



## **Corporate Governance Statement** **Pursuant to Sections 289f, 315d HGB [German Commercial Code]**

KSB Management SE with registered office in Frankenthal (Pfalz) is the general partner of KSB SE & Co. KGaA (hereinafter also the “Company”) with registered office in Frankenthal (Pfalz). In the following, the general partner of KSB SE & Co. KGaA, acting through its Managing Directors, and the Supervisory Board of KSB SE & Co. KGaA report on company management and corporate governance at the Company and within the KSB Group.

The following information in particular is presented:

1. Statement Pursuant to Section 161 AktG [*Aktiengesetz* – German Public Companies Act] (Statement of Compliance)
  2. Reference to the web site in accordance with Section 289f(2) No. 1a HGB (to the extent applicable to KSB SE & Co. KGaA)
  3. Relevant information on corporate governance practices that are applied above and beyond statutory requirements along with details of where this information is publicly available
  4. Description of the working practices of KSB Management SE, including those of the Managing Directors and the Administrative Board
  5. Description of the working practices of the Supervisory Board of KSB SE & Co. KGaA, along with the composition and working practices of its committees
  6. Cooperation between KSB Management SE and the Supervisory Board
  7. Information on the gender-specific composition of the Supervisory Board and staffing of executive positions
  8. Diversity policy for the body authorised to represent and the Supervisory Board
  9. Other corporate governance issues
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1. **Statement Pursuant to Section 161 AktG [*Aktiengesetz* – German Public Companies Act] (Statement of Compliance)**

The Statement of Compliance is issued by the Managing Directors of the general partner and the Supervisory Board of KSB SE & Co. KGaA at least once a year. The most recent statement issued on 13 December 2023 reads as follows:

“1. Preface

The German Corporate Governance Code (“Code”) is tailored to companies with the legal form of a public limited company (Aktiengesellschaft – “AG”) or a European company (“SE”) with a two-tier management structure and does not consider the specifics of a partnership limited by shares (“KGaA”). Many recommendations of the Code can therefore not be applied to KSB SE & Co. KGaA, or only in a modified form. Aspects to be taken into consideration include but are not limited to:

(a) Company Management

Many recommendations of the Code relate to the Board of Management. However, a KGaA has, unlike an AG, no Board of Management; in a KGaA the latter’s tasks are performed by the general partner, in this case KSB Management SE.

(b) Supervisory Board

Some recommendations of the Code relating to the Supervisory Board do not consider the legal specifics of a KGaA either. For instance, the Supervisory Board of a KGaA, unlike the Supervisory Board of an AG, has no personnel decision-making and remuneration competence with regard to the management body and can also not commit it by defining transactions requiring consent.

(c) Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of a KGaA essentially has the same rights as the Annual General Meeting of an AG. In addition, it decides on the adoption of the annual financial statements of the Company. Contrary to an AG, some resolutions of the Annual General Meeting (e.g. the adoption of the annual financial statements) require the consent of the general partner.

The Company’s general partner, KSB Management SE, has a one-tier management structure. According to Articles 43–45 of the SE Regulation in conjunction with Sections 20 et seq. of the SE Implementation Act (SEAG), this is characterised by the fact that the management is the responsibility of a single management body, the Administrative Board. The Administrative Board manages KSB Management SE, determines the basic principles of its activities and monitors their implementation by the Managing Directors. The Managing Directors conduct the business of KSB Management SE and represent it in and out of court.

2. Statement of Compliance

The Managing Directors of KSB Management SE and the Supervisory Board of KSB SE & Co. KGaA declare that since issuing the last Statement of Compliance on 14 December 2022, the Company has complied with and will continue to comply with the recommendations of the Code in its version dated 28 April 2022, with the exception of the following:

**A.1:**

The risks and opportunities associated with social and environmental factors, as well as environmental and social impacts, had not yet been fully identified or systematically assessed. Similarly, the corporate strategy and planning had not yet fully included sustainability-related goals.

*Reason:*

Part of the recommendation had already been fulfilled in the past; however, its full implementation required content-related and process-related adjustments in the Company. These adjustments were achieved by September 2023. The Company has since then complied with the recommendation.

**A.3:**

Sustainability-related objectives had not yet been fully covered in the internal control and risk management systems in line with the recommendation.

*Reason:*

Part of the recommendation had already been fulfilled in the past; however, its full implementation required content-related and process-related adjustments in the Company. These adjustments were achieved by September 2023. The Company has since then complied with the recommendation.

**C.1 sentences 1 to 5:**

The Supervisory Board does not specify concrete objectives regarding its composition and does not draw up a competency profile for the body as a whole; therefore, no qualification matrix is disclosed either.

*Reason:*

We appreciate the objectives-oriented and competence-oriented composition of the Supervisory Board aimed at by the Code, which will generally be conducive to the interests of the Company. To date, we have always followed this principle. However, we take a critical view of detailed specifications going beyond legal requirements, as we believe that this would make it more difficult to ensure an appropriate and adequately flexible composition of this body.

