

# AIR LIQUIDE FINANCE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019

> Société Anonyme with a share capital of 102,000,000 euros Headquarters: 6, rue Cognacq-Jay, 75007 Paris

# **BALANCE SHEET AIR LIQUIDE FINANCE**

(In thousands of euros)

(In thousands of euros)			s of December 31, 201	•	As of December 31,
		2018			
ASSETS		Gross	Depreciation,	No.	N.,
		carrying amount	amortization and provision	Net	Net
Capital subscribed but not called	TOTAL I	amount			
INTANGIBLE ASSETS		3,049		3,049	3,049
					·
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT					
Land					
Buildings					
Plant, machinery and equipment					
Recyclable sales packaging					
Other property, plant and equipment					
Property, plant and equipment under construction					
Payments on account – property, plant and equipment					
LONG-TERM FINANCIAL ASSETS					
Equity investments		1		1	1
Loans to equity affiliates					
Other long-term investment securities					
Loans		13,238,775		13,238,775	14,283,267
Other long-term investments					
	TOTAL II	13,241,825		13,241,825	14,286,317
INVENTORIES AND WORK-IN-PROGRESS					
Raw materials and other supplies					
Work-in-progress					
Semi-finished and finished goods					
Bought-in goods					
Payments on account from suppliers					
RECEIVABLES					
Trade receivables and related accounts					
Group company and other receivables		1,680,267		1,680,267	1,253,115
MISCELLANEOUS					
Short-term financial investments		62,474		62,474	269,969
Financial instruments		103,515		103,515	156,951
Cash at bank and in hand		78,901		78,901	821,534
PREPAYMENTS AND ACCRUED INCOME		457		157	750
Prepaid expenses	TOTAL III	1 025 214		157	752
Loan issue costs to be amortized	TOTAL IV	1,925,314		1,925,314	2,502,321
Loan issue costs to be amortized  Bond redemption premiums	TOTAL V	26,796 34,663		26,796 34,663	27,736 33,852
Unrealized foreign exchange losses	TOTAL VI	34,003		34,003	33,032
TOTAL ASSETS (I to VI)	I VIAL II	15,228,598		15,228,598	16,850,226

# **BALANCE SHEET AIR LIQUIDE FINANCE**

(In thousands of euros)

	As of December 31, 2019	As of December 31, 2018
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	Before approval of the financial statements	
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Share capital	102,000	72,000
Additional paid-in capital	884	884
Reserves:		
- Legal reserve	7,200	7,200
- Tax-driven reserves		
- General reserve		
- Contingency reserve		
- Depreciation or amortization fund		
- Translation reserve		
Retained earnings	33	4
Net income (loss) for the year	72,013	118,949
Investment subsidies		
Other tax-driven provisions		
TOTALI	182,130	199,037
EQUITY EQUIVALENTS	102,100	,
Proceeds from issues of participating securities		
Subordinated loans		
TOTAL II		
PROVISION		
Provisions	2,643	4,593
TOTAL III		4,593
LIABILITIES		
Convertible bonds		
Other bonds	11,339,331	11,412,511
Bank borrowings	127,675	446,401
Other borrowings	657,769	1,181,213
Payments on account from customers		
Trade payables and related accounts		
Tax and employee-related liabilities	637	5,134
Accounts payable in respect of fixed assets and related accounts		
Amounts payable to Group and other companies	2,910,730	3,596,759
Dividends		
Financial instruments	2,475	1,371
ACCRUALS AND DEFERRED INCOME		400
ACCRUALS AND DEFERRED INCOME Deferred income	121	
Deferred income	15,038,738	

# **INCOME STATEMENT AIR LIQUIDE FINANCE**

(In thousands of euros)

