market environment with changing internal and external conditions.



In addition, corporate profits strengthen the capital base and do not have to be distributed to any shareholders. Changing customer behaviour and technical innovation mean that advancing digitalisation will be decisive for the future of the insurance industry. Especially for a medium-sized mutual insurance association with a long-term strategy and the organisation of the VHV Group (specialist expertise in the insurance companies VHV Allgemeine and HL, process and IT expertise in the back office of VHV solutions, investment expertise at WAVE, cross-divisional functions at VHV Holding), this offers opportunities in future competition following the implementation of the digitalisation strategy developed.

As a result of digital advancement and the associated shift in customer requirements, the adjustment of brand presence and advertising strategies will be of central importance in the future. On this basis, the VHV Group has initiated extensive programmes in life insurance to modernise its brand positioning and advertising strategies. In addition, there is a growing customer requirement for the use of modern communication channels such as social media and chat functions. The speed at which questions can be answered will be a key success factor in the future. The VHV Group believes it is competitively positioned. This is also demonstrated by VHV Allgemeine's multi-award-winning website.

With the acquisition of the Eucon Group and the InterEurope Group, established providers of digital solutions (including for claims management, data and document processing), the VHV Group has invested in a business model with a promising future. In addition to risk diversification in a business segment outside the insurance industry, the acquisition offers the potential for synergies with the Group's insurance business and the acceleration of the VHV Group's digitalisation.

The satisfaction of customers and brokers is a central factor for the future market position and profitability of the VHV Group. Therefore, the VHV Group sets great store by an above-average service focus that is seen to be different from the market. This is underscored by various test results and awards. Service quality is monitored continuously via internal and external reviews.

Boosting the VHV Group's appeal as an attractive employer also provides opportunities in light of demographic change. Motivated and qualified employees are the basis for competent and high-quality cooperation with customers, brokers and other business associates.

Internal continuing education measures, ongoing training and systematic succession management ensure that employees are qualified for their roles. In addition, a great deal of importance is ascribed to work-life balance and occupational health management.

## SUMMARY

On the basis of the information currently available, current findings and the assessment of the future development do not indicate any sustained material impairment in the net assets, financial position and results of operations of the VHV Group at present. The VHV Group's continuity is not under jeopardy even in extreme scenarios. All material risks are recognised early, measured and managed.

## FORECAST REPORT

### Macroeconomic development and the capital market

2022 could see a continuation of the upward macroeconomic trend due to the favourable environment resulting from high savings rates and pent-up demand following the COVID-19 pandemic. The continued economic recovery depends on the resolution of the supply bottlenecks affecting industry. Renewed restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic would be an obstacle to the generally positive economic outlook. The political agenda for 2022 includes elections in France and mid-term elections in the USA. A significant slowdown in the Chinese real estate market could also have a negative impact on the world economy, as the real estate market accounts for a high proportion of China's GDP. A number of heavily indebted Chinese real estate developers encountered payment difficulties in 2021. The newly elected German Federal Government is expected to present a strategy for implementing its goals. Sustainability and the achievement of the EU climate targets are likely to feature strongly. In addition to the aforementioned factors, actual global economic development will be influenced by monetary and fiscal policy in particular. If monetary policy is tightened more quickly than currently anticipated, this could have an adverse effect on the economy.

Inflation is expected to remain well above the European Central Bank's target of 2.0% in 2022. However, the growth momentum observed in the previous year is likely to slow.

The ECB's monetary policy is likely to remain expansionary in 2022 in light of the existing economic risks in the euro area. The ECB will toler-

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ate the inflation target being exceeded on a temporary basis. While the US Federal Reserve is expected to raise its key interest rate in several steps this year, the ECB is likely to only slow the pace of its bond purchases for the time being.

The European bond markets are likely to continue to see low yields and increased volatility as it navigates the waters between the ECB's expansionary monetary policy and the onset of a cycle of rising interest rates in the USA. Economic and political developments could contribute to disparate performance in the different bond segments. Asset classes with credit risks are expected to be especially sensitive to economic development and the associated default rates. If central banks switch to a more restrictive monetary policy sooner than expected, the risk premiums for countries with weak credit ratings could increase considerably.

As previously, the stock markets are likely to benefit from governments and central banks continuing to pursue an expansionary approach. Regional disparities in terms of economic development and the provision of liquidity are expected to emerge and could lead to increased volatility.

## Property-casualty insurance

In light of the sustained high level of demand for housing, the ZDB expects residential construction to remain an important pillar of the construction industry during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sales are set to rise by 7.0 % to EUR 59.3 billion in 2022.

Sales in commercial construction are also expected to increase to EUR 53.3 billion in 2022 (+6.0 %). The HDB believes that commercial civil engineering would be boosted by the federal plans for increased investment in the railways, but that the demand situation in commercial construction remains ambivalent. According to the ZDB and the HDB, this is due to building permits, which are seeing extremely varied development depending on the building type and as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Like in 2021, public sector construction is expected to see a downturn in municipal construction investment of almost 9.0 % in 2022, as rising staff costs and social expenditure limits the scope of local authorities to invest in construction.

The VHV Group is in an above-average position in terms of market development in its core business areas and, as things stand, will maintain the capacity to hold its own in a difficult market environment with competitive rates and products in future as well.

The investment strategy is set to remain unchanged in 2022. Therefore, investments will continue to focus on annuity investments. A slight increase in real estate, private equity and infrastructure investments is also planned. Equity allocations are actively aligned to market conditions and implemented in line with total-return investment approaches. For 2022, the VHV Allgemeine is planning for a slight increase in investment portfolios. On the basis of the situation on the capital market we have described and the investment structure, it is assumed that the net interest return on investments will be below the level of 2021.

In motor vehicle insurance, the VHV Group has been focused on increasing its income for many years. This strategy was continued in 2021 and will also be decisive for the coming years. In addition to a further focusing of the risk selection and restructuring in commercial business, this strategy primarily comprises extensive measures in claims management. The continued development of the COVID-19 pandemic could have an impact on the course of business. Results are expected to decline significantly following an allocation to the equalisation reserve.

Liability business for business customers will also be influenced by intensive price and performance competition in 2022. As a result of risk exposure, a trend toward market hardening is expected in individual submarkets only.

As an industry insurer specialising in the construction target group, the VHV Group believes it remains well positioned. For 2022, the industry is anticipating a nominal increase in construction sales to EUR 151 billion (+5.5 %). Accordingly, premium revenues are expected to grow in 2022. Positive effects on the development of portfolio and earnings are expected from the continuation of the active management of the portfolio of professional liability insurance for architects and engineers. The further development of the COVID-19 pandemic could have a significant impact on the construction industry, thereby negatively affecting the VHV Group's business development.

In the segment of personal liability insurance, positive development in terms of the number of contracts and premiums is anticipated in 2022.

Accident insurance is expected to see moderate premium growth once again in 2022. Product and tariff revisions from 2021 in private accident insurance are expected to continue to provide additional impetus for new business and portfolio development in 2022.

Although the number of contracts and premiums in the technical insurance segment are expected to increase, growing competition and the COVID-19 pandemic mean this development will be less positive than in the previous year.

In loan and surety insurance, premium revenues and the number of contracts are expected to increase in 2022 as a result of rising sales in the construction industry. The extremely positive insolvency situation in recent years could be impacted by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of forecast insolvencies is expected to increase in 2022.

In fire and property insurance, our competitive products will deliver growth in terms of the number of individual contracts and the amount of premiums. This applies particularly to the commercial segment.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the company's employees, the Board of Directors of VAV is confident that the company's profitable growth will continue in 2022 and that it will enjoy further stable development accompanied by continuous growth in market share despite the challenges resulting from the pandemic.

The Board of Directors of VHV Re expects premium revenues to increase significantly in the coming year thanks to regional activities. In 2021, the insurance market was heavily impacted by serious natural hazards (forest fires and hail) and the ongoing pandemic. As such, growth forecasts in Turkey depend on the macroeconomic recovery in particular.

All in all, VHV Allgemeine is assuming predominantly stable average premiums in its portfolio and new business in the coming years. Expenses for insurance claims are expected to increase in 2022. With a planned higher level of contracts in 2022 and an associated moder-

ate increase in premiums received, claims management measures, primarily in the motor vehicle segment, and measures to reduce management expenses will be a high priority in order to ensure its competitive position in the future, too. After another positive financial year with growth of 3.5 % in gross premiums earned in direct-written business, VHV Allgemeine expects results to decline in 2022 following an allocation to the equalisation reserve.

In the 2021 financial year, the "go.DIGITAL.KOMPOSIT" digitalisation programme focused on reforming the motor vehicle contract system. The programme will entail major challenges, as the transformation affects not only IT applications and processes but also all employees who work with the affected systems. The work environment will also change significantly for the independent intermediaries who work with VHV. The new system has been in its first productive test phase since June 2021. The full conversion to the new motor vehicle contract will take place from mid-2022 onwards, with preparations for the conversion of the SHU private contract system taking place at the same time.

### **Life insurance**

The period of low interest rates, which has lasted years, and the resulting challenges are expected to persist in 2022. To be able to meet future interest obligations in this low interest rate environment, life insurers have created reserves in the form of the additional interest rate reserve (AIRR) since 2011. The AIRR therefore constitutes a forward-looking reinforcement of our reserves. The introduction of the corridor method in 2018 has attenuated both the creation and the later reversal of the AIRR. As a result, fewer valuation reserves have to be recognised to finance the creation of the AIRR throughout the sector in the short term, which ultimately also benefits policy holders in the form of surplus allocations. Based on the level of interest rates in 2021, HL is anticipating a small reversal of the AIRR in 2022, which would be earlier than the industry as a whole. Because of the targeted duration management and the low proportion of annuity insurance in the portfolio compared with the market as a whole, HL believes it is competitively positioned in the market environment. The effects of low interest rate scenarios continue to be constantly reviewed with the aid of ALM studies to be able to focus the investment policy in line with the requirements of liabilities and shareholders' equity in future too.

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In investments, an investment in long-term instruments with good credit ratings (investment grade) is planned for 2022. HL is anticipating a slight decline in the carrying amount of investments in 2022. On the basis of the situation on the capital market we have described and the investment structure, it is assumed that the net interest return on investments will be below the level of 2021.

In 2022, the development of biometric products will remain a focus, particularly with a view to defending the market leadership in new term life insurance business in terms of insurance policies paid and regular premiums. HL considers itself to be competitively positioned on the market with innovative products, such as the Plus components for various products, the Exclusive component for term life insurance, and needs-based products insuring against occupational disability and incapacity, and due to its high marketing and service quality. The Group's market share in new term insurance business has been maintained at a high level in recent years. This share is to be maintained in an increasingly competitive environment, while occupational disability and work incapacity insurance is to be expanded. The COVID-19 pandemic could have a further impact on the course of business in the coming year. For example, a reduction in the new business volume is possible.

The state pension will remain under pressure in 2022, so the need for the general population to take measures for retirement provisions on their own initiative is expected to increase. There is therefore continued high potential, particularly for subsidised pension products. HL is accommodating the tendency of certain customer groups to prefer short-term or medium-term investments with corresponding offers. This product strategy has already proved its worth in recent years.

In light of the sustained uncertainty concerning future economic development, including the continued existence of the measures imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the mindset of many consumers is shaped by an aversion to risky investments and long-term capital commitment. Accordingly, in the case of one-off premiums, business is expected to be dominated by demand for products with short terms. One-off premiums are likely to remain highly significant for the sector's new business in 2022.

All in all, HL expects to see slight growth in premiums received in the coming year. Unadjusted earnings after taxes are expected to decline slightly in 2022 compared with 2021.

The slight increase in premium revenues is also being supported by the continuation of the "fitness programme" carried out in recent years, covering issues ranging from product innovation, service quality and the costs offensive through to risk selection. By systematically working through the individual issues of the "fitness programme", among other things, the excellent levels of customer satisfaction are to be further improved and the low expense ratios are to be maintained at the respective level.

The "goDIGITAL" digitalisation programme, which is modernising the IT application landscape and laying a foundation for future digitalisation initiatives within the VHV Group, will also be continued.

## Miscellaneous

WAVE operates mainly as the VHV Group's Group asset management company, which will also offer selected asset management services for institutional third parties and a focused family of products.

For 2022, the operating result is expected to decline slightly without taking account of performance-based remuneration.

Once again, no significant changes to the business purpose are planned in the 2022 financial year. At an organisational level, steps are being taken to spin off information technology from VHV solutions and centralise it at VHV Holding around the middle of the year. The strategy pursued in recent years to increase productivity and reduce unit costs while improving quality parameters with regard to contracts as well as claim averages in the area of claims is to be continued in the 2022 financial year. In this respect, the implementation of measures to realise automation potential is just as important as the continuous review of the processes and the organisational structure in the individual operations with a view to sustainably lowering costs. In the area of contracts, the second phase of the introduction of the new portfolio management system also means there is a focus on the "goDIGITAL" project and the related new processes in administration. With regard to claims, a sustainable reduction in the average claims expenditure and a continuous increase in processing quality are important criteria. The

difficulties in planning for (customer) demand as well as internal operating and technical resources due to the COVID-19 pandemic is being countered by utilising all flexibility options in operating business and thus ensure operating service readiness and cost efficiency.

IT will again focus on the continuation of the “goDIGITAL” programme. In addition, IT will play a key role in implementing Workspace and the digitalisation strategy for the VHV Group together with the “Digital Transformation” team.

In the area of IT and at VHV solutions, which combines the back-office activities of the VHV Group companies, a key objective for the 2022 financial year remains the continuation of the measures pursued continuously for years as part of the “fitness programme” to improve costs and quality as well as additional measures relating to various projects.

Taking account of the planning of the insurance companies, the non-financial performance indicators are expected to see sustained positive development. With sales revenues increasing slightly, earnings before taxes are expected to be slightly lower.

VHV Holding will continue to manage the planned major projects in the coming year. In future, the focus will remain on the continuation of the “goDIGITAL” digitalisation programme. In addition, IT will play a key role in implementing the digitalisation strategy for the VHV Group together with the “Digital Transformation” team.

VHV Holding expects to see higher sales revenues in 2022. Earnings before taxes are expected to decline, largely as a result of the lower profit transfer from VHV Allgemeine.

Based on the aforementioned forecasts for the individual areas of activity, the VHV Group is anticipating a significant decline in consolidated net income in 2022.

### **Proviso regarding statements about the future**

The present forecast contains estimates of the company's future development. Considering all known opportunities and risks and on the basis of plans and projections, assumptions are reached, which may not occur or may not occur in full because of unknown risks and uncertainties.

In light of the dynamically evolving conditions (including the spread of virus mutations and the effectiveness and availability of vaccines), it is still not possible to conclusively assess the long-term ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic with regard to economic development, the capital markets and the business performance of the VHV Group at present. As such, the forecasts issued are subject to increased uncertainty.

The impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on the macroeconomic development of Germany and the EU cannot be reliably estimated at the present time. The forecast report does not take account of the potential consequences of the Russia-Ukraine war.

Hanover, 14 March 2022

### **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Reuter	Hilbert	Scharrer
Schneider	Stark	Voigt

# CONSOLIDATED MANAGEMENT REPORT

## NON-FINANCIAL STATEMENT<sup>\*)</sup>

### PART 1: BUSINESS MODEL

#### I. MATERIAL EFFECTS

The VHV Group is a group for insurance policies, provisions and assets. The parent company of the VHV Group is organised as a mutual insurance association. This legal form allows the company to think and act strategically over the long term and not to focus its entrepreneurial activities on short-term market value. The VHV Group is an association of companies that operate independently in clearly defined submarkets.

Please see the opening sections of this management report (page 11) for further details regarding the business model.

In the 2021 financial year, the VHV Group adopted a separate sustainability strategy that was derived from the Group strategy and linked to the VHV Rules of Conduct. The following areas of activity have been defined and identified as material with a view to the non-financial statement:

- Customers and products
- Investments
- Governance: Data protection and information security; combating financial crime (anti-fraud management/preventing money laundering, financial sanctions/embargoes); fair marketing, risk management
- Work and employees: Occupational health and safety; training and continuing education; employee satisfaction; diversity/equal opportunity
- Corporate environmental protection
- Social commitment

The VHV Group conducts its business activities with a view to sustainability. The VHV Group understands sustainability to mean a long-term financial orientation and protecting against risks in the long term with

a view to ecological and social concerns and proper, ethical corporate governance. The VHV Group has defined the following principles in its sustainability strategy:

- As a modern, high-performance insurance association and an investor with a long-term focus, the VHV Group is committed to responsible corporate governance and controlling that is geared towards sustainable value creation.
- The VHV Group takes responsibility for social and environmental challenges, particularly with regard to climate change and demographic development.
- By integrating ecological and social topics in its management and governance, the VHV Group helps to create the conditions for a successful transition to a low-emission, socially responsible economy.
- The VHV Group is committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and, in particular, supports the goals relating to high-quality education, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, responsible consumption and production, and climate action.
- The VHV Group supports the goal of making Europe climate-neutral by 2050 and the Green Deal.
- The VHV Group believes it has a responsibility to help shape capital flows in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- The VHV Group ensures additional engagement and transparency by signing up to a number of sustainability initiatives such as the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), which campaigns for responsible securities management, and the Principles for Sustainable Insurance (PSI), which provides insurers with a framework for recognising sustainability criteria in insurance business. The VHV Group also works to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Disclosure (TCFD).
- The VHV Group aims for its own business processes to be climate-positive by 2025 (Scope 1 and 2), at least in Germany.

To underline its responsibility for sustainability, the VHV Group has created the ESG Committee, which is tasked with controlling the establishment of uniform Group-wide sustainability management in line with the regulatory requirements. Its members are the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the other members of the Board of Directors of VHV a.G. and VHV Holding.

<sup>\*)</sup> In accordance with section 317 article 2 sentence 4 HGB, the non-financial statement is expressly excluded from the audit by the auditor as part of the annual financial statements and the management report.

Within the framework of the VHV Group's existing risk management process, the non-financial topics taken into account are subject to risk assessment to the same extent (see page 26). With regard to the non-financial topics described in the second part of the declaration, the business activities of the VHV Group do not result in any significant risks, which are likely to have a negative impact on these areas.

When preparing the non-financial declaration, the VHV Group focused on the presentation of concepts and key data that already available in the VHV Group and were developed independently of a framework for sustainability reporting. Therefore, an external framework was not used for the non-financial statement.

## II. STAKEHOLDERS

The stakeholders of the VHV Group are the policy holders, the employees, the intermediaries and other business partners of the VHV Group and civil society. Due to the organisational structure of the parent company of the VHV Group as a mutual insurance association, further investor interests shall not be considered.

## PART 2: ISSUES

### A. CUSTOMERS AND PRODUCTS

#### I. Organisation

As a modern, high-performance insurance association, the VHV Group is firmly committed to engaging with the sustainability requirements of its customers and sales partners. Accordingly, it aims to integrate sustainability aspects into its products and insurance solutions while also continuously analysing and enhancing these aspects.

The range of products and insurance solutions is geared towards the expectations and requirements of the Group's customers and offers private and commercial risk protection in an environment characterised by changing risk conditions.

Property-casualty insurance in particular is directly impacted by the challenges of climate change and claims resulting from climate-related natural hazards. With its products in areas such as residential building

and comprehensive motor vehicle insurance, the VHV Group already insures its customers against the risks of climate-related natural hazards resulting from the increasing frequency of extreme weather events and the associated natural disasters. At the same time, the energy transition and technological development are opening up new business opportunities that the VHV Group will continue to take advantage of.

