

Report of the statutory auditor

with financial statements as of 31 December 2017 of

CRH Finance Switzerland AG, Baar

To the General Meeting of
CRH Finance Switzerland AG, Baar

Basle, 9 March 2018

Report of the statutory auditor on the financial statements

As statutory auditor, we have audited the accompanying financial statements of CRH Finance Switzerland AG, which comprise the balance sheet, the income statement, the statement of changes in equity, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, for the year ended 31 December 2017.



Board of Directors' responsibility

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER, the requirements of Swiss law and the company's articles of incorporation. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining an internal control system relevant to the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The Board of Directors is further responsible for selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.



Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Swiss law and Swiss Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers the internal control system relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements 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 the entity's internal control system. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017 give a true and fair view of the financial position, the results of operations and the cash flows in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER and comply with Swiss law and the company's articles of incorporation.



Report on key audit matters based on the circular 1/2015 of the Federal Audit Oversight Authority

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. For each matter below, our description of how our audit addressed the matter is provided in that context.

We have fulfilled the responsibilities described in the Auditor's responsibilities section of our report, including in relation to these matters. Accordingly, our audit included the performance of procedures designed to respond to our assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements. The results of our audit procedures, including the procedures performed to address the matters below, provide the basis for our audit opinion on the accompanying financial statements.

Impairment of investments and loans

Risk	The Company issued a bond and uses intragroup loans to fund the parent company as well as other affiliates. Loans amount to approx. 99% of total assets and are therefore material. By definition, amounts recognized on the balance sheet are subject to an impairment risk. When there are indications of possible impairments, management prepares the required calculations and, if applicable, records an impairment or allowance. The calculations are based in part on simplified principles, especially when management considered the risk of an impairment to be low.
Our audit response	We reviewed the calculations performed by management, which were based on audited statutory financial statements or audited group reporting packages. For one more complex calculation, we tested the underlying forecasts and assumptions as well as the clerical accuracy of the valuation model.



Report on other legal requirements

We confirm that we meet the legal requirements on licensing according to the Auditor Oversight Act (AOA) and independence (article 728 CO and article 11 AOA) and that there are no circumstances incompatible with our independence.

In accordance with article 728a para. 1 item 3 CO and Swiss Auditing Standard 890, we confirm that an internal control system exists, which has been designed for the preparation of financial statements according to the instructions of the Board of Directors.

We further confirm that the proposed appropriation of available earnings complies with Swiss law and the company's articles of incorporation. We recommend that the financial statements submitted to you be approved.

Ernst & Young Ltd

Reto Hofer
Licensed audit expert
(Auditor in charge)

Philippe Wenger
Licensed audit expert

Enclosures

- ▶ Financial statements (balance sheet, income statement, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flow and notes)
- ▶ Proposal regarding the appropriation of available earnings

Balance Sheet - Assets

	31.12.2017	31.12.2016
	CHF	CHF
Current assets		
Cash and equivalents	4'069	10'917
Other receivables	0	7
Accrued income and prepaid expenses	1) 434'422	525'879
<u>Total current assets</u>	<u>438'491</u>	<u>536'804</u>
Non-current assets		
Financial assets	2) 389'151'851	388'208'657
<u>Total non-current assets</u>	<u>389'151'851</u>	<u>388'208'657</u>
<u>Total assets</u>	<u>389'590'342</u>	<u>388'745'461</u>

Balance Sheet - Liabilities and Equity	31.12.2017	31.12.2016
	CHF	CHF
Liabilities		
Accrued expenses and payables	3) 1'346'375	1'392'375
<u>Total current liabilities</u>	<u>1'346'375</u>	<u>1'392'375</u>
Bonds	4) 330'000'000	330'000'000
<u>Total long-term liabilities</u>	<u>330'000'000</u>	<u>330'000'000</u>
<u>Total liabilities</u>	<u>331'346'375</u>	<u>331'392'375</u>
Equity		
Share capital	100'000	100'000
Capital contribution reserves	55'000'000	55'000'000
General legal reserves	50'000	50'000
Retained earnings		
- Profit carried forward	2'203'086	1'220'839
- Net profit of the financial year	890'881	982'247
Total retained earnings	<u>3'093'967</u>	<u>2'203'086</u>
<u>Total equity</u>	<u>58'243'967</u>	<u>57'353'086</u>
<u>Total liabilities and equity</u>	<u>389'590'342</u>	<u>388'745'461</u>

Income Statement

		2017	2016
		CHF	CHF
<u>Expense</u>			
Operating expenses	5)	-1'902'379	-1'792'100
Total operating expenses		-1'902'379	-1'792'100
<u>Financial result</u>			
Financial income	6)	7'568'694	7'566'188
Financial expenses	7)	-4'628'957	-4'628'957
Total financial result		2'939'737	2'937'231
Operating profit before tax		1'037'358	1'145'131
Income tax	8)	-146'477	-162'884
Net profit of the financial year		890'881	982'247
Earnings per share		2017	2016
Weighted average number of shares outstanding		100	100
Net profit of the financial year in CHF		890'881	982'247
Diluted and undiluted earnings per share in CHF		8'909	9'822

There are no outstanding stock options or stock subscription rights that could lead to a dilution of earnings per share.

Statement of changes in equity

	Share capital	Reserves	Retained earnings	Total equity
Balance as of 31.12.2015	100'000	55'050'000	1'220'839	56'370'839
Net profit of the financial year 2016			982'247	982'247
Balance as of 31.12.2016	100'000	55'050'000	2'203'086	57'353'086
Net profit of the financial year 2017			890'881	890'881
Balance as of 31.12.2017	100'000	55'050'000	3'093'967	58'243'967

The share capital consists of 100 registered shares with a nominal value of CHF 100 each.