**D.1:**

The Supervisory Board's Rules of Procedure are not accessible on the Company's web site.

*Reason:*

Essential procedural regulations of the Supervisory Board have already been laid down as stipulated by law and in the Articles of Association and are accessible. We do not believe there is any need to extend the access to the body's internal working practices and procedural issues adopted autonomously by the body.

**G.1 – G. 13 and G. 15, G.16:**

Only part of the recommendations on the Board of Management's remuneration have been implemented analogously for the Managing Directors of the general partner. However, in our opinion (see the above preface), these recommendations are in any case not applicable to a KGaA structured like KSB SE & Co. KGaA. Therefore, we list this exception by way of precaution only.

*Reason:*

In general, we consider a clear, comprehensible and appropriate remuneration system for the Management to be required. However, we do not believe it necessary to take into account the numerous recommendations of the Code on the Board of Management's remuneration, which supplement the legal requirements, for this purpose. Moreover, a KGaA does not have a Board of Management. In addition, neither the Supervisory Board nor any other body of KSB SE & Co. KGaA has the competence or responsibility to determine the remuneration of the Managing Directors of KSB Management SE."

## **2. Reference to the web site pursuant to Section 289f(2) No. 1a HGB (to the extent applicable to KSB SE & Co. KGaA)**

The remuneration report on the last financial year, alongside the auditor's report pursuant to Section 162 AktG [*Aktiengesetz* – German Public Companies Act], the current Supervisory Board remuneration system and the last remuneration resolution pursuant to Section 113(3) AktG, are made publicly available on the web site [www.ksb.com](http://www.ksb.com) under Investor Relations > Corporate Governance > Structures & Management. The Company takes the view that the provision set out in Section 87a AktG to implement a system for remunerating members of the Board of Management does not apply to KSB SE & Co. KGaA due to its legal form as a KGaA without Board of Management members.

## **3. Relevant information on corporate governance practices**

KSB SE & Co. KGaA functions as operative Group parent company of the KSB Group. All Group companies operate in particular on the basis of the effective legal provisions, their respective Articles of Association and – if and to the extent applicable – the German Corporate Governance Code, implemented according to their specific corporate structure and legal form. Honesty, responsibility, professionalism, trust and appreciation are the values we feel committed to. To highlight what they mean to us, we have made them a fixed constant of our Group-wide corporate culture and incorporated them in our Code of Conduct. We consider the implementation of these values and the high quality of our products and services to be prerequisites for long-term, satisfying and successful business relationships. The reputation of the KSB Group in public perception and from the perspective of employees is of crucial importance in this regard. Against this background, we have formulated and communicated specific principles and rules of conduct. They govern basic aspects such as the way we interact with one another and corporate social responsibility, as well as more specific topics such as competition and anti-trust / cartel law or environmental protection. We have compiled these and other key rules in the KSB Code of Conduct. It describes the key business policy principles that guide us in our relationships with customers, suppliers and other business partners, as well as in our internal cooperation. We monitor future developments in the legal and business environment and adapt our Code of Conduct as necessary; the last time this happened was in the last financial year. The Code is accessible to the public on the Company's web site ([www.ksb.com/en-global/investor-relations/corporate-governance](http://www.ksb.com/en-global/investor-relations/corporate-governance)). In addition, the Company has signed the United Nations Global Compact (web site: [www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org)). Members undertake to observe and implement ten fundamental principles of the UN in their business practices. These principles relate to the areas of labour standards, environmental protection, anti-corruption and human rights.

## **4. Working practices of KSB Management SE**

KSB SE & Co. KGaA is a stock exchange-listed German partnership limited by shares [*Kommanditgesellschaft auf Aktien* – KGaA]. The German Public Companies Act prescribes a two-tier management system with a management body and the Supervisory Board for public limited companies and partnerships limited by shares. For the legal form of KGaA, there is a special feature in that its business is conducted by a general partner. In the case of KSB SE & Co. KGaA, this is KSB Management SE. Within the framework of the legal competence assignment, the Supervisory Board of KSB SE & Co. KGaA oversees and advises the general partner and its bodies. The tasks and responsibilities of the general partner and Supervisory Board are clearly defined by law and strictly separated.

Acting through its Managing Directors, KSB Management SE conducts the business of KSB SE & Co. KGaA in observance of the due diligence of a prudent and conscientious manager. The sole shareholder of KSB Management SE is Klein, Schanzlin & Becker GmbH with registered office in Frankenthal (Pfalz), whose shares are held by the foundations KSB Stiftung and Kühborth-Stiftung GmbH, both of which with registered office in Stuttgart.

The general partner does not hold a capital stake in the Company and does not participate in the earnings and in the assets of the Company. The general partner is entitled to compensation of all expenses in connection with conducting the Company's business. For the management and assumption of personal liability, it also receives annual remuneration not based on profit and loss in the amount of 4 % of the share capital.