A strong focus on customers and brokers forms the basis for the VHV Group's business activities and represents a key factor for its future market position and profitability. Accordingly, its actions are geared towards retaining existing customers and sales partners for the long term while also attracting new ones.

Insurance transactions in the VHV Group are divided into the insurance classes of property-casualty insurance and life insurance.

In Germany, property-casualty insurance is carried out by VHV Allgemeine and life insurance by HL. As an insurance specialist in clearly defined submarkets, the VHV Group always seeks to take account of new risks in its products and insurance solutions and offer continuous protection for its customers. Its products and insurance solutions also support the transition to a sustainable and socially responsible economy. Accordingly, the VHV Group firmly believes in the importance of integrating sustainability aspects into product development and the underwriting and acceptance processes.

With regard to the revision of existing products and the development of new products, sustainability considerations are taken into account in respect of the product properties in life insurance as well as investments. Addressing ecological, social and ethical aspects of the Group's products is integrated as a mandatory and verifiable stage in the product development process.

Responsibility for product management lies with the department of the spokesman for the Board of Directors and the property-casualty, motor vehicle and marketing departments at VHV Allgemeine and with the spokesman for the Board of Directors at HL. The responsibilities for product design at VHV Allgemeine are divided into specific areas at department level. The life fundamental department is responsible for product design at HL.

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The product development process includes the following five steps across companies:

- Generating ideas/definition of target market
- Pilot study/evaluation of ideas/product test
- Design
- Implementation
- Monitoring (product/distribution channels)

The IRCF and the VMF are integrated into the product development process at an early stage by the responsible departments. Participating interests in the product development process ensures that all key information on opportunities and risks is available to the Board of Directors before product launch.

The specialised department responsible must carry out a risk analysis for all planned new developments and significant product adjustments in accordance with the minimum requirements of the IRCF. Risks of compliance with regulations and reputation risks are explicitly assessed. This also includes sustainability risks. The IRCF and the VMF provide an independent opinion prior to the Board of Directors' resolution on market launch.

The VHV Group takes current social and technological trends into account when generating ideas to be successful on the market in the future. The sustainability aspects of the product portfolio described below are a component of the developments identified by the VHV Group in the motor vehicle, technical insurance, private liability insurance, private and commercial property insurance and life insurance segments.

## II. Motor vehicle

The telematics product serves a business area that is increasingly developing and that is strongly characterised by research and development. It builds on an assessment of driving behaviour through corresponding data usage. Modern data transmission technology is used to generate value added in various forms with the aid of a telematics connector. By voluntarily disclosing driving data, customers can receive a discount on their insurance premiums by showing that their driving style is careful and proactive. In this way, VHV Allgemeine indirectly rewards environmentally friendly behaviour.

In addition, the latest telematics connector as a complementary hardware for one's own car enables automated localisation in case of an accident, including notifying the appropriate rescue services. As a result, vehicles that do not have a permanently installed so-called "eCall" system can simply be upgraded for safety reasons. It is also possible to manually activate the emergency call function using the telematics connector. This is an additional benefit which serves the protection of health.

Among other things, the continued enhancement of the telematics product is based feedback from users and developments on the automotive market. For example, the technical and functional modification of the telematics connector has already been initiated.

VHV Allgemeine actively handles the topic electromobility. The aim is to take into account the specific risks and opportunities of this drive technology through in-house research and development, including in conjunction with specialist committees and universities. The current insurance product already includes resulting areas of activity such as the expansion of breakdown recovery insurance with regard to specific features of electric cars and full drive battery protection. This group of topics is therefore actively supported by a comprehensive group of product developers across specialised departments, actuaries and claims experts.

In comprehensive insurance, repair is also preferred to exchange for sustainability reasons, particularly in cases of stone chip damage.

## III. Technical insurance

As one of the major property-casualty insurers in Germany, VHV Allgemeine also insures plants for the use of renewable energies as part of technical insurance and therefore supports the energy transition. As a technical insurer, VHV Allgemeine is not only expanding its business activities in the traditional insurance segments of construction services, machinery breakdown and electronics insurance, but is also placing a particular focus on renewable energies. In particular, this includes the insurance of photovoltaic systems (electronics insurance), near-surface geothermal energy (construction services insurance) and biogas plants (machinery breakdown insurance). These are all risk insurance policies relating to damage to own property which are intended to protect the insured person's own risk. At the same time, the quick and professional elimination of damage helps to prevent or reduce the potential negative downstream environmental effects caused by loss minimising measures.



Protection against cyber risks is also becoming increasingly important for customers as the digital transformation advances in all areas of the economy.

#### **IV. Liability insurance**

In liability insurance, there is general insurance cover for environmental damage as well as for claims under the Environmental Damage Act. This includes the duty to implement safety precautions for renewable energy plants and environmental damage caused due to leaking heating oil.

#### **V. Property insurance**

As extreme weather events increase significantly as a result of climate change and public authorities often provide no assistance in the event of a claim, insurance for natural hazards is becoming increasingly important. Household and residential building insurance for private customers and content and building insurance for commercial customers insure the property of the policy holder in the event of damage by fire, burglary and theft, water mains, storm, hail and any possible resulting interruption of the operation. Additional natural hazards can also be insured. VHV Allgemeine provides different levels of additional cover in this area which provide financial compensation in claims e.g. from flooding and backwater.

In residential building insurance, VHV Allgemeine allows to expand the coverage via special eco-components. These include extended cover for risks regarding sustainable and renewable energies, e.g. insurance for photovoltaics and wind turbines.

#### **VI. Life insurance**

HL focuses on the financial insurance against risks from the personal field or for the long-term generation of assets in pensions. HL is an insurer that primarily focuses on insuring against biometric risks in the life and annuity insurance segment and occupational disability insurance policies. Sustainability aspects are taken into account when identifying target markets and monitoring products.

Health-conscious behaviour of customers (e.g. a price reduction for non-smokers compared with tariffs for smokers) is taken into account in the term-life insurance segment.

## **B. INVESTMENTS**

### **I. General principles**

Investment management operates on an investment policy tailored to the companies within the VHV Group and is thus an essential component of the comprehensive corporate governance.

Investments undertake the principle of sustainability as per a reliable, long-term investment policy based on the prudent person principle. This is supported by structural and operational organisational measures and established control procedures. In particular, this is documented in the internal investment guidelines of the VHV Group. In addition to the outsourcing agreements with which the investment of the VHV Group was outsourced to WAVE and mandate agreements, this forms the basis of the described investment management of the VHV Group.

In particular, investment management takes into account the requirements of technical obligations via an asset-liability management concept and capital requirements. The risk capital provided within the corporate strategy for investments represents the key management in terms of asset structuring. Due to the importance of investment income for the VHV Group, the priority in the investment policy is on efficient risk management and long-term, profitable investments.

The ultimate objective is to create a reliable and profitable investment policy that ensures long-term profitability of the VHV Group. Caught between security, current interest, returns, liquidity and the risk capital provided, the safety aspect always takes precedence. Investments are only made in securities or asset classes where the financial risks can be recognised and assessed at any time. The VHV Group's sustainability management activities play a particularly important role when it comes to investment management. This involves a focus on the sustainability impact of investments as well as the management of sustainability risks in investments.

As a long-term investor, the VHV Group is keen to benefit from the opportunities of the transition to a sustainable economy while managing the accompanying risks as early as possible. The aim of sustainability management with regard to investments is to control the impact of sustainability risks on the portfolio without losing sight of the financial requirements of the companies and the principles of asset-liability management.

# CONSOLIDATED MANAGEMENT REPORT

The objective is to make a significant contribution to decarbonisation by achieving a climate-neutral portfolio by 2050.

The VHV Group's sustainability concept is based on the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). It demonstrated this by signing up to the initiative in 2021.

## II. Committees and control mechanisms

A stringent, disciplined investment process is established within the VHV Group and followed permanently and consistently across the various company divisions and committees. This institutionalised investment process is applied in developing an assessment of the relevant capital markets and investment topics for the mandates held and preparing and making decisions in connection with the mandates issued. The Investment Committee (IC) has been established in order to manage and control the adopted strategic investment focus for the VHV Group's clients and third-party institutional customers. The relevant market developments and their impact are discussed on the basis of a prepared assessment of the capital markets and the compiled mandate-related information, and specific controlling measures are agreed as required.

The IC reports on ESG key indicators, presents the results of screening for exclusion criteria and controversies and provides information on limit utilisation.

Credit assessments are reviewed and approved by the Credit Committee (CC). The CC also checks the methods used in determining the ESG scores for plausibility and approves them.

## III. Exclusion criteria

For the asset classes of bonds (corporate bonds, bank bonds incl. Pfandbrief debentures) and listed equities, appropriate exclusion criteria are determined on the basis of the environment, social aspects and responsible corporate governance. The ESG exclusion criteria are applied to direct holdings and special securities funds. In the case of illiquid assets, they are applied when new investments are underwritten. The exclusion criteria can be directly linked to the issuer's business activities or controversial corporate behaviour, resulting in exclusion from the investment universe if the activities meet the respective criteria. Specifically, the following exclusion criteria have been defined for issuers:

- Controversial weapons (land mines, cluster bombs, biological and chemical weapons, weapons containing depleted uranium, laser weapons that can be used to blind people, fire bombs, and nuclear weapons not covered by the Non-Proliferation Treaty)
- Coal-fired power generation (sales tolerances apply)
- Fracking/tar sands (sales tolerances apply)

Issuers covered by the above exclusion criteria are blocked from new investments. Existing holdings that are affected are sold within a defined period.

Severe violations of the United Nations Global Compact are considered to be exclusion criteria for new investments. As a matter of principle, existing holdings that are affected are sold within a defined period.

The United Nations Global Compact is a voluntary pact between companies, organisations and the UN under which the participating companies and organisations undertake to demonstrate a commitment to human rights, fair working conditions, environmental protection and anti-corruption measures. It sets out ten principles which companies can pledge to uphold. These are established and continuously refined through initiatives, projects, guidelines and training.

## IV. ESG integration

The VHV Group also implements ESG scores in its investment decision and risk management process in order to identify, analyse and evaluate sustainability risks. The ESG scores are supplied by a recognised external sustainability data provider.

### – Listed asset classes

ESG scores are available for the listed asset classes of bonds, equities and public issuers.

As part of the new investment decision process, the three pillars of sustainability (E/S/G) are analysed for each issuer and limited by means of a positive selection.

With regard to the climate-related ESG components, decarbonisation developments and the associated risks in transitional form are taken into account separately.

### – Unlisted asset classes

In order to achieve comprehensive ESG integration, qualitative ESG evaluations are conducted for new investments in the asset classes of private equity, infrastructure equity, credit investments, real estate and mortgages. The qualitative ESG evaluation is performed in categories and with a view to ensuring comparability with the ESG evaluation for liquid asset classes. A corresponding evaluation of the existing portfolio will not be conducted for the time being due to the lack of available data.

The integration of sustainability risks into risk management is supported by the ESG instruments described above. Risk is limited using negative criteria such as exclusion as well as limits based on ESG scores. All the available qualitative and quantitative ESG data is also used in risk management for analytical purposes.

In addition to traditional scenario analyses, the VHV Group examines climate-related scenarios in order to model physical and transitional risks.

It does this by calculating the climate value-at-risk (CVaR). This encompasses climate scenarios with different temperature paths and an analysis of the physical risks in the form of natural hazards and their impact on production facilities and buildings. The results of the CVaR calculation include the forecast loss in the market value of the portfolios as a result of climate development. These calculations are performed at least once a year.

## C. GOVERNANCE

The Rules of Conduct of the VHV Group serves in particular to protect human rights and employee interests and to combat corruption. The Rules of Conduct includes material rules and principles and sets the framework for the correct and responsible conduct of the employees within the VHV Group among one another, with business partners and with the public. In this way, it reflects the values that are binding for the VHV Group.

### I. Data protection and information security

Ensuring data protection and information security constitutes an important factor for the VHV Group. Affiliates of the VHV Group process a large amount of data on a daily basis, in particular from policy holders,

wronged parties, intermediaries, other business partners and employees. Carefully and safely handling data is therefore essential for trusting, long-term cooperation and customer relationships.

The VHV Group's objective is to avoid data breaches and to establish an appropriate level of data protection and information security in the VHV Group. For this purpose, the VHV Group operates a data protection system and an information security management system. Both systems help identify, assess and appropriately manage risks at an early stage as part of control processes. This results in a continuous improvement process.

Due to the particular importance that the VHV Group attaches to data protection and information security, there is a company-wide Group Data Protection and Information Security department that promotes compliance with internal and external data protection and information security requirements in the VHV Group. Audits are conducted and regular reporting is established. The department is included in the contracting process for new service providers and in projects.

In a separate chapter, the Rules of Conduct set out how employees deal with personal data; further data protection rules are specified in the Group's policy on Data Protection. All employees are required to comply with data protection provisions and, in particular, to actively contribute to the reliable protection of information from improper and inappropriate use and from abuse, loss, disclosure, destruction and manipulation.

Affiliates of the VHV Group have also acceded to a voluntary commitment to handle personal data in the insurance industry (Code of Conduct). In addition to compliance with general and sector-specific data protection provisions, affiliated insurance companies within the VHV Group have made a commitment to the data protection Supervisory Authorities to especially comply with the principles of transparency, the need for processed data, data avoidance and data economy.

To ensure responsible and lawful use of the data, mandatory training is provided on privacy and information security.

In the area of information security, awareness measures are continuously performed in order to improve employees' understanding of the risks of cyber attacks and ensure that they know how to act correctly

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when security incidents occur. The information security management system has also been defined more precisely and expanded. Identified information security risks are reduced or eliminated by implementing corresponding measures or improving existing control mechanisms.

## **II. Anti-financial crime-fraud (anti-fraud management/ prevention of money laundering, financial sanctions/ embargoes)**

The VHV Group has implemented comprehensive measures for combating corruption. Fundamental legal issues, such as preventing corruption, accepting and granting benefits and invitations to interact with customers and business partners, and avoiding conflicts of interest, are included in the Rules of Conduct. The Rules of Conduct are explained in a catalogue of questions and answers.

Anti-fraud management, prevention of money laundering and compliance with sanction and embargo conditions are key issues within the VHV Group's compliance management system.

The Group's anti-fraud management system policy describes the duties and responsibilities of the Anti-Fraud Manager, who is responsible in particular for preventing and detecting fraud, bribery, corruption and related offences. However, pursuing specific suspected cases is the responsibility of Internal Audit.

To detect signs of possible violations at an early stage, the Anti-Fraud Manager conducts supervisory measures both on a specific and an ad-hoc basis.

A whistle-blower system is also in place. This allows employees of the VHV Group to submit notifications for potential or actual violations of legal requirements while maintaining the confidentiality of their identity.

With regard to the prevention of money laundering, in addition to the regulations in the Rules of Conduct, the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing is specified in the Group's policy on anti-money laundering and terrorist financing. It implements the provision of preventing money laundering and terrorist financing in the companies concerned.

All employees are required to prevent the companies within the VHV Group from being misused for money laundering or for other illegal purposes (in particular terrorist financing).

Existing trade and financial sanctions are to be taken into account. In order to avoid payments to persons who are on EU and US sanction lists, a Group guideline was resolved in the 2021 financial year that will supersede the individual work instructions and regulations on financial sanctions/embargoes. This guideline is currently being implemented together with the relevant specialised departments. Furthermore, the status of policy holders and payment recipients is checked daily against EU and US sanction lists.

Where there are grounds for suspicion of illegal acts and doubts concerning the application and range of legal provisions, the Money Laundering Officer or the head of the anti-money laundering and financial crime unit should be consulted.

The risk analysis in the area of anti-fraud management was developed further in the 2021 financial year. Additionally, a process for reviewing the reliability of new employees was established midway through the year. In the second half of the financial year, more than 3,200 employees were invited to take part in refresher training on fraud prevention. This training was provided online.

In the 2021 financial year, mandatory compulsory training on money laundering was held online at VHV Holding, HL, VHV Allgemeine, VVH and WAVE.

## **III. Fair marketing**

Insurance distribution is the link between insurance companies and customers. In addition to a high product standard, an important requirement for customer satisfaction is that advice and insurance distribution are of high quality. Compliance with these standards is required for a sustainable customer relationship.

For this reason, VHV Allgemeine acceded to the GDV Code of Conduct on 3 February 2016. The GDV Code of Conduct is a voluntary commitment of the insurance industry which is aimed at ensuring a high quality of customer advice.

The GDV Code of Conduct transparently sets the standards of conduct for the distribution of insurance products and sets a framework of standards and values for insurance companies to fulfil their customers' interests. It applies for all forms of insurance sales.

The key goals of the GDV Code of Conduct are:

- Transparent products
- High-quality customer advice
- Further training on a regular basis
- Observance of compliance rules

To implement the Code of Conduct in VHV Allgemeine, a separate description of the compliance management system for complying with the GDV Code of Conduct was produced.

In 2017, VHV Allgemeine obtained its first certification by an independent auditor that the requirements required for the GDV Code of Conduct had been appropriately. A successful follow-up audit by external auditors took place as at 30 August 2020. On 11 November 2020, the auditors most recently certified that the principles and measures for ensuring compliance with the GDV Code of Conduct at VHV Allgemeine were appropriate and had been implemented as at the audit date.

Following the implementation of the IDD in the 2018 financial year, ensuring continuous compliance with the requirements of the IDD remains a key focal point at VHV Allgemeine and HL. The IDD is supported by delegated acts of the European Commission, such as the regulations on product oversight and governance requirements and special requirements for insurance-based investment products; guidelines, technical advice and interpretations of the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA) on the implementation of the IDD; and corresponding national acts.

In particular, the IDD focuses on regulations on:

- Customer advice
- Requirements for the qualification and further training of staff involved in distribution on a regular basis
- Product approval process and transparency of insurance products
- Avoiding conflicts of interest and remuneration of insurance distributors

From 2 August 2022, insurance-based investment products will be subject to additional requirements concerning the recognition of sustainability factors, risks and preferences.

#### **IV. Risk management**

Assuming and managing risk is at the heart of the VHV Group's business model. Accordingly, risk management is an integral component of the corporate controlling and governance system with a view to active risk management (see page 35). The VHV Group's risk management department continues to play a central role in sustainability management at the VHV Group.

The VHV Group will continue to press ahead with the integration of sustainability risks into its operational risk management processes with a focus on the qualitative and quantitative impact on the VHV Group. To this end, material risks and opportunities are identified in the short, medium and long term and the financial consequences are quantified and evaluated using scenario analyses. This is aimed at ensuring a longer-term, holistic approach to the assessment of risks and opportunities.

#### **D. WORK AND EMPLOYEES**

The consideration of interests and social concerns of employees are of central importance to the VHV Group. There is a fair balance between corporate interests and social responsibility which corresponds to the common basic understanding of the management, the employee representatives and the employees.

##### **I. Health and safety**

The German locations of the VHV Group are overseen by safety specialists and company doctors in accordance with statutory provisions. Physical and psychological risk assessments are conducted on a regular basis.

Safety is coordinated by the Facility Management department. The VHV Group's OHM system is managed centrally by a health manager from the human resources department. Employee interests are represented in a shared steering committee comprising various multidisciplinary areas, the company doctor, the representative body for severely disabled employees and the works council. Occupational medical care is provided by the company doctor and company nurses and includes services such as vaccinations and eye tests.

Because health is essential to performance and creativity, the VHV Group offers its employees a wide range of measures aimed at

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promoting good health. In addition to sports in the workplace, the VHV Group primarily focuses on prevention, e.g. in the form of a company fitness scheme with qualified fitness instructors. The objective is to prevent health risks in the workplace and to support employees in maintaining their own health. Due to the pandemic, the courses are also being held online. The services encompass health-related measures and consultation (e.g. for dependence problems). They include back training, massages and nutrition programmes. There is also a company-wide bicycle leasing programme to promote physical activity on the part of employees. Company catering at the VHV Group also supports healthy nutrition with vegetarian meals and organic side dishes.

