

# Annual Report 2006 Contents

		Page
SECTION 1:	KEY FIGURES SWISSQUOTE SHARE	2
SECTION 2:	FINANCIAL REPORT 2006	4
	CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	5
	REPORT OF THE GROUP AUDITORS TO THE GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS ON THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	47
	STATUTORY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	48
	PROPOSAL OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGARDING AVAILABLE EARNINGS AT 31 DECEMBER 2006	54
	REPORT OF THE STATUTORY AUDITORS TO THE GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS	55
SECTION 3:	CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT	56
	ADDRESSES / CONTACTS	81

# Swissquote....

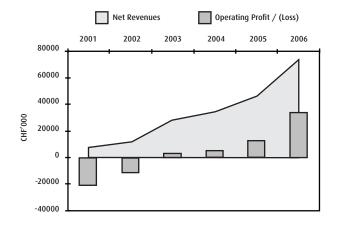
Is the leading provider of online financial and trading services in Switzerland. Creates sustainable added value for its customers, employees and shareholders. Is an independent Company, listed on the SWX Swiss Exchange.

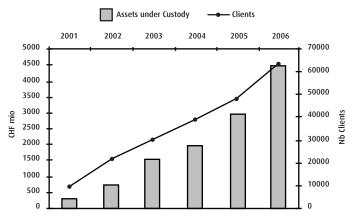
# Section 1: Key Figures

All amounts in thousands	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Net revenues (1)	74,747	46,628	34,273	28,737	12,079
% change	60.3%	<b>36</b> .0%	19.3%	1 <b>3</b> 7.9%	<b>49</b> .0%
Operating Expenses (1)	(36,638)	(30,647)	(25,897)	(22,937)	(20,607)
% change	19.5%	18.3%	12.9%	11.3%	(20.4%)
EBITDA (1)	38,109	15,981	8,376	5,860	(8,528)
% change	138.5%	90.8%	42.9%	168.7%	52.0%
Margin [%]	51.0%	34.3%	24.4%	20.3%	(70.6%)
Operating Profit / (Loss) (1) % change	34,793	12,993	5,816	3,660	(11,378)
	167.8%	123.4%	<b>58.9%</b>	132.2%	44.9%
Net Profit /(Loss) (2)	36,529	14,683	6,235	5,129	(15,311)
% change	148.8%	135.5%	21.6%	133.5%	14.6%
Margin [%]	48.9%	31.5%	18.2%	17.8%	(126.8%)
Equity Equity ratio [%] (2)	93,484	66,978	50,086	42,897	35,424
	9.0%	9.7%	11.0%	11.3%	15.0%
Employees (2)	156	127	117	101	80
% change	22.8%	8.5%	15.8%	26.3%	(51.5%)
Clients	64,067	49,057	39,531	30,926	22,500
% change	30.6%	<b>24</b> .1%	27.8%	37.4%	121.4%
Assets under Custody <i>in mio (3)</i> % change	4,492	2,986	2,017	1,560	733
	50.4%	48.0%	29.3%	112.8%	136.5%

<sup>(1)</sup> continued operations, excluding goodwill amortisation and reversal, restructuring and other non-recurring items

<sup>(3)</sup> including cash deposited by clients at the Bank





<sup>(2)</sup> including discontinued operations

# **Swissquote Share**

# Stock market trading

The registered shares, each with a nominal value of CHF 8, are listed on SWX Swiss Exchange under securities number 1,067,586 and ISIN number is CH0010675863. Their ticker symbols are: SQN (Swissquote); SQZ.S (Reuters); SQNSW (Bloomberg); SQN (Telekurs).

# Development of stock market share price (January to December 2006)



Stock market prices in CHF	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
High	399.75	149.50	144.50	100.75	34.75
Low	150.42	89.50	79.50	15.55	13.60
31 December	397.50	149.50	100.00	87.00	23.80
Stock market capitalisation in CHF mio	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
High	583.1	211.3	201.5	140.0	47.8
Low	212.6	124.4	110.8	21.2	18.7
31 December	579.8	211.3	139.4	121.0	32.7
Share indicators in CHF	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Net revenue per share	52.87	33.54	25.11	21.93	9.23
Net profit per share	25.84	10.56	4.57	3.91	(11.70)
Equity per share	64.09	47.39	35.92	31.11	25.74

# Section 2: Financial Report 2006

# CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006 AND 2005

	Page
Consolidated Balance Sheet	5
Consolidated Statement of Operations	6
Consolidated Changes in Shareholders' Equity	7
Consolidated Cash Flow Statement	8
Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statement	9
Section I: General Information	9
Section II: Adoption of New and Revised International Financial Reporting Standards	10
Section III: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies	11
Section IV: Critical Accounting Judgments and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty	19
Section V: Financial Risk Management	20
Section VI: Other Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements	27

# Financial Report 2006 Consolidated Balance Sheet

	Notes		2005
ASSETS			
Cash and balances with central bank	1	25,355,664	51,943,506
Due from other banks	1	814,482,578	573,884,032
Derivatives financial instruments	2	6,142,183	2,128,854
Loans and advances to customers	3	63,913,743	40,545,076
Pledged assets	5	99,046,746	10,324,672
Goodwill	7	-	3,000,000
Information technology systems	8	5,717,167	5,242,848
Property, plant and equipment	9	8,569,805	836,320
Other assets	10	3,192,074	1,800,712
Deferred tax assets, net	11	7,062,435	2,326,458
Total assets		1,033,482,395	692,032,478
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			_
Liabilities			
Due to other banks	1	5,743,186	385,095
Derivatives financial instruments	2	6,142,183	2,128,854
Due to customers	4	910,405,200	610,017,832
Other liabilities	6	16,947,996	11,632,774
Provisions	12	759,619	890,266
Total liabilities		939,998,184	625,054,821
Equity			
Ordinary shares	14.1	11,668,648	14,133,920
Share premium		33,780,293	32,021,971
Share option reserve	14.2	330,685	368,580
Other reserve		(22,093)	-
Treasury shares	14.3	(9,011,338)	(846,458)
Retained earnings		56,738,016	21,299,644
Total equity		93,484,211	66,977,657
Total liabilities and equity		1,033,482,395	692,032,478

# Financial Report 2006 Consolidated Statement of Operations

	Notes	2006	2005
Fee and commission income Fee and commission expense	15	60,237,329 (8,125,052)	39,392,843 (4,647,950)
Net fee and commission income		52,112,277	34,744,893
Interest income Interest expense		17,130,396 (4,374,214)	7,080,496 (1,722,753)
Net interest income	16	12,756,182	5,357,743
Net trading income Other operating income	17	6,180,296 3,698,476	3,979,698 2,545,794
Operating income		74,747,231	46,628,128
Other operating expenses	18	(36,638,210)	(30,646,522)
Operating profit before depreciation, amortization and provisions		38,109,021	15,981,606
<b>Depreciation and amortization:</b> Depreciation Reversal of Goodwill	8 / 9 7 / 11	(3,316,225) (3,000,000)	(2,988,636)
Operating profit		31,792,796	12,992,970
Income tax, net	11	4,735,977	1,690,000
Net profit		36,528,773	14,682,970
Earning per share Diluted earning per share	19 19	25.84 25.58	10.56 10.33

# Financial Report 2006 Consolidated Changes in Shareholders' Equity

	Notes	Share capital	Share premium	Share option reserve	Other reserve	Treasury shares	Retained earnings	Total
Balance at 1 January 2005		13,943,040	29,899,614	371,735	-	(588,511)	6,460,115	50,085,993
Net profit of the period		-	-	-	-	-	14,682,970	14,682,970
Capital increase resulting from the exercise of options	14.1	190,880	572,564	-	-	-	-	763,444
Employee stock option plan: Value of services provided Reclassification of value of services	14.2	-	-	153,404	-	-	-	153,404
provided for stock options exercised, lapsed or expired in the period		-	-	(156,559)	-	-	156,559	-
Purchase of treasury shares Sale of treasury shares	14.3 14.3	-	- 1,549,793	-	-	(1,098,356) 840,409	-	(1,098,356) 2,390,202
Balance at 31 December 2005		14,133,920	32,021,971	368,580	-	(846,458)	21,299,644	66,977,657
Balance at 1 January 2006		14,133,920	32,021,971	368,580	-	(846,458)	21,299,644	66,977,657
Net change in available-for-sale investments	5	-	-	-	(22,093)	-	-	(22,093)
Net profit of the period			-	-	-	-	36,528,773	36,528,773
Total recognised income for 2006			-	-	(22,093)	-	36,528,773	36,506,680
Capital increase resulting from the exercise of options	14.1	442,940	1,663,691	-	-	-	-	2,106,631
Dividend		-	-	-	-	-	(1,406,586)	(1,406,586)
Capital reduction	14.1	(2,908,212)	73,218	-	-	-	-	(2,834,994)
Employee stock option plan: Value of services provided Reclassification of value of services provided for stock options exercised,	14.2	-	-	278,290	-	-	-	278,290
lapsed or expired in the period		-	-	(316,185)	-	-	316,185	-
Purchase of treasury shares Sale of treasury shares	14.3 14.3	-	- 21,413	-	-	(8,195,231) 30,351	-	(8,195,231) 51,764
Balance at 31 December 2006		11,668,648	33,780,293	330,685	(22,093)	(9,011,338)	56,738,016	93,484,211

# Financial Report 2006 Consolidated Cash Flow Statement

	Notes	2006	2005
Cash flow from / (used in) operating activities			
Fees and commission receipts		60,268,227	39,527,224
Fees and commission paid		(7,516,284)	(4,458,117)
Interest receipts		15,751,573	6,982,413
Interest paid		(4,351,199)	(1,722,753)
Net trading income		5,782,404	3,979,698
Other income		3,628,410	2,298,281
Cash payments to employees and suppliers		(33,445,830)	(27,308,562)
Cash flow from operating profit before changes			
in operating assets and liabilities		40,117,301	19,298,184
Net (increase) / decrease in operating assets			
and net increase / (decrease) in operating liabilities			
Loans and advances to customers		(23,368,667)	(8,310,029)
Due from other banks		(18,000,000)	-
Other assets		97,962	247,847
Due to customers		300,387,368	213,576,235
Other liabilities		1,567,369	830,798
Net cash from operating activities		300,801,333	225,643,035
Cash flow from / (used in) investing activites			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment			
and Information technology systems	8/9	(3,656,752)	(3,077,100)
Purchase of new headquarters	9	(7,867,277)	-
Redemption of pledged assets		-	2,000,000
Investment in pledged assets		(88,346,275)	(5,446,377)
Net cash used in investing activities		(99,870,304)	(6,523,477)
Cash flow from / (used in) financing activities			
Net proceeds of issue of ordinary shares		2,106,631	2,156,678
Purchase of treasury shares		(8,195,231)	(941,802)
Sale of treasury shares		51,764	840,409
Capital reduction		(2,834,994)	-
Dividend		(1,406,586)	-
Net cash (used in) / from financing activities		(10,278,416)	2,055,285
INCREASE IN CASH			
AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		190,652,613	221,174,843
Movements in cash and cash equivalents			
Balance at beginning of year		625,442,443	404,267,598
Increase		190,652,613	221,174,843
Balance at 31 December	1	816,095,056	625,442,443
			_

# Non-cash transaction:

The principal non-cash transaction was the issue of shares as consideration for services provided by employees as reported in Note 14.2

# **SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

Swissquote Group Holding Ltd ("the Company") and its subsidiaries ("the Group") provide Online Financial Services that consist of the services provided by Swissquote Bank ("the Bank") through it's financial web portal swissquote.ch.

The Group's headquarters are located in Gland (Canton de Vaud) in Switzerland. The operations are located in Switzerland (Gland and Zurich). The Group employed 156 employees (full time equivalent) at the end of December 2006 (31 December 2005: 127). The parent Company of the Group is Swissquote Group Holding Ltd, which is a limited liability Company incorporated in Switzerland. The address of its registered office is: route des Avouillons 16, CH - 1196 Gland.

The shares of Swissquote Group Holding Ltd are listed on the Swiss Stock Exchange since 29 May 2000. The ticker is SQN, the security number is 1,067,586 and the ISIN Number is CH0010675863.

The issued share-capital at 31 December 2006 consists of 1,458,581 ordinary shares of CHF 8 nominal value (2005: 1,413,392 ordinary shares of CHF 10 nominal value). There is also a conditional share-capital and an authorised share-capital. Details are stated in Note 14.1.

The main shareholders at 31 December are:

	2006	2005
Mr. Marc Bürki	14.55%	15.08%
Mr. Paolo Buzzi	14.54%	15.08%
Mr. Jean Pfau	6.57%	7.84%
Vauban Fund (SICAV), LU-Luxembourg	5.73%	< 5.00%
Mr. Mario Fontana	5.55%	4.37%
PEC Global Equity Fund	5.08%	< 5.00%
AIG Equity Fund Switzerland	< 5.00%	7.37%

Except the above-mentioned shareholders, no other shareholder registered in the Shareholder Registry owns 5% or more of the issued share-capital. All shares are freely tradable. SWX Regulations provide that individual shareholdings exceeding 5% are deemed to be permanent investment and are to be excluded from the free float. In accordance with SWX regulations the free float at 31 December 2006 is 47.99% (2005: 54.63%).

The consolidated financial statements were approved for issue by the Board of Directors of the Company on 6 February 2007.

#### SECTION II: ADOPTION OF NEW AND REVISED INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS

In the current year, the Group considered all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretation issued by the International Accounting Standard Board (IASB) and the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) of the IASB effective for accounting periods beginning on 1 January 2006. These are:

- IAS 19 Amendment Actuarial Gains and Losses, Group Plans and Disclosures;
- ▶ IAS 21 Amendment Net Investment in a Foreign Operation;
- ▶ IAS 39 Amendment Cash Flow Hedge Accounting of Forecast Intragroup Transactions;
- ▶ IAS 39 Amendment The Fair Value Option;
- ▶ IAS 39 and IFRS 4 Amendment Financial Guarantee Contracts;
- ▶ IFRS 1 (Amendment), First-time Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards, and IFRS 6 (Amendment), Exploration for and Evaluation of Mineral Resources;
- ▶ IFRS 6, Exploration for and Evaluation of Mineral Resources;
- ▶ IFRIC 4, Determining whether an Arrangement contains a Lease;
- ▶ IFRIC 5, Rights to Interests arising from Decommissioning, Restoration and Environmental Rehabilitation Funds; and
- ▶ IFRIC 6, Liabilities arising from Participating in a Specific Market Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment.

The application of the amendments and interpretations listed below that are relevant to the operations of the Group did not result in substantial changes to the Group's accounting policies:

- ▶ IAS 19 Amendment introduces the option of an alternative recognition approach for actuarial gains and losses. It also adds new disclosure requirements. As the Group does not intend to change the accounting policy adopted for recognition of actuarial gains and losses and does not participate in any multi-employer plans, adoption of this amendment only impacts the format and extent of disclosures presented in the accounts.
- ▶ IAS 21 Amendment, IAS 39 Amendment Cash flow hedge accounting of forecasted intragroup transactions, IFRS 6, IFRIC 4 and IFRIC 5 are not relevant to the Group's operating activities and therefore have no material effect on the Group's policies.
- ▶ IAS 39 Amendment The Fair Value Option. Prior to the amendment, the Group applied the unrestricted version of the fair value option in IAS 39. The Group meets the new criteria in the amendment and therefore continues to designate certain financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss.
- ▶ IAS 39 and IFRS 4 Amendment Financial Guarantee Contracts. These types of contract are now accounted for under IAS 39 and no longer accounted for under IFRS 4, as previously required under IFRS. The measurement and disclosure requirements under IAS 39 have not resulted in a material change to the Group's policies.

With respect to certain new accounting standards and IFRIC interpretations that have been published to the date of these Consolidated Financial Statements and that are mandatory for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2006, the Group has elected not do early adopt any of the new / revised standard not yet mandatory for its 2006 consolidated financial statements:

- ▶ IFRS 7, Financial instruments: Disclosures (effective 1 January 2007)
- ▶ IFRS 8, Operating Segments (effective 1 January 2008);
- ▶ IFRIC 7, Applying the Restatement Approach under IAS 29 (effective 1 March 2006);
- ▶ IFRIC 8, Scope of IFRS 2 (effective 1 May 2006);
- ▶ IFRIC 9, Reassessment of embedded derivative (effective 1 June 2006);
- IFRIC 10, Interim Financial Reporting and Impairment (effective 1 November 2006);
- ▶ IFRIC 11, IFRS 2 Group Treasury Share Transactions (effective 1 March 2007); and
- ▶ IFRIC 12, Service Concession Arrangements (effective 1 January 2009).

The application of these new interpretations are not expected to have a material impact on the entity's financial statements in the period of initial application.

With respect to IFRS 7, Management anticipates that extended disclosure will be required in the areas of financial instruments and risk management reporting.