KSB Management SE is a one-tier SE, whose bodies are the Managing Directors, the Administrative Board and the Annual General Meeting of KSB Management SE.

**a) The Managing Directors of the general partner**

The Managing Directors of the general partner are responsible for the management of KSB Management SE and therefore also for the management of KSB SE & Co. KGaA. They conduct the business in observance of the due diligence of a prudent and conscientious manager in accordance with the laws, the German Corporate Governance Code – to the extent that the general partner and the Supervisory Board have decided to fulfil its recommendations and suggestions –, the Articles of Association, the internal Rules of Procedure for the Managing Directors and the instructions issued by the Administrative Board of the general partner. The strategy and directives of the Managing Directors are implemented within a matrix organisation. According to the provisions of the Articles of Association of the general partner, it has one or more Managing Directors who are appointed by the Administrative Board of the general partner. The Managing Directors work, among other things, on the basis of the internal Rules of Procedure issued by the Administrative Board of the general partner. The Corporate Functions, Market Areas and Regions are currently assigned to them as follows:

- **Dr.-Ing. Stephan Jörg Timmermann:** Strategy, Human Resources, Communications, Internal Audits, Legal & Compliance, Patents & Trademarks, as well as the KSB SupremeServ Segment and the Mining Market Area within the Pumps Segment, and the Regions Europe West and Americas North. He is also the spokesperson for Management.
- **Dr.-Ing. Stephan Bross:** Global Operations, Research & Development / Technology / Processes, Digital Transformation, Shared Services, Committees and Associations, as well as the Energy and Petrochemicals / Chemicals Market Areas within the Pumps Segment, and the Regions Europe Central and Asia West.
- **Ralf Kannefuss:** Sales and Marketing, as well as the Valves Segment and the Water / Waste Water, General Industry and Building Services Market Areas within the Pumps Segment, and the Regions Europe North / East / South, Asia North, Middle East / Africa (including Russia) and Americas South.
- **Dr. rer. pol. Matthias Schmitz:** Taxes, Insurance, Controlling KSB Group, Finance / Accounting, Information Technology, and Purchasing, as well as the Region Asia South / Pacific.

These assignments do not affect the overall responsibility of the Managing Directors for managing the Company. The Managing Directors have not set up special committees. The Managing Directors are under the obligation to provide one another with assistance as well as with ongoing, timely information about relevant developments. They shall represent each other in the performance of their tasks. Issues that affect several or all areas shall be jointly considered and decided. The Managing Directors meet as a group for this purpose at regular intervals, but at least once a month.

The spokesperson for the Managing Directors coordinates their work and is responsible for communication among the individual Managing Directors, while ensuring that all Managing Directors gear their actions towards achieving the defined objectives. This includes but is not limited to aligning individual unit-related processes or transactions with the Company's overall objectives and plans.

Business scenarios of fundamental significance – such as major acquisitions or planning – are subject to approval by the Administrative Board.

The appointment of Managing Directors should as a rule not extend beyond their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, and shall end upon their reaching the age of 75 at the latest. These rules are currently observed without exception.

#### **b) The Administrative Board of the general partner**

As a one-tier SE, KSB Management SE has an Administrative Board, which is composed of a minimum of two and a maximum of nine members in accordance with the Articles of Association. The Board currently has five members. The Chair is Mr Oswald Bubel, the Deputy Chair is Ms Monika Kühborth; the other members are Mr Günther Koch, Dr Harald Schwager and Ms Andrea Teutenberg. The members of the Administrative Board are elected by the Annual General Meeting of KSB Management SE. According to the provisions of the internal Rules of Procedure dated 12 March 2018, they should not be above 75 years of age in principle. This rule is currently observed without exception.

The Administrative Board manages KSB Management SE in accordance with applicable laws, the latter's Articles of Association and its own Rules of Procedure, determines the basic principles of its activities and monitors their implementation. It appoints and monitors the Managing Directors. The Administrative Board is informed regularly and in a timely manner by the Managing Directors – acting through their spokesperson – about company-related questions and issues of business development, risks and compliance, about extraordinary events that are of particular significance for the general partner or KSB SE & Co. KGaA, as well as about significant deviations of business performance from the plans and targets set.

In addition, the Administrative Board together with the Managing Directors ensures long-term succession planning with regard to the composition of the operational management positions. This is designed to ensure the ability to act in these key positions at all times. In particular, a process to identify suitable candidates has been defined for long-term succession planning. Relevant requirements regarding personality, professional competence and leadership qualities have also been determined. The methodology is modelled on the Company's succession planning process for lower management levels. It seeks to identify and meet short-, medium- and long-term requirements and to develop suitable internal candidates where appropriate. The Personnel Committee of the Administrative Board reviews the requirements profiles for potential candidates at regular intervals to ensure they are up to date.

The Administrative Board meets at least once every three months. The Board may set up committees from within its ranks if it is of the opinion that these will increase the efficiency of the Administrative Board's work and provide support in handling complex issues. The Administrative Board currently has two committees.

