



Press release

AGM of Romande Energie Holding SA

Renewal of strategy confirming the Group's customer focus and environmental commitment

Romande Energie Holding SA held its Annual General Meeting in Morges on 17 May 2011. Shareholders approved the annual report and the company and consolidated financial statements for 2010, as well as the Board of Director's proposal to distribute an ordinary dividend of CHF 25.00 per share.

Morges, 17 May 2011 – The Annual General Meeting of Shareholders of Romande Energie Holding SA was held at the Théâtre de Beausobre in Morges today. In his opening address, Guy Mustaki, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, emphasized that in an environment increasingly marked by the threefold need to 1) limit the risks associated with electricity production facilities, 2) avoid making Switzerland over-dependent on energy imports and 3) guarantee households and businesses reliable supplies on a long-term basis, it was essential to find reasonable solutions for the conservation and generation of electricity. He confirmed Romande Energie's determination to "continue to implement renewable energy projects while programming investments in large hydroelectric plants and natural gas power stations".

Mr Mustaki also presented the strategy that will guide Romande Energie during the next decade. It involves launching multi-energy activities (electricity, gas and heat) and increasing the autonomy of each business line (generation, energy management, distribution, product and service marketing), while confirming the Group's strong commitment to civil society and its customer-oriented approach. "This strategy will enable us to meet the challenges posed by the growing number of direct customers, larger networks, competitive pricing and expansion of own-power production", concluded the Chairman.

Dividend of CHF 25 per registered share

As announced in March, the Group's 2010 results were marked by a significant rise in gross margin, a slight decline in net revenues to CHF 577 million, a fall in net income to CHF 84 million and financial expenses that were influenced by euro depreciation.

The Board of Directors proposed to pay an ordinary dividend of CHF 25.00 per share. This proposal was approved by the Meeting. Based on the number of shares outstanding, the total distribution will amount to CHF 27.4 million.

Shareholders adopted the company financial statements and the consolidated financial statements for 2010, as well as the remuneration principles for members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Board. They also re-appointed Ernst & Young as auditor for the 2011 financial year.

In addition, shareholders re-elected Giovanni Leonardi, CEO of Alpiq Group, for a further 3-year term as a member of the Board of Directors. They took note of the appointment by the Vaud Cantonal Government of Alphonse-Marie Veuthey, president of the Vionnaz local council and vice chairman of Société électrique du Bas-Valais, as the successor of Antoine Lattion, who has decided to step down from the Board at the same time as he retires from professional life.

Priorities and challenges – customer focus, distribution quality, energy efficiency, renewable energy sources...

Pierre-Alain Urech, CEO, reviewed the activities and major projects carried out or initiated last year. In his presentation of the Group's solutions for promoting energy efficiency and its achievements in the renewable energy sector, Mr Urech highlighted Romande Energie's motivation in these fields and the substantial capital expenditure envisaged: "In 2011 alone, we plan to invest CHF 80 million in renewable generation facilities. Currently, our project portfolio in this area amounts to CHF 570 million and should enable us to cover 10% of our clients' electricity needs by 2025".

The CEO also pointed out that supervision, maintenance and upgrading of distribution installations remain a top priority, involving over 400 employees and annual expenditure of some CHF 60 million.

Mr Urech ended his address with the following remark: "Gearing all our actions to meeting our clients' expectations is the cornerstone of our strategy". Romande Energie Group will continue to rely on transparency, innovation, cost control and constant improvement of processes in order to implement it.

* * * * *

Contact

Karin Devalte

Head of Communications
Rue de Lausanne 53
1110 Morges

Phone: 021 802 95 67
Mobile: 079 386 47 67
Email: karin.devalte@romande-energie.ch

Romande Energie Group at a glance

Meeting the electricity needs of 280,000 direct clients (representing a catchment population of 500,000 people) spread over 319 municipalities in the cantons of Vaud, Valais, Fribourg and Geneva, Romande Energie Group is one of Switzerland's top five electricity distributors. Its core businesses are the **production, distribution and marketing of electricity**. The Group's priorities are to provide its clients with high-quality services and guarantee reliable, competitively priced electricity supplies on a long-term basis; to expand its own-power production by investing primarily in new renewable energy sources; and to promote innovative solutions in the field of energy efficiency.

For more information on Romande Energie Group, visit www.romande-energie.ch