(In thousands of euros)  Income statement	2019	2018
OPERATING INCOME		
Sales of goods and services		
Change in inventories and WIP		
Capitalized production		
Total operating income (I)		
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Purchases of raw materials and other supplies		
Change in inventories of raw materials and supplies		
External charges	6,538	7,979
Duties and taxes other than corporate income tax	750	754
Personnel expenses		
Depreciation, amortization and impairment losses		
Total operating expenses (II)	7,288	8,733
, , , , , ,	·	
NET OPERATING INCOME/(LOSS) (I - II)	(7,288)	(8,733)
		, , ,
FINANCIAL INCOME		
Financial income from equity affiliates		
Revenues from other marketable securities and long-term loans	406.004	476.047
Other interest and similar income	426,394	476,247
Reversals of impairment and provisions, expense reclassifications		
Foreign exchange gains		556
Total financial income (III)	426,394	476,803
FINANCIAL EXPENSES		
Amortization, impairment and provisions	9,754	9,567
Interest and similar charges	297,483	288,506
Other financial charges	12,465	
Foreign exchange losses	2,089	
Total financial expenses (IV)	321,791	298,073
NET FINANCIAL INCOME/(LOSS) (III - IV)	104,603	178,730
NET INCOME/(LOSS) FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAX (I - II + II	97,315	169,997
EXCEPTIONAL INCOME (V)	1	4
EXCEPTIONAL INCOME (V)	•	<b>-</b>
EXCEPTIONAL EXPENSES (VI)		
Exceptional charges on non-capital operations		
<u> </u>		
NET EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS (V - VI)	1	4
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	25,303	51,052
	20,303	31,032
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR	72,013	118,949

# Summary to the Air Liquide Finance company financial statements

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This document is a free translation, for information purposes only, of the French language "Comptes au 31 décembre 2019" prepared by Air Liquide Finance. In the event of any ambiguity or conflict between corresponding statements or other items contained in these documents, the relevant statements or items of the French language document shall prevail.

# Notes to the statutory accounts

#### A - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### 1. General principles

The financial statements of Air Liquide Finance S.A. have been prepared in accordance with general accounting principles applicable in France and in particular those of the French General Chart of Accounts (Plan Comptable Général) and the French Commercial Code.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Since January 1, 2017, Air Liquide Finance apply accounting standard n° 2015-05 issued by ANC (Autorité des Normes Comptables) on July 2nd, 2015

#### 2. Intangible assets

Intangible assets are stated at purchase price.

An impairment test is carried out at year-end. Impairment losses are recorded for purchased goodwill where its gross value exceeds its closing value.

#### 3. Long-term financial assets

Equity investments and other long-term investment securities are recorded at historical value on the balance sheet.

An impairment provision is recorded where the carrying amount of long-term investments exceeds their closing value.

#### 4. Loans and borrowings

Loans and borrowings are recorded at nominal value on the balance sheet.

Loans granted with a maturity of one year or more from the beginning are classified in long-term financial assets. Loans granted with a maturity of less than one year from the beginning and current cash accounts set up with the group companies are classified in receivables.

The financing provided by the group is classified in "other borrowings" for borrowings and in "amounts payable to Group and other companies" for cash current accounts and short-term negotiable instruments issued through its subsidiary Air Liquide US LLC on the US market (US commercial papers). Financing from sources outside the Group is classified in "other bonds" for bonds and private investments, and in "bank borrowings" for commercial paper and bank overdrafts.

Loans and Borrowings in foreign currency are accounted for their counter-value in euros applicable at the inception date.

#### At closing date:

- Loans and Borrowings are revaluated at closing rate
- Differences between counter-value in euros at inception and closing date are accounted for in the balance sheet in unrealized foreign exchange gains/losses
- Unrealized foreign exchange losses which are not compensated are specifically analyzed. A contingency provision is recognized in totality when operations are not hedged. As for hedged operations, no contingency provision is recognized except when a risk linked to a partial inefficiency of the hedging relationship is identified

#### 5. Receivables and payables

Receivables and payables are stated at nominal value.

At the year-end, differences arising from the translation of receivables and payables denominated in a foreign currency are recognized in suspense accounts in assets and liabilities ("Unrealized foreign currency gains or losses").

A contingency provision is recorded for unrealized foreign exchange losses.

