



PRESS RELEASE

GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS OF THE HOLDIGAZ GROUP - MAJOR PROJECTS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR

A dividend of CHF 4.00 will be paid for each registered share of CHF 10.00.

Vevey, Switzerland, 29 September 2016 – **The General Meeting of Shareholders of HOLDIGAZ SA was held on Wednesday, 28 September in Montreux, under the chairmanship of Philippe Petitpierre. The 2015-2016 financial year (ending 31 March) was overall positive for all of the Group's companies, with a number of major projects successfully completed within the natural gas distribution network, renewable energy production and building technology. At the recommendation of the Board of Directors, the General Meeting of Shareholders accepted the payment of an ordinary dividend of CHF 4.00 per registered share of CHF 10.00, i.e. an increase of CHF 0.25 or 6.6% year-on-year**

Consolidated total revenue came in at CHF 231 million, for an operating result of CHF 68.9 million. Consolidated net profit, meanwhile, was CHF 19.3 million, due to exceptional depreciation and substantial investment at the new Forel (Lavaux) site.

The year under review saw the grouping together, since November 2015, of the 273 employees of the companies specialising in building technology, i.e. 61% of the group's workforce, divided between Joseph Diémand SA (plumbing), Brauchli SA and Taxa SA (heating) and Roos Ventilation SA (ventilation).

In the distribution business, the volume of natural gas supplied reached more than 1.55 billion kWh (including biogas produced at Lavigny, Roche and Penthaz), up 2.1% on the previous year. This result was achieved due to 780 new connections on network extensions and despite very mild average temperatures. This performance is satisfactory, despite two price reductions introduced during the year (decreases of 10% on 1 April 2015 and 7.5% on 1 October 2015). A final price cut of 5% was approved and applied on 1 April 2016, at the start of the new financial year.

Regarding renewable energy sources, the expansion of the Lavigny unit meant that the quantity of biogas produced was well above the target of 10 million kWh/year. This new facility, which has been operational since December 2015, transforms crude biogas into biomethane for injection into the natural gas distribution network.



Swiss Gas Invest

After the close of the 2015-2016 financial year, HOLDIGAZ played an active role in the creation of the Swiss company Swiss Gas Invest in June 2016, bringing together several Swiss gas players. This new company acquired around 8% of the share capital of FluxSwiss, which holds 90% of the natural gas transportation rights for the Transitgas pipeline. The pipeline is part of the north-south European transportation artery. HOLDIGAZ owns the majority of the share capital of the new company, which is based at the gas holding company's registered office.

About the HOLDIGAZ Group

The HOLDIGAZ Group, which was created in 2005, is a major player in natural gas and biogas distribution in French-speaking Switzerland. Through its distribution network - Compagnie Industrielle et Commerciale du Gaz SA, Société du Gaz de la Plaine du Rhône SA and Cosvegaz SA - it serves 166 municipalities in the Cantons of Vaud, Valais and Fribourg.

The group's other subsidiaries operate in sectors with direct or indirect synergies with the gas business, and provide solutions in building and renewable energy sources. These specialisms include plumbing (Joseph Diémand SA), heating (Brauchli SA et Taxa SA) and ventilation (Roos Ventilation SA).

The group also includes two solar energy companies (Agena SA and Soleil Energie SA) and a recycling centre for green waste and biogas production (Ecorecyclage SA).

HOLDIGAZ has a total of nearly 450 employees. It gives a step up to the industry's next generation by employing about 60 apprentices.

You can find more details at www.holdigaz.ch

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