All 100 shares are held by Jura-Holding AG, Aarau (Switzerland), which is a wholly-owned and fully consolidated subsidiary of CRH plc., Dublin (Ireland).

The non-distributable reserves amount to CHF 50'000.

Statement of cash flows

	2017	2016
	CHF	CHF
Net profit of the financial year	890'881	982'247
+/- Accrued income and prepaid expenses and other receivables	91'465	91'457
+/- Accrued expenses and payables	-46'000	-54'750
Cash flow from operating activities	936'346	1'018'954
Investment in interest-bearing loans	-943'194	-1'021'688
Cash flow from investing activities	-943'194	-1'021'688
Cash flow from financing activities	0	0
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	-6'848	-2'734
 <u>Reconciliation of opening to closing cash and cash equivalents</u>		
Cash and cash equivalents as of 1.1.	10'917	13'651
Cash and cash equivalents as of 31.12.	4'069	10'917
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	-6'848	-2'734

Notes to the financial statements

Accounting policies

The financial statements of CRH Finance Switzerland AG have been prepared in accordance with the Swiss accounting and reporting recommendation of Swiss GAAP FER according to the principle of "true and fair view". The full set of Swiss GAAP FER recommendations have been applied.

The financial statements also comply with the regulations of Swiss Code of Obligations.

Accounting principles

Current assets

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand, demand deposits and time deposits with a residual term to maturity from the balance sheet date of 90 days at the most. Cash and cash equivalents are reported at their nominal value.

Financial assets

The financial assets are recognized at acquisition costs less impairment, if any.

Liabilities

The liabilities consist of short-term and long-term debts. The accrued expenses and deferred income and payables are reported at its nominal amount. The bonds are recorded at par value.

Related party transaction

Related party transactions refer to the parent company and to other fully-consolidated subsidiaries of the parent company. Related party transactions and related party balances are properly disclosed in the relevant line item of the financial statements or the notes. All transactions with related parties are conducted at arm's length.

Other notes

Company information

CRH Finance Switzerland AG has its registered office in Baar (Switzerland) and serves solely as a finance company within CRH group. CRH plc. in Dublin (Ireland) is the ultimate parent company.

Employees

The company has no employees.

Segment information

As CRH Finance Switzerland AG is a group finance company in Switzerland the business activities comprise only one segment.

Events after the balance sheet date

No material events have occurred after the balance sheet date which could adversely affect the validity of the annual financial statements 2017 or which would have to be disclosed. The Board of Directors approved and authorised the financial statements in respect of the year ended 31 December 2017 on 9 March 2018.

Notes to the financial statements

(all amounts in CHF)

1) Accrued income and prepaid expenses

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Total capitalized costs of bond issuance	434'422	525'879

The costs related to the issuance of the bond have been capitalized.
These costs are amortised over the term to maturity.

2) Financial assets

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Interest-bearing loans to related parties	389'151'851	388'208'657

Loans are granted in Swiss francs to the parent company plus two affiliated companies.
The interest rates are based on the principles of the Swiss Tax Authorities.

Maturity date of CHF 55 Mio is August 2019 and of CHF 330 Mio is September 2022.
There are no security arrangements.

3) Accrued expenses and payables

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Interest	1'134'375	1'134'375
Taxes	190'000	205'000
Other services	22'000	53'000
Total accrued expenses and payables	<u>1'346'375</u>	<u>1'392'375</u>

4) Bonds

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Total bonds	330'000'000	330'000'000

Information of the issued bonds:

Security number	25359273 / ISIN: CH0253592734
Nominal amount	CHF 330 Mio.
Issue price	100.989%
Interest rate	1.375% (30/360)
Term	from 30.09.2014 until 30.09.2022 (8 years)
Maturity date	on 30.09.2022 at nominal value

The bonds are secured by the listed group company CRH plc. The annual guarantee fee is paid on 31 December.

5) Operating expenses	2017	2016
Guarantee fee CRH plc.	-1'650'000	-1'650'000
Management fees related parties	-54'000	-54'000
Capital tax	-42'626	-41'255
Other administration expenses	-155'753	-46'845
Total operating expenses	-1'902'379	-1'792'100

The auditor's remuneration for statutory audit services amounts to CHF 20'114 (prior year CHF 22'804).

6) Financial income	2017	2016
Interest income related parties	7'568'694	7'566'188
Total financial income	7'568'694	7'566'188

7) Financial expenses	2017	2016
Interest expenses on bonds	-4'537'500	-4'537'500
Other interest expenses (see 1)	-91'457	-91'457
Total financial expenses	-4'628'957	-4'628'957

8) Income tax	2017	2016
Total income tax	-146'477	-162'884

The average income tax rate is 14.12% (prior year 14.22%).

Disclosure of contingent liabilities

Cash pooling

CRH Finance Switzerland AG is participant of the notional cash pooling of Jura-Holding AG. According to the cash pooling agreement all future credit balances in the pool account are pledged in favour of the bank. Furthermore, CRH Finance Switzerland AG is jointly and severally liable for possible debit interests and commissions incurred of the pool leader's overall position of the pool participants accounts, but only to the amount that would have been incurred as debit interests and commissions without the pooling on CRH Finance Switzerland AG's participant accounts.

Proposal for the appropriation of retained earnings

	31.12.2017 CHF	31.12.2016 CHF
Balance carried forward from prior year	2'203'086	1'220'839
Net profit of the financial year	890'881	982'247
Retained earnings available for appropriation	3'093'967	2'203'086
Allocation to legal reserves	0	0
Balance to be carried forward	3'093'967	2'203'086