All executives of the VHV Group are trained in the subject of health management so that they can actively support the health of employees through their management.

As maintaining health and performance has a major influence on the economic success of the VHV Group, the sickness absence rate is determined on a regular basis. At 3.2% in 2021, this was down on the previous year and thus well below the market average (approximately 6.4%, source: AGV, turnover and absence survey as at 2021).

Occupational integration management at the VHV Group (VHV BEM) helps employees to remain in employment in the long term, thus securing their expertise for the Group. With its focus on prevention, rehabilitation and/or integration, the VHV BEM is closely interconnected with operational health promotion.

The COVID-19 pandemic also continued to pose considerable challenges for the VHV Group in the 2021 financial year. To successfully overcome these challenges, the VHV Group continued a special working group reporting directly to the Board of Directors with responsibility for monitoring the development of the pandemic and developing and coordinating measures. The members of the working group included employees from risk management, the human resources department, information technology, corporate communication and facility management as well as representatives of the employee bodies. It was ensured that the majority of employees can also work remotely as a means of protecting their health. Other effective measures (including a hygiene

concept, distancing rules, mandatory face coverings and the provision thereof, and testing) were also implemented at short notice as the pandemic progressed. From summer 2021 onwards, the VHV Group also offered vaccines to its employees. As the year continued, this programme was extended to include employees' family members. Booster doses were also offered from December 2021 onwards.

## II. Training and continuing education

In the VHV Group, the human resources department is primarily responsible for and centrally manages training and continuing education. However, as these issues affect all employees, training and continuing education is also the responsibility of all managers.

The VHV Group has established academies for the development and maintenance of specialist competence, in which the specialised topics are planned and offered depending on the operations. These academies are coordinated by operations and human resources. Higher-level training is organised centrally by human resources. This includes executive development and the identification and promotion of employees with high potential. In 2021, employees completed an average of 2.9 days of further training.

Each employee always undergoes the personnel development process each year, in which, together with management, the achievement of the further training goals for the past year is discussed and the goals for the coming year are defined. In this process, employee potential is also identified. In addition to the further training that is offered in-house, the VHV Group provides financial support for the private training and continuing education of its employees.

Education is managed centrally by human resources. Every year, the VHV Group employs young people to train them as part of vocational training or a dual study programme and to allow them to make a start in their professional lives.

## III. Employee satisfaction

Recruitment and employee loyalty are coordinated by human resources within the VHV Group. Executives are supported by the human resources department, as the satisfaction of their own employees is an important issue for management.

All employees undertake to uphold the values of the VHV Group, which the VHV Group developed together with its staff and integrated into its corporate culture as long ago as 2009. The five values are a central component of corporate culture and mission statement at the VHV Group:

- Ambition
- Honesty
- Courage
- Humanity/fairness
- Respect

Employees are required to apply the principles of conduct of the VHV Group derived from this to their work. The management principles also derived from the company values are the binding guideline for all executives of the VHV Group. The implementation of these values is examined and ensured in the form of employee surveys that are conducted every two years.

To remain an attractive employer in the future, the VHV Group faces the challenges of the employment market. For example, current topics include digitalisation, demographic change and the recruitment of specialist staff. Recruitment and employee loyalty are therefore key issues for the VHV Group. Due to the challenges mentioned above, it is important to retain competent employees within the VHV Group in the long term.

Employee satisfaction therefore constitutes an important factor. For this reason, an employee survey takes place every two years in which factors including the implementation of corporate values, the quality of internal cooperation and interfaces and management work are queried. Specific measures are derived between executives and employees based on the results of the employee survey and are implemented and monitored by human resources.

The VHV Group's profit sharing model contributes to employee satisfaction. Consequently, employees of the VHV Group receive a share of the profits in addition to their salary. This can amount to 100 % of their basic monthly salary if the targets are met and up to 2.5 times their basic monthly salary if the targets are exceeded. The amount of the share of the profits depends on two factors: Firstly, the fulfilment of the VHV Group's objectives and secondly, the assessment of the individual performance of the employees.

Overall, the average length of company service was 15 years as at 31 December 2021. Turnover due to staff resignations is 2.9 %. As part of risk management, the staff resignation rate is reviewed on a quarterly basis and measures are taken if necessary.

Another important element of employee satisfaction for parents is childcare in the workplace. More than 40 years ago – in 1975 – VHV established a company day care facility in Hanover in order to help its employees to achieve a healthy work-life balance. In addition to 25 day care places for children, it now offers 12 nursery places for children aged three or younger. In this way, the VHV Group demonstrates its clear commitment to a family-friendly culture and to Hanover as a location.

#### **IV. Diversity/equal opportunity**

Equal opportunity and the resulting diversity in the organisational structure and the internal career opportunities ensure that the VHV Group employs highly motivated employees who use the skills and knowledge gained from their various training and experiences in the interest of the company's success.

Ensuring equal opportunity is a distinct management issue across all levels. Compliance with the requirements of the General Act on Equal Treatment is a matter of course for the VHV Group.

Promoting gender equality is a matter of importance for the VHV Group. The managers at the different levels of management strive to increase the proportion of female employees. One relevant factor in this respect is the programme for assistants to the Board of Directors, which is an important channel for recruiting the managers of the future. The proportion of female assistants to the Board of Directors is currently 57.1 %.

The VHV Group applies the salary agreement for the private insurance industry, which regulates gender-neutral remuneration. In addition, the VHV Group uses an internal job market where employees can develop or reorient themselves professionally. Recruitment will be based on individual qualification and job profile. To guarantee career opportunities for all employees, the VHV Group offers different working-time models. In addition to a flexitime system, there is the option of teleworking, working from home or working on a part-time basis. To ensure imple-

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mentation, there are corresponding company agreements. Irrespective of the statutory provisions on combating the COVID-19 pandemic, extensive options for remote and distance working were introduced in 2021. Around 80 % of employees have signed a contractual agreement on remote working that allows them to take advantage of this option on a permanent basis.

## E. CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Since 2015, the VHV Group has participated in energy and environmental programmes and initiatives as a member of regional and local networks as part of its continuous efforts to achieve its sustainability objectives. The goals formulated as part of these programmes demand and encourage a willingness to make continuous improvements when it comes to sustainably protecting the environment and conserving resources.

The basis for the energy-efficient provision of typical office workstations and their support is formed by a building stock for which resource efficiency was already taken into account at the planning and construction stage, including going above and beyond the statutory requirements. With regard to the construction of the new administrative building at the Group's head office in Hanover (which began in 2007), the use of a geothermal field in combination with a heat pump meant that around 25 % of the energy required for heating and cooling was generated renewably. Constructed in 2011, VHV's day care centre was built according to German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB) guidelines and became the first day care centre in Germany to receive the highest level of DGNB certification, Gold. As well as having low heating energy requirements, a rooftop photovoltaic system feeds renewable electricity into the public grid. Minimal soil sealing, a green roof and near-natural rainwater retention all help to improve the micro-climate.

In 2021, the VHV Group systematically took the next step towards sustainability by starting work on the initialisation of an environmental management system.

Since 2016, the VHV Group has purchased electricity from renewable energy sources from regional suppliers for its two administrative buildings in Hanover and its administrative locations in Berlin and Munich.

Under the new supply contract, the other locations in Germany are being gradually integrated into the supply of green electricity.

Processes and technical systems are also permanently optimised as part of a continuous improvement process. For example, power consumption for the energy-intensive air conditioning of the data centre has been reduced significantly by using roof-mounted "free cooling" to harness the outdoor temperatures, particularly in the transitional periods between summer and winter.

## F. SOCIAL COMMITMENT

The VHV Group supports social, cultural and scientific projects, particularly at its Hanover location. In 2014, it founded a dedicated foundation to create an independent basis for this commitment for the long term. The foundation is responsible for the social commitment that the VHV Group has always demonstrated as a matter of principle.

The VHV Foundation embodies the Group's continued support for social and cultural initiatives in the region. It primarily focuses on projects and measures in the areas of education, integration, culture and science with the aim of making a positive contribution to the proper functioning of society.

For example, the VHV Foundation has supported the "VHV Sport Campus", a sports and care project for children developed in conjunction with the Brüder-Grimm-Schule elementary school in Hanover, since 2016. In the area of biomedical research, the VHV Foundation has supported projects of the Hanover Medical School (MHH) since 2017. These are research projects of the German Society for Implant Research and Development (DGIFE). Financial assistance has been provided to the "Manufacturing an immunosuppressive allogeneic skin substitute" project of the Hanover Medical School (MHH) since 2018. The long-term goal of the project is to create a lasting skin substitute with a high degree of biological functionality.

The VHV Foundation supported projects involving virtual formats to help alleviate the hugely serious consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for arts and cultural institutions and their employees.



## G. TAXONOMY-RELATED INFORMATION

### Background to the EU taxonomy

The EU taxonomy is a measure set out in the Sustainable Finance Action Plan (SFAP) and codified in Regulation 2020/852 (Taxonomy Regulation). The aim of the SFAP is to channel capital flows towards environmentally sustainable economic activities. With the EU taxonomy as a standardised and mandatory classification system, the conditions have been established for a common understanding of what constitutes an “environmentally sustainable economic activity”. Enterprises are required to publish the results of this classification annually in their non-financial reporting.

Article 9 of the Taxonomy Regulation lists the following six environmental objectives:

1. Climate change mitigation
2. Climate change adaptation
3. The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources
4. The transition to a circular economy
5. Pollution prevention and control
6. The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems

The EU publishes a catalogue of sustainable activities pursuant to the EU taxonomy for each of these environmental objectives. In the 2021 reporting year, two environmental objectives (climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation) are relevant for reporting. The Climate Delegated Act (Climate DA) has so far only been published for these first two objectives. Additional Climate DAs are currently being planned for the other four environmental objectives, which will be relevant from the 2022 reporting year onwards. When it comes to classifying an economic activity as “environmentally sustainable” for the purposes of the EU taxonomy, a distinction is made between taxonomy eligibility and taxonomy compliance. Taxonomy eligibility describes the fundamental ability of an economic activity to be taxonomy-compliant.

In the first step, it is examined whether an economic activity is described in the Climate DA, as only these activities can be taxonomy-eligible. Economic activities may be classified as “environmentally

sustainable” or taxonomy-compliant if they meet certain criteria. Accordingly, the second step is to examine whether the technical screening criteria set out in the Climate DA are met.

Article 10 (3) of the Delegated Regulation on Article 8 of the Taxonomy Regulation states that, for the 2021 reporting year, entities are only required to disclose the proportion in their total assets of exposures to taxonomy-eligible and taxonomy non-eligible economic activities. Entities are also required to disclose the proportion of their exposures to central governments, central banks, supranational issuers and undertakings that are not subject to an obligation to publish non-financial information as well as their exposures to derivatives.

### Taxonomy key data of the VHV Group

The requirements of the Taxonomy Regulation are implemented as part of a Group-wide project that also includes an analysis of product design. For the VHV Group, investments and insurance business are relevant for the implementation of the Taxonomy Regulation.

### Taxonomy-eligible investments

#### DISCLOSURES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 10 OF THE TAXONOMY REGULATION\*

	Proportion in total assets	Absolute amounts in EUR million
Taxonomy-eligible exposures	11.9%	2,232.6
Taxonomy non-eligible exposures	1.2%	224.2
Exposures to central governments, central banks and supranational issuers	12.0%	2,254.0
Derivatives	0.0%	8.4
Undertakings that are not subject to an obligation to publish non-financial information	16.5%	3,091.9

\*1 Regulation (EU) 2019/2088

The investments included in the investment figures encompass all direct and indirect investments, including investments in undertakings for collective investment, participating interests, loans and mortgages. The tangible fixed assets and intangible assets of the VHV Group are also included. The investment figures were calculated as a proportion

# CONSOLIDATED MANAGEMENT REPORT

of total assets, which amounted to EUR 18,729.3 million in the reporting year. The VHV Group's investments are diversified across various economic activities. The economic activities described in the Climate DA are binding when it comes to distinguishing taxonomy-eligible economic activities from taxonomy non-eligible economic activities.

The disclosures on taxonomy-eligible exposures and taxonomy non-eligible exposures for the 2021 reporting year include real estate and mortgage loans in particular, as information on the taxonomy eligibility of the underlying economic activities is only available for an extremely small proportion of the VHV Group's investments. Investments for which no information was available and other assets were not classified as either taxonomy-eligible or taxonomy non-eligible.

As a matter of principle, investments are recognised at their respective carrying amounts.

The calculation of the proportion in total assets of exposures to undertakings that are not subject to an obligation to publish a non-financial statement under EU law was primarily based on data from external data providers. This data is limited to the country in which the undertaking is domiciled, the number of employees, the sales and the total assets of the issuer. Based on this information, an analysis was undertaken to establish which undertakings are subject to an obligation to publish a non-financial statement in accordance with the criteria of EU law. Undertakings domiciled outside the European Union are not subject to an obligation to publish a non-financial statement and are classified accordingly. There was no available information for a not insubstantial proportion of issuers. Accordingly, these issuers were not included in the figures.

The proportion in total assets of exposures to central governments, central banks and supranational issuers was determined in the same way as the classification in the solvency balance sheet with the exception of instruments with government or state guarantees.

## Taxonomy-eligible insurance business:

### DISCLOSURES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 8 OF THE TAXONOMY REGULATION\*

	Proportion of gross premiums written in non-life insurance	Gross premiums written in non-life insurance in EUR million
Taxonomy-eligible	35.3%	908.0
Taxonomy non-eligible	64.7%	1,666.7

\* Regulation (EU) 2019/2088

The calculation of the proportion of gross premiums written in non-life insurance included the gross premiums written of the companies VHV Allgemeine, VAV and VHV a.G. The gross premiums of VHV Re are classified as taxonomy non-eligible for reasons of materiality. As this is a Group view, intragroup transactions were consolidated.

In accordance with Annex II of the Climate DA, section 10.1 f., the taxonomy-eligible proportion comprises the gross premiums of the other motor vehicle insurance, marine, air travel and transportation, and fire and other property insurance business segments. To identify the taxonomy-eligible business segments, the insurance conditions relating to the coverage of climate-related risks were examined. By contrast, the taxonomy non-eligible proportion primarily comprises the gross premiums of the occupational disability insurance, motor vehicle liability insurance, assistance cover, general liability insurance, loan and surety insurance and legal expenses insurance business segments, as well as various financial losses due to the lack of a direct connection with climate risks.

**VHV VEREINIGTE HANNOVERSICHE  
VERSICHERUNG a. G.**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021  
CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE  
PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2021  
CASH FLOW STATEMENT  
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021**  
**VHV VEREINIGTE HANNOVERSCHE VERSICHERUNG a.G.**

Assets	EUR	EUR	EUR	31. 12. 2021 EUR	31. 12. 2020 EUR
<b>A. Intangible assets</b>					
<b>I. Purchased concessions, industrial and similar rights and assets and licenses in such rights and assets</b>			123,147,035		62,447,392
<b>II. Goodwill</b>			84,140,034		0
<b>III. Advance payments</b>			1,329,740		552,778
				208,616,809	63,000,170
<b>B. Investments</b>					
<b>I. Real properties, rights equivalent to real property and buildings, including buildings on third-party real properties</b>			105,823,670		110,615,397
<b>II. Investments in affiliated and associated companies</b>					
<b>1. Shares in affiliated companies</b>		94,146,513			94,667,391
<b>2. Loans to affiliated companies</b>		9,481,109			49,040,158
<b>3. Participating interests in associated companies</b>		43,014,353			36,848,010
<b>4. Other participating interests</b>		67,171,652			73,053,086
<b>5. Loans to associated companies</b>		30,000			0
			213,843,628		253,608,645
<b>III. Other investments</b>					
<b>1. Equities, shares or equities in investment assets and other non-fixed interest securities</b>		5,023,984,355			4,495,908,042
<b>2. Bearer bonds and other securities with fixed interest rates</b>		5,835,297,562			5,907,325,680
<b>3. Mortgages, land charges and annuity charges</b>		1,030,662,931			1,072,600,756
<b>4. Other loans</b>					
a) Registered debentures	2,499,992,049				2,663,117,538
b) Promissory notes and loans	761,951,465				935,003,152
c) Loans and advance payments on insurance policies	10,082,589				12,358,005
d) Miscellaneous loans	8,194,499				8,194,499
		3,280,220,603			3,618,673,194
<b>5. Bank deposits</b>		12,203,974			57,288,372
<b>6. Miscellaneous investments</b>		1,874,958,362			1,512,331,873
			17,057,327,787		16,664,127,916
				17,376,995,085	17,028,351,958
<b>C. Investments for the account and risk of holders of life insurance policies</b>				179,812,689	140,396,579
<b>D. Receivables</b>					
<b>I. Accounts receivable from own insurance transactions with:</b>					
<b>1. Insurance policy holders</b>		64,346,478			53,925,479
<b>2. Insurance agents</b>		4,920,436			5,191,362
			69,266,914		59,116,841
<b>II. Settlement receivables from reinsurance business</b>			71,705,729		45,261,300
thereof from associated companies: EUR 7,993,861 (previous year: EUR 7,089,013)					
<b>III. Other receivables</b>			44,913,703		37,464,959
thereof from affiliated companies: EUR 629,461 (previous year: EUR 380,206)				185,886,346	141,843,100
thereof from associated companies: EUR 516,583 (previous year: EUR 560,990)					
<b>E. Other assets</b>					
<b>I. Tangible fixed assets and inventories</b>			15,631,219		15,341,465
<b>II. Bank balances, cheques and cash on hand</b>			188,878,369		216,616,826
<b>III. Miscellaneous assets</b>			42,922,733		43,946,497
				247,432,322	275,904,787
<b>F. Prepaid expenses</b>					
<b>I. Accrued interest and rent</b>			110,997,206		117,936,710
<b>II. Other prepaid expenses</b>			37,172,998		32,715,823
				148,170,203	150,652,534
<b>G. Deferred tax assets</b>				379,034,062	363,853,514
<b>H. Excess of plan assets over post-employment benefit liability</b>				3,382,292	5,403,071
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>				<b>18,729,329,808</b>	<b>18,169,405,714</b>

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021**  
**VHV VEREINIGTE HANNOVERSCHE VERSICHERUNG a.G.**