With respect to IFRS 8, Management has carried out a preliminary comparative analysis with IAS 14 and estimates that, based on its current internal reporting system and the range of services provided by the Group to date, it is not anticipated that operating segment information will be provided.

# Financial Report 2006 Consolidated Financial Statements

#### **SECTION III: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below:

### A. Basis of presentation

These consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. The consolidated financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of available-for-sale investment securities, financial assets and financial liabilities held for trading, share based payments and all derivative contracts.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires the use of estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Although these estimates are based on management's best knowledge of current events and actions, actual results ultimately may differ from those estimates.

### **B.** Consolidation

#### (B1) Subsidiaries

Subsidiaries are all entities (including special purpose entities) over which the Group has the power to govern the financial and operating policies generally accompanying a shareholding of more than one half of the voting rights. The existence and effect of potential voting rights that are currently exercisable or convertible are considered when assessing whether the Group controls another entity. Subsidiaries are fully consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the Group. They are deconsolidated from the date that control ceases.

The purchase method of accounting is used to account for the acquisition of subsidiaries by the Group. The cost of an acquisition is measured as the fair value of the assets given, equity instruments issued and liabilities incurred or assumed at the date of exchange, plus costs directly attributable to the acquisition. Identifiable assets acquired and liabilities and contingent liabilities assumed in a business combination are measured initially at their fair values at the acquisition date, irrespective of the extent of any minority interest. The excess of the cost of acquisition over the fair value of the Group's share of the identifiable net assets acquired is recorded as goodwill. If the cost of acquisition is less than the fair value of the net assets of the subsidiary acquired, the difference is recognised directly in the income statement.

Inter-company transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between Group companies are eliminated. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of impairment of the asset transferred. Accounting policies of subsidiaries have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the Group.

### **SECTION III: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

(B2) List of consolidated subsidiaries

		Interest at 31	December
Subsidiaries	Headquarters / Country	2006	2005
Swissquote Bank	Gland / Switzerland	100.0%	100.0%
Swissquote Trade Ltd	Gland / Switzerland	100.0%	100.0%

## C. Foreign currency translation

#### (C1) Functional and presentation currency

Items included in the financial statements of each of the Group's entities are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates ("the functional currency"). The consolidated financial statements are presented in CHF, which is the functional and presentation currency of the parent and the subsidiaries.

### (C2) Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the income statement under Net trading income. Translation differences on non-monetary items, such as equities held at fair value through profit or loss, are reported as part of the fair value gain or loss. Translation differences on non-monetary items, such as equities classified as available-for-sale financial assets, are included in the fair value reserve in equity.

### D. Segment reporting

A business segment is a group of assets and operations engaged in providing products or services that are subject to risks and returns that are different from those of other business segments. A geographical segment is engaged in providing products or services within a particular economic environment that are subject to risks and returns that are different from those of segments operating in other economic environments. The set-up of the Group's operations (i.e. integrated online brokerage services and one single operating legal entity), implies that the Group operates in a sole business segment.

### E. Derivative financial instruments and hedge accounting

Derivative financial instruments include foreign exchange contracts, interest rate futures, forward rate agreements, currency and interest rate swaps, interest rate options and other derivative financial instruments.

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value on the date on which a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently remeasured at their fair value. Fair values are obtained from quoted market prices in active markets, including recent market transactions, and valuation techniques, including discounted cash flow models and options pricing models, as appropriate. All derivatives are carried as assets when fair value is positive and as liabilities when fair value is negative.

Changes in the fair value of derivatives are included in Net trading income. The Group does not apply hedge accounting as defined by IAS 39.

#### **SECTION III: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### F. Offsetting financial instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the balance sheet when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or realize the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

#### G. Financial assets

The Group classifies its financial assets in the following categories: financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, loans and receivables, held-to-maturity investments and available-for-sale financial assets. Management determines the classification of its investments at initial recognition.

# (G1) Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

This category has two sub-categories: financial assets held for trading, and those designated at fair value through profit or loss at inception. A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term or if so designated by management. The Group does not trade in such financial assets, except for transactions on derivative financial instruments entered into to satisfy client needs. These derivatives are categorised as held for trading.

#### (G2) Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They arise when the Group provides money, goods or services directly to a debtor with no intention of trading the receivable.

### (G3) Held-to-maturity

Held-to-maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturities that the Group's management has the positive intention and ability to hold to maturity.

#### (G4) Available-for-sale

Available-for-sale investments are those intended to be held for an indefinite period of time, which may be sold in response to needs for liquidity or changes in interest rates, exchange rates or equity prices.

Purchases and sales of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, held to maturity and available-for-sale are recognised on trade-date – the date on which the Group commits to purchase or sell the asset. All other purchases and sales are recognised as derivative forward transactions until settlement. Loans are recognised when cash is advanced to the borrowers. Financial assets are initially recognised at fair value plus transaction costs for all financial assets not carried at fair value through profit or loss. Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or when the Group has transferred substantially all risks and rewards of ownership.

Available-for-sale financial assets and financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are subsequently carried at fair value. Loans and receivables and held-to-maturity investments are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of the financial assets at fair value through profit or loss category are included in the income statement in the period in which they arise. Gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of available-for-sale financial assets are recognised directly in equity, until the financial asset is derecognised or impaired at which time the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in equity should be recognised in profit or loss. However, interest calculated using the effective interest method is recognised in the income statement. Dividends on available-for-sale equity instruments are recognised in the income statement when the entity's right to receive payment is established.

#### **SECTION III: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The fair values of quoted investments in active markets are based on current bid prices. If the market for a financial asset is not active (and for unlisted securities), the Group establishes fair value by using valuation techniques. These include the use of recent arm's length transactions, discounted cash flow analysis, option pricing models and other valuation techniques commonly used by market participants.

Interest earned whilst holding investment securities is reported as interest income. Dividends receivable are included separately in dividend income when a dividend is declared.

### H. Impairment of financial assets

(H1) Assets carried at amortised cost

The Group assesses at each balance sheet date whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired. A financial asset or a group of financial assets is impaired and impairment losses are incurred if, and only if, there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the asset (a 'loss event') and that loss event (or events) has an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset or group of financial assets that can be reliably estimated.

The Group first assesses whether objective evidence of impairment exists individually for financial assets that are individually significant, and individually or collectively for financial assets that are not individually significant. If the Group determines that no objective evidence of impairment exists for an individually assessed financial asset, whether significant or not, it includes the asset in a group of financial assets with similar credit risk characteristics and collectively assesses them for impairment. Assets that are individually assessed for impairment and for which an impairment loss is or continues to be recognised are not included in a collective assessment of impairment.

If there is objective evidence that an impairment loss on loans and receivables or held-to-maturity investments carried at amortised cost has been incurred, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows (excluding future credit losses that have not been incurred) discounted at the financial asset's original effective interest rate. The carrying amount of the asset is reduced through the use of an allowance account and the amount of the loss is recognised in the income statement. If a loan or held-to-maturity investment has a variable interest rate, the discount rate for measuring any impairment loss is the current effective interest rate determined under the contract. As a practical expedient, the Group may measure impairment on the basis of an instrument's fair value using an observable market price.

The calculation of the present value of the estimated future cash flows of a collateralised financial asset reflects the cash flows that may result from foreclosure less costs for obtaining and selling the collateral, whether or not foreclosure is probable.

For the purposes of a collective evaluation of impairment, financial assets are grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics (i.e. on the basis of the Group's grading process that considers asset type, industry, geographical location, collateral type, past-due status and other relevant factors). Those characteristics are relevant to the estimation of future cash flows for groups of such assets by being indicative of the debtors' ability to pay all amounts due according to the contractual terms of the assets being evaluated.

#### **SECTION III: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Future cash flows in a group of financial assets that are collectively evaluated for impairment are estimated on the basis of the contractual cash flows of the assets in the Group and historical loss experience for assets with credit risk characteristics similar to those in the Group. Historical loss experience is adjusted on the basis of current observable data to reflect the effects of current conditions that did not affect the period on which the historical loss experience is based and to remove the effects of conditions in the historical period that do not exist currently.

Estimates of changes in future cash flows for groups of assets should reflect and be directionally consistent with changes in related observable data from period to period (for example, changes in unemployment rates, property prices, payment status, or other factors indicative of changes in the probability of losses in the Group and their magnitude). The methodology and assumptions used for estimating future cash flows are reviewed regularly by the Group to reduce any differences between loss estimates and actual loss experience.

When a loan is uncollectable, it is written off against the related provision for loan impairment. Such loans are written off after all the necessary procedures have been completed and the amount of the loss has been determined. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off decrease the amount of the provision for loan impairment in the income statement.

If, in a subsequent period, the amount of the impairment loss decreases and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment was recognised (such as an improvement in the debtor's credit rating), the previously recognised impairment loss is reversed by adjusting the allowance account. The amount of the reversal is recognised in the income statement.

Statutory and other regulatory loan loss reserve requirements that exceed these amounts are dealt with in the general banking reserve as an appropriation of retained earnings.

#### (H2) Assets carried at fair value

The Group assesses at each balance sheet date whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or a group of financial assets is impaired. In the case of equity investments classified as available-for-sale, a significant or prolonged decline in the fair value of the security below its cost is considered in determining whether the assets are impaired. If any such evidence exists for available-for-sale financial assets, the cumulative loss – measured as the difference between the acquisition cost and the current fair value, less any impairment loss on that financial asset previously recognised in profit or loss – is removed from equity and recognised in the income statement. Impairment losses recognised in the income statement on equity instruments are not reversed through the income statement. If, in a subsequent period, the fair value of a debt instrument classified as available-for-sale increases and the increase can be objectively related to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised in profit or loss, the impairment loss is reversed through the income statement.

#### I. Goodwill

Goodwill represents the excess of the cost of an acquisition over the fair value of the Group's share of the net identifiable assets of the acquired subsidiary / associate at the date of acquisition. Goodwill is tested annually for impairment and carried at cost less accumulated impairment losses. Gains and losses on the disposal of an entity include the carrying amount of goodwill relating to the entity sold. Goodwill is allocated to cash-generating units for the purpose of impairment testing.

### **SECTION III: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

### J. Information technology systems

Costs associated with maintaining computer software programmes are recognised as an expense as incurred. However, expenditure that enhances or extends the benefits of computer software programmes beyond their original specifications and lives is recognised as a capital improvement and added to the original cost of the software under the item "Proprietary Software". Computer software development costs recognised as assets are amortised using the straight-line method over their useful lives but not exceeding a period of three to five years.

Acquired computer software licenses are capitalized on the basis of the costs incurred to acquire and bring to use the specific software. These costs are amortised on the basis of the expected useful life (three to five years).

Hardware is recorded at cost. Depreciation is calculated on the straight-line method to write-off the cost of these assets to their residual values over their estimated useful life, but not exceeding a period of three years.

Information technology systems are periodically reviewed for impairment. Where the carrying amount of an asset is greater than its estimated recoverable amount, it is written down immediately to its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

### K. Property, plant and equipment

All Property, plant and equipment is recorded at historical cost, less depreciation. Depreciation is calculated on the straight-line method to write-off the cost of these assets to their residual values over their estimated useful life, but not exceeding a period of four to five years.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or are recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Group and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the income statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

Assets that are subject to depreciation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. Where the carrying amount of an asset is greater than its estimated recoverable amount, it is written down immediately to its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use. Gains and losses on disposal of Property, plant and equipment are determined by reference to their carrying amount and are taken into account in determining operating profit.

### L. Borrowings

Borrowings are recognised initially at fair value, being their issue proceeds (fair value of consideration received) net of transaction costs incurred. Borrowings are subsequently stated at amortised cost and any difference between net proceeds and the redemption value is recognised in the income statement over the period of the borrowings using the effective interest method.

### M. Deferred income taxes

Deferred income taxes are provided, using the liability method, for all temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying values for financial reporting purposes. Currently enacted tax rates are used to determine deferred income tax.

The principal temporary differences arise from the capitalization of certain assets and related depreciation and amortisation as well as from tax losses carried forward. Deferred tax assets relating to tax losses carried forward, are recognised to the extent that taxable profits are expected to be generated in the future and will be offset by the tax losses carried forward.

Deferred tax related to fair value re-measurement of available-for-sale investments, which is charged or credited directly to equity, is also credited or charged directly to equity and is subsequently recognised in the income statement together with the deferred gain or loss.

### **SECTION III: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

## N. Pension obligations

In addition to the legally prescribed social benefits, the Group maintains two employee pension plans. The pension plans have been setup in accordance with the Swiss defined contribution plans. However, they do not fulfill all of the criteria of a defined contribution pension plan according to IAS 19 and are therefore disclosed as defined benefit pension plans.

The Group insures its staff with collective foundations and insurance companies, which provide benefits on retirement or in the event of death, disability or termination of employment. The level of contributions to be paid by the employees and the relevant Group companies is determined by the plan rules. The pension benefits are based on the contributions paid by the insured persons and the Group (individual savings accounts). The assets are independently managed by the collective foundations or insurance companies.

For accounting purposes in accordance with IAS 19, pension obligations and expenses are determined according to the projected unit credit method. The corresponding calculations are made by actuaries on a periodical basis. The pension expense entered in the profit and loss account corresponds to the actuarially determined expense less employee contributions.

Actuarial gains and losses that exceed both 10% of the present value of the plan obligations and 10% of the fair value of plan assets are systematically amortised over the remaining working lives of employees participating in the plan.

#### O. Provisions

Provisions for restructuring costs and legal claims are recognised when:

- the Group has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events;
- it is more likely than not that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation;
- and the amount has been reliably estimated.

### P. Share-Capital / Share Issue costs

Incremental costs directly attributable to the issue of new shares or options or to the acquisition of a business are shown in equity as a deduction, net of tax, from the proceeds.

Dividends on ordinary shares are recognised in equity in the period in which they are approved by the Company's shareholders.

# Q. Stock Option Plan

The Group operates equity-settled, share-based compensation plans. The fair value of the employee services received in exchange for the grant of the options is recognised as an expense over the vesting period (i.e. the period of time between the date of grant and the date options first become exercisable). The total amount to be expensed is determined by reference to the fair value of the options granted, excluding the impact of any non-market vesting conditions and the number of options anticipated to vest. Non-market vesting conditions are included in assumptions about the number of options that are expected to become exercisable. At each balance sheet date, the entity revises its estimates of the number of options that are expected to become exercisable. It recognises the impact of the revision of original estimates, if any, in the income statement, and a corresponding adjustment to equity over the remaining vesting period. The proceeds received net of any directly attributable transaction costs are credited to share-capital (nominal value) and share premium when the options are exercised.

#### **SECTION III: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

## R. Treasury shares

Where the Company or other members of the consolidated Group purchases the Company's equity share-capital, the consideration paid is deducted from total shareholders' equity as treasury shares until they are cancelled. Where such shares are subsequently sold or reissued, any consideration received is included in shareholders' equity.

### S. Fee and commission income / expense and other income

Fee and commission income / expense and other income are recognised on an accrual basis when the services have been provided to the customer, usually on a time-appropriate basis, net of sales tax and discount.

### T. Interest income and expense

Interest income and expense are recognised in the income statement for all instruments measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Interest income includes coupons earned on fixed income investment and trading securities and accrued discount and premium on treasury bills and other discounted instruments. Once a financial asset or a group of similar financial assets has been written down as a result of an impairment loss, interest income is recognised using the rate of interest used to discount the future cash flows for the purpose of measuring the impairment loss.

#### U. Net trading income

Net trading income is recognised on foreign exchange transactions done by clients and also on foreign currency translation of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in other than Swiss Francs.

### V. Leases

The leases entered into by the Group are operating leases. The total payments made under operating leases are charged to the income statement on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

When an operating lease is terminated before the lease period has expired, any payment required to be made to the lessor by way of penalty is recognised as an expense in the period in which termination takes place.

#### W. Fiduciary activity

The Group commonly acts as trustees and in other fiduciary capacities that result in the holding or placing of assets on behalf of individuals, trusts, retirement benefit plans and other institutions. These assets and income arising thereon are excluded from these financial statements, as they are not assets of the Group.

#### X. Cash and cash equivalents

For the purposes of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents comprise balances with less than 90 days maturity from the date of acquisition including: cash and balances with the Swiss Central Bank, amounts due from other banks and amounts due to other banks.

# Y. Comparatives

When required, the 2005 comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation in the current year.

## SECTION IV: CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

## Critical judgments in applying the Group's accounting policies

In the process of applying the Group's accounting policies, which are described in Section III, circumstances may lead Management to make judgments that have most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements. At 31 December 2006 there are no such circumstances and related judgments to be reported.

### Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The process of applying the Group's accounting policies may require the use of key assumptions concerning the future, and / or key other sources of estimation uncertainty at the balance sheet date, that have a significant risk of causing material adjustments to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year. Key assumptions are discussed below:

### Deferred tax assets

The recognition and extent of recognition of Deferred tax assets requires the use of several key assumptions such as the applicable tax rate and the future level of taxable profit. Detailed sensitivity analysis has been carried-out and Management is confident that the carrying amount of Deferred tax recognised to date will be recovered in the future.