The *Finance Committee* essentially deals with issues relating to the Company's business performance and with specific questions concerning the net assets, financial position and results of operations. Its members are Ms Andrea Teutenberg (Chair) and Mr Oswald Bubel.

The *Personnel Committee* primarily deals with questions of remuneration and succession planning as well as with pending personnel decisions, also in respect of the management level immediately below the Managing Directors. It comprises Mr Oswald Bubel (Chair), Mr Günther Koch and Ms Monika Kühborth.

## **5. The Supervisory Board of KSB SE & Co. KGaA**

The core remit of the Supervisory Board of KSB SE & Co. KGaA is to monitor the management of the Company by KSB Management SE as general partner and to provide it with advice on the basis of the provisions of the German Public Companies Act, the German Corporate Governance Code – to the extent that the general partner and the Supervisory Board have decided to adopt its recommendations and suggestions –, the Company's Articles of Association and the internal Rules of Procedure of the Supervisory Board. The Supervisory Board consists of twelve members, six appointed by the Annual General Meeting and six elected by employees in accordance with the terms of the *Mitbestimmungsgesetz* [MitbestG – German Co-determination Act] of 4 May 1976. In the Supervisory Board's assessment, especially on the part of the shareholder representatives, it is appropriate in accordance with recommendations C.1/C.6 of the German Corporate Governance Code if the Supervisory Board includes at least four – i.e. more than half of the shareholder representatives – members who are independent of the Company and the general partner (recommendation C.7) and at least two members who are independent of the controlling shareholder (recommendation C.9). Overall, in the Supervisory Board's assessment and, in particular, that of the shareholder representatives, it is appropriate for the Supervisory Board to include at least two members who are independent of the Company and the general partner as well as being independent of the controlling shareholder. The names of these members are listed and identified in the Annex to this Statement.

At least one Supervisory Board member shall have expertise in the field of accounting and at least one other Supervisory Board member shall have expertise in the field of auditing of financial statements; the Supervisory Board members as a group shall be familiar with the sector in which the company operates (Section 100(5) AktG).

At least two regular Supervisory Board meetings are held during each six-month period. The performance of KSB SE & Co. KGaA, the KSB Group and the individual units are the subject of regular discussions in plenary sessions, with a particular focus on developments in order intake, sales revenue, earnings, assets and employment levels, as well as the current economic situation and both investment and acquisition projects. The Managing Directors and the Chair of the Administrative Board of the general partner generally attend the meetings, although the Supervisory Board also meets regularly without their participation. If the auditor is called in as an expert, neither the Administrative Board nor the Managing Directors shall as a rule attend the meeting while the relevant agenda items are discussed. The Managing Directors report on the individual agenda items or the proposed resolutions and are available to answer any questions of the Supervisory Board members.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 27 MitbestG [German Co-determination Act], the Supervisory Board appoints one Chair and one Deputy Chair from among its members. The

Chair of the Supervisory Board coordinates the work within the Supervisory Board, chairs its meetings and represents the Supervisory Board externally. This includes the presentation of the work performed by the Supervisory Board and its committees in an annual report to the shareholders and at the Annual General Meeting. Unless otherwise specified by law or the Articles of Association, the Supervisory Board's resolutions are passed by a simple majority of votes cast. In the event of a tie, the Chair decides whether a new vote should be taken on the matter and when this should take place. If a new vote on the matter results in another tie, the Chair of the Supervisory Board shall have the casting vote. The Deputy Chair shall take the Chair's place if the latter is unable to attend. The Deputy Chair does not have a casting vote in this case.

The Supervisory Board currently has the following committees. These committees serve to increase the efficiency of the Supervisory Board's work and provide support in handling complex issues. This includes but is not limited to professionally preparing the items subject to discussion or decision. The various Chairs of the committees submit regular reports to the Supervisory Board plenary session detailing the work performed by the committees. Sub-committees set up on a case-by-case basis report to the main committee they are assigned to. As a rule, no Chair is appointed for sub-committees; equal representation is not required in every case.

- The **Nomination Committee** prepares nominations of Supervisory Board shareholder representatives prior to elections at the Annual General Meeting.
- The **Corporate Development Committee** focuses on the strategic development of the Company, including its organisation and structure, as well as on annual planning and financing.
- The **Personnel Committee** essentially decides on certain transactions with or in relation to KSB Management SE, members of its Administrative Board and/or its Managing Directors as well as on the consent to other activities of these persons, the granting of loans to the specified persons and on any matters related to the remuneration of the Supervisory Board members.
- The **Audit Committee** primarily addresses issues concerning accounting and the risk management system, the effectiveness of the internal control and audit system, compliance, auditing of the annual and consolidated financial statements, review of the non-financial report, the auditor's eligibility and independence, including consent – to the extent required by applicable regulations – to the provision of non-auditing services, and prepares the auditor's appointment at the Annual General Meeting. The Audit Committee also discusses the half-year financial reports and interim reports with the Managing Directors.