Liabilities and shareholders' equity	EUR	EUR	31.12.2021 EUR	31.12.2020 EUR
<b>A. Equity</b>				
<b>I. Retained earnings</b>				
1. Loss reserve in accordance with section 193 of the Insurance Supervision Act (VAG)	70,094,731			70,094,731
2. Other retained earnings	2,239,076,810			1,947,948,051
		2,309,171,541		2,018,042,782
<b>II. Difference in equity from currency translation</b>		-6,943,678		-1,705,127
<b>III. Non-controlling interests</b>		14,457,067		0
			2,316,684,930	2,016,337,655
<b>B. Difference from capital consolidation</b>			0	46,669
<b>C. Technical reserves</b>				
<b>I. Unearned premiums</b>				
1. Gross	303,137,054			293,711,267
2. Less: Reinsurance ceded	11,116,325			12,038,431
		292,020,729		281,672,835
<b>II. Actuarial reserve</b>				
1. Gross	9,106,392,918			9,178,269,310
2. Less: Reinsurance ceded	4,727,782			3,183,134
		9,101,665,135		9,175,086,175
<b>III. Reserve for insurance claims not yet processed</b>				
1. Gross	3,892,077,399			3,696,917,119
2. Less: Reinsurance ceded	295,727,112			248,128,312
		3,596,350,287		3,448,788,807
<b>IV. Reserve for performance-related and non-performance-related premium refunds – gross</b>		689,506,512		726,280,381
<b>V. Equalisation reserve and similar reserves</b>		1,040,640,405		989,113,870
<b>VI. Other technical reserves</b>				
1. Gross	190,560,568			169,460,896
2. Less: Reinsurance ceded	1,024,865			720,550
		189,535,704		168,740,346
			14,909,718,771	14,789,682,415
<b>D. Technical reserves for life insurance policies, to the extent that the investment risk is borne by the policy holder</b>				
<b>I. Actuarial reserve – gross</b>			179,812,689	140,396,579
<b>E. Other reserves</b>				
<b>I. Reserves for pensions and similar liabilities</b>		151,313,993		134,783,386
<b>II. Tax reserves</b>		61,900,849		34,769,339
<b>III. Other reserves</b>		173,156,121		128,870,480
			386,370,963	298,423,205
<b>F. Funds held under reinsurance transactions ceded</b>			14,072,491	10,097,074
<b>G. Other liabilities</b>				
<b>I. Accounts payable from own insurance transactions with:</b>				
1. Insurance policy holders	632,923,781			670,771,090
2. Insurance agents	11,552,568			9,404,609
		644,476,349		680,175,699
<b>II. Accounts receivable from reinsurance transactions</b>		11,637,907		16,869,232
thereof due to associated companies: EUR 1,091,669 (previous year: EUR 1,781)				
<b>III. Liabilities to banks</b>		16,458,127		12,699,674
<b>IV. Miscellaneous liabilities</b>		244,365,369		199,690,184
thereof due to affiliated companies: EUR 246,872 (previous year: EUR 70,076,972)			916,937,751	909,434,789
thereof due to associated companies: EUR 713,503 (previous year: EUR 613,216)				
thereof from taxes of: EUR 27,592,259 (previous year: EUR 27,475,545)				
thereof for social security: EUR 365,157 (previous year: EUR 318,508)				
<b>H. Prepaid expenses</b>			5,732,212	4,987,328
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>			<b>18,729,329,808</b>	<b>18,169,405,714</b>

**CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2021**  
**VHV VEREINIGTE HANNOVERSCHER VERSICHERUNG a.G.**

Item	EUR	EUR	2021 EUR	2020 EUR
<b>I. TECHNICAL ACCOUNT FOR PROPERTY-CASUALTY INSURANCE TRANSACTIONS</b>				
<b>1. Net premiums earned for own account</b>				
a) Gross premiums written	2,574,652,710			2,484,692,880
b) Reinsurance premiums ceded	-123,622,197			-133,371,369
		2,451,030,513		2,351,321,511
c) Change in gross unearned premiums	-18,001,294			-9,307,753
d) Change in the share of the reinsurer in gross unearned premiums	-754,395			249,149
		-18,755,690		-9,058,603
			2,432,274,824	2,342,262,907
<b>2. Technical interest income for own account</b>				
			252,992	10,000,020
<b>3. Other technical earnings for own account</b>				
			3,451,497	3,306,070
<b>4. Expenses for insurance claims for own account</b>				
a) Payments for insurance claims				
aa) Gross	-1,556,642,155			-1,556,187,320
bb) Share for reinsurers	101,645,010			107,217,952
		-1,454,997,145		-1,448,969,369
b) Change in reserve for insurance claims not yet processed				
aa) Gross	-186,825,660			-43,295,678
bb) Share for reinsurers	50,954,956			-50,550,164
		-135,870,704		-93,845,841
			-1,590,867,849	-1,542,815,210
<b>5. Change in other net technical reserves</b>				
			-7,282,754	-2,788,454
<b>6. Expenses for performance-related and non-performance-related premium refund for own account</b>				
			-7,929,253	-6,327,035
<b>7. Expenses for insurance operations for own account</b>				
a) Gross expenses for underwriting		-561,722,534		-543,249,878
b) Less: commissions and shares of profit received from insurance transactions ceded for reinsurance		26,315,849		29,185,326
			-535,406,685	-514,064,552
<b>8. Other technical expenses for own account</b>				
			-4,023,934	-3,947,918
<b>9. Subtotal</b>				
			<b>290,468,838</b>	<b>285,625,828</b>
<b>10. Change in equalisation reserve and similar reserves</b>				
			-51,642,333	-111,023,041
<b>11. Technical result for own account in Property-Casualty insurance transactions</b>				
			<b>238,826,505</b>	<b>174,602,787</b>

**CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2021**  
**VHV VEREINIGTE HANNOVERSCHE VERSICHERUNG a.G.**

Item	EUR	EUR	2021 EUR	2020 EUR
<b>II. TECHNICAL ACCOUNT FOR LIFE INSURANCE TRANSACTIONS</b>				
<b>1. Net premiums earned for own account</b>				
a) Gross premiums written	1,052,668,614			1,027,578,977
b) Reinsurance premiums ceded	<u>-7,321,217</u>			<u>-7,235,754</u>
		1,045,347,397		1,020,343,223
c) Change in gross unearned premiums		<u>6,724,275</u>		<u>6,172,200</u>
			1,052,071,672	1,026,515,423
<b>2. Premiums from the gross reserve for premium redemption</b>				
			5,514,636	4,650,611
<b>3. Income from investments</b>				
a) Income from participating interests		1,773,031		640,576
thereof from affiliated companies: EUR 1,773,031 (previous year: EUR 0)				
b) Income from miscellaneous investments				
aa) Income from real properties, rights equivalent to real property and buildings, including buildings on third-party real properties	7,253,154			8,148,995
bb) Income from miscellaneous investments	<u>327,797,464</u>			<u>320,997,580</u>
		335,050,618		329,146,575
c) Income from appreciation		6,296,630		816,363
d) Gains from the divestiture of investments		<u>25,005,650</u>		<u>83,436,888</u>
			368,125,929	414,040,401
<b>4. Unrealised gains on investments</b>				
			22,665,209	8,110,148
<b>5. Other technical earnings for own account</b>				
			2,947,081	1,034,853
<b>6. Expenses for insurance claims for own account</b>				
a) Payments for insurance claims				
aa) Gross	-954,666,436			-879,575,403
bb) Share for reinsurers	<u>3,221,641</u>			<u>962,442</u>
		-951,444,795		-878,612,961
b) Change in reserve for insurance claims not yet processed				
aa) Gross	-18,472,847			-3,906,639
bb) Share for reinsurers	<u>-460,187</u>			<u>643,307</u>
		-18,933,034		-3,263,332
			-970,377,829	-881,876,294
<b>7. Change in other net technical reserves</b>				
a) Actuarial reserve				
aa) Gross		32,460,282		-54,604,929
bb) Share for reinsurers		<u>1,544,648</u>		<u>287,406</u>
			34,004,930	-54,317,523
<b>8. Expenses for performance-related premium refunds for own account</b>				
			-126,564,082	-171,006,811
<b>9. Expenses for insurance operations for own account</b>				
a) Transaction expenses	-65,498,223			-59,778,451
b) Management expenses	<u>-10,870,735</u>			<u>-11,278,569</u>
		-76,368,958		-71,057,020
c) Less: commissions and shares of profit received from insurance transactions ceded for reinsurance		<u>3,025,815</u>		<u>4,313,858</u>
			-73,343,144	-66,743,161
<b>10. Expenses for investments</b>				
a) Expenses for management of investments, interest expense and other expenses for investments		-15,072,496		-14,225,021
b) Depreciation on investments		-8,806,179		-14,103,782
c) Losses from the divestiture of investments		<u>-1,020,825</u>		<u>-1,133,485</u>
			-24,899,500	-29,462,287
<b>11. Unrealised losses on investments</b>				
			-697,897	-1,380,011
<b>12. Other technical expenses for own account</b>				
			-212,379,766	-194,039,947
<b>13. Technical result for own account in life insurance transactions</b>				
			77,067,239	55,525,403

**CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2021**  
**VHV VEREINIGTE HANNOVERSCHER VERSICHERUNG a.G.**

Item	EUR	EUR	EUR	2021 EUR	2020 EUR
<b>III. NON-TECHNICAL ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>1. Technical result for own account</b>					
a) in property-casualty insurance transactions			238,826,505		174,602,787
b) in life insurance transactions			77,067,239		55,525,403
				315,893,744	230,128,190
<b>2. Income from investments, unless listed under II.3.</b>					
a) Income from participating interests		81,276,512			16,983,623
thereof from affiliated companies: EUR 71,147,475 (previous year: EUR 8,459,483)					
thereof from associated companies: EUR 2,598,207 (previous year: EUR 621,449)					
thereof from other participations: EUR 7,530,830 (previous year: EUR 7,902,691)					
b) Income from miscellaneous investments					
thereof from affiliated companies: EUR 82,435 (previous year: EUR 103,750)					
aa) Income from real properties, rights equivalent to real property and buildings, including buildings on third-party real properties	571,511				572,002
bb) Income from miscellaneous investments	111,708,776				110,113,944
		112,280,287			110,685,946
c) Income from appreciation		8,051,918			339,863
d) Gains from the divestiture of investments		10,523,444			44,652,283
e) Income from profit transfer agreements		3,255			115,670
			212,135,417		172,777,386
<b>3. Expenses for investments, unless listed under II.10.</b>					
a) Expenses for management of investments, interest expense and other expenses for investments		-8,656,736			-6,708,789
b) Depreciation on investments		-8,192,267			-23,342,174
c) Losses from the divestiture of investments		-715,266			-207,455
			-17,564,269		-30,258,418
			194,571,148		142,518,968
<b>4. Technical interest income</b>			-452,875		-10,188,431
				194,118,273	132,330,537
<b>5. Other income</b>			85,839,963		45,889,897
<b>6. Other expenses</b>			-214,131,091		-153,339,506
				-128,291,128	-107,449,610
<b>7. Operating result</b>				<b>381,720,890</b>	<b>255,009,116</b>
<b>8. Taxes on income and earnings</b>				-91,243,493	-71,446,487
including: Income from deferred taxes: EUR 31,316,038 (previous year: EUR 15,720,555)					
<b>9. Other taxes</b>				-647,448	-539,468
				-91,890,942	-71,985,956
<b>10. Consolidated net profit</b>				<b>289,829,948</b>	<b>183,023,161</b>
<b>11. Non-controlling interests</b>				1,475,223	0
<b>12. Allocations to retained earnings</b>					
a) to other retained earnings				-291,305,171	-183,023,161
<b>13. CONSOLIDATED NET INCOME</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



## CASH FLOW STATEMENT

### VHV VEREINIGTE HANNOVERSCHERUNG a.G./GROUP

Item	2021 EUR'000	2020 EUR'000
<b>Net profit (consolidated net profit)</b>	<b>289,830</b>	<b>183,023</b>
Change in technical reserves – net	159,452	281,842
Change in deposit accounts receivable and accounts payable, as well as invoice accounts receivable and accounts payable	–27,700	–893
Change in other accounts receivable and accounts payable	–6,905	91,945
Change in investments that are not attributable to investment activities	–243,533	–340,008
Change in other balance sheet items that are not attributable to investment or financing activities	–55,062	22,649
Other non-cash expenses and income, as well as adjustments to net profit	–1,222	41,997
Gain/loss from the divestiture of investments, tangible fixed assets and intangible assets	–33,800	–126,786
Income tax expense/income	91,243	71,446
Income tax payments	–96,722	–117,551
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>75,581</b>	<b>107,664</b>
Receipts from the sale of consolidated companies and other business entities	21,335	14,475
Payments resulting from the acquisition of consolidated companies and other business entities	–98,446	–97,804
Receipts from the sale of capital investments for fund-linked annuity insurance	6,071	7,341
Payments resulting from the acquisition of capital investments for fund-linked annuity insurance	–23,136	–16,171
Other receipts from the divestiture of tangible fixed assets and intangible assets	307	88
Other payments resulting from additions of tangible fixed assets and intangible assets	–22,607	–21,454
<b>Cash flow from investment activities</b>	<b>–116,476</b>	<b>–113,525</b>
Receipts and payments from other financing activities	3,758	2,738
<b>Cash flow from financing activities</b>	<b>3,758</b>	<b>2,738</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>–37,137</b>	<b>–3,123</b>
<b>Change in cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements, changes in the scope of consolidation and measurement</b>	<b>9,398</b>	<b>2,427</b>
Cash at the beginning of the period	216,617	217,313
Cash at the end of the period	188,878	216,617

Cash is equal to the balance sheet item “bank balances, cheques and cash on hand”.

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

### VHV VEREINIGTE HANNOVERSICHE VERSICHERUNG a.G./GROUP

#### EQUITY CAPITAL OF PARENT COMPANY

			Retained earnings	Difference in equity from currency translation	Total
	Loss reserve in accordance with section 193 VAG EUR'000	Other retained earnings EUR'000	Total EUR'000	EUR'000	EUR'000
<b>Status on 31.12.2019</b>	<b>70,095</b>	<b>1,764,925</b>	<b>1,835,020</b>	<b>1,978</b>	<b>1,836,998</b>
Currency translation	–	–	–	–3,683	–3,683
Consolidated net profit	–	183,023	183,023	–	183,023
<b>Status on 31.12.2020</b>	<b>70,095</b>	<b>1,947,948</b>	<b>2,018,043</b>	<b>–1,705</b>	<b>2,016,338</b>
Currency translation	–	–	–	–5,239	–5,239
Other changes	–	–176	–176	–	–176
Consolidated net profit	–	291,305	291,305	–	291,305
<b>Status on 31.12.2021</b>	<b>70,095</b>	<b>2,239,077</b>	<b>2,309,172</b>	<b>–6,944</b>	<b>2,302,228</b>

	NON-CONTROLLING INTERESTS			GROUP EQUITY	
	Share before difference in equity from currency translation and net profit for the year EUR'000	Difference in equity from currency translation attributable to non- controlling interests EUR'000	Gains/losses attributable to non-controlling interests EUR'000	Total EUR'000	Total EUR'000
<b>Status on 31.12.2019</b>	–	–	–	–	<b>1,836,998</b>
Currency translation	–	–	–	–	–3,683
Other changes	–	–	–	–	–
Consolidated net profit	–	–	–	–	183,023
<b>Status on 31.12.2020</b>	–	–	–	–	<b>2,016,338</b>
Currency translation	–	26	–	26	–5,213
Other changes	15,906	–	–	15,906	15,730
Consolidated net profit	–	–	–1,475	–1,475	289,830
<b>Status on 31.12.2021</b>	<b>15,906</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>–1,475</b>	<b>14,457</b>	<b>2,316,685</b>



# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## VHV VEREINIGTE HANNOVERSICHE VERSICHERUNG a. G.

### GENERAL DISCLOSURES

The registered office of VHV Vereinigte Hannoversche Versicherung a.G. is in Hanover. The company is entered in the commercial register of the Local Court of Hanover under the number HRB 3387.

The consolidated financial statements and the Group management report for the 2021 financial year were prepared in accordance with the provisions of the HGB, the AktG, the VAG and the RechVersV in the versions applicable at the balance sheet closing date.

As items are rounded, this can result in rounding differences.

The consolidated balance sheet closing date is 31 December 2021.

#### CONSOLIDATION GROUP

In addition to VHV Vereinigte Hannoversche Versicherung a.G., Hanover, as the ultimate parent company, the consolidated financial statements include 18 subsidiaries (previous year: 15) including two special purpose entities. There was a change in 2021 as a result of the first-time consolidation of three subsidiaries that were acquired shortly before the balance sheet closing date in 2020 and that were not consolidated in the previous year. Two of these subsidiaries were merged in the reporting year. Another change resulted from the formation of an additional subsidiary in the reporting year.

The inclusion of the special purpose entities results from section 290 (2) no. 4 HGB, as the Group bears the majority of the risks and opportunities of these special purpose entities from an economic perspective.

The interests held in three (previous year: three) associated companies are measured according to the equity method.

21 (previous year: seven) subsidiaries were not fully consolidated in line with section 296 (2) HGB. Taken as a whole, the companies do not have a significant influence on the net assets, financial position and results of operations of the VHV Group. One company that was acquired in the reporting year and its two subsidiaries were not included in accordance with section 296 (1) no. 2 HGB, as obtaining the information required for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements would not have been possible without undue delay. These subsidiaries will be fully consolidated in the 2022 consolidated financial statements. The acquired company was measured according to the equity method in 2021.

As in the previous year, two associated companies were not measured according to the equity method pursuant to section 311 (2) HGB. For the sake of clarity and concise presentation, the shares in companies not measured according to the equity method were shown under other participating interests.

The full listing of share ownership is reported separately in the notes. The consolidated financial statements are disclosed in the electronic Bundesanzeiger (Federal Gazette).

#### CONSOLIDATION PRINCIPLES

In the consolidated financial statements, capital consolidation takes place according to the revaluation method pursuant to section 301 (1) HGB.

Under this method, the investment book value is offset against the revalued equity (fair value of asset and liability items) of the acquired subsidiary at the date of acquisition. Any remaining difference after off-setting is to be disclosed in the consolidated balance sheet, as "Goodwill" if it arises under assets side and as "Difference from capital consolidation" according to the equity method if it arises under liabilities and shareholders' equity. Goodwill is subject to scheduled amortisation over the subsequent years.

The difference from the capital consolidation must be reversed through profit or loss, if the charges anticipated when the subsidiary was acquired have occurred or it is definite on the balance sheet closing date that a gain has been realised.

Any capital consolidation performed according to the book value method before 31 December 2009 remains unchanged pursuant to section 66 (3) sentence 4 of the Introductory Act to the German Commercial Code (EGHGB).

Investments in associated companies are measured using the equity method. Shares must be measured at the carrying amount at the date of acquisition in the consolidated balance sheet, supplemented by the changes in equity capital attributable to the Group post-acquisition. Profit distributions attributable to the shares must be deducted from them. The difference between the carrying amount and the pro rata equity capital of the associated company at acquisition must be allocated to the company's individual assets and liabilities, if their fair value is higher or lower and continued in subsequent years. Any goodwill remaining thereafter is also subject to scheduled amortisation over subsequent years.

The equity value must be checked for impairment at each Group reporting date. If the equity value exceeds the fair value, an impairment loss is recognised. If the reason for the impairment loss no longer applies, the equity value must be written up.

The valuations performed according to the equity method before 31 December 2009, under which the difference between the carrying amount and the pro rata share of the associated company's equity is offset against retained earnings on acquisition, remain unchanged pursuant to section 66 (3) sentence 4 EGHGB.

Accounts receivable and accounts payable, expenses and income and intercompany profits between the consolidated companies were eliminated.

The share of the Group in the annual earnings generated by subsidiaries after the initial consolidation was included in the retained earnings and/or removed from this item.

In the consolidated financial statements, the option was utilised pursuant to section 300 (2) HGB to exercise balance sheet options anew, meaning that pursuant to section 308 (1) HGB a uniform valuation was performed in the Group.

In accordance with section 294 (2) HGB, comparability of consecutive consolidated financial statements in the face of material changes to the consolidation group is accommodated by verbal explanation and additional disclosures in the notes.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## ACCOUNTING, VALUATION AND CALCULATION METHODS

As a matter of principle, the assets and liabilities included in the consolidated financial statements, as well as the expenses and income of the companies included, were valued uniformly pursuant to section 308 (1) HGB.

Balance sheet items and carrying amounts based on special requirements for foreign insurance companies were included without change pursuant to section 300 (2) and section 308 (2) HGB. The asset and liability items of the balance sheet of annual financial statements in a foreign currency were translated at the middle spot exchange rate on the balance sheet closing date, with the exception of equity, which was translated at the historical rate. The income statement items were translated at average rates in accordance with section 308a sentence 2 HGB. The ECB euro reference rate for the 2021 financial year is applied as the average rate.