#### SECTION V: FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

#### A. Scope of Swissquote Group operations

The Group's operations consist of:

- operating an online bank that accepts deposits from its customers mainly in CHF, USD and EUR in current account form. The interest rate paid, if any, is fixed at the discretion of the Bank and may be changed at any time without advanced notice;
- providing stock brokerage services:
  - to self-directed investors by mean of tools to route the orders to stock exchanges via the Internet against brokerage fees, as well as tools to assist them in their decision making;
  - to Asset Managers by mean of tools that permit to pass grouped orders on behalf of their clients, and to allow such clients to have a realtime read access to their account in order to review whenever the need is felt the investment activity of their Asset Manager made on their behalf;
  - by telephone on all stock markets which cannot be accessed otherwise via above mentioned tools.
- providina:
  - custodian services against fees and foreign exchange;
  - margin loans to customers against pledging of assets (lombard loans);
  - fiduciary placements on behalf and at the risks of clients against commission fees;
  - services to corporations for the management of their stock option programs;
- selling advertising space and providing financial information against subscription on the Group's financial portal.

The Group does not carry out other banking activities. In particular it does not:

- provide commercial lending, mortgages, retail borrowings, credit related commitments such as guarantees and standby letters of credit;
- provide trustee, corporate administration, investment management and / or advisory services to third parties;
- trade in financial instruments where it takes positions in traded and over the counter instruments including derivatives to take interest of short-term market movements in the equity and bond markets and interest rate and commodity prices, with the exception of spot currency positions in USD and EUR and several other currencies.

#### B. Strategy in using financial instruments

By their nature, the Group's activities are principally related to the use of financial instruments including derivatives. The Group accepts deposits from customers at both fixed and floating rates, and for various periods, and seeks to earn above-average interest margins by investing these funds in high-quality assets. The Group seeks to increase these margins by consolidating short-term funds and lending for longer periods at higher rates, while maintaining sufficient liquidity to meet all claims that might fall due. The Group also seeks to raise its interest margins by obtaining above-average margins, net of allowances, through lombard lending. The Board places limits on the level of exposure that can be taken in relation to both overnight and intra-day positions.

#### C. Credit risk

The Group takes on exposure to credit risk, which is the risk that a counterparty will be unable to pay amounts in full when due. Impairment provisions are provided for losses that have incurred at the balance sheet date. Management carefully manages its exposure to credit risk. The Group structures the levels of credit risk it undertakes by placing limits on the amount of risk accepted in relation to one borrower, or groups of borrowers with respect to their credit rating, as well as the level of security margin required which depends on the types of securities and portfolio profiles. Lombard credits are monitored using a realtime system comparing the fair value of the collateral with the actual credit granted to each customer. Counterparty credit risks are monitored on a revolving basis and are subject to an annual or more frequent review. Limits on the level of credit risk as well as the Lombard margins are approved by the Board of Directors.

The exposure to any borrower including banks and brokers is further restricted by sub-limits covering on- and off-balance sheet exposures. Actual exposures against limits are monitored daily. Exposure to credit risk is managed through regular analysis of the ability of borrowers and potential borrowers to meet interest and capital repayment obligations and by changing these lending limits where appropriate.

## **SECTION V: FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT**

# D. Geographical concentration of assets, liabilities and off-balance sheet items

The Group has credit exposure outside Switzerland mainly through its credit risk with financial institutions domiciled outside Switzerland and to a lesser extent to clients domiciled outside of Switzerland to whom the Group has granted Lombard loans. The geographical analysis of assets and liabilities items based on the domicile of the counterparties is analysed below:

	Switzerland	Europe	Others	Total
At 31 December 2006				
Assets				
Cash and balances with central bank	25,355,664	-	-	25,355,664
Due from other banks	747,592,113	63,253,782	3,636,683	814,482,578
Loans and advances to customers	47,152,231	13,703,659	3,057,853	63,913,743
Pledged assets	12,828,424	86,218,322	-	99,046,746
Information technology systems	5,717,167	-	-	5,717,167
Property, plant and equipment	8,569,805	-	-	8,569,805
Others (Derivatives, Other assets and Deferred tax)	9,958,575	6,438,117	-	16,396,692
Total assets	857,173,979	169,613,880	6,694,536	1,033,482,395
Liabilities				
Due to other banks	5,429,803	313,383	-	5,743,186
Due to customers	706,524,727	133,066,719	70,813,754	910,405,200
Provisions	759,619	-	-	759,619
Others (Derivatives and Other liabilities)	16,947,997	6,142,182	-	23,090,179
Total liabilities	729,662,146	139,522,284	70,813,754	939,998,184
Difference between total assets and liabilities	127,511,833	30,091,596	(64,119,218)	93,484,211
At 31 December 2005				
Total assets	542,772,705	110,752,090	38,507,683	692,032,478
Total liabilities	508,901,146	95,770,270	20,383,405	625,054,821
Difference between total assets and liabilities	33,871,559	14,981,820	18,124,278	66,977,657

### **SECTION V: FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT**

## E. Interest rate risk

Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Fair value interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Group takes on exposure to the effects of fluctuations in the prevailing levels of market interest rates on both its fair value and cash flow risks. Interest margins may increase as a result of such changes but may reduce or create losses in the event that unexpected movements arise. The Board sets limits on the level of mismatch of interest rate repricing that may be undertaken, which is monitored daily.

The Group's exposure to changes in market interest rates is limited. The table below summarises the Group's exposure to interest rate risks. Included in the table are the Group's assets and liabilities at carrying amounts, categorized by the earlier of contractual repricing or maturity dates:

At 31 December 2006	Up to 1 month	1 to 3 months	3 to 12 months	1 to 5 years	Non interest Bearing	Total
Assets						
Cash and balances with central bank	25,355,664	-	-	-	-	25,355,664
Due from other banks	546,218,178	250,264,400	18,000,000	-	-	814,482,578
Loans and advances to customers	63,913,743	-	-	-	-	63,913,743
Pledged assets	99,046,746	-	-	-	-	99,046,746
Information technology systems	-	-	-	-	5,717,167	5,717,167
Property, plant and equipment	-	-	-	-	8,569,805	
Others (Derivatives, Other assets and Deferred tax)	2,496,174	1,271,668	987,249	1,387,091	10,254,510	16,396,692
Total assets	737,030,505	251,536,068	18,987,249	1,387,091	24,541,482	1,033,482,395
Liabilities						
Due to other banks	5,743,186	-	-	-	-	5,743,186
Due to customers	910,405,200	-	-	-	-	910,405,200
Provisions	-	-	-	-	759,619	759,619
Others (Derivatives, Other liabilities)	19,444,171	1,271,668	987,249	1,387,091	-	23,090,179
Total liabilities	935,592,557	1,271,668	987,249	1,387,091	759,619	939,998,184
Net on balance sheet interest sensitivity gap	(198,562,052)	250,264,400	18,000,000	-	23,781,863	93,484,211
Off balance sheet interest sensitivity gap	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total interest sensitivity gap	(198,562,052)	250,264,400	18,000,000	-	23,781,863	93,484,211

Interest rates applicable at 31 December 2006:

	CHF	EUR	USD
Assets			
Due from other banks	1.63%	3.22%	5.19%
Loans and advances to customers	4.88%	6.58%	8.35%
Pledged assets	1.65%	3.70%	
Liabilities			
Due to customers	0.47%	0.89%	1.34%

SECTION V: FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

At 31 December 2005	Up to 1 month	1 to 3 months	3 to 12 months	1 to 5 years	Non interest Bearing	Total
Assets						
Cash and balances with central bank	51,943,506	-	-	-	-	51,943,506
Due from other banks	573,884,032	-	-	-	-	573,884,032
Loans and advances to customers	40,545,076	-	-	-	-	40,545,076
Pledged assets	10,258,365	-	-	-	66,306	10,324,672
Goodwill	-	-	-	-	3,000,000	3,000,000
Information technology systems	-	-	-	-	5,242,848	5,242,848
Property, plant and equipment	-	-	-	-	836,320	836,320
Others (Derivatives, Other assets and Deferred tax)	-	98,030	-	-	6,157,994	6,256,024
Total assets	676,630,979	98,030	-	-	15,303,468	692,032,478
Liabilities						
Due to other banks	385,095	-	-	-	-	385,095
Due to customers	610,017,832	-	-	-	-	610,017,832
Provisions	-	-	-	-	890,266	890,266
Others (Derivatives and Other liabilities)	-	-	-	-	13,761,628	13,761,628
Total liabilities	610,402,927	-	-	-	14,651,894	625,054,821
Net on balance sheet interest sensitivity gap	66,228,052	98,030	-	-	651,574	66,977,657
Off balance sheet interest sensitivity gap	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total interest sensitivity gap	66,228,052	98,030	-	-	651,574	66,977,657

Interest rates applicable at 31 December 2005:

	CHF	EUR	USD
Assets			
Due from other banks	0.86%	2.22%	4.25%
Due from customers	4.17%	5.65%	7.56%
Pledged assets	0.63%		
Liabilities			
Due to customers	0.23%	0.60%	1.08%

# **SECTION V: FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT**

# F. Currency risk

The table below summarises the Group's exposure to foreign currency risk at 31 December. Included in the table are the Group's assets and liabilities at carrying amounts, categorized by currency.

	CHF	USD	EURO	Others	Total
At 31 December 2006					
Assets Cash and balances with central bank Due from other banks Loans and advances to customers Pledged assets Information technology systems Property, plant and equipment, net Others (Derivatives, Other assets and Deferred tax)	24,396,425 554,130,612 33,984,387 66,690,810 5,717,167 8,569,805 11,382,485	42,117 80,086,121 12,780,434 - - - 616,417	917,057 164,774,072 15,458,840 32,355,936 - - 4,183,972	65 15,491,773 1,690,082 - - 213,818	25,355,664 814,482,578 63,913,743 99,046,746 5,717,167 8,569,805 16,396,692
Total assets	704,871,691	93,525,089	217,689,877	17,395,738	1,033,482,395
Liabilities Due to other banks Due to customers Provisions Others (Derivatives and Other liabilities)	329,522 594,934,594 759,619 18,137,621	225,639 91,872,914 - 605,671	4,777,803 207,331,706 - 4,136,251	410,222 16,265,986 - 210,636	5,743,186 910,405,200 759,619 23,090,179
Total liabilities	614,161,356	92,704,224	216,245,760	16,886,844	939,998,184
Net on balance sheet position	90,710,335	820,865	1,444,117	508,894	93,484,211
Off balance sheet notional position	-	-	-	-	-
Credit commitments	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2005					
Total assets Total liabilities	486,631,665 422,403,811	62,623,249 62,483,155	128,813,235 128,467,672	13,964,329 11,700,183	692,032,478 625,054,821
Net on balance sheet position	64,227,854	140,094	345,563	2,264,146	66,977,657
Off balance sheet notional positon	-	-	-	-	-
Credit commitments	-	-	-	-	

## **SECTION V: FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT**

# G. Liquidity risk

The Group is exposed to daily withdrawals on its available cash resources from overnight deposits, current accounts and maturing deposits. The Group does not maintain cash resources to meet all of these needs as experience shows that a minimum level of reinvestment of maturing funds can be predicted with a high level of certainty. The table below analyses the Group's assets and liabilities into relevant maturity groupings based on the remaining period at balance sheet date to the contractual maturity date:

	Up to 1 month	1 to 3 months	3 to 12 months	1 to 5 years	Over 5 years	Total
At 31 December 2006						
Assets Cash and balances with central bank Due from other banks Loans and advances to customers Pledged assets Information technology systems Property, plant and equipment Others (Derivatives, Other assets and Deferred tax)	25,355,664 546,218,178 63,913,743 99,046,746 - - 12,750,684	250,264,400 - - - - - 1,271,668	18,000,000 - - - - - - - 987,249	- - - - - - 1,387,091	- - - 5,717,167 8,569,805	25,355,664 814,482,578 63,913,743 99,046,746 5,717,167 8,569,805
Total assets	747,285,015	251,536,068	18,987,249	1,387,091	14,286,972	1,033,482,395
Liabilities Due to other banks Due to customers Provisions Others (Derivatives and Other liabilities)	5,743,186 910,405,200 - 19,444,171	- - - 1,271,668	- - 759,619 987,249	- - - 1,387,091	- - - -	5,743,186 910,405,200 759,619 23,090,179
Total liabilities	935,592,557	1,271,668	1,746,868	1,387,091	-	939,998,184
Net liquidity gap	(188,307,542)	250,264,400	17,240,381	-	14,286,972	93,484,211
At 31 December 2005						
Total assets Total liabilities	680,869,942 622,475,686	678,369 589,462	914,721 1,625,547	490,278 364,126	9,079,168	692,032,478 625,054,821
Net liquidity gap	58,394,256	88,907	(710,826)	126,152	9,079,168	66,977,657

25

All amounts in Swiss Francs

**SECTION V: FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT** 

### H. Market risk

The Group's market risk is substantially limited to the features of its online brokerage operations, i.e. to fluctuation in the trading activity of its clients, which depends on market conditions. The Group monitors this exposure through a careful management of its cost base.

### I. Fiduciary activities

As mentioned above, the Group commonly acts as trustees and in other fiduciary capacities that result in the holding or placing of assets on behalf of individuals, trusts, retirement benefit plans and other institutions. These services are mainly rendered through its web-portal and therefore the Group is exposed to the operational risks associated with the use of this technology. At the balance sheet date, the Group clients' financial assets under custody amount to CHF 3.6 bn (2005: CHF 2.4 bn).

# J. Capital adequacy

The Group's and Bank's capital adequacy is determined based on the principles defined in the Swiss Federal Law on Banks and Savings Banks and the Implementing Ordinance on Banks and Savings Banks.

# SECTION VI: OTHER NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note	Index of this section	Page
1	Cash and cash equivalents	28
2	Derivative financial instruments	28
3	Loans and advances to customers	29
4	Due to customers	29
5	Pledged assets	30
6	Other liabilities	30
7	Goodwill	31
8	Information technology systems	31
9	Property, plant and equipment	32
10	Other assets	32
11	Deferred tax assets, net	33
12	Provisions	34
13	Pension	34
14	Equity	38
15	Fee and commission income	43
16	Net interest income	43
17	Other operating income	43
18	Operating expenses	44
19	Earning per share	45
20	Related party transactions	46
21	Commitments	46

# SECTION VI: OTHER NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# 1. Cash and cash equivalents

	2006	2005
Cash and balances with central bank	25,355,664	51,943,506
Due from other banks	814,482,578	573,884,032
Due to other banks	(5,743,186)	(385,095)
Total net	834,095,056	625,442,443
Less Due from other banks above 3 months	18,000,000	-
Cash and cash equivalents	816,095,056	625,442,443

### 2. Derivative financial instruments

The Group does not enter into derivative instrument transactions (except for client needs), cash is placed with substantial financial institutions and there are some limited foreign currency exposures.

		31 December 20	06		31 December 200	5
	Positive Fair Value	Negative Fair Value	Contract Amount	Positive Fair Value	Negative Fair Value	Contract Amount
Futures	199,936	199,936	23,945,614	31,828	31,828	6,040,548
Options	5,942,247	5,942,247	4,523,846,256	2,097,026	2,097,026	306,834,266
Total	6,142,183	6,142,183	4,547,791,870	2,128,854	2,128,854	312,874,814

Derivative financial instruments are reported on a gross basis. The replacement value of stock exchange and over-the-counter contracts are recorded under the items "positive fair value" and "negative fair value" respectively, without taking into consideration the margin coverage deposited by customers.

## SECTION VI: OTHER NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# 3. Loans and advances to customers

Loans and advances to customers mainly consist in advances covered by the pledging of the customers portfolio consisting of cash and securities, which are held with the Bank.

	2006	2005
Loans and advances Covered loans Overdrafts	63,794,771 248,972	40,460,217 214,859
Total	64,043,743	40,675,076
Impairment allowance	(130,000)	(130,000)
Total net	63,913,743	40,545,076
Impairment allowance Balance at 1 January Increase Bad debts written-off	130,000	130,000
Balance at 31 December	130,000	130,000

Information regarding interest rates, currencies and maturities is provided in Section V "Financial Risk Management".

### 4. Due to customers

Amounts due to customers mainly consist of current accounts remunerated at variable rates.

Information regarding interest rates, currencies and maturities is provided in Section V "Financial Risk Management".

# SECTION VI: OTHER NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# 5. Pledged assets

	2006	2005
Investment available-for-sale		
At 1 January Additions Disposals (sale and redemption)	43,377,012	-
Losses from changes in fair value Exchange differences on monetary assets	(22,093) 397,892	-
At 31 December	43,752,811	-
Deposits	55,293,935	10,324,672
Pledged assets	99,046,746	10,324,672
Investment securities available-for-sale consist of : Listed bonds - Switzerland Listed bonds - Eurozone countries	11,495,000 32,257,811	

In 2005, an amount of CHF 2 mio of investment held to maturity was redeemed.

