

## Press Information

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### **1996/97 Annual Results for EMS-CHEMIE HOLDING AG Further share buy-backs thanks to excellent earnings**

**EMS-CHEMIE HOLDING AG**, Domat/Ems (GR), is reporting a **profit** of CHF 317 million (previous year: CHF 166 million) for its 1996/97 financial year which ended on 30 April, (compared to the EMS-Group which publishes its consolidated financial statements as at 31.12). The extraordinary rise in earnings is on one hand due to **increased income from securities** of CHF 288 million (previous year: CHF 161 million) and on the other hand to **increased income from participations** of CHF 55 million (previous year: CHF 19 million). EMS-CHEMIE HOLDING AG was able to report a realised gain on securities as at 30 April 1997 by disposing of its entire securities portfolio (amount in previous year CHF 194 million). Its excellent earnings raised the tax charge from CHF 20 million to CHF 34 million.

Following EMS-CHEMIE HOLDING AG's buy-back of 40,000 of its own bearer shares on 25 March 1997 to reduce its capital (equivalent to CHF 240 million), then in view of its excellent annual results, i.e. the high retained earnings at the end of the year, it is to invite shareholders to tender a further **14'140 bearer shares** at a price of CHF 6'100.-- per share **to reduce its capital**. A total of 54'140 bearer shares (representing 4.57% of votes, i.e. 9.02% of the capital) amounting to CHF 326 million will be bought back as a result of these actions. Subject to approval at the Ordinary General Meeting on 23 August 1997, the share capital of CHF 30 million will be reduced to a new figure of CHF 27'293'000.-- Details on the share buy-back scheme will be announced on 9/10 May 1997.

**I. Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet of  
EMS-CHEMIE HOLDING AG**

<b>PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT (in CHF millions)</b>	<b>1996/97</b>	<b>1995/96</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Interest receivable	15	19
Income from participations	55	19
Income from securities	288	161
Other income	0	1
	<u>358</u>	<u>200</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Interest payable	5	10
General Expenses	1	1
Extraordinary expenditure	1	3
Tax	34	20
Earnings for the year	<u>317</u>	<u>166</u>
	<u>358</u>	<u>200</u>

<b>BALANCE SHEET (in CHF millions)</b>	<b>30.4.1997</b>	<b>30.4.1996</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Long-term holdings	71	72
Amounts due from Group companies	148	271
Own shares used to reduce share capital	240	0
	0	194
Other securities	11	1
Amounts due from third parties	<u>167</u>	<u>63</u>
Cash and time deposits	<u>637</u>	<u>601</u>
Balance sheet total		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Share capital	30	31
Legal reserve	70	70
Reserve for own shares to be used to reduce capital	240	0
	10	10
Free reserves	88	248
Net earnings		
<b>Total Shareholders' Funds</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>359</b>
Accounts payable to group companies	39	33
	14	14
Provisions	1	1
Accruals/deferrals	<u>145</u>	<u>194</u>
Accounts payable to third parties	<u>637</u>	<u>601</u>
Balance sheet total		

## II. Consolidated 1996 Annual Results for the EMS-Group

The consolidated year-end figures for the EMS-Group for the 1996 financial year were published on 28 February and showed that the **EMS-Group**, whose companies are combined within EMS-CHEMIE HOLDING AG, was able to boost **net sales** in 1996 by 2.3% to CHF 945 million (924) and **net profit after taxes** by 12.2% to CHF 229 million (204) in an unchanged scope of consolidation. Operating income and financial income also improved (+10.4% and +12.8% respectively) and the **profit per share** rose by 17.3% to CHF 381.85 (325.40) which is a proportionately high level.

### Key Performance Figures of the 1996 Consolidated Annual Financial Statements of the EMS-Group

	Financial years, in CHF millions		
	1996	1995	1994
<b>Net sales</b>	<b>945,2</b>	923,7	856,5
% change compared to previous year	<b>+ 2,3 %</b>	+ 7,8 %	+ 3,1 %
<b>Operating income *</b>	<b>152,1</b>	137,1	132,1
% change compared to previous year	<b>+ 10,4 %</b>	+ 4,3 %	+ 8,4 %
as % of net sales	<b>16,1 %</b>	14,9 %	15,4 %
<b>Financial income</b>	<b>126,1</b>	111,1	46,3
% change compared to previous year	<b>+ 12,8 %</b>	+141,4 %	- 62,8 %
<b>Net profit **</b>	<b>229,1</b>	204,1	144,0
% change compared to previous year	<b>+ 12,2 %</b>	+ 41,8 %	- 28,6 %
as % of total income from production	<b>23,2 %</b>	20,6 %	15,8 %
per bearer share entitled to dividend, adjusted (in CHF)	<b>381,85</b>	325,40	227,35
% change compared to previous year	<b>+ 17,3 %</b>	+ 43,1 %	- 22,9 %
<b>Cash-flow ***</b>	<b>279,5</b>	250,1	185,4
% change compared to previous year	<b>+ 11,7 %</b>	+ 35,0 %	- 23,0 %
as % of total income from production	<b>28,3 %</b>	25,2 %	20,4 %
per bearer share entitled to dividend, adjusted (in CHF)	<b>465,85</b>	398,10	292,80
% change compared to previous year	<b>+ 16,8 %</b>	+ 36,2 %	- 16,3 %
<b>Shareholders' equity</b>	<b>951,2</b>	951,1	846,7
as % of balance sheet total	<b>67,2 %</b>	65,0 %	52,6 %
return on equity	<b>24,1 %</b>	21,4 %	17,0 %
equity per bearer share entitled to dividend, adjusted (in CHF)	<b>1585,35</b>	1517,10	1336,90

\* Income before interest and taxes (EBIT)

\*\* Profit after taxes and outside shareholders' interest

\*\*\* Net income plus depreciation

### III. Dates

- 9./10.5.1997: Details announced on 2nd share buy-back
- 23.5.1997: 4-month report 1997 for the EMS-Group
- 11.7.1997: 1997 Balance Sheet press conference
- 23.8.1997: Annual General Meeting of EMS-CHEMIE HOLDING AG
- End of Sept. 1997: 8-month report 1997 for the EMS-Group
- End of Febr. 1998: 1997 annual results for the EMS-Group