#### 6. Deferred charges

Loan issue costs and premiums are recorded in deferred charges and amortized on a straight-line basis over the term of the loan. In the income statement, amortization is recorded in external charges for issue costs, and in amortization, impairment and provisions under financial expenses for issue premiums.

#### 7. Provisions

The deferred tax method is applied for the preparation of the financial statements. Deferred tax liabilities are recorded under provisions for taxes.

#### 8. Financial instruments

The company provides short-term and long-term financing to the Group subsidiaries through loans and cash-pool denominated in foreign currency.

The operational subsidiaries of the Group contract purchases and selling of forward currency transactions with Air Liquide Finance. Air Liquide Finance contracts symmetrically purchases and selling of forward currency transactions with external counterparts.

#### Currency hedging

The exposure resulting from these operations are hedged through bonds issuances and / or borrowings contracted directly in foreign currency, and various financial instruments, mostly foreign exchange forwards and cross-currency swaps.

Regarding foreign exchange forward derivatives, the company recognizes swap points in the balance sheet (on line "financial instruments") and amortize them on a linear basis throughout the life of the hedging instruments.

Regarding cross-currency swaps, interests on each leg (borrowing and lending) are accounted for in the P&L ("other interest and similar income") at the time they are incurred, with a counterpart in the balance sheet in the line "other borrowings".

The realized result due to hedging instruments is presented symmetrically at the same time and in the same financial statement line as the realized result generated by the underlying hedged operation. Likewise, unrealized results linked to the foreign exchange part of hedging instruments are presented in the same financial statement line in the balance sheet as unrealized foreign exchange gains / losses recognized for the underlying hedged operations.

When hedging instruments are realized before the underlying hedged operations, the realized gains / losses are accounted for in the balance sheet in the line "financial instruments". These gains / losses are recognized in the P&L only when the symmetrical gains / losses linked to the underlying hedged operations are realized and impact the P&L.

When derivative instruments do not qualify for hedge accounting, they are considered as isolated open-positions:

- Realized gains / losses are recognized in the P&L
- At the closing date, unrealized gains / losses are accounted for in the balance sheet on line "financial instruments". Only unrealized losses impact the P&L, through the recognition of a contingency provision.

#### - Hedging of interest rates

In order to mitigate the risk of a rise in interest rates which could have an impact on future refinancing debts, the company may contract interest rate hedges that cover interest rate fluctuations between the inception date of the hedge and the expected inception date of the hedged bond emission. This materializes by a cash settlement (paid or received) at the hedged bond emission date. This cash settlement is initially accounted for on line "financial instrument" and is amortized during the life of the hedged bond emission.

#### 9. Cash and short-term financial investments

Bank liquidities are valued at their nominal value. Foreign currency liquidities are converted to and recorded in euros at the year-end closing exchange rate.

Short-term financial investments are valued at cost. Unrealized capital losses are estimated on the basis of the closing fair value of investments and are impaired where necessary.

#### **B - NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

# 1. Significant events

In 2019, Air Liquide Finance and its parent company l'Air Liquide SA (ALSA) signed an agreement whereby the guarantor (ALSA) provides Corporate guarantees to a panel of financial institutions to support the bonds issued by the supported subsidiary (ALFIN) on the financial markets. In this agreement ALSA and ALFIN have agreed that the grant of the Corporate guarantees by ALSA would be subject to the payment by ALFIN of an annual guarantee fee to the guarantor as it would be done externally. This fee amounts to 12.5 m€ in 2019 and is recorded on line "other financial charges".

In 2018, following the restructuring of the US debt that resulted in the early repayment of American Air Liquide loan, Air Liquide Finance recorded a non-recurring gain of about 54 million Euros in financial result, generated by the unwinding of hedging instruments.

#### 2. Intangible assets

To separate its industrial activities from its financing activity, L'Air Liquide S.A. created Air Liquide Finance, a wholly-owned French subsidiary in 1999.

In 2001, L'Air Liquide S.A. transferred the financing and interest rate and cash flow risk management of the Group and its subsidiaries to Air Liquide Finance.