Equipped with years of experience as an auditor, Committee Chair Mr Klaus Burchards has specialised knowledge and experience in auditing financial statements as well as in the application of accounting principles and internal control and risk management systems. This also applies to committee member Dr Bernd Flohr, chiefly against the background of his many years of service as a member of the Executive Board (including responsibility for finance) of WMF AG, Geislingen an der Steige, Germany. Both committee members have been closely involved in the reporting and auditing of KSB's sustainability activities for many years, and have played a key role in their ongoing development.

The Supervisory Board assesses regularly, at least every three years, how effectively the Board as a whole and its committees fulfil their duties; the last self-assessment was in 2022.



It was conducted using a questionnaire comparable to the one used in the previous self-evaluation (2020). The focus was thus once again placed on the quality of the supply of information to the Supervisory Board, particularly by the Managing Directors, and the efficiency of internal opinion-forming and decision-making. The results as a whole were discussed by the Supervisory Board.

For additional information regarding the focus of work performed in the Supervisory Board plenary sessions and the committees in past financial years, please refer to the Report of the Supervisory Board for the year in question (web site: [www.ksb.com/en-global/investor-relations/financial-reports](http://www.ksb.com/en-global/investor-relations/financial-reports)). A list containing the names of all members of the Supervisory Board and its committees is appended to this Statement as an Annex; this also contains details on their terms of office on the Supervisory Board and on the independent shareholder representatives.

In accordance with the provisions on age limits laid down in the Supervisory Board's Rules of Procedure, its members shall as a rule step down with effect from the close of the Annual General Meeting following their 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, and by no later than their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. These provisions are currently observed without exception.

## **6. Cooperation between the general partner and the Supervisory Board**

Good corporate governance requires an ongoing development of the two-tier management system prescribed for German public limited companies and partnerships limited by shares in all sections of the business. This begins with independent management by the general partner which is monitored and advised by the Supervisory Board. To promote effective management, the Rules of Procedure of the Supervisory Board and the Managing Directors of the general partner specifically state that business shall be conducted in accordance with the German Corporate Governance Code, with any departure from compliance with the recommendations in justifiable, individual instances being disclosed by the bodies in charge.

Continuous dialogue based on mutual trust between the general partner and its bodies as well as the Supervisory Board provides an important foundation for the success of the Company. The common goal is to generate appropriate, sustainable returns through the systematic pursuit and implementation of these principles. All bodies thus collaborate closely in the best interests of the Company.

The Supervisory Board receives timely and comprehensive updates, on a regular or ad-hoc basis, from the general partner regarding, in particular, all planning, business development, risk position and compliance issues which are relevant to the Company. Any departure in business performance from the formulated plans and objectives is discussed in depth and openly; particular importance is attached to maintaining strict confidentiality towards third parties. The general partner is in continual dialogue with the Supervisory Board about the guidelines of the strategic and organisational alignment of the Company. The Supervisory Board verifies the observance of these guidelines continuously. Between meetings of the Supervisory Board, the Chair of the Supervisory Board in particular is in regular contact with the Managing Directors and the Chair of the Administrative Board to discuss matters of strategy, planning, business development, risk assessment, risk management and compliance, etc.

For certain decisions of the Administrative Board, including but not limited to the appointment and termination of the mandate of Managing Directors, the Chair and the Deputy Chair of the

Supervisory Board have a right to attend the meetings of the Administrative Board. The Supervisory Board may also suggest topics for consultation by the Administrative Board.

## **7. Gender-specific composition of the Supervisory Board and staffing of executive positions**

For KSB SE & Co. KGaA, in its capacity as a listed company pursuant to Section 3(2) AktG [*Aktiengesetz* – German Public Companies Act] and a company that has co-determination based on parity in accordance with the *Mitbestimmungsgesetz* [German Co-determination Act], fixed gender quotas of at least 30 % in each case apply to the inclusion of women and men in the Supervisory Board pursuant to Section 96(2) AktG. Accordingly, the body must be composed of at least four women and four men. The Supervisory Board meets this requirement at present. Due to concerns about the implementation of the elections of employee representatives to the Supervisory Board held in 2023, these will be repeated in 2024; as a precautionary measure, the shareholder representatives have again objected to joint fulfilment. The minimum quota of women and men among the shareholder and employee representatives must therefore be fulfilled separately in future, i.e. at least two women and at least two men must be appointed on each side respectively.

On 25 January 2022, the Managing Directors of KSB SE & Co. KGaA defined as the new targets for the period until 31 December 2026 a proportion of women of 11 % for the first, and of 15 % for the second management level below the Management. For the staff population, this corresponds to four women at the first and 27 women at the second management level below the Management.

At the level of the general partner of KSB SE & Co. KGaA, KSB Management SE, neither legal requirements for the proportion of women in the bodies nor the requirement of defining target values for the proportion of women in the bodies or the highest management levels apply. The proportion of women among the Managing Directors of the general partner is currently zero percent, and 40 % on the Administrative Board of the general partner. The general partner has no employees of its own.

