



Press release

25th BCGE Annual ordinary general meeting

BCGE – 17% dividend increase

Geneva, 30 April 2019 – The Banque Cantonale de Genève held its 25th Annual General Meeting today with 578 shareholders, representing 88.53% of the voting rights, in attendance. The shareholders approved the 2018 annual accounts and voted in favour of the dividend of CHF 3.40 per share. The outlook for 2019 is positive and supported by first-quarter indications.

Substantial contribution in favour of the public authorities

The Shareholders' meeting allocated the available profit. CHF 22.7 million were distributed among public, institutional and private shareholders. In addition to the dividend, up 17.2%, it voted, in accordance with its articles of association, in favour of paying CHF 4.9 million to the State of Geneva (special allocation to the State of Geneva, repayment of advances made for the *Fondation de valorisation's* operating costs). Hence, the BCGE has distributed a total sum, including taxes, of CHF 59 million to the public authorities based on the results for the financial year 2018, bringing the total of its contribution to the public authorities to almost CHF 1 billion since 2000.

Excellent results despite a difficult context

In the presence of shareholders and guests, Gilbert Probst, Chairman of BCGE's Board of Directors, noted "how excellent the 2018 results were, achieved despite the costly implementation of regulatory changes and ongoing negative rates". He also highlighted the three major strengths of the Bank, "the skills displayed by all of the staff, the balance between digital technology and personalised client relationships and, lastly, the Bank's authentic and inclusive culture".

Growth, the major strategic focus

Blaise Goetschin, Chairman of the Executive Board, highlighted the level of income which exceeded the CHF 400 million mark in 2018. Similarly, the increases in revenues, balance sheet and shareholders' equity reinforce the Bank's credibility in the market. The increase in cash-flow facilitates a better diversification of the Bank's business lines, strengthening the solidity of the BCGE and making it "a real growth stock".

The 2020 General Meeting is set for 05.05.2020. The results for the first half of 2019 will be published on 06.08.2019.

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BCGE: "made in Geneva" banking solutions

A universal bank since 1816, the BCGE provides high-quality banking services for private, business and institutional clients in Geneva and its surrounding area. The BCGE offers the following bank services: everyday banking facilities, private banking, asset management, investment funds, pension planning, mortgages and lending to the private and public sectors. It runs a trading room and offers financial engineering, business valuation and transmission, private equity and trade finance services. The BCGE Group has 21 branches in Geneva and operates a number of its services in Lausanne, Zurich, Lyon, Annecy, Paris, Dubai and Hong Kong. It currently employs 811 people (representing 761 full-time equivalents as at 31 December 2018). The BCGE is quoted on the SIX Swiss Exchange, the Swiss stock exchange (Authorised share no. 35 049 471) and is rated A+/stable/A-1 by the rating agency Standard & Poor's (S&P).