



## **Press release**

*Morges, 29 May 2018*

### **116th Annual General Meeting of Romande Energie Holding SA**

## **Shareholders approve all the recommendations of the Board of Directors**

**The 116th Annual General Meeting of Romande Energie Holding SA was held today. Shareholders in attendance or represented by proxies approved the 2017 management report, the financial statements, together with the payment of a dividend per share of CHF 36. The Chairman and the CEO drew attention to the Group's solid results and commented on the progress made in the areas of smart technologies and services.**

Shareholders and business partners today convened for the 116th Annual General Meeting of Romande Energie Holding SA at the Beausobre Theatre, Morges, Switzerland. The 98 shareholders in attendance or represented by proxies, accounting for 82.24% of the share capital, approved the management report as well as the 2017 parent-company and consolidated financial statements. They also approved the directors' and corporate officers' remuneration. Finally, they granted discharge to the Board of Directors and the Executive Board from liability.

### **Dividend per share unchanged at CHF 36**

The Board of Directors recommended a dividend of CHF 36, unchanged relative to the payment in 2017, to the Annual General Meeting. In the current climate of negative interest rates, this represents a solid return on investment. Shareholders at the Annual General Meeting approved this amount, corresponding to a total dividend payout of CHF 37.1m, based on the total number of shares in circulation.

Shareholders renewed the directorships of Anne Bobillier, Wolfgang Martz, Christian Budry, Bernard Grobéty and Jean-Jacques Miauton for one-year terms.

Shareholders proceeded to re-elect Guy Mustaki to a one-year term as Chairman of the Board of Directors. They then re-elected Elina Leimgruber and Wolfgang Martz, Jean-Yves Pidoux and Laurent Balsiger to one-year terms as members of the Appointments and Compensation Committee. Deloitte SA was re-elected as statutory auditors for the 2018 financial year and Gabriel Cottier, civil notary in Lausanne, was again designated as the independent proxy for a one-year term.

### **New strategy ahead of prospective market deregulation**

In his address, Guy Mustaki, Chairman of the Board of Directors, noted that the electricity market is undergoing a metamorphosis at the moment. In particular, he reminded shareholders of the following: "Faced with increasingly unpredictable industry conditions and ever-stronger competition in deregulated markets, we decided to undertake a full strategic review in 2017. In short, we will continue diversifying and expanding business but always

from a long-term perspective because we want to ensure longevity and retain the trust of both our customers and shareholders.”

Against this backdrop, Pierre-Alain Urech, Chief Executive Officer, expressed a high degree of satisfaction about the business models being developed in the Smart Lab, the competence centre that was inaugurated in September 2017. “This business incubator exists to encourage new opportunities in the field of smart energy, enabling us to get ahead of upcoming changes in industry conditions. Our Microgrid Contracting offering marks an initial success story, as a response to the liberalisation of the market for small-scale generators at the start of 2018. More new business ideas models are due to follow, connected specifically with energy management,” he went on to specify.

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## Notes to editorial desks

### Voting record of 2018 AGM

Detailed voting results will be posted on the [www.romande-energie.ch](http://www.romande-energie.ch) website on 30 May 2018.

### 2019 Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 28 May 2019, at 5pm CET (venue T.B.C.).

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## Contact

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### **Romande Energie at a glance**

Romande Energie Group is the leading electricity distributor in Western Switzerland. Through its subsidiary Romande Energie Commerce, it supplies more than 300,000 end-customers directly in approximately 300 municipalities in the cantons of Vaud, Valais, Fribourg and Geneva. Its core business lines are the generation, distribution and marketing of power together with energy services.

Priorities are liaising with customers to ensure high-quality services in line with expectations; guaranteeing a reliable, sustainable and competitive supply of energy; developing proprietary power generation through priority investments in renewable energy; and promoting innovative energy-efficiency solutions.

Romande Energie's corporate social responsibility policy systematically guides its approach to business.

**For more information on Romande Energie Group, visit [www.romande-energie.ch](http://www.romande-energie.ch)**