### ASSETS

**Intangible assets** were valued at acquisition cost reduced by scheduled straight-line amortisation in line with their normal useful lives.

**Real properties, rights equivalent to real property and buildings** were valued at acquisition or production cost less scheduled depreciation and write-downs to the lower fair value.

**Investments in affiliated and associated companies** were valued at the lower of acquisition cost or fair value as at the balance sheet closing date. The shares in a subsidiary that was acquired shortly before the balance sheet closing date and is not included in consolidation in accordance with section 296 (1) no. 2 HGB are accounted for using the equity method. The participating interests in another two unconsolidated subsidiaries as well as in associated companies were accounted for in the amount of the pro rata equity without any adjustment to the Group's standard valuation measures according to the book value method or lower fair value.

**Shares in investment assets, bearer bonds and other securities with fixed interest rates** classified as non-current assets are those destined to serve business operations over the long term and were reported at amortised cost. Based on the provisions of section 341b (2) HGB in conjunction with section 253 (3) sentence 5 HGB (moderate lower of cost or market principle) applicable to non-current assets, depreciation was recognised on securities in the case of an anticipated long-term reduction in value. In the case of bearer bonds classified as non-current assets, any differences between the acquisition cost and the amount repayable using the effective interest rate method are amortised in line with section 341c (3) HGB.

**Investment assets and bearer bonds** assigned to current assets were valued at the lower of amortized cost or current market value on the balance sheet closing date, in accordance with the strict lower of cost or market principle.

The increase in value rule according to section 253 (5) HGB has been complied with.

**Mortgage, land charge and annuity charge receivables** were valued at the lower of acquisition cost or fair value as at the balance sheet closing date.

**Registered debentures** were recognised in the balance sheet at their nominal value. Zero-coupon registered debentures were recognised in the balance sheet at acquisition cost while taking into account addition of interest.

**Promissory notes and loans** were measured at acquisition cost plus or minus the cumulative amortisation of a difference between the acquisition cost and the amount repayable using the effective interest rate method in accordance with section 341c HGB.

**Loans and advance payments on insurance policies** were recognised in the balance sheet at nominal value less repayments made.

**Miscellaneous loans** were recognised at amortised cost.

**Bank deposits** were recognised at nominal value.

**Miscellaneous investments** were recognised at amortised cost.

**Investments for the account and risk of holders of life insurance policies** were recognised at fair value in accordance with section 341d HGB in conjunction with section 56 RechVersV.

**Accounts receivable from direct-written insurance transactions** were recognised in the balance sheet at nominal value less value adjustments for latent default risk.

**Settlement receivables from reinsurance business** were calculated on the basis of the reinsurance contracts and valued at nominal value.

**Other accounts receivable** were recognised in the balance sheet at nominal value less value adjustments for latent default risk.

**Tangible fixed assets** were valued at acquisition cost reduced by scheduled straight-line depreciation in line with their normal useful lives. For assets of low value with an acquisition cost of more than EUR 250 but less than EUR 1,000, the acquisition costs were recognised in a collective item, then written off at 1/5 in the year of acquisition and in each of the four following financial years. At VAV, assets of low value were written off in full in their year of acquisition.

**Inventories** were recognised in the balance sheet at acquisition cost less a valuation discount. An inventory count was made on 31 December 2021.

The accrued interest and rents reported under **prepaid expenses** were shown at nominal value. These amounts relate to 2021, but were not yet due as at 31 December.

The agios on registered debentures included in **other prepaid expenses** were deferred and allocated on a straight-line basis over the term.

In contrast to the treatment in the separate balance sheets of the companies included in the consolidated financial statements, **deferred tax assets** at German companies are recognised for temporary differences between the consolidated balance sheet and the tax balance sheets of the companies included in the consolidated financial statements.

The option under section 274 (1) HGB was exercised in that the net amount from deferred tax assets and liabilities is recognised on the balance sheet. In addition, all deferred taxes are grouped together in accordance with the option under section 306 HGB. The respective individual tax rate was used in calculating the future tax burdens and tax benefits. A tax rate of 25.00 % was applied for VAV and tax rates of 20.00 % and 25.00 % were applied for VHV Re. The individual tax rates for the German companies are between 31.93 % and 32.63 %. The average Group tax rate of 32.41 % is applied for consolidation matters.

The **excess of plan assets over post-employment benefit liability**, which results from netting plan assets against the associated pension liabilities, was shown at fair value in accordance with section 246 (2) sentence 2 HGB.

The **remaining assets** were recognised at nominal value.

## **LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY**

**Unearned premiums** for direct-written insurance transactions in property-casualty insurance were calculated on a pro rata temporis basis in all insurance segments. The unearned premiums in surety insurance were determined in accordance with the average remaining term of the surety bonds or calculated pro rata temporis for each premium per surety bond. The shares for reinsurers correspond to the quotas ceded for reinsurance. 85.0 % of commissions from gross premiums and 92.5 % of commissions from reinsurer shares were recognised as portions of revenue not eligible for being carried forward. At VAV, 10 % and 15 % of unearned premiums are recognised as portions of revenue not eligible for being carried forward in motor vehicle liability insurance and in the other insurance segments respectively. The unearned premiums for insurance transactions assumed in reinsurance coverage were calculated pro rata temporis and the shares for reinsurers were recognised in line with their contractual share. 92.5 % of the commissions were recognised as shares not eligible for being carried forward. At VHV Re, this figure was 89 %.

For life insurance business, **unearned premiums** were calculated individually for each insurance contract, with the technical commencement of the contracts used as a basis for the calculation. When determining the portions of premiums eligible for being carried forward, the letter of the Federal Ministry of Finance dated 30 April 1974 was adhered to.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The **actuarial reserve** in life insurance according to Liabilities C.II. was calculated for the individual contracts using the prospective method, with explicit consideration of the Zillmer costs and implied consideration of other future costs. A management expense reserve is included in the actuarial reserve for insurance years that are exempt from the payment of premiums. If the actuarial reserve calculated for a contract is lower than the contractually or legally guaranteed surrender value, the latter amount is recognised.

In the case of fund-linked annuity insurance (dynamic hybrids), where the guaranteed endowment benefit is partly secured through a guarantee fund, only the part of the actuarial reserve, which was not already secured through the guarantee level of the guarantee fund, is included in liability item C.II.

The following probability tables and actuarial interest rates were applied in calculating the actuarial reserve (without consideration of syndicated agreements under outside control):

Probability tables	Actuarial interest rates <sup>3)</sup>	Share of actuarial reserve
<b>Capital and risk insurance and supplementary accident, risk and term annuity insurance</b>		
ADSt 1924/26 M	3.00 %	0.0 %
St 1967 M	3.00 %	0.6 %
St 1986 M/F	3.50 %	11.1 %
HL-Tafel 1994 M/F	4.00 %	38.5 %
HL-Tafel 2000 T M/F	3.25 %	5.5 %
DAV 1994 T M/F	2.75 %	0.1 %
DAV 1994 T M/F mod. NR/R	2.75 %	0.0 %
HL-Tafel 2000 T M/F	2.75 %	2.5 %
HL-Tafel 2000 T mod. NR/R M/F	2.75 %	0.4 %
DAV 1994 T M/F	2.25 %	0.0 %
DAV 1994 T M/F mod.	2.25 %	0.0 %
DAV 1994 T M/F mod. NR/R	2.25 %	0.0 %
HL-Tafel 2000 T M/F	2.25 %	0.5 %
HL-Tafel 2000 T mod. NR/R M/F	2.25 %	1.0 %

HL-Tafel 2008 T NR/R (mod., diff.) M/F	2.25 %	1.6 %
HL-Tafel 2011 T M/F	1.75 %	0.1 %
HL-Tafel 2011 T NR/R (mod.) M/F	1.75 %	0.6 %
HL-Tafel 2012 T Unisex	1.75 %	0.1 %
HL-Tafel 2012 T/TP/FT Unisex NR/R (mod.)	1.75 %	1.1 %
DAV 2008 T mod. Unisex	1.25 %	0.0 %
HL-Tafel 2012 T Unisex	1.25 %	0.1 %
HL-Tafel 2012 T/TP/FT Unisex NR/R (mod., diff.)	1.25 %	0.8 %
DAV 2008 T mod. Unisex	0.90 %	0.2 %
HL-Tafel 2016 T Unisex	0.90 %	0.1 %
HL-Tafel 2016 T/TP Unisex N10/N/R (mod., diff.)	0.90 %	1.2 %
HL-Tafel 2018 T Unisex N10/N/R (mod., diff.)	0.90 %	0.7 %
HL-Tafel 2021 T Unisex N10/N/R (mod., diff.)	0.90 %	0.0 %
HL-Tafel 2022 T Unisex N10/N/R (mod., diff.)	0.25 %	0.0 %

#### Annuity insurance, fund-linked annuity insurance and private pension plans in accordance with AltZertG

Interpolation of DAV 2004 R-B and R-B20 M/F	3.00 %	0.3 %
Interpolation of DAV 2004 R-B and R-B20 M/F	3.50 %	1.3 %
Interpolation of DAV 2004 R-B and R-B20 M/F	4.00 %	2.5 %
Interpolation of DAV 2004 R-B and R-B20 M/F	3.25 %	1.2 %
DAV 2004 R M/F	2.75 %	1.2 %
DAV 2004 R Unisex	2.75 %	0.8 %
Interpolation of DAV 2004 R-B and R-B20 M/F	2.75 %	0.9 %
DAV 2004 R M/F	2.25 %	6.5 %
DAV 2004 R Unisex	2.25 %	0.9 %
DAV 2004 R M/F	1.75 %	1.1 %
DAV 2004 R Unisex	1.75 %	2.7 %
DAV 2004 R Unisex	1.25 %	1.8 %
Interpolation of DAV 2004 R-B and R-B20 M/F	1.00 %	0.0 %
DAV 2004 R Unisex	0.90 %	3.8 %
DAV 2004 R Unisex	0.50 %	0.5 %
DAV 2004 R M/F	0.00 %	0.0 %
DAV 2004 R Unisex	0.00 %	0.0 %
Interpolation of DAV 2004 R-B and R-B20 M/F	0.00 %	0.0 %



<b>(Supplementary) occupational disability insurance and (supplementary) work incapacity insurance</b>		
St 1967 M, DAV 1997 I M/F mod.	3.00 %	0.1 %
HL-Tafel 1994 M/F, mod. Verbandstafel 1990 M/F	4.00 %	0.3 %
HL-Tafel 2000 T M/F, HL-Tafel 2000 I M/F	3.25 %	0.3 %
DAV 1994 T M/F, DAV 1997 I mod. M/F	2.75 %	0.0 %
DAV 1994 T M/F, DAV 1998 E M/F	2.75 %	0.0 %
HL-Tafel 2000 T M/F, DAV 1997 I mod. M/F	2.75 %	0.1 %
HL-Tafel 2000 T M/F, HL-Tafel 2004 I M/F	2.75 %	0.1 %
DAV 1994 T M/F, DAV 1997 I mod. M/F	2.25 %	0.0 %
HL-Tafel 2000 T M/F, DAV 1997 I mod. M/F	2.25 %	0.6 %
HL-Tafel 2000 T M/F, HL-Tafel 2004 I M/F	2.25 %	0.0 %
DAV 2008 T M/F, DAV 1997 I mod. M/F	1.75 %	0.0 %
DAV 2008 T Unisex, DAV 1997 I mod. Unisex	1.75 %	0.0 %
HL-Tafel 2011 T M/F, DAV 1997 I mod. M/F	1.75 %	0.1 %
HL-Tafel 2011 T M/F, DAV 1998 E M/F	1.75 %	0.0 %
HL-Tafel 2012 T Unisex, HL-Tafel 2012 E Unisex	1.75 %	0.0 %
HL-Tafel 2012 T Unisex, HL-Tafel 2012 I Unisex	1.75 %	0.2 %
DAV 2008 T Unisex, DAV 1997 I mod. Unisex	1.25 %	0.0 %
HL-Tafel 2012 T Unisex, HL-Tafel 2012 E Unisex	1.25 %	0.0 %
HL-Tafel 2012 T Unisex, HL-Tafel 2012 I Unisex	1.25 %	0.1 %
HL-Tafel 2016 T Unisex, HL-Tafel 2012 E Unisex	0.90 %	0.0 %
HL-Tafel 2016 T Unisex, HL-Tafel 2012 I Unisex	0.90 %	0.0 %
HL-Tafel 2016 T Unisex, HL-Tafel 2017 E Unisex	0.90 %	0.0 %
HL-Tafel 2016 T Unisex, HL-Tafel 2017 I Unisex	0.90 %	0.1 %
HL-Tafel 2018 T Unisex, HL-Tafel 2019 I Unisex	0.90 %	0.0 %
<b>Capitalisation transactions</b>		
None	2.00 %	0.0 %
None	1.75 %	0.0 %
None	1.25 %	0.1 %
None	0.50 %	1.0 %
None	0.45 %	1.1 %
None	0.25 %	0.5 %

\*) For new contracts with actuarial interest rates of between 1.75 % and 4.00 %, a reference interest rate of 1.57 % was applied as a basis for the next 15 years in accordance with section 341f (2) HGB in conjunction with section 5 (3) and (4) DeckRV. The same approach was applied for contracts in the existing portfolio.

The company's own HL table 1994 was developed from the mortality table St 1986, for which the probabilities of death are reduced based on the company's own experience. The company's own HL table 2000 T was developed from the population table 1986, for which the probabilities of death are reduced based on the company's own experience. The company's own HL tables 2008 T and 2011 T were developed from the DAV table 2008 T, for which the probabilities of death are reduced based on the company's own experience. The company's own HL tables 2012 T, 2012 TP, 2012 FT, 2016 T, 2016TP, 2018 T, 2021 T and 2022 T were developed from the DAV table 2008 T, for which the probabilities of death and gender mix ratio are recognised in accordance with the company's own experience, which is occupation-specific for the HL tables from 2018 T onwards.

The company's own HL tables 2000 I, 2004 I and 2012 I were developed from the table DAV 1997 I, for which the probabilities of disability are reduced based on the company's own experience. The HL tables 2017 I and 2019 I are based on occupation-specific individual probabilities of disability. The HL table 2012 E was developed from the DAV table 1998 E; HL table 2017 E is based on individual probabilities of disability.

The unisex tables are gender-neutral bases of calculation derived from the corresponding gendered tables in accordance with the guidance provided by DAV.

The actuarial reserves for contracts concluded between 1960 and 1987 were zillmerised at 5 ‰ of the sum insured or at 5 % of the annuity. VHV tariffs in the portfolio included individual insurance policies with a zillmerisation rate of 4.0 % and 2.5 %, group insurance policies with a zillmerisation rate of 2.0 % and 1.5 % and group insurance policies for large customers with a zillmerisation rate of 1.0 % of the total premium. The actuarial reserves for occupational disability insurance policies from July 2020 are zillmerised at 2.5 % of the total premium. All other actuarial reserves were not zillmerised. Zillmerised actuarial reserves make up 2.9 % of the total actuarial reserve.

Additional amounts were added to the actuarial reserve to adjust it to updated bases of calculation in accordance with the principles published by the BaFin, DAV and the legislator.

Studies of mortality for annuity insurance policies have shown that the security margins and trend projections presented in the DAV mortality table 1994 R no longer correspond to actuarial security requirements.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

In order to maintain an adequate level of security, the actuarial reserve for each individual annuity insurance policy was calculated in the financial year 2021 so that it corresponds at least to the value between the calculation on the basis of DAV 2004 R-B and DAV 2004 R-B20 linearly interpolated by seventeen twentieths, in accordance with the DAV guideline dated 9 June 2004 "Surplus allocation and reserves for annuity insurance policies in the portfolio".

An additional interest reserve was created for the 2021 financial year in accordance with section 341f (2) HGB in conjunction with section 5 of the German Actuarial Reserve Ordinance (DeckRV). For the new portfolio, this is based on a reference interest rate of 1.57% (previous year: 1.73%), which results from anticipated income in accordance with section 5 (3) DeckRV. In accordance with relevant BaFin publications, company-specific, conservative cancellation probabilities and, in the case of term life policies, a conservative reduction in the biometric calculation basis were considered. A comparative calculation with the calculation bases of the addition to the interest reserves of the year before the first-time application of company-specific cancellation probabilities and the reduction in the biometric calculation basis was also carried out on the basis of the current contract status, and the maximum of the results of both calculations was recognised. The determination rules for the additional interest rate reserve in the new portfolio in accordance with DeckRV were also adopted for the existing portfolio, but without a reduction in the biometric calculation basis.

The **actuarial reserve for fund-linked annuity insurance policies** was determined according to Liabilities D. I., whereby the investment risk is borne by the policy holder, as the fair value of the share units available for the individual contract on the balance sheet closing date.

The **reserve for insurance claims not yet processed** for direct written insurance transactions in property-casualty insurance was determined individually for each claim with the necessary commercial care. A discount was recognised on the claims reserve in motor vehicle liability insurance, taking actual claim payments in the past into account. Furthermore, internal calculations and analyses were used to examine whether the gross reserves for insurance claims not yet processed including discounts are sufficient in the motor vehicle liability insurance segment. The reserve for expected late claims was calculated on the basis of the requirements for subsequently reported late claims. The reserve for revived claims that was created in the previous

year was derecognised in the reporting year. The accounts receivable from recourse claims, salvages and sharing agreements were carefully determined on the basis of anticipated receipts, and deducted from the reserve for insurance claims not yet processed. The calculation of the annuity actuarial reserve was carried out individually for each annuity according to actuarial principles on the basis of section 341f and section 341g HGB and the statutory ordinance issued for section 88 (3) Insurance Supervision Act (VAG). The calculation was based on the DAV 2006 HUR Frauen und Männer mortality table. In the previous year, the actuarial interest rate was reduced to 0.9% across the board. The shares for reinsurers were determined on the basis of the existing reinsurance contracts.

The **reserve for insurance claims not yet processed** for life insurance contains the probable benefits for the insurance claims reported but not yet paid out at the date of the portfolio statement. The benefits were calculated individually for each insurance contract. For expected late claims, a reserve was created with regard to the estimated requirement for subsequently reported late claims.

The reserve for insurance claims not yet processed for insurance transactions assumed in reinsurance coverage was created in accordance with the specifications from the initial insurer taking into account reasonable surcharges. The shares for reinsurers were calculated on the basis of the existing reinsurance contracts.

In property-casualty insurance, the reserve for claims settlement expenses was calculated using actuarial methods reflecting the segment-specific settlement processes according to cause. At VAV, the calculation is based on section 12 (7) of the FMA Regulation on Accounting by Insurance and Reinsurance Undertakings, BGBl. II No. 316/2015 of 21 October 2015, in the amended version of 5 August 2021, BGBl. II No. 353/2021.

In life insurance, the reserve for claims settlement expenses was calculated in accordance with the letter of the Federal Ministry of Finance dated 2 February 1973.

In life insurance, the **reserve for premium refunds** was recognised in accordance with the articles of association and provisions stipulated in the business plan. The final surplus fund from the existing portfolio includes final payments that are 100% financed, as well as accrued

final bonus entitlements that are calculated in accordance with the prospective method without discount. The final surplus fund from the new portfolio includes final bonuses that are calculated individually for each contract on the basis of the achievable final bonus rate and the balance achieved from annual bonuses at the balance sheet closing date without discount. Within the final basic participation, a reserve is formed for the declared basic participation in the valuation reserves in the same way as for the final surplus shares.