## 6. Other liabilities

	2006	2005
Accrued expenses Account payables Social security and other taxes Deferred revenues	10,744,154 3,967,693 1,779,407 456,742	8,058,553 2,400,324 204,710 969,187
Total	16,947,996	11,632,774

#### SECTION VI: OTHER NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 7. Goodwill

	2006	2005
Balance 1 January Reversal expense	3,000,000 (3,000,000)	3,000,000
Total net		3.000.000

The goodwill recognised until 31 December 2005 relates to the acquisition of Consors (Schweiz) AG in 2002. The goodwill has been assessed for impairment until this date based on its comparison with the actual revenues generated by the clients of the former Consors (Schweiz) AG.

Consors (Schweiz) AG was acquired in 2002 and subsequently merged into Swissquote Bank. Pre-acquisition, Consors (Schweiz) AG had accumulated tax losses, for an amount of CHF 41.4 mio. In the process for the determination the fair value of the net assets of Consors (Schweiz) AG, the deferred tax assets relating to these tax losses carried forward were considered fully impaired, and hence the difference between the consideration paid for the acquisition of Consors (Schweiz) AG and it net assets was fully allocated to the client base.

IAS 12 paragraph 68 provides that if conditions for the recognition of the deferred tax assets of the acquiree (Consors (Schweiz) AG) are subsequently met, the carrying amount of the goodwill shall be reduced by the amount that would have been recognised if the deferred tax assets initially impaired had been recognised as an identifiable asset from the acquisition date. The reduction of the carrying amount of the goodwill shall be recognised as an expense.

As a result of the circumstances described in Note 11 and in compliance with IAS 12 paragraph 68, the Goodwill was fully expensed in 2006.

### 8. Information technology systems

	Software Third Party Licences	Proprietary Software	Hardware	Total
Year ended 31 December 2005				
Opening net book amount	1,080,503	2,658,380	944,051	4,682,934
Addition	560,231	1,703,275	533,847	2,797,353
Amortization / depreciation	(521,445)	(1,236,120)	(479,874)	(2,237,439)
Closing net book amount	1,119,289	3,125,535	998,024	5,242,848
At 31 December 2005				
Cost	4,769,762	7,318,117	8,041,941	20,129,820
Accumulated amortization / depreciation	(3,650,473)	(4,192,582)	(7,043,917)	(14,886,972)
Net book amount	1,119,289	3,125,535	998,024	5,242,848
Year ended 31 December 2006				
Opening net book amount	1,119,289	3,125,535	998,024	5,242,848
Addition	353,079	1,830,498	1,248,045	3,431,622
Amortization / depreciation	(558,519)	(1,612,353)	(786,431)	(2,957,303)
Closing net book amount	913,849	3,343,680	1,459,638	5,717,167
At 31 December 2006				
Cost	5,122,841	9,148,615	9,289,986	23,561,442
Accumulated amortization / depreciation	(4,208,992)	(5,804,935)	(7,830,348)	(17,844,275)
Net book amount	913,849	3,343,680	1,459,638	5,717,167

An amount of CHF 1.4 mio own cost was capitalized in 2006 (2005 CHF 1.4 mio).

## SECTION VI: OTHER NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 9. Property, plant and equipment

Property	Leasehold & Other Equipment	Total
- - -	1,307,770 279,747 (751,197)	1,307,770 279,747 (751,197)
-	836,320	836,320
	4,880,471 (4,044,151)	4,880,471 (4,044,151)
-	836,320	836,320
- 7,867,277 -	836,320 225,130 (358,922)	836,320 8,092,407 (358,922)
7,867,277	702,528	8,569,805
7,867,277 -	5,105,601 (4,403,073)	12,972,878 (4,403,073)
7,867,277	702,528	8,569,805
	7,867,277 7,867,277	- 1,307,770 - 279,747 - (751,197) - 836,320  - 4,880,471 - (4,044,151) - 836,320  - 836,320  - 836,320  - (358,922)  7,867,277 - (358,922)  7,867,277 - 5,105,601 - (4,403,073)

Property consist of the office building in Gland under construction at the time of issue of this report. The construction is due for completion by mid 2007. Depreciation will start when the operations are moved in the new premises. The accumulated cost at 31 December 2006 includes CHF 0.3 mio own costs capitalized in 2006.

# 10. Other assets

	2006	2005
Accrued income	2,572,764	1,268,783
Account receivables	565,624	495,558
Prepayments	53,686	36,371
Total	3,192,074	1,800,712

### SECTION VI: OTHER NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 11. Deferred tax assets, net

	2006	2005
Deferred tax assets Tax loss carried forward Permanent differences	7,051,597 10,838	3,112,570 10,838
Total	7,062,435	3,123,408
<b>Deferred tax liabilities</b> Temporary differences	-	(796,950)
Total net	7,062,435	2,326,458
Movements in net deferred taxes analysed as follows: Balance, beginning of period	2,326,458	636,458
Net credit to statement of operations	4,735,977	1,690,000
Balance, end of period	7,062,435	2,326,458

In the course of 2006, the Company received formal confirmation from the tax authorities on the status of its income tax carry forward losses, which originated from losses of the Group companies as well as on the pre-acquisition tax losses of Consors (Schweiz) AG (see Note 7). Further and in the light of the development of the profitability of the Company in 2006, the Company decided to recognise in full the tax losses carry forward, including the pre-acquisition tax losses of Consors (Schweiz) AG, and to reverse to the statement of operations in 2006 the CHF 11.8 mio provision for impairment of deferred tax assets on tax losses carried forward recorded in the balance sheet at 31 December 2005.

Deferred income taxes are calculated on all temporary differences under the liability method using various tax rates (depending on the tax status applicable to the subsidiary consolidated). The average tax rate applied for deferred taxes is of 14.0% (2005: 14.0%).

Until 31 December 2005, the principal source of the temporary differences is the treatment of Goodwill that has been completely amortised on 6 May 2003 in the statutory financial statements of Swissquote Bank. Due to the full expense of the Goodwill in 2006 (Note 7), the underlying deferred tax liability was reversed to the statement of operations in 2006.

Reconciliation between effective income tax rate and tax rate applied for current taxes: the effective income tax rate applied for current taxes is of 0%, because none of the companies consolidated have a taxable income in 2006 (carry forward losses available).

CHF 6.5 mio out of the total CHF 7.0 mio deferred tax assets relating to tax loss carried forward at 31 December 2006 will be amortized until 31 December 2007.

#### SECTION VI: OTHER NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 12. Provisions

	Balance 1 January	Increase (decrease)	Used	Balance 31 December
Year 2006	890,266	-	(130,647)	759,619
Year 2005	1,301,500	-	(411,234)	890,266

The balance provision at 31 December 2006 mainly corresponds to a long-term lease obligation maturing on 31 December 2008 to which the Company is committed to in connection with the acquisition in 2002 of Consors (Schweiz) AG.

#### 13. Pension

The Group operates two pension plans, which are both organized under Swiss Law. The main features are the following:

- the pension plans are defined benefit plans under IAS 19;
- the fund assets are held independently of the Group assets in separated trustee funds;
- decisions with respect to the funds (levels of the benefits and of the contributions, as well as investment strategy) are made by a board of trustees in which the employees and the Group are each represented at parity;
- the pensions benefits are determined based on the contributions paid by the employees and the Group. However, in accordance with Swiss Law the part of the employees' saving accounts corresponding to the minimum required by law shall be remunerated at a minimal interest rate set by the Swiss Government. In 2006 the rate was 2.5% per annum (2005: 2.5% per annum).

### SECTION VI: OTHER NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The main actuarial assumptions used for the calculation of the pension cost and the projected benefit obligations are:

	2006	2005
Discount Rate	2.75%	2.75%
Rate of future increase in compensations	1.00%	1.00%
Rate of future increase in current pensions	0.50%	0.50%
Interest rate credited on savings accounts	3.75%	3.75%
Expected long-term rate of return on plan assets	4.25%	4.25%
Retirement age	65 (male) / 64 (female)	65 (male) / 64 (female)
Turnover	20% on average	20% on average

According to IAS 19, plan assets have been estimated at market fair value and liabilities have been calculated according to the « Projected Unit Credit » method.

	Actuarial	
(all amounts in thousands CHF)	2006	2005
Fair value of plan assets Defined benefit obligation	7,167.0 (6,892.6)	6,861.5 (7,582.5)
Funded status	274.4	(721.0)

The annual actuarial Company pension cost according to IAS 19 is as follows:

	Actuarial	uarial	
(all amounts in thousands CHF)	2006	2005	
Service cost	(1,236.5)	(1,001.1)	
Interest cost	(208.5)	(198.6)	
Expected retun on plans assets	291.6	247.5	
Employees contribution	588.8	575.9	
Impact of §58 and 58A limit	(38.5)	(212.6)	
Company's pension cost	(603.1)	(588.9)	

### SECTION VI: OTHER NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The actuarial pension cost compares with the actual Company's contribution as follows:

(all amounts in thousands CHF)	2006	2005
Company's pension cost (actuarial) Company's pension contribution (financial)	(603.1) 603.1	(588.9) 588.9
Difference : movement in prepaid pension cost	-	-

The analysis of the reported pension obligation is summarised as follows:

(all amounts in thousands CHF)	2006	2005
Beginning of year Change Impact of §58 and 58A	38.5 (38.5)	212.6 (212.6)
End of year	-	_

The reconciliation between funded status and prepaid pension cost is as follows:

(all amounts in thousands CHF)	2006	2005
Funded status Unrecognised (gain)/loss Limit on balance sheet (para 58 & 58A of IAS19)	274.4 (235.9) (38.5)	(721.0) 933.6 (212.6)
Reported prepaid pension cost	-	-

### SECTION VI: OTHER NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The changes in defined benefit obligation, fair value of plan assets and unrecognised gains / losses are as follows :

(all amounts in thousands CHF)	2006	2005
Defined benefit obligation at beginning of the year Service cost Interest cost Actuarial gains / (losses) Benefit payments	(7,582.5) (1,236.5) (208.5) 725.1 1,409.8	(6,112.1) (1,001.1) (198.6) (696.2) 425.5
Defined benefit obligation at end of the year	(6,892.6)	(7,582.5)
(all amounts in thousands CHF)	2006	2005
Fair value of plan assets at beginning of the year Expected return on plan assets Employees, contributions Company contribution Plan assets gains / (losses) Benefit payments	6,861.5 291.6 588.8 603.1 231.8 (1,409.8)	5,822.8 247.5 575.9 588.9 51.9 (425.5)
Fair value of plan assets at end of the year	7,167.0	6,861.5
(all amounts in thousands CHF)	2006	2005
Unrecognised gains / (losses) at beginning of the year Amortization in 2006 Amortization due to impact of §58 and 58A limit Actuarial gains / (losses) Plan assets gains / (losses)	(721.0) - 38.5 725.1 231.8	(289.3) - 212.6 (696.2) 51.9
Unrecognised gains / (losses) at end of the year	274.4	(721.0)
The actual return on plan assets is as follows :		
(all amounts in thousands CHF)	2006	2005
Actual return on plan assets	523.4	299.4

### SECTION VI: OTHER NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The categories of plan assets and their expected return are as follows (corresponding figures for 2005 are not available):

Categories of plan assets	2006 proportion in %	2006 expected return
Cash	48.0%	2.5%
Swiss bonds	24.7%	3.5%
Foreign bonds	5.5%	4.5%
Swiss shares	12.6%	8.5%
Foreign shares	9.2%	9.5%
Total	100.0%	4.3%

The estimated employer's contribution to the pension plans for the financial year 2007 amounts to KCHF 623.7.

### 14. Equity

### 14.1 Share-capital

		2005		2006					
	1 January	Exercise	31 December	1 January	Exercise	Reduction	Exercise	31 December	
Issued shares									
Ordinary share-capital									
Number of shares	1,394,304	19,088	1,413,392	1,413,392	40,714	-	4,475	1,458,581	
Nominal value per share (CHF)	10	10	10	10	10	(2)	8	8	
Total nominal value (CHF)	13,943,040	190,880	14,133,920	14,133,920	407,140	(2,908,212)	35,800	11,668,648	
Unissued shares									
Conditional capital									
Number of conditional shares	90,639	(19,088)	71,551	71,551	(40,714)	-	(4,475)	26,362	
Nominal value per share (CHF)	10	10	10	10	10	(2)	8	8	
Total nominal value (CHF)	906,390	(190,880)	715,510	715,510	(407,140)		(35,800)	210,896	
Authorised capital (b)									
Amount authorised (CHF)	2,000,000	-	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	(400,000)	-	1,600,000	
Nominal value per share (CHF)	10	-	10	10	-	(2)	-	8	
Number of authorised shares	200,000	-	200,000	200,000	-	-	-	200,000	

<sup>(</sup>a) Resolution of the 20 March 2006 Shareholders Meeting to reduce the nominal value of each share from CHF 10 to CHF 8.

<sup>(</sup>b) The provision ruling the utilisation of the Authorised capital provides that the Board of Directors is authorised until 20 March 2008 to increase the share-capital of the Company by a maximum of CHF 1,600,000 by issuing no more than 200,000 new registered shares with a nominal value of CHF 8. The provision further provides details on the capital increase process and exercise of preferential subscription rights.

### SECTION VI: OTHER NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 14.2 Share options reserve

	31 🛭	)ecember
	2006	2005
Value of services to be reclassified to Accumulated profits when outstanding options will lapse, expire or be exercised	870,276	563,186
Value of services to be amortized through profit and losses over the residual vesting periods of options	(539,591)	(194,606)
Share options reserve	330,685	368,580

The Group operates a Stock Option Plan under which it makes options in common stock available to the Group's employees and directors at the discretion of the Board. Since the creation of the Plan, a total of eight allocation schemes were offered. The first and second allocations lapsed in 2001 and 2002.

The options granted under the third allocation are made under the following terms:

- one option grants the right to acquire one share;
- options granted are exercisable in four equal tranches of 25%. The first tranche becomes exercisable on the date of the first anniversary of the respective grant date, the second on the date of the second anniversary of the respective grant date, the third tranche on the date of the third anniversary of the respective grant date and the fourth tranche on the date of the fourth anniversary of the respective grant date. Each tranche is exercisable during a period of two years, starting from the date it first becomes exercisable. The strike price ranges from CHF 54.30 to CHF 86.39.

The 4th allocation is reserved to the non-executive members of the Board. It provides that the options granted will be first exercisable three years after the date of grant. One option gives the right to acquire one SQN share at a strike price ranging between CHF 27.85 and CHF 113.90. The exercise period is two years starting on the date options first become exercisable.

The 5th allocation is reserved to Group employees. It provides that 50% of the options granted to each employee will become exercisable one year after the date of grant and the remaining 50% after two years. The exercise price is CHF 27.85. The period of exercise of options that become exercisable is two years.

The 6th allocation is reserved to Group employees. It provides that one option grants the right to acquire one SQN share. Options granted are exercisable in three equal tranches. The first tranche becomes exercisable on the date of the first anniversary of the date of grant, the second on the second anniversary and the third on the third anniversary. The options granted in 2004 have a strike price of CHF 113.90.

### SECTION VI: OTHER NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The options granted under the 7th allocation in July 2005 are made under the following terms:

- one option grants the right to acquire one share;
- the strike price is equal to CHF 170.00;
- exercise:
  - options granted to members of the Board (11,700) are first exercisable three years after the date of grant. The exercise period is two years, starting on the date options first become exercisable;
  - options granted to Group employees (13,150) are exercisable in three equal tranches. The first tranche becomes exercisable on the date of the first anniversary of the grant date, the second tranche on the date of the second anniversary and the third tranche on the date of the third anniversary. Each tranche is exercisable during a period of two years, starting from the date it first becomes exercisable.