Purchased goodwill in the amount of 3,049 thousand euros was recorded at the time of the transfer. This purchased goodwill was not impaired as of December 31, 2019.

# 3. Long-term financial assets

Changes in the gross value of long-term investments break down as follows:

(In thousands of euros)	Gross value as of January 1, 2019	Increases	Decreases	Gross value as of Dember 31, 2019
Equity investments	1			1
Loans	14,283,267	2,376,476	(3,420,968)	13,238,775
Other long-term investments				
Total	14,283,268	2,376,476	(3,420,968)	13,238,776

Air Liquide Finance holds 100% of Air Liquide US LLC, in order to borrow on the US market.

The increase in long-term financial investments excluding equity investments is attributable to repayments and to new loans granted to Air Liquide Group subsidiaries during the year.

The main increase during the period is a new loan of 2.1 billion euros to Air Liquide International.

The main decreases are a loan repayment of 2.6 billion euros by Air Liquide International, a loan repayment of 450 million dollars (about 400 million euros) by American Air Liquide and an early loan repayment of 1.4 billion yuans (about 179 million euros) by Air Liquide Fuzhou following the divestment of this subsidiary by Air Liquide China.

# 4. Short-term financial investments

The item breaks down as follows:

(In thousands of euros)	December 31, 2019
Certificate of deposit	0
Term deposit	62,311
Mutual fund	0
Prepaid interest	163
Total	62,474

# 5. Shareholders' equity

As of December 31, 2019, the share capital comprised 6,000,000 ordinary shares each with a par value of 17 euros.

In thousand euros	As of December 31, 2018 (before appropriation of earnings)	Appropriation of 2018 net income (following AGM decision of 05.28.2019)	Capital increase	Other changes	As of December 31, 2019 (before appropriation of earnings)
Chara canital	72,000		30,000		102,000
Share capital	1		30,000		,
Additional paid-in capital	884				884
Revaluation reserve					
Legal reserve	7,200				7,200
Long-term capital gains reserve					
Other reserves		30,000	(30,000)		
Retained earnings	4	29			33
Net profit for the year	118,949	(118,949)		72,013	72,013
Total	199,037	(88,920)	0	72,013	182,130

Following the decision of the Combined Annual Shareholder's Meeting on May 28, 2019, appropriation of 2018 net profit includes dividend payment for 88,920 thousand euros and also a change in the Share capital corresponding to a capital increase of 30 million Euros by increase in the par value of the 6,000,000 existing shares from 12 euros to 17 euros through incorporation of other reserves.

#### 6. Provisions

The change in deferred tax liabilities is primarily due to the amortization of loan issue costs and premiums, which had been immediately deducted for tax purposes in prior years.

Considering these depreciation and amortization charges, deferred taxes totaled 2,643 thousand euros as of December 31, 2019, compared to 4,593 thousand euros as of December 31, 2018.

# 7. Debt maturity analysis

In thousand euros

ASSETS	Gross amount as of December 31, 2018	f Gross amount as of December 31, 2019 ≤ 1 year		> 1 year
Loans to equity affiliates				
Other long-term investment securities				
Loans	14,283,267	13,238,775	978,846	12,259,929
Trade receivables and related accounts				
Group company and other receivables	1,253,115	1,680,268	1,680,268	
Total	15,536,382	14,919,043	2,659,114	12,259,929

In thousand ourse

n thousand euros						
LIABILITIES	Gross amount as of December 31, 2018	Gross amount as of December 31, 2019	≤ 1 year	> 1 to ≤ 5 years	> 5 years	
Other bonds (1)	11,412,511	11,339,331	1,095,035	4,856,882	5,387,414	
Bank borrowings (2)	446,401	127,675	127,675			
Other borrowings	1,181,213	657,769	17,769		640,000	
Trade payables and related accounts						
Tax and employee-related liabilities	5,134	637	637			
Amounts payable to Group and other companies	3,596,759	2,910,731	2,910,731			
Total	16,642,018	15,036,143	4,151,847	4,856,882	6,027,414	