Sums were added to and removed from the **reserve for premium refunds** in direct-written insurance transactions for property-casualty insurance according to contractual agreements.

The **equalisation reserve** was recognised in accordance with the annex to section 29 RechVersV. For the surety segment, the claims ratios from the tables published in the annual reports of BaFin or the previous Federal Supervisory Authority for the Insurance Industry were stated for past years. For the motor vehicle segment, as in the previous year, BaFin gave permission for insurance transactions assumed in reinsurance coverage to be recognised using appropriate other claims ratios for past years rather than its own claims ratios, resulting in a significantly lower addition to the equalisation reserve. At VAV, the equalisation reserve was formed in accordance with the FMA Regulation on Forming an Equalisation Reserve in Property-Casualty Insurance by Insurance and Reinsurance Undertakings (SWRV 2016), BGBl. II No. 315/2015 of 21 October 2015, in the amended version of 16 November 2016, BGBl. II No. 324/2016. Deviating from the provisions of SWRV 2016, the FMA decreed by way of a notice dated 21 July 2020 that the equalisation reserve should be calculated without including the quota share reinsurance contracts in the period from 2004 to 2019. This covered the accident, liability, motor vehicle liability, comprehensive motor vehicle, storm, water mains, household, construction and transport segments and resulted in a lower addition to the equalisation reserve as in the previous year. At VHV Re, the equalisation reserve was formed in accordance with the provisions of the ordinance of the "Directorate General of Insurance" of 7 August 2007, no. 26606/Article 9.

The cancellation reserve for peril cessation and reduction included in **other technical reserves** was calculated using the cancellation rates established on the basis of a representative sample from the individual insurance branches, in relation to premium revenues. The reserve for

aid for road accident victims was formed according to the requirement of the "Verkehrsofferhilfe e.V.". The reserve for unused premiums from dormant motor vehicle insurance policies was created individually. At VAV, a reserve for terrorism risks was formed in accordance with their share of the terrorism pool. The share for reinsurers was calculated on the basis of the existing reinsurance contracts. A reserve for replenishment premiums still to be paid was formed in accordance with the contractual agreement in the reinsurance contract for claims caused by natural hazards.

The **reserve for onerous contracts** for insurance transactions assumed in reinsurance coverage was recognised in line with the probable utilisation of unexpired insurance contracts.

The latent reserves for premium refunds accounted for under other technical reserves are calculated from valuation differences between the accounting book values at Group level and the accounting book values from separate financial statements as well as from the inclusion of a special purpose entity, which must be allocated to life insurance. They are valued at a reserve for premium refunds ratio (after taxes) of 92.7 % (previous year: 92.9 %) on all valuation differences.

The **reserves for pensions** were measured according to the projected unit credit method in conjunction with section 253 (1) sentence 2 HGB. They were discounted by the average interest rate of the last ten years with an assumed remaining term of 15 years in accordance with section 253 (2) sentence 2 HGB in the amount of 1.87 % (previous year: 2.31 %).

For the other actuarial parameters (mortality tables, salary and pension trends), country-specific values for Germany and Austria were used in the valuation.

In Germany, the pension obligations were calculated on the basis of the 2018G mortality tables by Prof Klaus Heubeck, taking into account the influencing factors of salary growth of 2.25 % and pension growth of 1.75 %.

In Austria, the pension obligations were measured based on the AVÖ (Austrian Actuarial Association) 2018P Employees generation tables with salary adjustments of 2.75 % and adjustments to the current pension claims of 2.25 %.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Nettable assets that fulfil the requirements of section 246 (2) sentence 2 HGB (assets from insurance policies covering pension liabilities) were offset against the associated benefit obligations.

VAV's reserves for severance pay, which are included in the item reserves for pensions and similar liabilities, were also measured according to the projected unit credit method using the AVÖ (Austrian Actuarial Association) 2018-P Employees generation tables, with an interest rate of 1.87 % (average ten-year interest rate in accordance with the Ordinance on Reserves with an assumed remaining term of 15 years) and salary adjustments of 2.75 % for members of the Board of Directors and 3.25 % for employees.

The **tax reserves** and the **other reserves** were recognised at the necessary settlement amount on the basis of reasonable business judgement. Reserves with a remaining term of more than one year were adjusted for future price and cost increases and discounted to the balance sheet closing date at the average interest rates of the last seven years published by the Bundesbank on 31 December 2021. The reserves for anniversary benefits were calculated according to the projected unit credit method using the 2018G mortality tables by Prof Klaus Heubeck and applying an actuarial interest rate of 1.35 % (previous year: 1.61 %), salary growth of 2.25 % (previous year: 2.25 %) and a turnover rate of 3.00 % (previous year: 3.25 %). The partial retirement obligations were established in accordance with the projected unit credit method using the 2018G mortality tables by Prof Klaus Heubeck. These reserves were discounted individually for each obligation at the average interest rates of the last seven years published by the Bundesbank on 30 September 2021. The investment certificates held to collateralise the partial retirement reserves were measured at fair value and offset against the reserves for partial retirement pursuant to section 246 (2) sentence 2 HGB in conjunction with section 253 (1) sentence 4 HGB. The current market values of investment funds resulted from the redemption price on the balance sheet closing date.

The **funds held under reinsurance transactions ceded** in property-casualty insurance are determined using the basis of calculation for the reinsurance contracts.

The **funds held under reinsurance transactions ceded** in life insurance correspond to the disability reserve deposited by the reinsurer on a pro rata basis for benefits under occupational disability and work incapacity insurance policies. There are no deposit accounts receivable for other forms of insurance, as the reinsurance transactions ceded are accounted for on a risk premium basis.

The **other liabilities** were shown at their settlement amount.

The discounts on registered debentures included in **deferred income** were deferred and allocated over the term.

## DELAYED DISCLOSURES

The actuarial reserve of a part of the syndicated agreements under external management in life insurance amounting to EUR 38.8 million (previous year: EUR 38.3 million) was recognised with a delay of one year, as no invoice was yet available from the lead manager as at the reporting date.

In direct-written insurance transactions for property-casualty insurance, premiums totalling EUR 3,275 thousand were recognised in the reporting year with a delay due to claims being reported at a later date (previous year: EUR 1,508 thousand). In addition, premiums of EUR 94 thousand (previous year: EUR 10,125 thousand) in property-casualty insurance transactions assumed in reinsurance coverage, for which information from the initial insurer was available up to 30 September 2021, were recognised with a delay.

## CURRENCY TRANSLATION

Items in foreign currency were translated using the exchange rate on the respective acquisition date or on the balance sheet closing date if this resulted in a lower carrying amount.

Income and expenses were translated using the exchange rate on initial recognition. Currency translation gains are included in the gains on disposal.

## **CALCULATION OF CURRENT MARKET VALUE**

The current market values of the properties contained in the portfolio in the financial year were calculated according to the present value of future cash flow method as at 31 December 2021.

The current market values of shares in affiliated companies and participations were calculated according to the present value of future cash flow method or the respective carrying amount or pro rata equity capital was applied as the current market value. For PE investments, the net asset value was applied as the current market value.

The current market values of listed fixed-interest securities and non-fixed interest securities were based on the market price on the balance sheet closing date. The current market values of investment funds resulted from the redemption price on the balance sheet closing date.

Mortgages, land charges and annuity charges were valued using a system-supported yield curve evaluation method, taking into account cancellation rights in accordance with the German Civil Code (BGB) and special rights of redemption.

Registered debentures and promissory note loans were valued using a system-supported yield curve evaluation method. In this method, the securities were allocated to yield curves in line with the risk with typical market risk premiums. The yield curves were allocated and differentiated based on securities classes, rating categories and differentiation between first priority and subordinated securities. Any possible cancellation rights were valued explicitly. Fixed-interest securities for which no market price could be determined on the balance sheet closing date were valued according to the same procedure.

Miscellaneous loans were valued on the basis of issuer notifications.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## ASSETS

### RE A., B.I. AND B.II. INTANGIBLE ASSETS AND INVESTMENTS

The development of these asset items is shown in the table below.

### RE A., B.I. AND B.II. DEVELOPMENT OF ASSET ITEMS

#### DEVELOPMENT IN FINANCIAL YEAR 2021

	Carrying amounts Previous year EUR'000	Changes to the consolidation group EUR'000
<b>A. INTANGIBLE ASSETS</b>		
I. Purchased concessions, industrial and similar rights and assets and licenses in such rights and assets	62,447	58,696
II. Goodwill	–	93,489
III. Advance payments	553	10
<b>Total A.</b>	<b>63,000</b>	<b>152,195</b>
<b>B. INVESTMENTS</b>		
I. Real properties, rights equivalent to real property and buildings, including buildings on third-party real properties	110,615	–
II. Investments in affiliated and associated companies		
1. Shares in affiliated companies	94,667	14,029
2. Loans to affiliated companies	49,040	–
3. Participating interests in associated companies	36,848	–
4. Other participating interests	73,053	–
5. Loans to associated companies	–	30
<b>Total B.II.</b>	<b>253,609</b>	<b>14,029</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>427,224</b>	<b>166,224</b>

### RE A.I. PURCHASED CONCESSIONS, INDUSTRIAL AND SIMILAR RIGHTS AND ASSETS AND LICENSES IN SUCH RIGHTS AND ASSETS

EUR 52.7 million of the increase in the reporting year was due to the Eucon Group being included in consolidation for the first time.

### RE A.II. GOODWILL

The first-time consolidation of the Eucon Group with effect from 1 January 2021 resulted in goodwill of EUR 93.5 million that will be amortised over the estimated run-off period of ten years. Accordingly, scheduled amortisation of EUR 9.3 million was recognised in the financial year.

Additions	Reclassifications	Disposals	Appreciation	Write-downs	Currency translation differences	Carrying amounts Financial year
EUR'000	EUR'000	EUR'000	EUR'000	EUR'000	EUR'000	EUR'000
14,180	248	–	–	12,357	–67	123,147
–	–	–	–	9,349	–	84,140
1,122	–356	–	–	–	–	1,330
<b>15,303</b>	<b>–108</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>21,706</b>	<b>–67</b>	<b>208,617</b>
555	–	1	–	5,347	–	105,824
130,470	3,656	148,107	1,343	2,170	259	94,147
10,905	–	50,464	–	–	–	9,481
2,400	–	–	2,483	–	1,284	43,014
125	–3,656	2,345	–	5	–	67,172
–	–	–	–	–	–	30
<b>143,900</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>200,917</b>	<b>3,826</b>	<b>2,175</b>	<b>1,543</b>	<b>213,814</b>
<b>159,758</b>	<b>–108</b>	<b>200,917</b>	<b>3,826</b>	<b>29,228</b>	<b>1,476</b>	<b>528,254</b>

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## RE B.I. REAL PROPERTIES, RIGHTS EQUIVALENT TO REAL PROPERTY AND BUILDINGS, INCLUDING BUILDINGS ON THIRD-PARTY REAL PROPERTIES

The balance sheet value of the real properties and buildings primarily used internally by affiliates in the context of their activities amounted to EUR 104.9 million (previous year: EUR 109.9 million).

## RE B.II.1. SHARES IN AFFILIATED COMPANIES

This item relates to 21 companies that were not included in the consolidation group due to subordinate importance (section 296 (2) HGB), of which two were measured according to the equity method, as well as a subsidiary that was not fully consolidated in line with section 296 (1) no. 2 HGB, which was included in the consolidated financial statements using the equity method. Based on a preliminary valuation, goodwill of around EUR 52.0 million was calculated as the difference between the carrying amount and the equity of the acquired subgroup.

## RE B.II.3. PARTICIPATING INTERESTS IN ASSOCIATED COMPANIES

The equity method was used in accordance with section 312 (1) HGB in the case of three associated companies.

## RE B.II.4. OTHER PARTICIPATING INTERESTS

For reasons of intelligibility and clarity, two participating interests not valued in accordance with the equity method were shown under other participating interests.

## RE B.III.1. EQUITIES, SHARES OR EQUITIES IN INVESTMENT ASSETS AND OTHER NON-FIXED INTEREST SECURITIES

	31.12.2021 EUR million	31.12.2020 EUR million
<b>Investment assets</b>		
of which non-current assets	3,307.3	3,056.8
of which current assets	1,716.7	1,439.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,024.0</b>	<b>4,495.9</b>

## RE B.III.2. BEARER BONDS AND OTHER SECURITIES WITH FIXED INTEREST RATES

	31.12.2021 EUR million	31.12.2020 EUR million
<b>Bearer bonds</b>		
of which non-current assets	5,807.4	5,880.3
of which current assets	27.9	27.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,835.3</b>	<b>5,907.3</b>

## RE B.III.6. MISCELLANEOUS INVESTMENTS

This item relates solely to investments in private and infrastructure equity.

## RE C. INVESTMENTS FOR THE ACCOUNT AND RISK OF HOLDERS OF LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES

Investments for the account and risk of insurance policy holders totalled EUR 179.8 million (previous year: EUR 140.4 million).

## RE F.II. OTHER PREPAID EXPENSES

Other prepaid expenses mainly included agios for registered debentures in the amount of EUR 20.1 million (previous year: EUR 18.5 million) and advance payments for maintenance contracts of EUR 14.5 million (previous year: EUR 12.0 million).

## RE G. DEFERRED TAX ASSETS

Future tax benefits (deferred tax assets) primarily result from differences between the commercial balance sheet and the tax balance sheet relating to investments, technical reserves and reserves for pensions.

In accordance with the option under section 274 (1) HGB in conjunction with section 306 HGB, future tax burdens and tax benefits were offset against one another under deferred tax assets, with a surplus of assets being reported.

## RE H. EXCESS OF PLAN ASSETS OVER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFIT LIABILITY

The excess of plan assets over the associated pension obligations in the amount of EUR 3.4 million (previous year: EUR 5.4 million) was shown under this item in accordance with section 246 (2) sentence 2 HGB.



**DISCLOSURE PURSUANT TO SECTION 314 (1) NO. 10 HGB**

The table below shows the carrying amounts and current market values of the financial instruments whose carrying amounts are higher than their current market values.

	Carrying amount EUR million	Fair value EUR million
Bearer bonds and other securities with fixed interest rates	603.0	594.1
Mortgages, land charges and annuity charges	129.0	124.9
Other loans	15.0	14.9
Miscellaneous investments	58.0	51.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>805.1</b>	<b>785.3</b>

Due to the creditworthiness of the issuers or the degree of collateralisation, the losses in value in securities were not considered permanent.

**DISCLOSURE PURSUANT TO SECTION 314 (1) NO. 12 HGB**

EUR 170.8 million (previous year: EUR 140.4 million) in investment funds for the account and risk of holders of life insurance policies and EUR 0.2 million (previous year: EUR 0.2 million) in investment certificates held to collateralise the partial retirement reserves were measured at fair value. The current market values of investment funds resulted from the redemption price on the balance sheet closing date.

**DISCLOSURE PURSUANT TO SECTION 314 (1) NO. 18 HGB**

The table below provides detailed information on the investment funds in which the VHV Group companies hold more than 10% of the units issued.

Type of fund/ investment objective	Fair value EUR million	Hidden reserves EUR million	Distribution in 2021 EUR million
Property funds	1,441.0	316.1	51.7
Mixed funds	4,177.4	325.4	19.8

The return of units in the real estate fund can be postponed if there are extraordinary circumstances, which make postponement appear necessary taking account of the investors' interests. In the case of the other funds, repurchase of the units can be postponed if there are extraordinary circumstances or an insufficient liquidity situation.

**LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY****RE A.I.2. OTHER RETAINED EARNINGS**

The change in other retained earnings consists of the net profit for the year, the capital offsets as well as other consolidation entries made in the Group.

**RE B. DIFFERENCE FROM CAPITAL CONSOLIDATION**

The difference from capital consolidation is the result of the revaluation of investments on first-time consolidation of the Pensionskasse. In the financial year, there was a reversal through the income statement as a result of disposals and write-downs on revalued investments.

**RE E.I. RESERVES FOR PENSIONS AND SIMILAR LIABILITIES**

In accordance with section 246 (2) sentence 2 HGB, the assets from pledged insurance policies covering pension liabilities of EUR 77.8 million (previous year: EUR 73.7 million) (fair value) were offset against the settlement amount of the associated pension reserves of EUR 77.8 million (previous year: EUR 73.7 million). The fair value of the offset insurance policies covering pension liabilities also corresponds to their acquisition cost. The income from insurance policies covering pension liabilities was offset with interest expense from pension obligations in the income statement. The amount offset was EUR 2.3 million (previous year: EUR 2.3 million). The fair value of the insurance policies covering pension liabilities is calculated from the technical reserve including surplus credit.

The difference between the valuation of the reserve for pensions at the ten-year average interest rate and at the seven-year average interest rate according to section 253 (6) sentence 1 HGB is EUR 22.2 million (previous year: EUR 27.1 million). There is a payout block in this amount in accordance with section 253 (6) sentence 2 HGB.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## RE E.III. OTHER RESERVES

Reserves for partial retirement were reported net of the investment certificates held to collateralise them.

	31.12.2021 EUR million	31.12.2020 EUR million
<b>Settlement amount from partial retirement obligations</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Acquisition costs of investment certificates	0.2	0.2
Difference in comparison to fair value	0.0	0.0
<b>Fair value of investment certificates</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Provision from partial retirement obligations</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.4</b>

An insurance contract covering pension liabilities (carrying amount on 31 December 2021: EUR 0.1 million (previous year: EUR 0.1 million)) and a payment obligation (carrying amount on 31 December 2021: EUR 0.1 million (previous year: EUR 0.1 million)) to a former employee with a guaranteed term until 1 February 2025 were recognised as a valuation unit (micro-hedge) securing an interest obligation of 2.0 % p.a. The effectiveness of the hedge was determined using the critical-term-match method. As all value-determining factors match between the insurance contract covering pension liabilities and the payment obligation, the valuation unit is effective (perfect micro hedge). In connection with the valuation unit, other assets were netted against other reserves in the volume shown above.

## RE G. OTHER LIABILITIES

As at the balance sheet closing date, there were other liabilities with a residual term of more than five years amounting to EUR 202.0 million (previous year: EUR 223.6 million).

## RE H. DEFERRED INCOME

This balance sheet item primarily includes discounts on registered debentures in the amount of EUR 2.6 million (previous year: EUR 2.9 million), advance payments received in the amount of EUR 1.7 million (previous year: EUR 0.0 million), deferrals for service contracts in the amount of EUR 1.6 million (previous year: EUR 0.0 million) and advance interest payments of less than EUR 0.1 million (previous year: EUR 2.0 million).

## CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

### RE I.1.a) AND II.1.a) GROSS PREMIUMS WRITTEN

	Property-casualty insurance business EUR million	Life insurance business EUR million	Total EUR million
Direct-written insurance transactions	2,454.9	1,052.7	3,507.5
Insurance transactions assumed in reinsurance coverage	119.8	–	119.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,574.7</b>	<b>1,052.7</b>	<b>3,627.3</b>

Of the gross premiums written for direct-written insurance transactions, EUR 3,330.3 million (previous year: EUR 3,232.6 million) relates to Germany and EUR 177.2 million (previous year: EUR 146.4 million) to foreign countries (primarily member states of the EU).

### RE I.2. TECHNICAL INTEREST INCOME FOR OWN ACCOUNT

In the reporting year, technical interest income was calculated using a uniform actuarial interest rate of 0.9%. The share for reinsurers was deducted from that.

In the previous year, technical interest income was calculated according to the table below. The share for reinsurers was deducted from that.