The options granted under the 8th allocation in July 2006 are made under the following terms:

- one option grants the right to acquire one share;
- the strike price is equal to CHF 340.00;
- options granted to Group employees are exercisable in three equal tranches. The first tranche becomes exercisable on the date of the first anniversary of the grant date, the second tranche on the date of the second anniversary and the third tranche on the date of the third anniversary. Each tranche is exercisable during a period of two years, starting from the date it first becomes exercisable

The movements in options granted, exercised and lapsed are reported below:

me movements in options grante	3rd Allocation	4th Allocation	5th	6th Allocation	7th Allocation	8th Allocation	Total	Conditional shares available for exercise	
Balance at 1 January 2005 Grants Exercised	5,333	48,600	7,300	7,917 -	- 24,850	-	<b>69,150</b> 24,850	,	
Covered by the issue of new sha Covered by treasury shares	res (3,698) -	(12,000)	(2,725)	(665)	-	-	(19,088)	(19,088)	
Lapsed	-	-	-	(473)	-	-	(473)		
Balance at 31 December 2005	1,635	36,600	4,575	6,779	24,850	-	74,439	71,551	
Balance at 1 January 2006	1,635	36,600	4,575	6,779	24,850	-	74,439	71,551	
Grants Exercised	-	-	-	-	-	8,577	8,577		
Covered by the issue of new sha Covered by treasury shares	res (1,440)	(32,100)	(4,575)	(3,775)	(3,299)	-	(45,189)	(45,189)	
Lapsed	-	-	-	(45)	(1,467)	(120)	(1,632)		
Balance at 31 December 2006	195	4,500	-	2,959	20,084	8,457	36,195	26,362	
Less option outstanding								(36,195)	
Shortfall Number of treasury shares availal	ble at 31 Dec	cember 2006	5					(9,833)	(9,833 36,60
Balance shares available for future	e grants								26,776

### SECTION VI: OTHER NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Fair value and cost of stock options

The fair value of options is determined based on Black-Scholes, taking into account the following factors:

- the estimated future volatility, which is derived from the historical volatility;
- the difference between the strike price and the spot price at grant;
- the level of the risk free interest rate at date of grants;
- the time components of duration of vesting and exercise periods;
- the churn rate of optionnees;
- the underlying social security costs.

In determining the fair value of the options granted in the 8th allocation, the Company derived the estimated future volatility from the historical volatility measured over the 180 days prior to the date of grant, taking into consideration trading restrictions imposed on to optionnees by the Company. The difference between the strike and spot price at grant is CHF 41.-. The level of risk free interest rate is based on the yield-to-maturity of bonds issued by the Swiss Confederation at dates close to the grant date. The reduction of the fair value due to the estimated churn rate of employees is assumed to be compensated by the social security costs payable by the Company in connection with the grant of the options. Depending on the tranche, the fair value of options ranges between CHF 68.39 and CHF 76.27 per option.

The movements (fair value) in stock options is the following:

				Allocation			
	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	Total
Balance at 1 January 2005	104,988	195,120	27,376	199,508	-	-	526,992
Grants	-	-	-	-	192,753	-	192,753
Exercise	(72,691)	(45,000)	(10,219)	(16,758)	-	-	(144,668)
Lapsed	-	-	-	(11,920)	-	-	(11,920)
Balance at 31 December 2005	32,297	150,120	17,157	170,830	192,753	-	563,157
Balance at 1 January 2006	32,297	150,120	17,157	170,830	192,753	-	563,157
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	623,275	623,275
Exercise	(28,354)	(133,245)	(17,157)	(95,130)	(21,311)	_	(295,197)
Lapsed		-	-	(1,134)	(11,105)	(8,720)	(20,959)
Balance at 31 December 2006	3,943	16,875	-	74,566	160,337	614,555	870,276

41

All amounts in Swiss Francs

### SECTION VI: OTHER NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### a) Strike value of stock options outstanding and movements

	Allocation						
	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	Total
Balance at 1 January 2005 Grants Exercise Lapsed	448,478 - (310,439) -	1,405,140 - (334,200) -	203,305 - (75,891) -	901,746 - (75,743) (53,875)	- 4,224,500 - -	- - - -	<b>2,958,669</b> 4,224,500 (796,273) (53,875)
Balance at 31 December 2005	138,039	1,070,940	127,414	772,128	4,224,500	-	6,333,021
Balance at 1 January 2006 Grants Exercise Lapsed	138,039 - (121,193)	<b>1,070,940</b> - (945,615)	127,414 - (127,414)	772,128 - (429,972) (5,126)	<b>4,224,500</b> (560,830) (249,390)	2,916,180 - (40,800)	6,333,021 2,916,180 (2,185,024) (295,316)
Balance at 31 December 2006	16,846	125,325	-	337,030	3,414,280	2,875,380	6,768,861

### b) Maturity of stock options outstanding

	Strike	Number	Exer	ise Period
Allocation #	Price	Options	Start	End
4	27.85	4,500	May-05	April-07
3	86.39	195	March-05	February-07
6	113.90	140 431 2,388	May-05 May-06 May-07	April-07 April-08 April-09
7	170.00	804 3,777 15,503	August-06 August-07 August-08	July-08 July-09 July-10
8	340.00	2,817 2,820 2,820	August-07 August-08 August-09	July-09 July-10 July-11
	Total	36,195		

### SECTION VI: OTHER NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 14.3 Treasury Shares

The Company owned 36,609 treasury shares at 31 December 2006 (2005: 8,022). During 2006, the Company acquired 28,587 shares net (2005: disposal of 11,002 shares, net) resulting from the acquisition of 28,845 shares at a unit price ranging from CHF 213.00 to CHF 320.00 (average cost of CHF 284.11 per share) and of the disposal of 258 shares at unit prices ranging from CHF 172.00 to 250.25 CHF (average per share of CHF 200.63).

### 14.4 Dividend

Under Swiss Law, dividends can only be paid out of the distributable reserves that are determined on a non-consolidated basis.

### 15. Fee and commission income

	2006	2005
Brokerage and related Custody and others	54,651,014 5,586,315	35,747,778 3,645,065
Total	60,237,329	39,392,843

### 16. Net interest income

	2006	2005
Interest income		
Cash and short-term funds	14,220,509	5,530,330
Investment securities	109,825	-
Loans to customers	2,800,062	1,550,166
	17,130,396	7,080,496
Interest expense	17,130,370	7,000,170
Banks	(50,460)	-
Due to customers	(4,323,754)	(1,722,753)
Total net	12,756,182	5,357,743

### 17. Other operating income

Other operating income mainly consists of revenues from the display of advertising banners and the sales of subscription for financial information available against payment on the Group's websites.

# Financial Report 2006 Consolidated Financial Statements

### SECTION VI: OTHER NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 18. Operating expenses

	2006	2005
Payroll & related expenses Production expenses	17,792,678 6,419,274	14,695,498 5,632,322
Marketing expenses Administration and other operating expenses	6,775,096 5,651,162	4,849,531 5,469,171
Total	36,638,210	30,646,522
Payroll and related expenses consist of:		
	2006	2005

	2006	2005
Wages and salaries Social security costs	17,061,931 2,386,868	14,085,567 1,994,176
	19,448,799	16,079,743
Less capitalized costs	(1,656,121)	(1,384,245)
Total	17,792,678	14,695,498
Average headcount	143	123

The costs were capitalized in connection with the development of the Bank's IT systems and the realisation of the Company's new property.

# Financial Report 2006 Consolidated Financial Statements

### SECTION VI: OTHER NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 19. Earning per share

#### Basic

Basic earnings per share is calculated by dividing the net profit attributable to equity holders of the Company by the weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue during the year, excluding the average number of ordinary shares purchased by the Company and held as treasury shares.

	2006	2005
Net Profit	36,528,773	14,682,970
Weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue	1,413,671	1,390,310
Basic earning per share	25.84	10.56

### Diluted

Diluted earnings per share is calculated by adjusting the weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding to assume conversion of all dilutive potential ordinary shares. Share options is the only type of dilutive potential ordinary shares: a calculation is done to determine the number of shares that could have been acquired at fair value (determined as the average annual market share price of the Company's shares) based on the monetary value of the subscription rights attached to outstanding share options. The number of shares calculated as above is compared with the number of shares that would have been issued assuming the exercise of the share options.

	2006	2005
Net Profit	36′528′773	14′682′970
Weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue	1′413′671	1′390′310
Adjustments for share options	14′440	31′449
Weighted average number of ordinary shares for diluted earnings per share options	1′428′111	1′421′759
Diluted earning per share	25.58	10.33

# Financial Report 2006 Consolidated Financial Statements

### SECTION VI: OTHER NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 20. Related party transactions

Related party transactions are defined as transactions and balances with members of the Board and of the Executive Management, as well as with shareholders with an interest in the Group of more than 5%.

	2006	2005
Key management compensation Short term benefits	1,919,400	1,388,400
Long-term benefits Share based compensation	220,726 174,408	167,149 95,706
Loans and advances to customers Due to customers	- 11,585,191	- 8,307,336

### 21. Commitments

Operating leases: Operating lease commitments consist of office space leases.

Payable:	2006	2005
Not later than 1 year Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years Later than 5 years	621,796 370,514 -	700,126 977,624

### Purchase commitments:

In connection with the insuring of adequate office infrastructure to support its growth, the Company engaged itself into the construction of its new Gland office. The estimated amount of the project is CHF 16 mio of which CHF 7.9 mio have already been paid at 31 December 2006.

## PRICEWATERHOUSE COPERS @

## Report of the Group Auditors to the General Meeting of Swissquote Group Holding Ltd Gland

As auditors of the group, we have audited the consolidated financial statements (balance sheet, statement of operations, statement of changes in shareholders' equity, statement of cash flows and notes) included on pages 5 to 46 of Swissquote Group Holding Ltd for the year ended 31 December 2006.

These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the board of directors. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audit. We confirm that we meet the legal requirements concerning professional qualification and independence.

Our audit was conducted in accordance with Swiss Auditing Standards and with the International Standards on Auditing, which require that an audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement. We have examined on a test basis evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. We have also assessed the accounting principles used, significant estimates made and the overall consolidated financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position, the results of operations and the cash flows in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and comply with Swiss law.

M Caputo

We recommend that the consolidated financial statements submitted to you be approved.

PricewaterhouseCoopers SA

Canolille

JC Pernollet Auditor in charge

Geneva, 6 February 2007

## STATUTORY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006 OF SWISSQUOTE GROUP HOLDING Ltd

	Page
Balance Sheet	49
Statement of Operations	50
Notes to the Statutory Financial statements	51
Proposal of the Board of Directors regarding available earnings	54

### **BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2006**

	Notes	2006	2005
ASSETS			
Current assets Cash and banks Receivables and prepayments Securities (treasury shares)	4	894,630 2,326 14,552,078	1,283,412 3,357 1,199,289
Total current assets		15,449,034	2,486,058
Non-current assets Investments in subsidiaries Receivables from subsidiaries	2	40,698,952 14,861,635	40,698,952 21,685,778
		55,560,587	62,384,730
Provision		(16,238,794)	(25,238,794)
Total Net		39,321,793	37,145,936
Long-term loan Formation costs and intellectual property rights, net	3	- 1,421,367	98,030 2,189,883
Total non current assets		40,743,160	39,433,849
TOTAL		56,192,194	41,919,907
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY  Current liabilities  Creditors and accrued liabilities		33,787	224,790
Total current liabilities		33,787	224,790
Equity Share-capital Share premium Reserve for own shares Retained earnings Total equity	4 5 5	11,668,648 12,218,818 9,011,339 23,259,602	14,133,920 18,720,007 846,459 7,994,731 41,695,117
TOTAL		56,192,194	41,919,907
101112		30,172,174	41,717,701

### **STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2006**

	2006	2005
Income		
Revenues from investments	623,275	192,753
Realised and unrealised gain on treasury shares	5,282,540	588,735
Interest income	388,910	12,832
Royalties	2,861,993	2,151,544
Reversal of provision on investment		
and receivable from subsidiaries	9,000,000	6,700,000
Total	18,156,718	9,645,864
Expenses		
Operating expenses	716,745	471,742
Amortization	768,516	1,379,391
Total	1,485,261	1,851,133
Net profit	16,671,457	7,794,731
Retained earnings, beginning of year	7,994,731	200,000
Dividend paid	(1,406,586)	-
Retained earnings, end of year	23,259,602	7,994,731

### **NOTES TO THE STATUTORY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### 1. Introduction

The Company was formed on 12 August 1999. It is registered in the Canton de Vaud, Switzerland, with headquarters in Gland. Swissquote Group Holding Ltd is the parent of Group companies that are active in online financial services.

The shares of Swissquote Group Holding Ltd are listed on the Swiss Stock Exchange since 29 May 2000. The ticker is SQN, the security number is 1,067,586 and the ISIN Number is CH0010675863.

The main shareholders are:

	2006	2005
Mr. Marc Bürki	14.55%	15.08%
Mr. Paolo Buzzi	14.54%	15.08%
Mr. Jean Pfau	6.57%	7.84%
Vauban Fund (SICAV), LU-Luxembourg	5.73%	< 5.00%
Mr. Mario Fontana	5.55%	4.37%
PEC Global Equity Fund	5.08%	< 5.00%
AIG Equity Fund Switzerland	< 5.00%	7.37%

The statutory financial statements were approved for issue by the Board of Directors of the Company on 6 February 2007.

### 2. Investments in and Receivables from subsidiaries

Investments in subsidiaries consist of:

	2006	2005		
0/0	CHF	%	CHF	
100.00%	40,460,002	100.00%	40,460,002 238,950	
100.00%		100.00 70	40,698,952	
		% CHF 100.00% 40,460,002	%         CHF         %           100.00%         40,460,002         100.00%           100.00%         238,950         100.00%	

The receivables from subsidiaries include a total amount of CHF 10.0 mio subordinated in favour of the creditors of Swissquote Bank.

In the years from 1999 to 2002, the Company created an aggregate CHF 32.6 mio provision representing a fair value adjustment of the amounts invested in its loss making subsidiaries (up to 2002). Though the subsidiaries turned profitable in 2003, and in accordance with the provisions of the Swiss Code of Obligations with respect to the creation of silent reserves, the Company decided to write-back CHF 9.0 mio (2005 : CHF 6.7 mio).

### **NOTES TO THE STATUTORY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### 3. Formation costs and intellectual property

Formation costs and intellectual property are amortized over a period of 5 years (straight line method).

### 4. Share-capital

	2006	2005
Ordinary issued share-capital : Number of shares in issue Nominal value of each share (Registered shares)	1,458,581 8	1,413,392 10
Ordinary share-capital	11,668,648	14,133,920
Unissued share-capital Conditional share-capital Authorised share-capital	210,896 1,600,000	715,510 2,000,000

### Ordinary issued Share-Capital

At the date of approval of these financial statements by the Board of Directors, the number of issued shares registered at the Commercial Registry was 1,454,106 registered shares of CHF 8 nominal value each. The difference between the number of shares registered at the Commercial Registry and the number of shares reported in these financial statements (1,458,581) corresponds to stock options exercised in the period from 1 July to 31 December 2006.

### Conditional Share-Capital

45,189 stock options were exercised in 2006 (2005: 19,088).

### **Authorised Share-Capital**

The provision ruling the utilisation of the Authorised share-capital provides that the Board of Directors is authorised until 20 March 2008 to increase the share-capital of the Company by a maximum of CHF 1,600,000 by issuing no more than 200,000 new registered shares with a nominal value of CHF 8. The provision further provides details on the capital increase process and exercise of preferential subscription rights.

### **Own Shares**

The Company owned 36,609 treasury shares at 31 December 2006 (2005: 8,022). During 2006, the Company acquired 28,587 shares net (2005: disposal of 11,002 shares, net) resulting from the acquisition of 28,845 shares at a unit price ranging from CHF 213.00 to CHF 320.00 (average cost of CHF 284.11 per share) and of the disposal of 258 shares at unit prices ranging from CHF 172.00 to 250.25 CHF (average per share of CHF 200.63).

### **NOTES TO THE STATUTORY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### 5. Share premium and reserve for own shares

	2006	2005
Share premium		
At beginning of year	18,720,007	18,405,391
Allocation to Reserve for own shares	(8,164,880)	(257,948)
Share premium on new shares issued	1,663,691	572,564
At end of year	12,218,818	18,720,007
Reserve for own shares		
At beginning of year	846,459	588,511
Allocation from Share premium	8,164,880	257,948
At end of year	9,011,339	846,459

The reserve for own shares is carried at the average acquisition cost of the own shares.

### PROPOSAL OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGARDING AVAILABLE EARNINGS AT 31 DECEMBER 2006

The Board of Directors proposes to utilise the available earnings as follows:

Available earnings		CHF
Retained earnings carried forward at 1 January 200 Net profit of year 2006	06	6,588,145 16,671,457
Retained earnings at 31 December 2006		23,259,602
Proposed dividend (1)	CHF 2 per share	(2,917,162)
Retained earnings to be carried forward at 1 Janu	Jary 2007	20,342,440

<sup>(1)</sup> Amounts based on the number of shares issued at 31 December 2006.

## PRICEV/ATERHOUSE COPERS @

## Report of the Statutory Auditors to the General Meeting of Swissquote Group Holding Ltd Gland

As statutory auditors, we have audited the accounting records and the financial statements (balance sheet, statement of operations and notes) included on pages 49 to 54 of Swissquote Group Holding Ltd for the year ended 31 December 2006.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the board of directors. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We confirm that we meet the legal requirements concerning professional qualification and independence.

Our audit was conducted in accordance with Swiss Auditing Standards, which require that an audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. We have examined on a test basis evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. We have also assessed the accounting principles used, significant estimates made and the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the accounting records and financial statements and the proposed appropriation of available earnings comply with Swiss law and the Company's articles of incorporation.