To improve the situation with a view to promoting women in the workplace and to strengthen employees' ability to reconcile career and family in general, the Company has developed a selection of offerings. For several years it has provided support for childcare services for various age groups. Advisory services are also provided with regard to looking after relatives who are in need of care. Both of these offers are complemented by flexible working time models for men and women.

As part of measures to secure the supply of young talent for executive positions, we are intensifying our efforts to fill attractive vacancies with women and to promote women within the company. For example, women receive targeted mentoring from the managers reporting directly to the Company's Management. The Management actively engages in exchanges with talented women. An internal KSB women's network for sharing experience has been globally active since the end of 2022. Efforts are also being made to explicitly address and motivate women to take on suitable leadership positions. Group-wide human resources controlling is used to monitor the development of the proportion of women employed in the different countries.

## **8. Diversity policy for the body authorised to represent and the Supervisory Board**

The consideration of diversity is established practice of the KSB Group. This includes, in addition to an appropriate consideration of women, also diversity as regards the cultural origin, religion and ethnic background as well as the difference between professional backgrounds, experience and mentalities.

A heterogeneous composition of the Supervisory Board will promote the Company's interests as a rule. We have implemented such in the past and to date. When selecting new candidates for the Supervisory Board, the Nomination Committee and the Supervisory Board plenary session always consider the aspect of diversity, including but not limited to the international activities of the Company, potential conflicts of interest, the legal requirements for the gender proportion on the Supervisory Board (see above Section 7) and the defined age limit for the members of the Supervisory Board. The employees' co-determination on the Supervisory Board also contributes to the diversity of this body. However, we take a critical view of definite specifications going beyond legal requirements and the specified age limit. Consequently, no further specific goals for the composition of the body have been set, no competency profile for the body as a whole has been established and no diversity policy within the meaning of Section 289f(2) No. 6 HGB [*Handelsgesetzbuch* – German Commercial Code] has been defined. This would make it more difficult to ensure an appropriate and adequately flexible composition of this body. The Supervisory Board also believes that, considering the current requirements for the composition of the Supervisory Board and the measures already implemented and aimed at in the KSB Group to foster diversity, such specifications will not result in any substantial value added. Accordingly, the Company declared in its Statement of Compliance pursuant to Section 161 AktG [*Aktiengesetz* – German Public Companies Act] a departure from the relevant recommendations of the German Corporate Governance Code. When choosing Managing Directors, the Administrative Board also considers aspects of diversity above and beyond the defined age limit in order to achieve a heterogeneous composition. To avoid making a conducive and flexible selection of the Managing Directors difficult, however, a diversity policy within the meaning of Section 289f(2) No. 6 HGB was not defined for the Managing Directors.

## **9. Other corporate governance issues**

The term “corporate governance” covers the legal and factual regulatory framework for the management and supervision of companies; it is geared towards responsible management and control with the ultimate goal of sustainable value creation. Corporate governance at the Company is largely guided by the German Corporate Governance Code, taking into account the legal form-specific characteristics of a partnership limited by shares (KGaA). The Code provides the basic framework for the management and supervision of listed companies and formulates nationally and internationally recognised standards of good and responsible corporate governance. We therefore welcome the work of the Government Commission on the German Corporate Governance Code.

We are convinced that good, responsible corporate governance will contribute significantly to the Company's long-term success. This is why it has always ranked highly at the Company and within the KSB Group. Even before the German Corporate Governance Code was introduced, we implemented the core corporate governance and control processes in such a way that they complied with the current key requirements of the Code. We have traditionally been guided in this by nationally and internationally recognised standards of transparent, comprehensible corporate governance. During the past financial year, the Company's bodies discussed compliance with the Code's guidelines as well as the relevant legal requirements in detail on several occasions. Our objective is to continue developing the principles of corporate governance in all sections of our Company.

## **Statement of Compliance updated**

Pursuant to Section 161 AktG [*Aktiengesetz* – German Public Companies Act], the Board of Management and Supervisory Board of listed German public companies are under the obligation to declare once per year *“that the recommendations of the Government Commission on the German Corporate Governance Code published by the Federal Ministry of Justice in the official section of the Bundesanzeiger [German Federal Gazette] have been and will continue to be complied with or which recommendations have not or will not be complied with, and why”* (Statement of Compliance). For KSB SE & Co. KGaA as a partnership limited by shares, this obligation applies to the Managing Directors of the general partner and the Supervisory Board.

All changes occurring over time with respect to Code recommendations and suggestions are discussed in detail and where necessary implemented, i.e. they are integrated into internal company workflows and pending decisions. Wherever new or amended recommendations are not complied with, we consider our Company’s current practices to be preferable. We thus comply with the explicit note in the Code that deliberate departures from the recommendations may well be in the interest of good corporate governance.