Technical interest	Interest rate (%)
<b>Payments before</b>	
31.12.2003 <sup>1)</sup>	3.25
<b>Payments after</b>	
31.12.2003	2.75
31.12.2006	2.25
31.12.2011	1.75
31.12.2014	1.25
31.12.2016	0.90

<sup>1)</sup>The interest rate for the existing portfolio is based on the arithmetic mean for the annuity actuarial reserve.

The effect of a uniform reduction in the actuarial interest rate to 0.9% for all annuity actuarial reserves was also added in the previous year.

This resulted in a EUR 9,282 thousand increase in technical interest income and the (gross) annuity actuarial reserve.

#### **RE I.4.a) EXPENSES FOR INSURANCE CLAIMS FOR OWN ACCOUNT**

A run-off gain was generated in the amount of 12.8% of the gross premiums earned. This primarily resulted from motor vehicle insurance.

#### **RE I.7. EXPENSES FOR INSURANCE OPERATIONS FOR OWN ACCOUNT**

Transaction expenses in the amount of EUR 388.1 million (previous year: EUR 370.1 million) and management expenses amounting to EUR 173.7 million (previous year: EUR 173.2 million) are included in this item.

#### **RE II.10.b) DEPRECIATION ON INVESTMENTS**

Depreciation on investments classified as non-current assets included extraordinary depreciation pursuant to section 253 (3) sentence 5 HGB (moderate lower of cost or market principle) in the amount of EUR 3.7 million (previous year: EUR 9.0 million). EUR 3.7 million (previous year: EUR 8.9 million) was attributable to private equity investments. Depreciation of less than EUR 0.1 million related to shares in investment assets (previous year: EUR 0.9 million) and mortgage receivables (previous year: EUR 0.1 million).

#### **RE III.2.a) INCOME FROM PARTICIPATING INTERESTS**

The income primarily relates to an affiliated company that is being wound up and that was not included in the consolidated financial statements.

#### **RE III.3.b) DEPRECIATION ON INVESTMENTS**

Depreciation on investments classified as non-current assets included extraordinary depreciation pursuant to section 277 (3) HGB in conjunction with section 253 (3) sentence 5 HGB (moderate lower of cost or market principle) in the amount of EUR 7.8 million (previous year: EUR 23.1 million). Of this figure, EUR 5.6 million related to private equity investments (previous year: EUR 6.9 million) and EUR 2.2 million to shares in affiliated companies (previous year: EUR 0.0 million). Depreciation of less than EUR 0.1 million related to participating interests (previous year: EUR 15.5 million) and shares in investment assets (previous year: EUR 0.0 million). No depreciation on registered debentures was recognised in the reporting year (previous year: EUR 0.7 million)

#### **RE III.5. OTHER INCOME**

Other income contains income from currency translation of EUR 13.8 million (previous year: EUR 6.7 million). EUR 30.5 million of the increase in other income was due to the Eucon Group being included in consolidation for the first time.

#### **RE III.6. OTHER EXPENSES**

Other expenses contain the interest component included in the allocation to the pension, partial retirement and anniversary reserve in the amount of EUR 5.4 million (previous year: EUR 5.7 million) and expenses from the allocation of interest to other long-term reserves in the amount of EUR 0.2 million (previous year: EUR 0.2 million). Interest and similar expenses are reduced by interest to be offset from nettable assets in the amount of EUR 2.3 million (previous year: EUR 2.3 million). Expenses from currency translation in the amount of EUR 4.4 million (previous year: EUR 4.3 million) are included. EUR 38.4 million of the increase in other expenses was due to the Eucon Group being included in consolidation for the first time.

#### **RE III.8. AND III.9. TAXES ON INCOME AND EARNINGS AND OTHER TAXES**

##### **TAX RECONCILIATION STATEMENT**

The following overview shows the reconciliation between the income tax expense anticipated from using the tax rate applicable in Germany and the effective income tax expense shown in the income statement.

	2021 EUR million	2020 EUR million
Earnings before income taxes (commercial balance sheet)	381.1	254.5
Anticipated tax expense Group tax rate 32.41 % (previous year: 32,44 %)	123.5	82.5
Reconciliation:		
Divergent foreign tax burden	-1.4	-1.0
Share of tax for:		
– Non-taxable income	-12.5	-31.8
– Non tax deductible expenses	+3.0	+0.5
– Temporary differences and losses for which no deferred taxes were recognised	-24.6	+23.4
Actual tax for prior periods	+1.5	-3.1
Other tax effects	+1.8	+0.7
<b>Recognised tax expense</b>	<b>91.3</b>	<b>71.4</b>
<b>Effective Group tax rate</b>	<b>23.96 %</b>	<b>28.08 %</b>

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### SUPERVISORY BOARD

**Dr Achim Kann**

Honorary Chairman

Chairman of the Board of Directors (retired), GLOBALE Rückversicherungs AG, Cologne;

Chairman of the Board of Directors (retired), Frankona Rückversicherungs-AG, Munich

**MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE MEMBERS' MEETING:****Dr Peter Lütke-Bornefeld**

Chairman

Chairman of the Board of Directors (retired), General Reinsurance AG, Cologne;

Chairman of the Supervisory Board, MLP SE, Wiesloch

**Fritz-Klaus Lange, lawyer**

Deputy Chairman

Chairman of the Management Board (retired), Gegenbauer Holding SE & Co. KG, Berlin;

Chairman of the Management Board (retired), RGM Facility Management GmbH, Berlin/Dortmund;

Member of the Supervisory Board, Gegenbauer Holding SE & Co. KG, Berlin;

Chairman of the Supervisory Board, RGM Facility Management GmbH, Berlin/Dortmund

**Robert Baresel MBA**

Chairman of the Board of Directors (retired), LVM

Landwirtschaftlicher Versicherungsverein Münster a.G., Münster;

Chairman of the Supervisory Board, GuideCom AG, Münster

**Dr Thomas Birtel**

Chairman of the Management Board, STRABAG SE, Vienna/Austria;

Chairman of the Supervisory Board, STRABAG AG, Cologne;

Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Ed. Züblin AG, Stuttgart

**Thomas Bürkle**

Chairman of the Board of Directors (retired), NORD/LB

Norddeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale, Hanover

**Professor Dr Gerd Geib**

Auditor, tax consultant, Kerpen

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Uwe H. Reuter**

Chairman

Hanover

**Frank Hilbert**

Life insurance,

Hanover

**Bernd Scharrer**

Operations/IT,

Ottobrunn

**Ulrich Schneider**

Investments,

Hanover

**Sebastian Stark**

Finance and risk management,

Hanover

**Thomas Voigt**

Property-casualty insurance/foreign business,

Hanover

### AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE

**Arndt Bickhoff** (from 1 January 2022)

Authorised representative

IT,

Hamburg

**LIST OF SHARE OWNERSHIP AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021****COMPANIES INCLUDED IN THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Name of the company	Domicile of the company		Equity interest
<b>Group parent</b>			
VHV Vereinigte Hannoversche Versicherung a. G.	Hanover	Germany	
<b>Subsidiaries</b>			
digital broking GmbH	Hanover	Germany	100.00 %
Eucon Digital GmbH	Münster	Germany	100.00 %
Eucon GmbH	Münster	Germany	90.00 %
Hannoversche Direktvertriebs-GmbH	Hanover	Germany	100.00 %
Hannoversche Lebensversicherung AG	Hanover	Germany	100.00 %
Hannoversche-Consult GmbH	Hanover	Germany	100.00 %
Pensionskasse der VHV-Versicherungen	Hanover	Germany	–
Securess Versicherungsmakler GmbH	Essen	Germany	100.00 %
VAV Versicherungs-Aktiengesellschaft	Vienna	Austria	100.00 %
VHV Allgemeine Versicherung AG	Hanover	Germany	100.00 %
VHV Dienstleistungen GmbH	Hanover	Germany	100.00 %
VHV digital services AG	Hanover	Germany	100.00 %
VHV Holding AG	Hanover	Germany	100.00 %
VHV Reasürans A.S.	Istanbul	Turkey	100.00 %
VHV solutions GmbH	Hanover	Germany	100.00 %
WH Versicherungsvermittlung Hannover GmbH	Hanover	Germany	100.00 %
WAVE Private Equity SICAV-SIF	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	100.00 %
WAVE Management AG	Hanover	Germany	100.00 %

Pensionskasse der VHV-Versicherungen, which is classified as a special purpose entity, was fully consolidated in accordance with section 290 (2) no. 4 HGB.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## COMPANIES NOT INCLUDED IN THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DUE TO IMMATERIALITY OR UNDUE DELAYS

Name of the company	Domicile of the company		Equity interest
Adveq Opportunity II Zweite GmbH	Frankfurt am Main	Germany	51.72 %
Aftermarket Intelligence Consulting (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.	Shanghai	China	90.00 %
Elvaston Capital Fund II GmbH & Co. KG	Berlin	Germany	89.60 %
Eucon Canada Ltd.	Toronto	Canada	100.00 %
Eucon of North America, LLC	Atlanta	USA	100.00 %
Ferrum Holding GmbH & Co. KG	Düsseldorf	Germany	86.87 %
Fieldwork Quality S.L.	Madrid	Spain	100.00 %
Fieldwork Quality, LDA	Vila Nova de Gaia	Portugal	100.00 %
GiPA Argentina SA	Buenos Aires	Argentina	99.00 %
GiPA China Ltd.	Shanghai	China	100.00 %
GiPA dynamic SAS	Paris	France	60.30 %
GiPA GmbH	Bensheim	Germany	100.00 %
GiPA Italia S.r.l.	Milan	Italy	100.00 %
GiPA LLC	Moscow	Russian Federation	99.00 %
GiPA SAS	Paris	France	99.99 %
GiPA UK Ltd.	London	United Kingdom	100.00 %
Grupo Interprofesional de Productos Automóviles S.A. de C.V	Naucalpan de Juárez	Mexico	90.00 %
Grupo Interprofesional de Productos Automóviles S.L.	Madrid	Spain	100.00 %
Grupo Interprofesional de Produtos e Serviços Automotivos Gipa do Brasil Ltda.	Sao Caetano do Sul	Brazil	99.90 %
IE Finanzinvestment GmbH	Hanover	Germany	96.50 %
InterEurope AG European Law Service	Düsseldorf	Germany	100.00 %
InterEurope Beteiligung GmbH	Hanover	Germany	100.00 %
IRS Quality SARL	Rennes	France	100.00 %
Securess Mehrfachagentur GmbH	Essen	Germany	100.00 %

**JOINT VENTURES AND ASSOCIATED COMPANIES ACCOUNTED FOR AT EQUITY**

Name of the company	Domicile of the company		Equity interest
Deutsche Rückversicherung Schweiz AG	Zurich	Switzerland	23.75 %
Neue Rechtsschutz-Versicherungsgesellschaft AG	Mannheim	Germany	34.02 %
Trustlog GmbH (formerly: BSP Bürgschaftsservice-Plattform GmbH)	Hamburg	Germany	50.00 %

**OTHER ASSOCIATED COMPANIES**

Name of the company	Domicile of the company		Equity interest
Adveq Europe IV B Erste GmbH	Frankfurt am Main	Germany	37.88 %
ASSBAU E.W.I.V.	Brussels	Belgium	33.33 %
Centrum Badań Marketingowych INDICATOR Sp. z o.o.	Warsaw	Poland	49.60 %

**OTHER PARTICIPATIONS**

Name of the company	Domicile of the company		Equity interest	Equity in EUR'000	Net profit for the year in EUR'000
Caruso GmbH	Ismaning	Germany	1.00 %	-5,871	-1,969
Deutsche Makler Akademie (DMA) GmbH	Bayreuth	Germany	2.86 %	552	39
ESB GmbH	Coburg	Germany	18.32 %	343,841	41,072
EXTREMUS Versicherungs-Aktiengesellschaft	Cologne	Germany	1.00 %	64,219	119
GDV Dienstleistungs-GmbH	Hamburg	Germany	1.91 %	28,671	-270
Hannover Marketing und Tourismus GmbH	Hanover	Germany	1.53 %	760	73
KTI Kraftfahrzeugtechnisches Institut und Karosseriewerkstätte GmbH & Co. KG	Lohfelden	Germany	6.94 %	736	92
Protector Lebensversicherungs-AG	Berlin	Germany	1.74 %	7,853	2
Roland Partner Beteiligungsverwaltung GmbH	Cologne	Germany	12.57 %	862	-8
„TopReport“ Schadenbesichtigungs GmbH	Vienna	Austria	12.50 %	283	0
VDG – Versicherungswirtschaftlicher Datendienst GmbH	Dortmund	Germany	8.55 %	1,176	158
VST Gesellschaft für Versicherungsstatistik mbH	Hanover	Germany	9.09 %	507	-

The figures relate to the most recent financial year for which annual financial statements are available.  
Financial statements in foreign currency were translated to euro using the middle spot exchange rate on the reporting date.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND OTHER FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

The liabilities under surety bonds issued for loan and surety insurance amounted to EUR 11,547.6 million as at 31 December 2021 (previous year: EUR 10,772.1 million).

In accordance with sections 221 ff. of the VAG, HL is a member of the guarantee fund for life insurance companies. On the basis of the Guarantee Fund Financing Ordinance (Life), the guarantee fund levies annual contributions of a maximum of 0.2 ‰ of the total net technical reserves, until guarantee assets of 1.0 ‰ of total net technical reserves are created. As in the previous years, there are no future obligations arising from this for HL as the target amount has been reached.

The guarantee fund can also charge special premiums in the amount of an additional 1.0 ‰ of the total net technical reserves; this corresponds to an obligation of EUR 8.0 million (previous year: EUR 8.3 million).

In addition, HL has undertaken to provide funds to the guarantee fund or alternatively to the company Protektor Lebensversicherungs-AG if the funds in the guarantee fund are not sufficient in the event of necessary restructuring. This obligation amounts to 1.0% of the total net technical reserves, taking into account those premiums already paid to the guarantee fund at this time. Including the aforementioned payment obligations arising from the payment of premiums to the guarantee fund, the total obligation amounts to EUR 71.8 million as at 31 December 2021 (previous year: EUR 74.8 million).

VHV Allgemeine issued a letter of comfort to its wholly owned subsidiary VHV Re, ensuring that VHV Re can fulfil its contractual obligations. In light of VHV Re's equity base and business development, we consider it extremely unlikely that the letter of comfort will be utilised as things stand.

This company is a member of the registered association "Verkehrshilfe e.V.". Due to this membership, VHV Allgemeine is obligated to provide this association with the necessary resources to fulfil its purpose proportionate to its share in the premium revenues generated by

the member companies from direct-written motor vehicle liability insurance transactions in the respective calendar year before last.

In the case of the pension benefits, reinsurance policies written for the purpose of safeguarding against insolvency were pledged in favour of beneficiaries in the amount of EUR 81.2 million (previous year: EUR 79.1 million). In the context of the statutory collateralisation of partial retirement obligations, investment fund shares with a carrying amount of EUR 0.2 million (previous year: EUR 0.2 million) were pledged in favour of employees. The risk of utilisation from the contingent liabilities listed above is considered extremely low on account of VHV Holding's good credit rating.

The payment obligations in connection with approved mortgage, land charge and annuity charge receivables amount to EUR 71.8 million (previous year: EUR 41.0 million).

VHV Holding has a short put option for the acquisition of 3.5% of the shares in IE Finanzinvestment GmbH, Hanover, from LBL GmbH, Munich, which is subject to the condition precedent that one of the parties demands the transfer of the shares.

The Group's other financial obligations total a maximum of EUR 1,547.5 million (previous year: EUR 1,475.0 million) and are described below:

There are outstanding payment obligations from investments in the PE/IE segment and participating interests in the amount of EUR 1,364.2 million (previous year: EUR 1,295.6 million).

There are payment obligations for real estate in the amount of EUR 33.3 million (previous year: EUR 1.1 million).

Investments in multi-tranches of EUR 50.0 million (previous year: EUR 50.0 million) result in potential put options of an issuer amounting to no more than EUR 150.0 million (previous year: EUR 150.0 million) in the years 2022 to 2024.

There are future payment obligations of EUR 26.6 million (previous year: EUR 28.3 million) arising from partially long-term lease and rent contracts.



There are no other contingent liabilities that are not already apparent in the balance sheet and the notes/comments. Also, there are no further guarantees or obligations arising from bills of exchange.

### ANNUAL AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

The average number of employees of the companies included in the consolidated financial statements in the 2021 financial year was 3,633 (previous year: 3,268), of whom 3,403 (previous year: 3,055) were employed in Germany and 230 (previous year: 213) internationally. There were also 66 (previous year: 67) apprenticeship contracts in Germany on average for the year.

Consolidated personnel expenses amounted to EUR 341.6 million in 2021 (previous year: EUR 313.5 million). Of this figure, EUR 274.9 million was attributable to wages and salaries (previous year: EUR 250.6 million), EUR 43.2 million to social security costs (previous year: EUR 40.7 million) and EUR 23.5 million to pensions (previous year: EUR 22.2 million).

### TOTAL REMUNERATION OF THE SUPERVISORY BOARD AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The total remuneration amounted to EUR 1.9 million for members of the Supervisory Board (previous year: EUR 1.5 million); EUR 9.4 million for members of the Board of Directors (previous year: EUR 7.7 million) and EUR 2.7 million for former members of the Board of Directors and/or their surviving dependents (previous year: EUR 2.1 million).

The pension reserve set aside for former members of the Board of Directors and their surviving dependents amounts to EUR 41.0 million as at the balance sheet closing date (previous year: EUR 39.6 million).

### AUDITORS' FEES

The expenses incurred for the auditors of the consolidated financial statements in 2021 break down as follows:

Expenses for the audit of the financial statements: EUR 1.2 million (previous year: EUR 0.9 million); other attestation services: EUR 0.0 million (previous year: EUR 0.1 million); other services: EUR 0.0 million (previous year: EUR 0.1 million).

### REPORT ON EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET CLOSING DATE

The impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on the macroeconomic development of Germany and the EU cannot be reliably estimated at the present time. The VHV Group is not currently impacted as there are no material exposures in its insurance and investment portfolios. The longer the Russia-Ukraine war goes on, the greater the potential macroeconomic consequences. As it is not possible to conclusively assess the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on the future net assets, financial position and results of operations of the VHV Group at the present time, the forecasts relating to the net assets, financial position and results of operations are currently subject to considerable uncertainty.

Hanover, 14 March 2022

### THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Reuter	Hilbert	Scharrer
Schneider	Stark	Voigt

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To VHV Vereinigte Hannoversche Versicherung a.G.

## REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND OF THE GROUP MANAGEMENT REPORT

### Opinions

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of VHV Vereinigte Hannoversche Versicherung a.G., Hanover, and its subsidiaries (the Group), which comprise the consolidated balance sheet as at 31 December 2021, the consolidated income statement, the consolidated statement of changes in equity and the consolidated cash flow statement for the financial year from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. In addition, we have audited the group management report of VHV Vereinigte Hannoversche Versicherung a.G., Hanover, for the financial year from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021. In accordance with the German legal requirements, we have not audited the content of the group non-financial statement contained in the "Non-financial statement" section of the group management report.

In our opinion, on the basis of the knowledge obtained in the audit,

- the accompanying consolidated financial statements comply, in all material respects, with the requirements of German law applicable to insurance companies and, in compliance with these requirements, give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Group as at 31 December 2021 and of its financial performance for the financial year from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021, and
- the accompanying group management report as a whole provides an appropriate view of the Group's position. In all material respects, this group management report is consistent with the consolidated financial statements, complies with German legal requirements and appropriately presents the opportunities and risks of future development. Our opinion on the group management report does not cover the content of the group non-financial statement referred to above.

