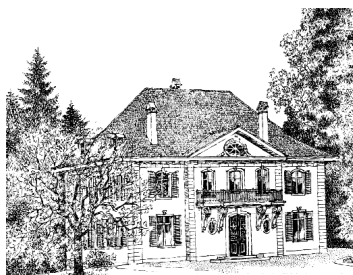




BONDPARTNERS SA

Avenue de l'Elysée 24
Case postale / CH-1001 Lausanne
Tel. 021 613 43 43 / Fax 021 617 97 15
Web: www.bpl-bondpartners.ch

Lausanne, January 21st, 2021
CP/HP/c-presse.doc/cp



PRESS RELEASE (N° 132) (translation, French text prevails)

Bondpartners SA: Resiliency despite the pandemic and economic crisis

As for 2020, Bondpartners' preliminary and unaudited net profit is almost half of that posted the previous year, the pandemic and economic crisis having affected somewhat the results of security positions and those of currency exchange, when on the contrary securities trading strengthened and achieved higher profits, along with larger volumes.

The decrease in net income to CHF +1.5mio and that in operating profit to CHF +2.1mio, highlight the extraordinary volatility of underlying indices, after a record stockmarket performance in 2019. These declines, although limited by the expansion of trading transactions, also reflect the reinforcement of the Swiss franc against the greenback, currency in which the majority of trades are denominated during the year under review. Both the balance-sheet structure and solvency ratio remained extremely consistent, shareholders' equity reaching CHF 84mio, e.g. 68% of the total assets (thus achieving a CET1 ratio of 63%) while current assets accounted for 92% of total balance-sheet.

For the fiscal year ended 31st December 2020, Bondpartners (BPL), hereby announces a preliminary and non-audited net individual income of CHF +1.5mio versus CHF +3.1mio in 2019. The gross ordinary income (*including valuation of own equity positions and excluding currency exchange gains or losses*), reached CHF 11.1mio (vs CHF 12.3mio at the end of 2019) and the operating result amounted to CHF +2.1mio (vs CHF +5.1mio in 2019).

Both turnover and margins have increased in a persistently unfavourable environment for bonds (the trading of structured products, in contrast, having pursued its development); the roller-coaster ride the equity and credit markets encountered had a significant impact on the Company's portfolios whilst our national currency continued, broadly again, its frenetic rise.

In terms of net ordinary results, interest income was lower at CHF 1.6mio (vs 1.8mio), proceeds from commission transactions progressed to CHF 0.5mio (vs 0.4mio) and income from trading transactions grew notably to CHF 7.7mio (vs 4.5mio). Income from the valuations of securities holdings amounted to CHF +0.7mio (vs +5.1mio) and the result from currencies and forex totalled a loss of CHF -1.5mio (vs a loss of CHF -0.7mio in 2019).



Operating expenses were lower at CHF 6.0mio (vs 6.2mio), whilst total charges, *including amortization/depreciation and excluding taxes*, were contained at CHF 7.3mio (+2%).

Reserves for general banking risks were replenished by CHF 0.4mio, as it was the case in 2019 for CHF 1.6mio.

The statutory balance sheet has decreased by 8.5% to CHF 124mio (vs 135mio), mostly due to declines in pending and overlapping transactions; current assets making up 92% of the latter (namely, receivables from banks: 44%, due from customers and non-banking companies: 6.5%, securities portfolio: 41% of the balance-sheet total). Fixed assets (comprised mostly of two buildings owned by the Company) accounted for 8% of the balance sheet.

With regard to liabilities as of 31.12.2020, commitments towards banks reached CHF 3.2mio (vs 19mio) and amounts due to customers (deposits) and non-banking institutions (transactional side) came to CHF 35.3mio (vs 31.5m). Total liabilities amounted thus to CHF 39.7mio (vs 51.5mio). The reserves for general banking risks improved slightly at CHF 41.1mio (+1%), while other reserves remained steady at CHF 37.75mio and individual shareholders' equity gained 1% to CHF 84mio.

The parent company's solvency ratio (Tier One/CET1, according to Basel III principles) reflected a persisting high rate of nearly 63% (vs 56%). Eligible and required capitals respectively amount to about CHF 77mio and CHF 10mio, giving a net free equity of CHF 67mio (vs 64mio) according to preliminary figures. These data on capital adequacy continue, as in the past, to be widely above regulatory requirements.

The thrill seekers had no reason to complain in 2020, an unparalleled year regarding the dramatic events which took place in terms of health, finance, society and politics. The period under review was extraordinary to say the least and has brought unprecedented and tremendous challenges, in their magnitude and nature, be they medical, ethical or economical. Beyond the devastating consequences that have occurred, the pandemic has acted as a catalyst, amplifying, among others, geopolitical, environmental and societal underlying trends, whilst worsening pre-existing cleavages of all stripes (kinds).

In a more capitalist perspective, the global economic crisis, induced by the virus, has progressively deteriorated as paralysis became widespread and lockdowns redoubled. This led to a historical recession and an unparalleled indebtedness level, heightened by the sanitary and budget emergency. For some segments of activity, the losses are abyssal, whilst for others, qualified as technologic ones, gains are phenomenal. The performance of market indices is something of a miracle, which has been certainly supported by the expansionary monetary policy of central banks. The sequences of stockmarkets dives and rebounds which took place during the various waves of contamination, as well as the series of sector rotations which occurred, reflected the great instability and numerous uncertainties which will continue into 2021. At this early stage, which is still very hazardous and presupposes at first an efficient vaccination campaign and then a sustainable economic recovery, some utmost caution is called for. The prospects are difficult for the months ahead which will serve as a test for the investors' optimism.

About Bondpartners: BPL is a Swiss financial company founded in 1972 in Lausanne, whose business hinges on three main axes: the inter-professional dealing of securities, the market making and market keeping, and the execution of orders issued by independent managers. It is authorized and supervised by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA) as a securities firm.

Contact:

Christian Plomb, executive chairman of the board
Tel. ++41 (0)21 613 43 43
christian.plomb@bpl-bondpartners.ch

BONDPARTNERS SA