M Caputo

We recommend that the financial statements submitted to you be approved.

PricewaterhouseCoopers SA

Conflit

JC Pernollet Auditor in charge

Geneva, 6 February 2007

# Corporate Governance Report Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	57
1.1	Adoption of Corporate Governance Rules	57
1.2	Main changes in 2006	57
2.	Group Structure and Shareholding	57
2.1	Scope of operations	57
2.2	Legal structure	57
2.3	Organization	58
2.4	Major shareholdings	58
3.	Structure of the Equity	58
3.1	Capital at 31 December 2006	58
3.2	History of share-capital	59
3.3	History of the free float	60
3.4	Stock Option Plan	60
3.5	History of equity	63
4.	Board of Directors	65
4.1	Presentation of the members of the Board	65
4.1.1	Non-Executive Directors	65
4.1.2	Members of the Board who resigned in 2006	66
4.2	Functions of the Board of Directors	66
4.3	Decisions of the Board	67
4.4	Functions delegated to the Chairman	67
4.5	Group Audit Committee	67
4.6	Group Nomination and Remuneration Committee	68
4.7	Functions delegated to the CEO and the Executive Management	68
4.8	Management information and control over the Executive Management	68
4.9	Boards, Management and Public positions held by the members of the Board	69
5.	Executive Management	69
5.1	Duties and responsibilities	69
5.2	Presentation of the Executive Management	69
5.2.1	Executive Management in duties at 31 December 2006	69
5.2.2	Executive Management who left in 2006	70
5.2.3	Organization chart of the enlarged Management Group	71
5.3	Work contracts	73
6.	Remuneration of the Executive Bodies	73
6.1	Overview	73
6.2	Highest remuneration of the Board	75
6.3	Bonus scheme for the Executive Management	75
6.4	Loans and lending activity	75
7.	Shareholders Meeting and Voting Rights	75
7.1	Meetings	76
7.2	Share register and shareholders	76
7.3	Decisions of the General Meeting of shareholders	76
7.4	Analysis of the voting rights at 31 December 2006	77
8.	Change of Control and Defensive Measures	78
9.	Auditors	78
10.	Information Policy	79
10.1	General principles	79
10.2	Regular reporting	80
10.2.1	Annual reporting	80
10.2.2	Quarterly reporting	80
10.3	Updated information and contacts	80

### 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Adoption of Corporate Governance Rules

Further to the introduction of the SWX Swiss Exchange Corporate Governance Guidelines on 1 July 2002, the Board of Swissquote Group Holding Ltd adopted on 7 August 2002, a formal document – the Swissquote Group Corporate Governance Regulations – that:

- sets the policies ruling the Internal Regulations ("the Internal Regulations"), the Financial Disclosures and defines the principles applicable with respect to Delegation and Authorization;
- complements the Articles of Incorporation of the Company and other provisions applicable by Law.

### 1.2 Main changes in 2006

Compared to 2005, there are no material changes in the Corporate Governance Report.

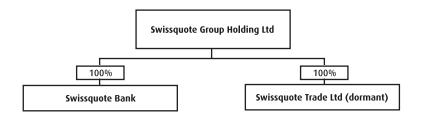
### 2. Group Structure and Shareholding

### 2.1 Scope of operations

Swissquote Group Holding Ltd and its subsidiaries ("the Group") are active in online financial services in Switzerland. The operations consist of Swissquote Bank, a pure Internet bank (http://bank.swissquote.ch) that primarily offers online brokerage and cash management services to self-directed investors and Asset Managers. The Group also offers to the Bank's clients and non-clients a broad range of financial information on its website www.swissquote.ch, that encompass stock quotes, currencies, news, information on investment funds as well as financial analysis tools.

### 2.2 The Legal structure

The Company is headquartered in Gland, Canton de Vaud, Switzerland. The Group is the following:



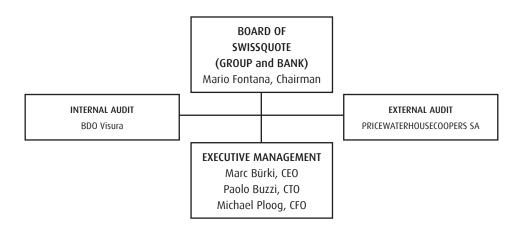
All Group companies are domiciled in Switzerland and their scope of operations is in Switzerland.

The shares of Swissquote Group Holding Ltd are listed on the Swiss Stock Exchange since 29 May 2000. The ticker is SQN, the security number is 1,067,586 and the ISIN Number is CH0010675863.

### 2.3 Organization

The Internal Regulations determine the organization as well as the duties and powers of the executive bodies that consist of:

- the Board of Directors (the "Board") and the Chairman of the Board (the "Chairman");
- ▶ the Executive Management and its speaker the Chief Executive Officer ("CEO").



### 2.4 Major shareholdings

Shareholders with an interest in the Company above 5% are:

	2006	2005
Mr. Marc Bürki	14.55%	15.08%
Mr. Paolo Buzzi	14.54%	15.08%
Mr. Jean Pfau	6.57%	7.84%
Vauban Fund (SICAV), LU-Luxembourg	5.73%	< 5.00%
Mr. Mario Fontana	5.55%	4.37%
PEC Global Equity Fund	5.08%	< 5.00%
AIG Equity Fund Switzerland	< 5.00%	7.37%

### 3. Structure of the Equity

### 3.1 Capital at 31 December 2006

At 31 December 2006, the issued share-capital consists of 1,458,581 ordinary registered shares of CHF 8 nominal value each. The Company owned 36,609 treasury shares. Further, a conditional share-capital of CHF 210,896 consisting of 26,362 ordinary conditional shares of CHF 8 nominal value and an authorised capital of CHF 1.6 mio consisting of 200,000 authorised shares of CHF 8 nominal value each were outstanding at 31 December 2006.

The purpose of the conditional capital is to allow the exercise of the options granted to Group employees and Board members in accordance with the Group Stock Option Plan.

The provision of the Articles of Incorporation ruling the utilisation of the Authorised capital provides that the Board of Directors is authorised until 20 March 2008 to increase the share-capital of the Company by a maximum of CHF 1.6 mio by issuing no more than 200,000 new registered shares with a nominal value of CHF 8. The amount of the issue, the point of time at which the shares confer a dividend entitlement, the method of payment in full for contributions and the subscription procedure shall be determined by the Board of Directors. An increase in tranches or a partial increase is also possible. The amount of the increase must be fully paid-up in accordance with procedures to be defined by the Board of Directors. The provisions of the Articles of Incorporation relating to the restriction on the transferability of shares shall also apply to the new shares. The General Meeting may decide to abolish preferential subscription rights in the sole event that the increase in share-capital is adopted with a view to acquiring another undertaking or parts of undertakings or holdings in accordance with the terms of Article 652b, paragraph 2 of the Swiss Code of Obligations. In other instances of increases in share-capital decided within the framework of this provision, preferential subscription rights may be exercised by shareholders in proportion to their previous holding. Regarding preferential subscription rights assigned but not exercised, the Board of Directors may, without having to put it to a General Meeting first, either allow these to lapse or else offer them - respectively, to offer the corresponding new shares – wholly or in part to other shareholders in proportion to their previous holding, or offer them wholly or in part to one or more third parties, under such conditions as it sees fit to decide. Only shareholders listed in the share register may exercise their preferential subscription right. The Board of Directors shall determine the conditions of registration of shareholders who purchased shares in the Company prior to the decision of the Board of Directors to increase the share-capital, but who have not yet been registered to the share register. The Board of Directors may require the subscription in trust by a third party and define the corresponding procedure as it sees

### 3.2 History of share-capital

	Ordinary			Total Shares
Number of shares	Shares Issued	Conditional Capital	Authorised Capital	Issued and Unissued
At 1 January 2004	1,379,020	37,010	-	1,416,030
Increase of the Conditional Capital and creation of an Authorised Capital	-	68,913	200,000	268,913
Exercise of employees' Stock Options	15,284	(15,284)	-	-
At 31 December 2004	1,394,304	90,639	200,000	1,684,943
At 1 January 2005	1,394,304	90,639	200,000	1,684,943
Exercise of employees' Stock Options	19,088	(19,088)	-	-
At 31 December 2005	1,413,392	71,551	200,000	1,684,943
At 1 January 2006	1,413,392	71,551	200,000	1,684,943
Exercise of employees' Stock Options	45,189	(45,189)	-	-
At 31 December 2006	1,458,581	26,362	200,000	1,684,943

59

All amounts in Swiss Francs

### 3.3 History of the free float

All shares in issue at 31 December 2006 are freely tradable (i.e. there is no lock-up in place). SWX Regulations however provide that individual shareholdings exceeding 5% are deemed to be permanent investment and are to be excluded from the free float. In accordance with SWX Regulations, the free float at 31 December 2006 is 47.99% (2005: 54.63%).

### 3.4 Stock Option Plan

The Group operates a Stock Option Plan under which it makes options in common stock available to the Group's employees and directors at the discretion of the Board. Since the creation of the Plan, a total of eight allocation schemes were offered. The first and second allocations lapsed in 2001 and 2002.

The options granted under the third allocation are made under the following terms:

- one option grants the right to acquire one share;
- options granted are exercisable in four equal tranches of 25%. The first tranche becomes exercisable on the date of the first anniversary of the respective grant date, the second on the date of the second anniversary of the respective grant date, the third tranche on the date of the third anniversary of the respective grant date and the fourth tranche on the date of the fourth anniversary of the respective grant date. Each tranche is exercisable during a period of two years, starting from the date it first becomes exercisable. The strike price ranges from CHF 54.30 to CHF 86.39.

The 4th allocation is reserved to the non-executive members of the Board. It provides that the options granted will be first exercisable three years after the date of grant. One option gives the right to acquire one SQN share at a strike price ranging between CHF 27.85 and CHF 113.90. The exercise period is two years starting on the date options first become exercisable.

The 5th allocation is reserved to Group employees. It provides that 50% of the options granted to each employee will become exercisable one year after the date of grant and the remaining 50% after two years. The exercise price is CHF 27.85. The period of exercise of options that become exercisable is two years.

The 6th allocation is reserved to Group employees. It provides that one option grants the right to acquire one SQN share. Options granted are exercisable in three equal tranches. The first tranche becomes exercisable on the date of the first anniversary of the date of grant, the second on the second anniversary and the third on the third anniversary. The options granted in 2004 have a strike price of CHF 113.90.

The options granted under the 7th allocation in July 2005 are made under the following terms:

- one option grants the right to acquire one share;
- the strike price is equal to CHF 170.00;
- exercise :
  - options granted to members of the Board (11,700) are first exercisable three years after the date of grant. The exercise period is two years, starting on the date options first become exercisable;
  - options granted to Group employees (13,150) are exercisable in three equal tranches. The first tranche becomes exercisable on the date of the first anniversary of the grant date, the second tranche on the date of the second anniversary and the third tranche on the date of the third anniversary. Each tranche is exercisable during a period of two years, starting from the date it first becomes exercisable.

The options granted under the 8th allocation in July 2006 are made under the following terms:

- one option grants the right to acquire one share;
- the strike price is equal to CHF 340.00.

Options granted to Group employees are exercisable in three equal tranches. The first tranche becomes exercisable on the date of the first anniversary of the grant date, the second tranche on the date of the second anniversary and the third tranche on the date of the third anniversary. Each tranche is exercisable during a period of two years, starting from the date it first becomes exercisable.

The movements in options granted, exercised and lapsed is reported below:

	3rd Allocation			6th Allocation		8th Allocation	Total	Conditional shares available for exercise
Balance at 1 January 2004	11,712	48,000	16,450	-	-	-	76,162	37,010
Increase of the Conditional Capital furt resolution of the AGM on 30 March Grants Exercised		600	-	7,998	-	-	8,598	68,913
Covered by the issue of new shares	(6,134)	-	(9,150)	-	-	-	(15,284)	(15,284)
Covered by treasury shares Lapsed	(245)	-	-	(81)	-	-	(326)	
Balance at 31 December 2004	5,333	48,600	7,300	7,917	-	-	69,150	90,639
Balance at 1 January 2005	5,333	48,600	7,300	7,917	-	-	69,150	90,639
Grants Exercised	-	-	-	-	24,850	-	24,850	
Covered by the issue of new shares Covered by treasury shares	(3,698)	(12,000)	(2,725)	(665)	-	-	(19,088)	(19,088)
Lapsed	-	-	-	(473)	-	-	(473)	
Balance at 31 December 2005	1,635	36,600	4,575	6,779	24,850	-	74,439	71,551
Balance at 1 January 2006	1,635	36,600	4,575	6,779	24,850	-	74,439	71,551
Grants Exercised	-	-	-	-	-	8,577	8,577	
Covered by the issue of new shares Covered by treasury shares	(1,440)	(32,100)	(4,575) -	(3,775)	(3,299)	-	(45,189) -	(45,189)
Lapsed	-	-	-	(45)	(1,467)	(120)	(1,632)	
Balance at 31 December 2006	195	4,500	-	2,959	20,084	8,457	36,195	26,362

61

All amounts in Swiss Francs

The options outstanding at 31 December 2006 are maturing as follows:

	Strike	Number	Exercise	Exercise Period			
Allocation #	Price	Options	Start	End			
4	27.85	4,500	May-05	April-07			
3	86.39	195	March-05	February-07			
6	113.90	140 431 2,388	May-05 May-06 May-07	April-07 April-08 April-09			
7	170.00	804 3,777 15,503	August-06 August-07 August-08	July-08 July-09 July-10			
8	340.00	2,817 2,820 2,820	August-07 August-08 August-09	July-09 July-10 July-11			
	Total	36,195					

### 3.5 History of equity

	Share capital	Share premium	Share option reserve	Other reserve	Treasury shares	Accumulated (losses)/profits	Total
Balance reported in the Annual Report 2004	13,790,200	61,723,981	-	-	(1,902,255)	(30,714,575)	42,897,351
Restatements: Stock option plan: Value of services provided	-	-	351,650	-	-	(351,650)	-
Treasury stocks at cost Allocation of Share premium & reserves to Accumulated los	ses -	(32,391,444)	-	-	1,325,219	(1,325,219) 32,391,444	-
Restated balance at 1 January 2004	13,790,200	29,332,537	351,650	-	(577,036)	-	42,897,351
Capital increase resulting from the exercise of options	152,840	567,077	-	-	-	-	719,917
Employee stock option plan: Value of services provided Reclassification of value of service provided for stock options exe		-	177,819	-	-	-	177,819
lapsed or expired in the period		-	(157,734)	-	-	157,734	-
Net change in treasury shares	-	-	-	-	(11,475)	244,987	233,512
Net profit of the period	-	-	-	-	-	6,057,394	6,057,394
Restated balance at 31 December 2004	13,943,040	29,899,614	371,735	-	(588,511)	6,460,115	50,085,993
Restated balance at 1 January 2005	13,943,040	29,899,614	371,735	-	(588,511)	6,460,115	50,085,993
Capital increase resulting from the exercise of options	190,880	572,564	-	-	-	-	763,444
Employee stock option plan: Value of services provided Reclassification of value of service		-	153,404	-	-	-	153,404
provided for stock options exe lapsed or expired in the period	,	-	(156,559)	-	-	156,559	-
Purchase of treasury shares Sale of treasury shares	-	- 1,549,793	-	-	(1,098,356) 840,409	-	(1,098,356) 2,390,202
Net profit of the period	-	-	-	-	-	14,682,970	14,682,970
Balance at 31 December 2005	14,133,920	32,021,971	368,580	-	(846,458)	21,299,644	66,977,657

63

All amounts in Swiss Francs

### 3.5 History of equity (continued)

	Share capital	Share premium	Share option reserve	Other reserve	Treasury shares	Accumulated profits	Total
Restated balance at 1 January 2006	14,133,920	32,021,971	368,580	-	(846,458)	21,299,644	66,977,657
Capital increase resulting from the exercise of options	442,940	1,663,691	-	-	-	-	2,106,631
Dividend	-	-	-	-	-	(1,406,586)	(1,406,586)
Capital reduction	(2,908,212)	73,218	-	-	-	-	(2,834,994)
Employee stock option plan: Value of services provided Reclassification of value of services	- -	-	- 278,290	-	-	-	- 278,290
provided for stock options exerc lapsed or expired in the period	-	-	(316,185)	-	-	316,185	-
Purchase of treasury shares Sale of treasury shares	-	- 21,413	-	-	(8,195,231) 30,351	-	(8,195,231) 51,764
Net changes in available-for-sale investments	-	-	-	(22,093)	-	-	(22,093)
Net profit of the period	-	-	-	-	-	36,528,773	36,528,773
Balance at 31 December 2006	11,668,648	33,780,293	330,685	(22,093)	(9,011,338)	56,738,016	93,484,211

#### 4. Board of Directors

The Board is a body consisting of a minimum of three members elected by the General Meeting of Shareholders for a one-year term, and who are eligible for reelection. Its members may not act alone on behalf of the Company and may not give instructions on their own, except when the Articles of Incorporation, the Internal Regulations or a Resolution of the Board provide otherwise. Since 20 March 2006, the Board has been comprised of four non-executive members. The Board of Swissquote Group acts at the same time as the Board of Swissquote Bank.

