

Speech by Chairman
Antoine Bernheim

Dear Shareholders,

Today's General Meeting has been called to approve the Accounts for the 2007 financial year and resolve on the dividend to be distributed to Shareholders, and to appoint the Board of Internal Auditors and, in particular, its Chairman.

During the 2007 financial year the Group's premium income amounted to € 66.2 billion, an increase of around 3% on 2006. Premium income in 2006 amounted to € 64.5 billion, and that figure (not including the single premium of € 2 billion earned in China in 2005) was 2.3% higher than the premium income for 2005 (which, in turn, was much better than in 2004).

In the Non-Life sector, premium income increased by 13% in 2007 compared with 2006. In the Life sector, the increase would have been 6%, if there had not been a significant decline in income earned through the bancassurance channel: this was due to the well-known directive issued by the Italian antitrust authority, which deprived the Group of almost 1,000 branches.

As regards results, the net profit is over € 2.9 billion, an increase of over 21% compared with 2006.

As you will see, therefore, all the targets laid down in our Industrial Plan for 2006 and 2007 have not only been met, but considerably surpassed.

It can consequently be concluded that the Group's results, in terms of premium income and profit, were highly satisfactory!

As regards Generali's trend in the first three months of the current year, the volume of premium income in the Life sector exceeded € 12 billion by the end of the first quarter, and was around € 7 billion in the Non-Life sector. Overall growth amounts to 5% compared with corresponding period in the preceding year, without including the premium income earned by Intesa Vita.

The profit made by the Group during these first three months of the year is therefore likely to exceed the profit for the first quarter of 2007.

As regards the 2008 financial year as a whole, the consequences of the current financial crisis will need to be evaluated carefully as regards both premium income and annual profit.

The Group's main objective at present is to promote organic growth in all countries in which Generali operates, by promoting external growth operations outside Italy.

Today's General Meeting was also called to appoint the members of the Board of Internal Auditors, who will hold office for the next three financial years.

I must refer at this stage to the strong criticisms directed in the last few months at myself personally and the Corporate Governance rules adopted by the Company.

As I have said before, the current corporate governance structure is similar to that adopted by the Company throughout its history, with an executive Chairman and one or more Managing Directors, whose functions and responsibilities are expressly established by resolution of the Board of Directors.

In my opinion, a governance model is effective if the management possesses the skills needed to guarantee that satisfactory results will be obtained, and this, in my opinion, is the case with Generali today. Conversely, even the organisational structure considered the best in theory can produce unsatisfactory results if those responsible for the company's management lack talent.

As regards the criticisms directed at me personally, I cannot argue about my age, but I would emphasise that the fees paid to me are justified by the excellent results achieved by the Group and the responsibilities that the Board of Directors has allocated to its Chairman in terms of the Company's management.

I would add that the fees payable to the Company's Chairman and Managing Directors are significantly lower than those paid to the top management of other companies, some of which are even smaller than Generali.

In any event, the amount of the fees in question was resolved on by the Board of Directors on the proposal of the Remuneration Committee, the majority of whose members are independent directors.

As regards the criticism about the alleged lack of strategic vision by the top management of Generali, I would remind members of how the

Company has developed since 2002.

Firstly, the volume of premium income, which stood at € 46.9 billion in 2002, has now risen to €66.2 billion. Secondly, the bottom line result has risen from a loss of € 750 million to a profit of around € 3 billion.

Finally, thanks to the approach adopted by the Group, which focuses on long-term management, Generali is now perceived as a “safe haven”: our shares, unlike those of other leading companies on the international financial scene, have retained their value, despite the extremely difficult market scenario.

This is mainly due to the decision made by the management not to invest in sub-prime products, and to maintain only marginal exposure to derivatives.

As I have said, we have promoted all possible projects designed to ensure significant organic growth of the Group both in Italy and abroad. At the same time, we have promoted the external growth trend abroad, as far as possible, to enable Generali to consolidate the positions already held not only in Europe but also in the rest of the world. The aim is to enable the Company to attract more and more investors from all over the world, thus further increasing its already considerable prestige.

Thank you.