The Statement of Compliance (see Section 1 above) was issued by the Managing Directors of the general partner and the Supervisory Board most recently on 13 December 2023 and made accessible on the Company’s web site, along with the previous years’ statements. Overall, we follow the recommendations of the German Corporate Governance Code – taking into account the legal form-specific characteristics of a partnership limited by shares (KGaA) – with a few exceptions.

Going forward, we will continue to monitor and respond quickly to further developments in the German Corporate Governance Code. At the same time, we want to foster the trust which investors, financial markets, employees, the public and our customers, in particular, have placed in us.

## **Shareholders and Annual General Meeting**

KSB SE & Co. KGaA has issued both no-par value ordinary shares and no-par value preference shares. The bearers of these shares, our shareholders, exercise their co-determination and control rights at the Annual General Meeting, which takes place at least once a year. Each shareholder is entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the requirements as stipulated in the Articles of Association and the law. If shareholders cannot or choose not to attend in person, they can opt to appoint a proxy who will exercise their voting rights on their behalf.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the Chair of the Supervisory Board presides over the Annual General Meeting. The Chair determines the order in which proceedings are conducted as well as the type and form of voting. The Chair may reasonably restrict the time allocated to questions and speeches by shareholders and, at the start of or during the course of the Annual General Meeting, set time limits for the entire proceedings of the Meeting, the discussion of the various items on the agenda as well as for individual questions and speeches. The company’s Annual General Meeting in the 2023 financial year was held as an in-person event.

The Annual General Meeting makes decisions pertaining to all of the duties and responsibilities assigned to it by law and the Articles of Association (e.g. adoption of the annual financial statements, appropriation of net retained earnings, amendments to the Articles of Association,

election of Supervisory Board members). Each ordinary share authorises the holder to one vote. The preference shares only entitle holders to voting rights as prescribed by law but carry progressive additional dividend rights. Johannes und Jacob Klein GmbH, with registered office in Frankenthal (Pfalz), holds approximately 84 % of the ordinary shares; the KSB Stiftung [KSB Foundation], with registered office in Stuttgart, holds the majority of the shares of Johannes und Jacob Klein GmbH.

The resolutions of the Annual General Meeting require the consent of the general partner if and to the extent that they relate to matters which, in the case of a partnership limited by shares, require the authorisation of the general partner and the limited partners. The consent of the general partner is required, for instance, for the adoption of the annual financial statements, an appropriation of net retained earnings differing from Section 21 of the Articles of Association, amendments to the Articles of Association or the dissolution of the Company.

The limited partners' right to object in the event of extraordinary transactions under Section 164, sentence 1, half sentence 2 HGB is ruled out under the Articles of Association.

## **Transparency**

The Company and the KSB Group consider it extremely important to provide capital market participants with regular, comprehensive, consistent and prompt information on the Group's economic situation and reportable material events. Reporting takes place via annual reports, half-year financial reports and interim reports. All publications are published within the time frames specified.

In addition, we provide information by means of press releases and ad hoc statements whenever necessary. All information can be viewed online (web site: [www.ksb.com](http://www.ksb.com)). Here, you will also find the financial calendar of the Company, which contains the scheduled dates of the key recurring events and publications.

In the event that any managers' transactions (directors' dealings) need to be reported, we will provide the relevant information pursuant to Article 19 of the Market Abuse Regulation (EU) No. 596/2014.

KSB SE & Co. KGaA has created an insider list as required by Article 18 of the Market Abuse Regulation. The persons affected are informed of their current legal obligations and potential sanctions.

The Managing Directors and the members of the Administrative Board and the Supervisory Board are under the obligation to act in the Company's interest. When making their decisions, they must neither pursue personal interests nor use for their own purposes any business opportunities that present themselves for the Company. Any conflicts of interest must be disclosed immediately. Should the need arise, the Annual General Meeting must be informed in accordance with the German Corporate Governance Code of any conflicts of interest and how they were dealt with.

When presenting nominations for Supervisory Board members to the Annual General Meeting, the Supervisory Board discloses the personal and business relationships of each candidate with the Company and the general partner, their relevant bodies and substantial Company shareholders, provided that – in the opinion of the Supervisory Board – an objective shareholder would consider this information to be decisive for his or her voting decision.

A Group guideline determines notification and approval requirements for the conclusion of related party transactions (see also Section 111a AktG). In particular, for consent to be given the terms and conditions must be agreed at arm's length. If the economic value of related party transactions exceeds the threshold set out in Section 111b AktG, the Supervisory Board's prior consent is required.

### **Accounting and audit of the financial statements**

The consolidated financial statements and interim financial statements of KSB are prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adopted by the European Union. After the consolidated financial statements have been prepared by the general partner, they are audited by the auditors appointed by the Annual General Meeting and approved by the Supervisory Board. Interim reports and the half-year financial report are coordinated with the Audit Committee prior to publication. The adoption of the annual financial statements at KSB SE & Co. KGaA as a partnership limited by shares lies with the Annual General Meeting; the resolution requires the consent of the general partner.

It has been agreed with the auditors that they will notify the Audit Committee immediately of all findings and issues that are material for its tasks without delay while the audit is ongoing.