The Board shall meet at least 4 times a year. In 2006, the Board met 8 times, out of which one meeting was for a two-days strategy session. The Board may form one or several Committees, which consist of members of the Board. The Committees are in charge of proposing Board Resolutions to the full Board with respect to specific matters. Such Committees have to report to the Board on a regular basis, at least once a year. In 2006, there were two such Committees at the level of the Group: the Audit Committee and the Nomination and Remuneration Committee. For banking regulating reasons, there is no Audit Committee at the level of Swissquote Bank. All Audit and Compliance issues are directly treated by the Board of the Bank.

The Internal Regulations further provide that certain functions are delegated to the Chairman and define the scope of functions delegated to the CEO and the Executive Management.

#### 4.1 Presentation of the members of the Board

#### 4.1.1 Non-Executive Directors

### Mario Fontana (1946 / Swiss National, domiciled in Switzerland)

Member of the Board of Swissquote Group since April 2001 Chairman of the Board of Swissquote Group since April 2002 Chairman of the Board of Swissquote Bank since March 2004 Chairman of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee

After studying engineering at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich and at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Mario Fontana started his career in 1970 with IBM Switzerland. In 1977, he moved to Brazil as CIO for Brown Boveri and later started the Swiss subsidiary of Storage Technology. After that, he served for over 15 years as General Manager for Hewlett-Packard, 10 years leading HP Switzerland, then the Computer Business in Germany and Europe and at the end was responsible for the worldwide Business Unit Financial Services in Cupertino. Since the beginning of 1999, Mario Fontana serves on various Boards as Non-Executive Director.

### Paul E. Otth (1943 / Swiss National, domiciled in Switzerland)

Member of the Board of Swissquote Group since April 2002 Vice Chairman of the Board of Swissquote Bank since March 2004 Chairman of the Audit Committee

Paul E. Otth is a Swiss Certified Public Accountant. From 1974 to 1988 he worked for Corange Group (Boehringer Mannheim) in Switzerland and abroad in various managing positions. In 1988, he was a partner at Budiger Treuhand AG. In 1989, he joined Landis & Gyr where he was appointed Chief Financial Officer and member of the Group Executive Board in 1994. He occupied the same responsibilities from 1996 to 1997 at Elektrowatt and, in 1998, he became the CFO and member of the Executive Board of Siemens Building Technologies. From 2000 until 31 December 2002, he was CFO and Member of the Group Executive Board of Unaxis Holding AG. He is active as chairman, vice-chairman or member of several Boards.

### Otto E. Nägeli (1949 / Swiss national, domiciled in Switzerland)

Member of the Board of Swissquote Group since March 2004 Member of the Board of Swissquote Bank since May 2003 Member of the Audit Committee

After obtaining a commercial degree in Zurich, Otto E. Nägeli joined Credit Suisse where he held junior positions in Zurich and in Montreal, Quebec. After his return from Canada, he was appointed branch manager of a suburban branch of Credit Suisse. In 1976, he joined the Bank of Tokyo (Switzerland) Ltd., Zurich and was in charge of primary and secondary market trading and settlement. In 1987, he was appointed CEO of SOFFEX, the first fully electronic Exchange and Clearinghouse for Futures and Options, and became in 1994 also a member of the Management Board of the SWX - Swiss Exchange in Zurich. During this time, Otto E. Nägeli was involved in the merger project of SOFFEX and DTB Deutsche Terminbörse into EUREX. Between 1996 and 1998, he was the functional and organizational project manager for EUREX. With the opening of EUREX in 1998 Otto E. Nägeli was appointed Deputy CEO with the main responsibility for the Clearinghouse of EUREX. In 2001, he returned to the banking industry and became CEO of Rüd, Blass & Cie AG, Private Bankers, Zurich, a member of the Zurich Financial Services Group. In April 2003 he founded OEN Consulting, Nägeli & Partner, an independent consulting firm specialized in Banking and Exchanges.

### Markus Dennler (1956 / Swiss national, domiciled in Switzerland)

Member of the Board of Swissquote Group since March 2005 Member of the Board of Swissquote Bank since March 2005 Member of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee

Markus Dennler completed his studies at the University of Zurich with a doctorate in law and subsequently is admitted to the Bar of Zurich. Further he attended the International Bankers School in New York and the Harvard Business School in Boston (AMP). Following a period working with a law office, Markus Dennler moved in 1986 to what is now the Credit Suisse Group, where he spent 18 years in a variety of management functions. He began his career with Credit Suisse as assistant to President of the Executive Board and branch manager. He subsequently held the positions of Managing Director of CS Columna, Chief Executive Officer of Winterthur Columna, Member of the Corporate Executive Board of Winterthur and, ultimately, member of the Executive Board of Credit Suisse Financial Services. Since the beginning of 2005, Markus Dennler serves on various Boards as Non-Executive Director and on the British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce as councillor.

### 4.1.2 Members of the Board who resigned in 2006

None.

### 4.2 Functions of the Board of Directors

The Board has the following functions:

- the ultimate direction of the Company and the authority to give the necessary instructions;
- define and modify the strategy of the Company as well as to pass resolutions about the taking up or ceasing of business activities;
- establish the organization;
- based on the proposal of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee, decide on the appointment, suspension and dismissal of the Executive Management and of other signatories of the Company;
- define the finance and investment policy;
- approve the annual budget;
- based on the proposal of the Audit Committee, approve the financial planning, financial control and determine the applicable accounting standards and decide on accounting issues where the accounting standards allow the Company to chose between different solutions;
- approve the financial disclosure policy;
- approve the annual financial statements and regular interim financial reporting prior to their disclosure and after clearance by the Audit Committee;

- supervise the Executive Management, especially with respect to compliance with laws, Articles of Incorporation, internal directives and instructions. The Chairman is responsible for the supervision of the CEO;
- prepare the annual report and the Shareholder's Meeting as well as to execute decisions;
- pass resolutions in connection with a capital increase pursuant to Art. 651a, 652g, 653g CO, decisions pursuant to Art. 634a I CO (contributions on shares not fully paid in) and 651 IV CO (increase of share-capital in the case of authorised capital);
- approve mass dismissal of employees in the sense of Art. 335d CO or similar foreign regulations;
- approve those matters for which the CEO and the Executive Management have to seek approval by the Board or for which the CEO seeks approval of his own accord;
- notify the Judge pursuant to Art. 725 CO in case of over indebtedness.

More generally, the Board has the power to decide on all matters, which are not vested in the Shareholders' Meeting or by any other body by law, Articles of Incorporation or Internal Guidelines. Further, the Board's approval is required for specific transactions that do not fall under the ordinary business activities and or which financially exceed defined thresholds.

The Boards of subsidiaries are proposed by the Board of the Company. If subsidiaries are subject to special regulatory frameworks and authorities, the Board of the Company shall not interfere in matters that are the sole responsibility of the board of the subsidiaries.

#### 4.3 Decisions of the Board

Valid decisions can only be taken if a majority of all members participate in the meeting. Should this quorum not be met, the Board of Directors may pass contingent resolutions under the condition that all members of the Board of Directors shall unanimously approve the resolutions in writing after such a Board meeting. For the following decisions a minimum of two thirds of all members of the Board have to be present:

- motions to be submitted to the Shareholders' Meeting;
- modifications of these Regulations.

The Chairman has the casting vote.

### 4.4 Functions delegated to the Chairman

The Chairman has the following functions:

- chair the meeting of the Board and the Shareholders' Meeting;
- represent the Board vis-à-vis the public at large, public officials and the shareholders;
- supervise the execution of measures, which the Board has enacted;
- supervise the CEO.

### 4.5 Group Audit Committee

Board members on the committee: Paul E. Otth, Otto E. Nägeli.

The principal duties of the Audit Committee are the supervising of the regular financial reporting, the risk management and the audit function. In particular, the Audit Committee attends the following matters:

- overview the entire financial reporting;
- review significant accounting issues and propose changes of accounting standards;
- review the audit results and supervise the actions taken by the management on the auditor's management letters;
- advise the Board on whether the existing or new auditors shall be proposed to the General Assembly of Shareholders;
- check the independence of the auditors;
- review the audit plan;
- assess the quality of the auditors and audit work.

The Audit Committee meets at least 4 times a year and has met four times in 2006.

### 4.6 Group Nomination and Remuneration Committee

Board members on the committee: Mario Fontana, Markus Dennler.

The Committee takes care of the following matters:

- determine the compensation of the Executive Management and propose the remuneration of the members of the Board;
- propose the terms and conditions of employee shares or option plans (ESOP) and new profit sharing, bonus or incentive schemes;
- plan the succession for the CEO and of other executive functions (emergency and long-term planning);
- propose the appointment of new members of the Board;
- propose the appointment, suspension and dismissal of Executive Management and of other signatories of the Company;
- provide guidance in relation to overall management development.

The Committee meets at least twice a year. In 2006, it met two times.

### 4.7 Functions delegated to the CEO and the Executive Management

The Executive Management consists of the CEO and those persons, which the Board appoints. All executive functions within the Group not reserved for the Board or the Chairman are delegated to the CEO and the Executive Management.

### 4.8 Management information and control over the Executive Management

The Group's Management Information Systems materialize into monthly, quarterly and yearly Management Reports to the Board, which need to be provided by the Executive Management on a timely basis. Such reports include statistics on the development of the revenues, comments on the operations and on the business environment, explanations on the variances between budget / forecasts and actual figures, Risk Management reports as well as any other information which needs to be brought to the Board's attention and / or which the Board may require from time to time. Further, the CEO shall immediately report to the Board material matters outside the ordinary course of business.

The position of internal auditor reporting independently to the Board of Directors of Swissquote Bank is outsourced to BDO Visura, Lausanne. The duties of the internal auditor are governed by the Federal Law on Banks and Saving Banks and the Bank's Internal Regulations.

### 4.9 Boards, Management and Public positions held by the members of the Board

The Board, Management and Public positions held by the members of the Board at 31 December 2006, are listed in the following table:

	Mario Fontana	Paul E. Otth	Otto E. Nägeli	Markus Dennler
<b>Swissquote</b> Swissquote Group Holding Ltd Swissquote Bank	Chairman Chairman	Board Member Vice-Chairman	Board Member Board Member	Board Member Board Member
Other companies Allianz Suisse AG Ascom Holding AG Converium Holding AG Dufry AG EAO Holding AG Hexagon (S) Inficon Holding AG Implenia Petroplus Holdings AG SBB AG ShareComm Service AG X-Rite (USA)	Board Member Board Member Board Member Board Member Board Member	Vice-Chairman Chairman Vice-Chairman Board Member	Board Member	Board Member Chairman Vice-Chairman Board Member
Former positions with Swissquote Group	None	None	None	None
Public Offices	None	None	None	None

### 5. Executive Management

### 5.1 Duties and responsibilities

All executive functions within the Group not reserved for the Board members, for the Chairman or for the Board of subsidiaries are delegated to the CEO and the Executive Management.

### 5.2 Presentation of the Executive Management

### 5.2.1 Executive Management in duties at 31 December 2006

Marc Bürki (1961 / Swiss National, domiciled in Switzerland) Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Founding partner of Swissquote Group

Marc Bürki is a graduate from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL) in Lausanne, in 1987, with a degree in electrical engineering. Until 1990, he worked as a telecommunications specialist at the European Space Agency in Nordweijk (Netherlands). He is founding partner of Swissquote and held various positions in the Group's Board and management. In March 2002, he was appointed CEO of Swissquote Bank.

Paolo Buzzi (1961 / Swiss National, domiciled in Switzerland) Chief Technology Officer (CTO)

Founding Partner of Swissquote Group

Paolo Buzzi is a graduate from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL) in Lausanne, in 1988, with a degree in micro technology. Until 1990, he worked for Rolm Systems, Santa Clara (CA, USA) as a software specialist and technical integration engineer. He is founding partner of Swissquote and held various positions in the Group's Board and management. He is Chief Technology Officer of Swissquote Bank.

Michael Ploog (1960 / Swiss National, domiciled in Switzerland)

Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Michael Ploog is a graduate from HEC Lausanne (1983) and a Swiss Certified Public Accountant (1990). Prior to joining Swissquote in 1999 as Group CFO, he worked for Deloitte & Touche and PricewaterhouseCoopers in Switzerland and for Touch Ross in London in the fields of audit, corporate finance and restructuring.

5.2.2 Executive Management who left in 2006

None

#### 5.2.3 Organization chart of the enlarged Management Group

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT** 

Marc Bürki, CEO Paolo Buzzi, CTO Michael Ploog, CFO

Reporting to Marc Bürki	Reporting to Paolo Buzzi	Reporting to Michael Ploog	Reporting to EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT
CUSTOMER CARE Giuseppe Tafuro	PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT Loïc Guezennec	TRADING & TREASURY Jürg Schwab	HUMAN RESOURCES Tara Yip
SALES & CLIENT RELATIONS Vincenzo Zinnà	<b>IT &amp; SECURITY</b> Marc Furrer	BACKOFFICE & BANKING PROCESS Lino Finini	
		LEGAL & COMPLIANCE Morgan Lavanchy	
		REPORTING & CONTROLLING Gilles Chantrier	

#### **Members of Senior Management**

#### Giuseppe Tafuro (1959 / Swiss National, domiciled in Switzerland)

Head of Customer Care, Director

Giuseppe Tafuro joined Swissquote in April 2000 as Head of Customer Care with the mission to launch the Call Center in Zürich. Before he joined the Company, he worked as a communication consultant since 1978 in various companies dealing in the commercial, communication, insurance and banking fields. In 1995, he contributed to the launch of the Call Center Swissline AG for Winterthur Insurance. In 1996, he joined UBS as Head of Office and Vice Director of the Call Center Swiss Life. He has a degree in Marketing from SAWI.

#### Vincenzo Zinnà (1964 / Swiss National, domiciled in Switzerland)

Head of Sales & Client Relations, Director

Vincenzo Zinnà joined Swissquote in February 2004 as Client Training Manager. He obtained his CFC (Vocational Education Certificate) in 1984 with the «Banque Populaire Suisse». Vinzenzo Zinnà then worked successively for UBS, Credit Suisse First Boston and «Finance at Work» in the trading and sales divisions and in derivative instruments training. He has been appointed Head of Sales & Client Relations of Swissquote on 1 April 2006.

#### Loïc Guezennec (1968 / French and Australian National, domiciled in Switzerland)

Head of Product Development, Director

Loïc Guezennec joined Swissquote in 1999 as Project Manager in charge of the development of the trading platform. In 2000, he was appointed Head of Product Development with the mission to define, build and integrate the core of the Bank trading system. Before joining Swissquote, he worked as an IT Specialist for various companies active in the banking, software and medical industries. He graduated with a B.Sc.and a B.Inf.Tech from Queensland University in Brisbane, Australia.

#### Marc Furrer (1969 / Swiss National, domiciled in Switzerland)

Head of IT Department, Director

Marc Furrer joined Swissquote in 2001 as a Network & Security Officer. Since 1993, he holds an engineering degree in communication systems from the Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL) in Lausanne. He acquired further knowledge while working as a network specialist for the EPFL data processing laboratory and the Lausanne University. He also worked for several years for the ISO Central Secretariat and for the hospitals of the canton of Vaud. In August 2006, Marc Furrer has been appointed Head IT & Security of Swissquote.

#### Jürg Schwab (1963 / Swiss National, domiciled in Switzerland)

Head of Treasury & Trading, Director

Jürg Schwab joined Swissquote in January 2007 as Head of the Treasury & Trading department. He started his Banking Career in 1980 with UBS where he held various positions in Switzerland and in the UK. In 1997, he was appointed Vice President of the Trading Control Unit in Geneva. Thereafter, he worked for Banque Cantonale de Genève as Head of Market Operations, Member of the Management. He graduated as a Bachelor in Business Administration at the University of Applied Sciences in Olten.

#### Lino Finini (1965 / Swiss National, domiciled in Switzerland)

Head of Backoffice & Banking Process, Director

Lino Finini joined Swissquote in 2001 as Head of Banking Process & Quality and became Head of Backoffice & Banking process after these two departments were merged in June 2004. Formerly, from 1988, he worked for Crédit Agricole Indosuez as IT Security Officer until 1996, and then joined Lasercom SA, a consulting and software provider Company, as a Consultant and e-Business Architect. He graduated in computer science in 1988.

#### Morgan Lavanchy (1979 / Swiss National, domiciled in Switzerland)

Head of Legal & Compliance, Director

Morgan Lavanchy joined Swissquote in August 2003 as Legal Officer. He earned his law degree in 2002 at the University of Neuchâtel, followed by a master's degree in Business Law. Morgan Lavanchy has been appointed Head Legal & Compliance on 1 October 2006.