- (1) The increase in debt is attributable to:
- A public Eurobond issue for 600 million euros on June 13, 2019 at a fixed rate of 0.625% maturing on June 20, 2030;
- A public US Bond issue for 500 million dollars on September 10, 2019 at a fixed rate of 2.25% maturing on September 10, 2029 ;
- the repayment on March 1st, 2019 of a 200 million dollars bond issued in January 2012;
- the repayment on June 17, 2019 of a 250 million euros bond issued in June 2013;
- the repayment on September 27, 2019 of a 750 million dollars bond issued in September 2016;
- the repayment on December 16, 2019 of a 15.5 billion yens bond issued in December 2011.

<sup>(2)</sup> Of which current bank loans for 46,500 thousand euros and NEU CP (Negotiable European Commercial Paper) for 80,035 thousand euros.

# 8. Breakdown of accrued expenses

	December 31,
(In thousands of euros)	2019
Accrued interest on bonds	95,035
Accrued interest on swaps (1)	1,140
Accrued interest on other borrowings	25,769
Accrued interest on Group company borrowings	1,195
Other accrue interest (1)	35
Accrued financial expenses	123,174
Other payables	13,463

<sup>(1)</sup> Accrued interest on swaps are recorded in Bank borrowings.

# 9. Breakdown of accrued income

	December 31,
(In thousands of euros)	2019
Accrued interest on loans	124,426
Accrued interest on receivables from Group companies	1,469
Other accrued interest receivable	163
Accrued income	126,058

#### 10. Loan issue costs to be amortized

In thousand euros	December 31, 2018	Increases	Decreases	December 31, 2019
Issue costs	27,736	4,455	(5,396)	26,796
Total	27,736	4,455	(5,396)	26,796

# 11. Bond redemption premiums

In thousand euros	December 31, 2018	Increase	Decrease	December 31, 2019
Before 2018 issue premiums	33,852		(9,340)	24,511
2019 issue premiums		10,565	(413)	10,151
Total	33,852	10,565	(9,754)	34,663

# 12. Deferred income

In thousand euros	December 31, 2018	2019 change	December 31, 2019
Income to be deferred on financial instruments	392	(273)	119
Other	8	(5)	2
Total	400	(278)	121

# 13. Financial instruments

Forex swap on Group loans/borrowings

(In thousands of euros)	December 31, 2019
Financial instruments Assets	
Cash settlements relating to interest rate hedging (1)	82,735
Forex swap on Group loans/borrowings	20,780
	103,515
Financial instruments Liabilities	
Forey swap on NELLCP and US CP	1 306

<sup>(1)</sup> Net book value after amortization applied over the life of the bond issues whose rate was hedged using interest rate derivatives

# 14. Tax consolidation

L'Air Liquide S.A., together with the French subsidiaries in which it has a direct or indirect interest of at least 95%, forms a tax consolidation group as defined by Article 223 A of the French General Tax Code.

1,169 2,475

Air Liquide Finance calculates its tax provision as if it was taxed separately and pays its tax to L'Air Liquide S.A., the group parent company.

#### 15. Income tax

Income tax totaled 25,303 thousand euros compared to 51,052 thousand euros on December 31, 2018. The December 31, 2019 income tax expense breaks down as follows:

	As of 12/31/2019
- Current tax <sup>(1)</sup>	27,254
- Deferred tax <sup>(2)</sup>	-1,951
- 2019 Income tax	25,303

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>(1)</sup> Taxable income was obtained after allocation of any related add-backs, deductions, and tax credits. In fiscal year 2019, Air Liquide Finance posted a taxable income of 114,110 thousand euros. The corporate income tax rate was 33, <sup>1/3</sup> % and the additional contribution totaled 3.3%. Tax credits for allocation totaled 12,196 thousand euros and derive from withholding taxes on interest billed to the subsidiaries of certain countries.