### **Management parameters and control system**

KSB SE & Co. KGaA takes management decisions primarily for the Group as a whole and for the Pumps, Valves and KSB SupremeServ Segments on the basis of the following key indicators: order intake, sales revenue and EBIT. EBIT is defined as earnings before financial income / expense and income tax. When specifying key indicators, the Company is guided, on the one hand, by developments in the market and, on the other, by the performance of its key competitors.

Our internal control system, which also comprises financial accounting / reporting, is based on guidelines, codes and regulations that specify standard procedures as well as on our Group-wide risk management system. The organisation and implementation of this risk management system are documented in a manual. All Group units are responsible for identifying and assessing risks and reporting them to Group headquarters. They also have to initiate countermeasures to avert or limit any damage.

Reporting on identified risks and the countermeasures initiated is an integral part of the planning, accounting and controlling processes. The Supervisory Board's Audit Committee also looks at the reported risks on a regular basis. The Company identifies and communicates the risks based on the following categories:

- Market and competitive risks
- Technological risks (including research and development)
- Project and product-related risks
- Financial risks
- Procurement risks
- Other business-specific risks (incl. tax risks, personnel risks and risks relating to the environment, social issues and responsible corporate governance)

The Internal Audits department performs regular reviews to establish to what extent the specified guidelines and regulations are observed and whether the operative units are appropriately involved in risk management.

Annex

## Annex

### Supervisory Board of KSB SE & Co. KGaA (Date: 11 March 2024)

**Dr. Bernd Flohr\*** (since 21 March 2017)  
Dipl.-Kaufmann, Dipl.-Soziologe, Geislingen  
Former Executive Board Member of  
WMF AG  
(Chair, since 22 March 2017)

**René Klotz** (from 15 May 2013 to 4 May 2023)  
NC Programmer, Heßheim  
Chair of the General Works Council  
of KSB SE & Co. KGaA and of  
KSB Service GmbH  
(Deputy Chair, from 17 Jan. 2020 to 4 May 2023)

**Claudia Augustin** (since 16 May 2018)  
Office Management Assistant, Pegnitz  
Chair of the Pegnitz Works Council  
of KSB SE & Co. KGaA  
(Deputy Chair, since 4 May 2023)

**Klaus Burchards\*** (since 18 April 2017)  
Dipl.-Kaufmann, Stuttgart  
Independent Auditor

**Arturo Esquinca\*** (since 26 Feb. 2018)  
Dipl.-Chemieingenieur, Forch, Switzerland  
Head of Business Development  
Glas Trösch Holding AG

**Klaus Kühborth** (since 1 April 2004)  
Dipl.-Wirtschaftsingenieur, Frankenthal (Pfalz)  
Managing Director of  
Johannes und Jacob Klein GmbH

**Birgit Mohme** (since 1 Jan. 2015)  
Industrial Business Management Assistant,  
Frankenthal (Pfalz)  
1<sup>st</sup> Delegate and Managing Director of  
IG Metall Ludwigshafen/Frankenthal

**Thomas Pabst** (since 16 May 2018)  
Dipl.-Ingenieur, Freinsheim  
Head of the Energy Market Area  
of KSB SE & Co. KGaA

**Prof. Dr.-Ing. Corinna Salander\***  
(since 26 Feb. 2018)  
Dipl.-Physikerin, Berlin  
Head of the Railways Department of the  
Federal Ministry for Transport and Digital  
Infrastructure [BMDV]

**Harald Schöberl** (since 1 Jan. 2020)  
Industrial Business Management Assistant,  
Plech  
Full-time Member of the Pegnitz Works  
Council / Chair of the Group Works Council of  
KSB SE & Co. KGaA

**Volker Seidel** (since 1 Jan. 2008)  
Electrical and Electronics Installer,  
Münchberg  
1<sup>st</sup> Delegate and Treasurer of  
IG Metall Ostoberfranken

**Gabriele Sommer\*** (since 1 Jan. 2016)  
Dipl.-Geologin, Wörthsee  
Head of Business Development Management  
Systems & Certification, TÜV SÜD AG

**Jürgen Walther** (since 4 May 2023)  
IT Coordinator, Offstein  
Deputy Chair of the  
Frankenthal Works Council  
of KSB SE & Co. KGaA

\* Shareholder representatives who are independent from the Company and its general partner as well as from a controlling shareholder



## **Composition of the committees**

Personnel Committee: Dr. Bernd Flohr (Chair), Claudia Augustin, Volker Seidel, Gabriele Sommer

Audit Committee: Klaus Burchards (Chair), Dr. Bernd Flohr, Harald Schöberl, Birgit Mohme

Nomination Committee: Dr. Bernd Flohr, Klaus Kühborth

Corporate Development Committee: Klaus Kühborth (Chair), Arturo Esquinca, Jürgen Walther, Thomas Pabst, Prof. Dr. Corinna Salander, Volker Seidel

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