#### Tara Yip (1973 / Swiss National, domiciled in Switzerland)

Head of Human Resources, Director

Tara Yip joined Swissquote in 2000 as HR Deputy in charge of recruitment. In February 2002, she was appointed Head of Human Resources. Before joining Swissquote, she worked as a Psychologist for an HR consulting Company specialised in the fields of coaching and recruitment. She is a graduated in Psychology from Geneva University.

#### Gilles Chantrier (1972 / Swiss National, domiciled in Switzerland)

Head of Reporting & Controlling, Director

Gilles Chantrier joined Swissquote in 2000 as Deputy Head Accounting and was appointed Head of the Backoffice in February 2002. In July 2003, he was entrusted with the position of Internal Controller and in October 2005, he also became in charge of Accounting and Reporting. Prior to join Swissquote, he worked as an Accountant since 1995 and obtained in 2000 a B.Sc. in Economics from the HEG.

#### 5.3 Work contracts

The work contracts of the Executive Management are based on the Group's Human Resources Standard Terms and Conditions and provide a 6 months notice period and a "Bel Etage" pension scheme.

The remuneration and the performances of the Executive Management are reviewed annually after the completion of the audit of the consolidated financial statements.

#### 6. Remuneration of the Executive Bodies

#### 6.1 Overview

The remuneration of the Chairman of the Board and other Board Members comprises a cash component and a Swissquote Group Holding Ltd stock option component. All members are paid the same amounts, except for the Chairman, who is paid twice the amount. The cash component - which is reviewed annually - is set by the entire Board of Directors in response to a proposal by the Nomination and Remuneration Committee. The stock option component, which is set every 3 years for a period of 3 years, is set by the entire Board of Directors in response to a proposal by the Nomination and Remuneration Committee. The last time options were granted to Members of the Board was in 2005.

The remuneration of the Executive Management is composed of an annual base salary, a performance -and results- based bonus amounting to a maximum of 50% of the annual base salary, as well as a discretionary annual grant of Swissquote Group Holding Ltd stock options.

All members of the Executive Management are paid the same annual base salary, which is set by the entire Board of Directors in response to the proposal of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee. Annual base salaries are assessed annually against labour market conditions and are adjusted when needed.

The actual bonus paid to Executive Management depends on the attainment of a set of objectives of financial (e.g., net income, EBIT, net number of new clients) and non-financial nature. A percentage weighting is established for each objective. The maximum bonus is reached when all objectives are completely met. The performance review is carried out by the Nominations and Remuneration Committee who proposes the amount of the Bonus. Based thereon, the entire Board of Directors makes the final decision.

#### 6.1 Overview (continued)

The following table summarises the compensation and other financial relations between the Board of Swissquote Group, the Executive Management and the Company:

	Board Members and Management in place at 31 December 2006		Board Members and Management who left the Group in 2006			
	Non- Executive Board Members	Executive Management	Total	Non- Executive Board Members	Executive Management	Total
Base remuneration / fees (1) Bonus paid in 2006 Accrued bonus Fringe benefits (2) Consulting and other fees Departure indemnities	CHF300,000 - - pm -	CHF1,079,400 CHF344,800 CHF540,000 pm	CHF1,379,400 CHF344,800 CHF540,000 pm	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
Shares granted (units) Value of shares granted Price paid for shares granted	- - -	- - -	- - -	-	- - -	- - -
Shares bought back by Company - Number of shares - CHF Value	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	-
Stock options granted in 2006 Allocation #8 CHF Value Strike price / per share	- - -	2,400 174,408 340	2,400 174,408 340	- - -	- - -	
Summary of options outstanding at 31.1 Allocation #7 / Strike price CHF 170 Allocation #8 / Strike price CHF 340 / 1 Allocation #8 / Strike price CHF 340 / 1 Allocation #8 / Strike price CHF 340 / 1	11,700 Franche 1 - Franche 2 -	798 801 801	11,700 798 801 801	- - -	: :	- - - -
Total of options granted, but not exercised at 31.12.2006 Of which exercisable	11,700	2,400	14,100		-	-
Ownership in the Company at 31 Decer - Number of shares -% of share-capital in issue	mber <b>2006:</b> 86,475 5.93%	436,000 29.89%	522,475 35.82%		-	- <u>-</u>
Contingent compensation (3)	-	-	-	-	-	-

<sup>(1)</sup> Base remuneration and fees paid in 2006 consist of the base salary for Management and of the remuneration decided by the Board for Members of the Board.

<sup>(2)</sup> Fringe benefits - Members of the Board and the Executive Management are benefiting from special terms with respect to the consumption of services provided by the Group. The monetary value of these benefits is not material.

<sup>(3)</sup> Contingent remuneration - Consists of contractual terms, if any, that provide certain compensation, in case of dismissal.

#### 6.2 Highest remuneration of the Board

The highest aggregate compensation paid to a member of the Board amounted to CHF 120,000 in 2006 (CHF 151,902 in 2005).

#### 6.3 Bonus scheme for the Executive Management

Members of the Executive Management, can earn a performance bonus of up to 50% of their respective base salary.

#### 6.4 Loans and lending activity

There was no lending activity to either members of the Board or of the Executive Management in 2006.

#### 7. Shareholders Meeting and Voting Rights

Shareholders in Swiss corporations have extended participatory and protective rights. Protective rights include the right to inspection and information (Code of Obligations 696, 697), the right to a special audit, the right to call a general meeting (CO 699/III), motion rights, the right of appeal (CO 706 f) and the right to instigate liability proceedings (CO 752 ff). Participatory rights primarily include the right to participate at General Meetings, the right to express an opinion and voting rights (CO 694).

All shareholders listed in the Company register as having voting rights, are permitted to attend and vote at General Meetings. For organizational reasons, no further entries are permitted 20 days prior to the General Meeting. Shareholders who dispose of their shares prior to the General Meeting are no longer entitled to vote.

The General Meeting of Shareholders is the highest body of the Company. Its non-delegable rights are:

- the adoption and the amending of the Articles of Incorporation;
- the election of the members of the Board of Directors and of the Auditors;
- the approval of the Annual Report, including the Consolidated Financial Statements;
- the approval of the Annual Financial Statements, as well as the resolution regarding the use of the balance sheet profit, in particular:
- the amount of the dividend and of profit sharing by Directors;
- the release of the members of the Board of Directors;
- passing any resolution on matters which are by Law or by the Articles of Incorporation reserved to the General Meeting of Shareholders.

The General Meeting of Shareholders is called to meet by the Board in the normal course of business, or otherwise by the Auditors, the Liquidator and the Representatives of Bond Holders.

#### 7.1 Meetings

Ordinary Meetings must be held within 6 months from the date of the financial year-end. Extraordinary Meetings are called whenever required. The General Meetings can also be called by one or more shareholders, who represent in aggregate 10% or more of the share-capital. If all shareholders or their representatives are present, the shareholders can validly hold a meeting, even if the form provided by the Articles of Incorporations has not been met.

Meetings shall be called respecting a notice period of at least 20 days. Invitations to meetings are valid if made in the form of the publication of the invitation in the "Feuille des Avis Officiels" or by mail to each shareholder. The invitation to the Ordinary Meeting shall state that the Annual Report is available for the shareholders at the Company's headquarters.

No decision can be made by the Meeting on matters that are not stated in the agenda, except if all shareholders or their representatives are present and / or with respect to resolution to call an extraordinary General Meeting and / or to resolve a special audit, in accordance with article 699 of the Swiss Code of Obligations.

#### 7.2 Share register and shareholders

Article 6 of the Articles of Incorporation provides that the Company shall maintain a Register of Shareholders that shall include for each shareholder having requested their registration, their name and address, and the number of shares owned. The Board has mandated ShareCommService AG, Europastrasse 29, CH-8152 Glattbrugg, to maintain the Company's Share registry.

The registration of an acquirer of Swissquote shares is made on the request of the acquirer, who shall on request of the Company, represent that the acquisition was made on his behalf and account. If such a representation is not received, the Board may refuse to proceed to a registration. For practical reasons, no new registration will be made in the Share Registry in periods up to 20 days before a Meeting. Registered shareholders that dispose of their shares prior to the General Assembly are no longer entitled to exercise their votes.

#### 7.3 Decisions of the General Meeting of shareholders

Article 12 of the Articles of Incorporation provides that one share of a registered shareholder gives the right to one vote. Registered shareholders can be represented at a Meeting. The invitation to Meetings provides instructions as to how a representation shall be formalized in order to be validly recognised by the Company.

A Meeting, which has been called in accordance with the provisions of the Law and Articles of Incorporation, can make decisions, irrespective of the number of shares / shareholders present or represent at a General Meeting. There is no Quorum.

Except when Law and / or the Articles of Incorporation provide otherwise, the decisions are made based on the simple majority of the votes, corresponding to the shares validly represented. In case of even ballot, a second round is organized and if there is still no majority, the Chairman of the Board casts the decisive vote.

A qualified majority (two-thirds of the votes represented and the absolute majority of the par value of the shares represented) is required for resolutions on the following matters:

- the change in the Company's purpose;
- the creation of shares incorporating privileged rights;
- the restriction of the transferability of registered shares;
- the creation or the increase of a conditional and / or an authorised share-capital;
- an increase of the share-capital out of equity, or by means of a contribution in kind, or for the purpose of acquisition of assets or in exchange for the grant of special benefits;
- the limitation or withdrawal of preemptive rights;
- the dissolution of the Company without liquidation;
- the conversion of registered shares into bearer shares and conversely.

Unless a secret ballot is requested by one or more shareholders representing an aggregate of 10% or more of the shares represented, ballots are made at "raised hands".

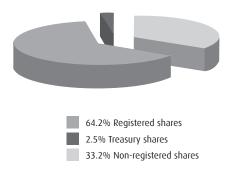
The Chairman of the Board chairs the General Meeting, or if absent, another member of the Board does, or otherwise a chairman, who shall not necessarily be a shareholder, is elected by the General Meeting.

Minutes of each General Assembly shall be kept. They are signed by the Chairman and by the Secretary. Minutes shall include:

- the number, type, value and classes of shares represented by shareholders, corporate bodies, independent proxies of voting
- rights and proxies for deposited shares;
- the resolution and results of elections;
- the request of information and the respective replies;
- the statements for records made by shareholders.

#### 7.4 Analysis of the voting rights at 31 December 2006

At 31 December 2006 the issued share-capital consists of 1,458,581 ordinary registered shares of CHF 8 nominal value each. The shareholders registered in the Shareholders Register held 937,002 shares and the Company owned 36,609 treasury shares. The distribution of the shareholdings in the Company is the following:



Further, the registered shareholders at 31 December 2006 are analysed as follows:



#### 8. Change of Control and Defensive Measures

Art. 32 para. 1 of the Federal Act on Stock Exchanges and Securities Trading (SESTA) states that anyone directly or indirectly acquiring equity securities, thereby exceeding the threshold of 33 1/3 per cent of the voting rights of an offeree Company, whether or not such rights can be exercised, is obliged to submit an offer to acquire all listed equity securities of the Company. In art. 32, SESTA governs the obligation of any potential controlling shareholder to submit an offer for the remaining securities, and in art. 29 it outlines the Board of directors' obligation, in the event of a public takeover bid, to provide shareholders with the information they need to evaluate the offer as well as the prohibition of defensive measures (no significant alteration in the assets or liabilities of the offeree Company is permitted as of the time of the bid, aside from transactions that have already been approved by the General Meeting).

#### 9. Auditors

The duties of the auditors are to report to the General Meeting of Shareholders the results of their audit, the objective of which is to verify that the accounts, the Annual Report and the proposed utilization of the accumulated result complies with Law and with the Articles of Incorporation. The auditors recommend the approval, with or without qualification, or rejection of the Annual Accounts. Further, when the Company is required to deliver consolidated financial statements, the auditors shall report their compliance with law and the accounting principles adopted for the consolidation. Auditors must be present at General Meetings, unless a unanimous resolution of the shareholders provides otherwise.

The auditors are elected for one-year terms by the General Assembly and are eligible for reelection. They shall be independent from the Board and from the shareholders.

The Group's accounts and the individual Group companies' accounts are audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers SA since 1999, and were reelected in each year since then. The supervising auditor, Mr. JC Pernollet, is responsible for the audit of the Group since the year-end 2002 and has been the Lead auditor of Swissquote Bank since the year-end 2001.

Except for tax matters and audit related services, the Group uses consultants who are entirely independent from the Company's auditor.

In addition to their audit opinions, the auditors are requested to provide specific information such as their audit findings, comments on accounting issues and audit fee proposals to the Audit Committee, and to meet at least twice a year with it. From January 2006 to December 2006, the auditors met four time with the Audit Committee. The qualification and performance of the auditors as well as the level of their fees is assessed and benchmarked once a year by the Audit Committee.

The total fee charged by the auditors to the Group in 2006 is analysed as follows:

	2006	2005
Audit fees	338,500	320,500
Other fees: Audit related services Tax	85,000 13,500	73,000 19,000
Total	437,000	412,500

The amount of the audit fees is based on fees agreed upon for the audits of the consolidated and statutory financial statements of the Group companies, including the regulatory audit of the bank, for the year ended 31 December 2006.

#### 10. Information Policy

#### 10.1 General principles

The Company aims primarily to promote confidence in its disclosure policy. Thereby it intends to create a better understanding of its business and to develop and maintain realistic investor expectations.

Swissquote Group commits to providing timely and orderly information in accordance with the legal and regulatory requirements. It aims to provide the financial market with consistent, accurate and complete information evenly during good and bad times and ensures that the investment community has fair access to such information.

It is the Company's policy not to release explicit earnings projections, but it may provide certain guidance to the investment community for them to assess the Company and its business prospects.

As a general rule, material or price-sensitive information shall be released promptly as soon as the main aspects of such information are established by the Company. However, the Company is permitted under the relevant regulatory provisions to postpone the release of material information, if the information concerns a plan or negotiation of the Company and its premature disclosure would prejudice the legitimate interest of the Company. In such case, the Company will take adequate measures to ensure the effective confidentiality of the information and to prevent insiders from trading on the basis of that information. The Company will adequately inform the investment community in cases where the information previously kept confidential is substantially leaked to the market.

The Company will avoid releasing material and price-sensitive information during trading periods of the shares or shortly before opening of trading. If the information is to be released during normal trading hours of the SWX Swiss Exchange (9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.) or less than 90 minutes before the opening of trading, the Listing Department of the SWX shall be informed at least 90 minutes prior to the release of such information. In situations where it cannot be avoided that material information is to be disclosed during trading hours, the CEO and CFO shall consider whether a request for a suspension of trading is appropriate. If material and non-public information is divulged unintentionally in a selective setting, such as analyst meetings or conference calls, which are not open to the investment community, the Company will publicly disclose such information promptly after the meeting or after it learns of the selective disclosure.

If the Company discovers that the statement made was, in fact, materially incorrect at the time it was disclosed, the Company will publicly issue a corrective statement of such incorrect statement as soon as the error is discovered.

The Company will also issue within due time a corrective statement when new facts have emerged that render a previous disclosure false or misleading.

The Company does not comment on market rumours and speculations.

#### 10.2 Regular reporting

#### 10.2.1 Annual reporting

The Company announces its annual revenues and results in a press release shortly after the Board of Directors has approved the audited annual reports. This announcement is normally scheduled in February, followed by a press conference and / or a telephone conference for analysts and media. The General Meeting normally takes place in March. The Annual Report is released on the Company's website or in print format at the Board's discretion.

#### 10.2.2 Quarterly reporting

The quarterly results are published by a press release shortly after the Board of Directors has approved the quarterly results followed by a call-in conference for analysts and media and a press conference for the half-year results. The quarterly reports are released on the Company's website.

The releases of the quarterly results in 2007 are scheduled as follows:

Quarter 1 Interim Financial Statements at 31 March 2007:25 April 2007Quarter 2 Interim Financial Statements at 30 June 2007:27 July 2007Quarter 3 Interim Financial Statements at 30 September 2007:26 October 2007

#### 10.3 Updated information and contacts

Press releases and reports as well as other information made public are accessible on www.swissquote.ch section "The Company".

# **Adresses / Contacts**

### Swissquote Group Holding Ltd

Route des Avouillons 16 CH-1196 Gland

#### Central

Telephone: +41 22 999 98 98 Fax: +41 22 999 98 99

#### Administration

Telephone: +41 22 999 98 98 Fax: +41 22 999 98 22 E-mail info@swissquote.ch

#### Contact person

Investor Relations contact: Marc Bürki, CEO Swissquote Bank Phone +41 22 999 98 98 Fax +41 22 999 94 54 marc.burki@swissquote.ch

#### Branch

Neue Winterthurerstrasse 99 Postfach 1472 8301 Glattzentrum

Telephone: 0848 25 88 88 Fax: +41 44 825 88 89

Tel. from abroad: +41 44 825 88 88