# 16. Off-balance sheet commitments

#### Commitments received:

Insofar as Air Liquide Finance's sole activity is to finance the Group, L'Air Liquide S.A. is required to guarantee any issues carried out by the company. Air Liquide Finance also conducts foreign exchange and interest rate risk hedging transactions for the Group's subsidiaries. L'Air Liquide S.A. is required to guarantee these transactions.

The total amount of commitments as of December 31, 2019 is 11.6 billion euros. Furthermore, Air Liquide Finance received a commitment from Air Liquide Oil & Gas for an amount of 1.8 million GBP.

Information on interest rate derivative instruments (excluding foreign exchange and interest rate risk hedging instruments contracted for the Group subsidiaries).:

In thousand euros	December 31, 2019	
Type of instrument	Nominal Value	Fair value
Rate risk	2,006,136	(57,957)
Interest rate swap	389,015	(35,744)
Cross Currency Swap	1,483,597	(22,213)
Options rate (cap / floor)	133,523	0
TOTAL	2,006,136	(57,957)

The fair value of interest rate derivative instruments is based on the value of the contract on the market at the closing date.

The foreign exchange part of the cross currency swaps fair value is booked in Balance Sheet in "Financial instruments" (note 13).

<sup>(2)</sup> The deferred tax impact in 2019 amounting to -1,951 thousand euros is primarily due to the amortization of loan issue costs and premiums, which had been immediately deducted for tax purposes in prior years.

Insofar as all these instruments are allocated to hedging transactions, changes in fair value did not impact the financial statements as of December 31, 2019.

#### Credit lines

Air Liquide Finance has a variety of financing sources to fund the needs of L'Air Liquide S.A. and those of the main Group subsidiaries, whether it be long term (bank credit lines, bond issues (in France or abroad) reserved for qualified investors) or short term (in France, in the form of short-term negotiable securities under a program for a maximum amount of 3 billion euros and, in the United States, via its US subsidiary, Air Liquide US, L.L.C., in the form of US Commercial Paper (USCP) under a program for a maximum amount of 2 billion US dollars).

As of December 31, 2019, the amount of confirmed credit lines was 3.6 billion euros, unchanged since December 31, 2018. The total amount of bilateral credit lines was at 1.1 billion euros (against 1.6 billion in 2018). Moreover, the syndicated credit line amounts to 2.5 billion euros (against 2 billion in 2018).

#### 17. Consolidated financial statements

The company is fully consolidated in the Air Liquide Group financial statements.

Pursuant to Article L 223-16 of the French Commercial Code, Air Liquide Finance should prepare consolidated financial statements, as it exclusively controls the subsidiary Air Liquide US LLC that issues marketable securities admitted for trading on a regulated market (USCP).

However, the consolidated group formed by Air Liquide Finance and its subsidiary is of minimal importance insofar as of December 31, 2019 :

- The shareholders' equity of Air Liquide US LLC amounts to 128 thousand US dollars before a net income of 9 thousand US dollars,
- Air Liquide Finance borrowed a total of 125 million US dollars from Air Liquide US LLC, which issued USCP for the same amount being 125 million US dollars.

#### 18. Post-balance sheet events

Activities of subsidiaries have started to be affected by COVID-19 in the first quarter of 2020 and their 2020 financing needs could be impacted in 2020, as well as Air Liquide Finance financing and liquidity conditions. Given the recent nature of the epidemic, and the measures announced by the government to support businesses, Air Liquide Finance is unable to assess the financial impact of these elements.

As of the date of the board of Directors authorizing the entity's 2019 financial statements, the management has determined that there was no material uncertainties that cast a doubt on the ability of the Company to continue as a going concern.

# AIR LIQUIDE FINANCE SA STATUTORY AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended December 31, 2019

This is a translation into English of the statutory auditor's report on the financial statements of the Company issued in French and it is provided solely for the convenience of English speaking users. This statutory auditor's report includes information required by European regulation and French law, such as information about the appointment of the statutory auditor or verification of the management report and other documents provided to shareholders.

This report should be read in conjunction with, and construed in accordance with, French law and professional auditing standards applicable in France.