Pursuant to Sec. 322 (3) Sentence 1 HGB ["Handelsgesetzbuch": German Commercial Code], we declare that our audit has not led to any reservations relating to the legal compliance of the consolidated financial statements and of the group management report.

### Basis for the opinions

We conducted our audit of the consolidated financial statements and of the group management report in accordance with Sec. 317 HGB and the EU Audit Regulation (No 537/2014, referred to subsequently as "EU Audit Regulation") and in compliance with German Generally Accepted Standards for Financial Statement Audits promulgated by the Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer [Institute of Public Auditors in Germany] (IDW). Our responsibilities under those requirements and principles are further described in the "Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated financial statements and of the group management report" section of our auditor's report. We are independent of the group entities in accordance with the requirements of European law and German commercial and professional law, and we have fulfilled our other German professional responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. In addition, in accordance with Art. 10 (2) f) of the EU Audit Regulation, we declare that we have not provided non-audit services prohibited under Art. 5 (1) of the EU Audit Regulation. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions on the consolidated financial statements and on the group management report.

### Key audit matters in the audit of the consolidated financial statements

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements for the financial year from 1 January to 31 December 2021. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon; we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Below, we describe what we consider to be the key audit matters:

### VALUATION OF CERTAIN NON-LISTED CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

#### Reasons why the matter was determined to be a key audit matter:

The VHV Group's investment portfolio includes registered debentures, promissory note loans and mortgage loans. They are valued in accordance with the provisions applicable to non-current assets pursuant to Sec. 341b (1) Sentence 2 HGB and Sec. 341c (1) HGB in conjunction with Sec. 255 (4) HGB. They are therefore recognised either at nominal value or amortised cost or – in the event of an anticipated long-term reduction in value – at the lower fair value.

The fair values of registered debentures, promissory note loans and mortgage loans are calculated using financial valuation models, as there are no observable prices on an active market. The valuation is performed by deriving relevant factors (in particular, yield curves and spreads) from the main parameters observable on the market and includes estimates and assumptions.

Due to the above-mentioned estimates and assumptions as well as the discretion used in deriving parameters relevant for the valuation and the sensitivity of the valuation of registered debentures, promissory note loans and mortgage loans to these parameters (in particular, yield curves and spreads), there is a risk that the fair values are calculated incorrectly. As the aforementioned capital investments also constitute a significant proportion of the overall amount of capital investments of the VHV Group and there is thus a risk of material misstatement in the consolidated financial statements, this is deemed to be a key audit matter.

#### **Auditor's response:**

Taking the above-mentioned risks into account, we essentially performed our audit of the valuation of registered debt securities, promissory note loans and mortgage-backed securities as follows:

- We familiarized ourselves with the process that has been set up by the VHV Group to value registered debt securities, promissory note loans and mortgage-backed securities. In this regard, we assessed the material internal controls implemented within this process by tracking and testing their operating effectiveness for correctly measuring non-listed capital investments.
- We investigated whether the models and methods underlying the financial valuation of registered debentures, promissory note loans and mortgage loans are suitable for calculating a fair value pursuant to the requirements of German commercial law.
- In addition, we assessed whether the material parameters used by the VHV Group's Board of Directors (yield curves and spreads) for the valuation of registered debentures, promissory note loans and mortgage loans were mainly derived from variables observable on the market in a verifiable manner.
- Using a deliberate sample, we performed our own calculations of fair values and compared these to the VHV Group's valuations.

As part of our audit, we deployed our own specialists with knowledge of financial mathematics.

Our procedures did not lead to any reservations relating to the valuation of certain non-listed capital investments.

#### **Reference to related disclosures:**

The disclosures on the valuation of non-listed capital investments (including registered debt securities, promissory note loans and mortgage-backed securities) are included in the "Accounting policies" section of the notes to the consolidated financial statements.

### **VALUATION OF GROSS ACTUARIAL RESERVE IN THE LIFE INSURANCE BUSINESS**

#### **Reasons why the matter was determined to be a key audit matter:**

The gross actuarial reserve in the life insurance business is predominantly calculated on the basis of the prospective method in accordance with Sec. 341f HGB and Sec. 25 RechVersV ["Versicherungsunternehmens-Rechnungslegungsverordnung": German Insurance Companies Accounts Regulations] (cash value of future benefits less cash value of future premiums). The gross actuarial reserve is calculated according to the tariff.

For the calculation of the gross actuarial reserve in the life insurance business, requirements of German commercial law and supervisory law requirements as well as derived assumptions specific to the company are to be taken into account. These primarily include assumptions on biometrics (e.g., mortality/longevity, occupational disability), on the exercise of policy holder options (cancellation and lump sum options), on costs and on interest on insurance obligations. These are based firstly on the tariff calculation bases of the premium calculation and secondly on current calculation bases. The latter can arise from legal provisions, such as the reference interest rate in accordance with DeckRV ["Deckungsrückstellungsverordnung": German Benefit Reserve Ordinance] or from publications by the German Association of Actuaries (DAV), such as a more up-to-date mortality table for longevity risks. Company-specific assumptions are also included, such as the probability of cancellation and lump sum options or biometric assumptions that deviate from the tables published by DAV.

In particular, insurance companies also have to consider interest rate obligations to policy holders when creating the gross actuarial reserve, unless the current or expected income from the company's assets is sufficient to cover these obligations ("additional interest rate reserves" or "interest rate increases"). These are reported as part of the gross actuarial reserve.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

When calculating the additional interest rate reserve and interest rate increases, the Group's executive directors partially exercise the option of BaFin ["Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht": German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority] circular "Notes on calculation of the additional interest rate reserve for the new portfolio and allocation to interest rate increases for the old portfolio" from 5 October 2016 (VA 26-FR 3208-2015/0001). In this context, Hannoversche Lebensversicherung's Board of Directors recognises probabilities of cancellation and lump sum options, the determination of which involves discretion and estimation. In addition, biometric calculation bases with reduced security margins are used that are based on developments in the VHV Group's portfolio observable over several years and that also includes room for discretion.

We consider the valuation of the gross actuarial reserve in the life insurance business a key audit matter because it accounts for a significant share of the balance sheet total and because of the discretion and estimates used to calculate the probabilities of cancellation and lump sum options for the additional interest rate reserve or interest rate increases and in the more up-to-date biometric calculation bases.

## **Auditor's response:**

Taking the above-mentioned risks into account, we essentially performed the audit of the gross actuarial reserve in the life insurance business as follows:

- We recorded the processes for calculating the actuarial reserve in the life insurance business and assessed the operating effectiveness of the material controls in these processes with regard to the completeness and correctness of the portfolio and the appropriateness of the valuation.
- We also analysed the actuarial reserve in the life insurance business via a projection based on the sources of profit over the past years and the current portfolio development and compared this analysis with the values entered in the balance sheet. In addition, we examined the development of the actuarial reserve via key figures and time series analysis.
- Moreover, we recalculated the standard actuarial reserve in the life insurance business and the additional interest rate reserve/interest rate increases for sub-portfolios or contracts selected on the basis of risk and compared the results to the calculations of the VHV Group's executive directors.

- To assess the replicability of the probabilities of cancellation and lump sum options as well as the more up-to-date company-specific biometric assumptions (relief) for the calculation of the additional interest rate reserve and interest rate increases, we evaluated the derivation on the basis of historical and current portfolio development, sources of profit and the Board of Directors' expectations of policy holders' future behaviour. In our assessment of the appropriateness of the calculation bases used, we also made particular use of the recommendations and publications of DAV and BaFin. In this context, we critically reviewed the explanatory report and the appropriateness report of the assigned actuary of the life insurance business and the results of the annual forecast calculation in accordance with BaFin requirements to determine whether all risks were accounted for in the valuation of the actuarial reserve in the life insurance business with regard to the appropriateness of the calculation bases and the ability to satisfy insurance policies in the long term.

As part of our audit, we deployed our own specialists with knowledge of actuarial mathematics.

Our audit procedures did not lead to any reservations regarding the valuation of the gross actuarial reserve in the life insurance business.

## **Reference to related disclosures:**

The disclosures on the principles for the valuation of the gross actuarial reserve in the life insurance business and the probabilities of cancellation and lump sum options and biometric assumptions contained therein are included in the "Accounting policies" section of the notes to the consolidated financial statements.

## **VALUATION OF THE GROSS RESERVE FOR PARTIAL LOSSES FOR INSURANCE CLAIMS NOT YET PROCESSED IN THE DIRECT-WRITTEN PROPERTY-CASUALTY INSURANCE BUSINESS**

### **Reasons why the matter was determined to be a key audit matter:**

The gross reserve for insurance claims not yet processed in the property-casualty insurance business reported in the VHV Group's annual financial statements is primarily divided into gross reserves for partial losses for known claims and incurred but not reported (IBNR) claims, the valuation of which is guided by the provisions of Sec. 341g HGB.

The gross reserve for partial losses for known claims in the property-casualty insurance business is valued individually per claim at the amount of the expected expenditure and is based on the knowledge and information as at the closing date and the history of similar claims.

The gross reserve for partial losses for IBNR claims is predominantly determined using actuarial procedures on the basis of historical data (claim numbers and claim averages), the current portfolio development and observations of claim reports in the financial year.

The expected expenses for insurance claims for both reserves for partial losses are estimated in accordance with the principle of prudence under Sec. 341e (1) Sentence 1 HGB.

Due to the required estimates and assumptions, there are uncertainties in the valuation of the two gross reserves for partial losses and thus room for discretion. This particularly relates to the gross reserve for partial losses for known claims in the liability segments due to the relatively long settlement period and the gross reserve for partial losses for IBNR claims. There is therefore a risk that the gross reserve for insurance claims not yet processed as a whole and in the individual insurance segments (especially in the liability segments) is not sufficient. In addition, the gross reserve for insurance claims not yet processed makes up a relatively large share of the balance sheet total. This is therefore a key audit matter.

Due to the low degree of judgment, the key audit matter does not relate to the annuity reserves included in gross reserves for insurance claims not yet processed and reserves for loss adjustment expenses.

#### **Auditor's response:**

Taking the above-mentioned risks into account, we largely performed our audit of the gross reserve for partial losses for insurance claims not yet processed in the property-casualty insurance business as follows:

- We examined the procedures for processing claims and calculating the gross reserve for insurance claims not yet processed in the direct-written property-casualty insurance business by tracking the processing of individual claims from the claim report to recognition in the annual financial statements. In this regard, we tested and assessed the appropriateness and operating effectiveness of the material internal controls implemented within these processes to ensure measurement is carried out correctly.

- In addition, we evaluated the appropriateness of the (actuarial) models and methods applied in the valuation of gross reserves for partial losses for known and IBNR claims for the valuation of the respective gross reserve and the replicability of the parameters used.
- Furthermore, by way of a deliberately sample of individual known claims for various insurance segments (especially the liability segments) and types on the basis of the claim file, we mainly examined whether the respective reserves were sufficient at the balance sheet closing date given the information and knowledge available.
- With regard to whether the gross reserve for insurance claims not yet processed as a whole is sufficient, we carried out our own claim projections for the three largest insurance segments and types on the basis of mathematical-statistical methods. We compared our best estimate with the gross reserve recognised for insurance claims not yet processed and, on this basis, assessed whether the reserve as a whole is sufficient.
- Furthermore, we assessed whether the gross reserves for partial losses for insurance claims not yet processed in previous years was sufficient according to current knowledge to cover the actual claims incurred and thus to obtain indications of the appropriateness of past estimates ("target/actual comparison").
- The subject of the audit of the calculation of the gross reserve for partial losses for IBNR claims was the replicable derivation of the parameters used by the Group's executive directors to estimate the reserve for late claims in the financial year (especially the number of claims and average amount claimed).

As part of our audit, we deployed our own specialists with knowledge of actuarial mathematics.

Our audit procedures did not lead to any reservations regarding the valuation of the gross reserve for insurance claims not yet processed in the property-casualty insurance business.

#### **Reference to related disclosures:**

The disclosures on the valuation of the gross reserve for partial losses for insurance claims not yet processed in the property-casualty insurance business are included in the "Accounting policies" section of the notes to the consolidated financial statements.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## Other information

The Supervisory Board is responsible for the supervisory board report. In all other respects, the executive directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the prescribed parts of the Annual Report, which were provided to us prior to us issuing this auditor's report, specifically the following:

- the Board of Directors' report on business performance in the preface to the annual report,
- the group structure presented before the preface to the annual report, the key figures and the glossary,
- the Group non-financial statement included in the "Non-financial statement" section of the group management report, and
- Report of the Supervisory Board

but not the annual financial statements, not the management report disclosures whose content is audited and not our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinions on the consolidated financial statements and on the group management report do not cover the other information, and consequently we do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in so doing, to consider whether the other information

- is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements, with the group management report or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or
- otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Responsibilities of the executive directors and the Supervisory Board for the consolidated financial statements and the group management report

The executive directors are responsible for the preparation of consolidated financial statements that comply, in all material respects, with the requirements of German law applicable to insurance companies, and that the consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of

the assets, liabilities, financial position and financial performance of the Group in compliance with German legally required accounting principles. In addition, the executive directors are responsible for such internal control as they have determined necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, the executive directors are responsible for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. They also have the responsibility for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern. In addition, they are responsible for financial reporting based on the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

Furthermore, the executive directors are responsible for the preparation of the group management report that, as a whole, provides an appropriate view of the Group's position and is, in all material respects, consistent with the consolidated financial statements, complies with German legal requirements, and appropriately presents the opportunities and risks of future development. In addition, the executive directors are responsible for such arrangements and measures (systems) as they have considered necessary to enable the preparation of a group management report that is in accordance with the applicable German legal requirements, and to be able to provide sufficient appropriate evidence for the assertions in the group management report.

The Supervisory Board is responsible for overseeing the Group's financial reporting process for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements and of the group management report.

## Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated financial statements and of the group management report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and whether the group management report as a whole provides an appropriate view of the Group's position and, in all material respects, is consistent with the consolidated financial statements and the knowledge obtained in the audit, complies with the German legal requirements and appropriately presents the opportunities and risks of future development, as well as to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions on the consolidated financial statements and on the group management report.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Sec. 317 HGB and the EU Audit Regulation and in compliance with German Generally Accepted Standards for Financial Statement Audits promulgated by the Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer (IDW) will always detect a material misstatement. 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 consolidated financial statements and this group management report.

We exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements and of the group management report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. 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.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit of the consolidated financial statements and of arrangements and measures (systems) relevant to the audit of the group management report 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 these systems.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used by the executive directors and the reasonableness of estimates made by the executive directors and related disclosures.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the executive directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in the auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements and in the group management report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our respective opinions. 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 the Group to cease to be able to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements present the underlying transactions and events in a manner that the consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and financial performance of the Group in compliance with the applicable German legal requirements.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express opinions on the consolidated financial statements and on the group management report. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinions.
- Evaluate the consistency of the group management report with the consolidated financial statements, its conformity with [German] law, and the view of the Group's position it provides.
- Perform audit procedures on the prospective information presented by the executive directors in the group management report. On the basis of sufficient appropriate audit evidence we evaluate, in particular, the significant assumptions used by the executive directors as a basis for the prospective information, and evaluate the proper derivation of the prospective information from these assumptions. We do not express a separate opinion on the prospective information and on the assumptions used as a basis. There is a substantial unavoidable risk that future events will differ materially from the prospective information.

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

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with the relevant independence requirements, and communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence and where applicable, the related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

### Further information pursuant to Art. 10 of the EU Audit Regulation

We were elected as group auditor by the Supervisory Board on 29 April 2021. The Supervisory Board engaged us by letter dated 14 June 2021. We have been the group auditor of VHV Vereinigte Hannoversche Versicherung a.G. without interruption since financial year 2018.

We declare that the opinions expressed in this auditor's report are consistent with the additional report to the audit committee pursuant to Art. 11 of the EU Audit Regulation (long-form audit report).

In addition to the financial statement audit, we have provided to the company or entities controlled by it the following services that are not disclosed in the consolidated financial statements or in the group management report:

- Voluntary financial statement audits
- Review of individual disclosures in the non-financial statement and
- Attestation services for statutory reports to third parties.

### GERMAN PUBLIC AUDITOR RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENGAGEMENT

The German Public Auditor responsible for the engagement is Dr. Markus Horstkötter.

Hanover, 28 March 2022

### ERNST & YOUNG GMBH WIRTSCHAFTSPRÜFUNGSGESELLSCHAFT

Dr Horstkötter	Henkel
Wirtschaftsprüfer	Wirtschaftsprüfer
[German Public Auditor]	[German Public Auditor]



# REPORT OF THE SUPERVISORY BOARD VHV VEREINIGTE HANNOVERSICHE VERSICHERUNG a.G. / Group

In the 2021 financial year, the Supervisory Board performed the tasks incumbent upon it by law and the articles of association, and monitored and advised the management of the company on an ongoing basis.

The Board of Directors reported to the Supervisory Board on a regular basis, promptly and comprehensively regarding performance, the position of the affiliates and of the participating interests, basic issues of company governance, corporate planning, the risk situation, and regarding the Group's intended business policy. The Chairman of the Supervisory Board was in constant contact with the Chairman of the Board of Directors, and was reported to continuously and immediately regarding all transactions of particular importance in the Group. He engaged in regular work discussion with the Chairman of the Board of Directors in the interests of constant exchange of information and opinions between the Supervisory Board and the Board of Directors.

The Supervisory Board met four times during the last financial year. Key policy issues, individual issues, the strategies of the affiliates, the economic situation including the risk situation and risk management and the development of the project to modernise the IT application systems in the property-casualty and life segments were the subject matter of these meetings.

## MAJOR FOCAL ISSUES

### Development of the Group

The Board of Directors reported in the meetings on an ongoing basis regarding the development of investments and technical development at the insurance companies and the development of the other affiliated companies of VHV a.G. The developments in the major segments of property-casualty insurance transactions and in life insurance were explained by the Board of Directors, as was the development of the internal productivity and quality parameters. The meetings also discussed the considerations of the Board of Directors regarding merger, partnership and acquisition efforts.

With regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meetings discussed the coordination of measures to protect the health of the VHV Group's employees and maintain business operations and the potential impact on investments and insurance transactions.

### Other key issues

- Status of the IT and digitalisation projects
- Integration of InterEurope AG following its acquisition in the reporting year
- International activities in France, Italy and Turkey
- Acquisition of the Italian insurance company Val Piave S.p.A. (subject to the approval of the Italian supervisory authority)
- Value performance of material participations
- Status of the VHV Group's sustainability strategy
- Qualitative and quantitative cornerstones of corporate planning for 2022

### WORK OF THE COMMITTEES

Of the committees formed by the members of the Supervisory Board, the IT/Digitalisation Committee met on three occasions while the Human Resources and Nomination Committee and the Risk and Audit Committee each met twice. The Supervisory Board was informed about the results of the meetings.

### AUDIT OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The consolidated financial statements and Group management report for the financial year from 1 January to 31 December 2021, including the accounting system, were audited by Ernst & Young GmbH Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft and issued with an unrestricted audit opinion. The Audit Committee of the Supervisory Board of VHV a.G. discussed and reviewed the consolidated financial statements and the Group management report for 2021, including the non-financial statement, together with the Board of Directors and the auditor. No reservations were raised. The Committee reported the results to the Supervisory Board. The consolidated financial statements prepared by the Board of Directors for the year ended 31 December 2021 have been approved by the Supervisory Board.

Hanover, 5 May 2022

### THE SUPERVISORY BOARD

Dr Lütke-Bornefeld  
Chairman

Lange  
Deputy Chairman

Baresel

Dr Birtel

Bürkle

Prof Geib



# ADMINISTRATION

## CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS:

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