To the Shareholders of Air Liquide Finance SA

# **Opinion**

In compliance with the engagement entrusted to us by your annual general meeting, we have audited the accompanying financial statements of Air Liquide Finance SA for the year ended December 31, 2019. These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on April 7, 2020 based on information available at that date and in the evolving context of the Covid-19 health crisis.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets and liabilities and of the financial position of the Company as at 31 December, 2019 and of the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with French accounting principles.

# **Basis for Opinion**

#### Audit Framework

We conducted our audit in accordance with professional standards applicable in France. We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Statutory Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report.

# *Independence*

We conducted our audit engagement in compliance with independence rules applicable to us, for the period from January 1, 2019 to the date of our report and specifically we did not provide any prohibited non-audit services referred to in Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) No 537/2014 or in the French Code of ethics (code de déontologie) for statutory auditors.

# **Justification of Assessments - Key Audit Matters**

In accordance with the requirements of Articles L.823-9 and R.823-7 of the French Commercial Code (code de commerce) relating to the justification of our assessments, we inform you of the key audit matters relating to risks of material misstatement that, in our professional judgment, were of most

significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period, as well as how we addressed those risks.

We conclude that no key audit matters were to be mentioned in our report.

# **Specific verifications**

We have also performed, in accordance with professional standards applicable in France, the specific verifications required by laws and regulations.

# Information given in the management report and in the other documents with respect to the financial position and the financial statements provided to the Shareholders

We have no matters to report as to the fair presentation and the consistency with the financial statements of the information given in the management report of the Board of Directors approved on April 7, 2020 and in the other documents with respect to the financial position and the financial statements provided to the Shareholders. Management has confirmed that events that have occurred and information that has come to light relating to the Covid-19 health crisis since the financial statements were closed will be reported to the Annual General Meeting called to approve these financial statements.

We attest the fair presentation and the consistency with the financial statements of the information relating to the payment deadlines mentioned in Article D.441-4 of the French Commercial Code (code de commerce).

# Report on corporate governance

We attest that the Board of Directors' report on corporate governance sets out the information required by Article L. 225-37-4 of the French Commercial Code (code de commerce).

With respect to the information relating to items that your company considered likely to have an impact in the event of a takeover bid or exchange offer, provided pursuant to Article L. 225-37-5 of the French Commercial Code (code de commerce), we have agreed this information to the source documents communicated to us. Based on these procedures, we have no observations to make on this information

# Other information

In accordance with French law, we have verified that the required information concerning the identity of the shareholders and holders of the voting rights has been properly disclosed in the management report.

# Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

# Appointment of the Statutory Auditor

We were appointed as statutory auditor of AIR LIQUIDE FINANCE SA by the annual general meeting held on December 19, 2016.

As at December 31, 2019 PricewaterhouseCoopers Audit was in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of total uninterrupted engagement.

# Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with French accounting principles and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is expected to liquidate the Company or to cease operations.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors.

# Statutory Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our role is to issue a report on the financial statements. Our objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with professional standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. 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 financial statements.

As specified in Article L.823-10-1 of the French Commercial Code (code de commerce), our statutory audit does not include assurance on the viability of the Company or the quality of management of the affairs of the Company.

As part of an audit conducted in accordance with professional standards applicable in France, the statutory auditor exercises professional judgment throughout the audit and furthermore:

- Identifies and assesses the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, designs and performs audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtains audit evidence considered to be sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for his opinion. 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.
- Obtains an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 internal control.
- Evaluates the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management in the financial statements.
- Assesses the appropriateness of management's 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 Company's ability to continue as a going concern. This assessment is based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of his audit report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern. If the statutory auditor concludes that a material uncertainty exists, there is a requirement to draw attention in the audit report to the related disclosures in the financial

statements or, if such disclosures are not provided or inadequate, to modify the opinion expressed therein.

• Evaluates the overall presentation of the financial statements and assesses whether these statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Neuilly-sur-Seine, April 7, 2020

PricewaterhousseCoopers Audit

Sébastien Lasou