

Brussels, 26 April 2024

Good news from the annual general meeting for the cooperative shareholders of CrelanCo

- **Dividend of 4.25%**
- **It is now possible to sign up for cooperative shares up to a value of €7,502.**
- **Annual report, sustainability report and first climate report**

The CrelanCo* general meeting was held yesterday ([25 April 2024](#)) at Crelan's Anderlecht headquarters. The meeting **approved the annual accounts** and **agreed to pay out a dividend of 4.25%** to its 283,629 cooperative shareholders.

Dividend of 4.25%

Crelan is a **100% Belgian bank with fully cooperative banking**. This means customers can partly become co-owners of the cooperative CrelanCo company by purchasing cooperative shares. **The dividend of 4.25 % is more than last year.** Last year, the dividend was 4%. This means Crelan Group is ensuring its customers can benefit from the good results and solid performance of the Group.

The projects supported by the **CrelanCo Foundation** thanks to the cooperative shareholders were introduced during the general meeting. The new operation of the CrelanCo Foundation was also explained, whereby cooperators can now participate in decisions about the social projects supported by CrelanCo.

The operation of CrelanCo was also explained, as well as CrelanCo's offering to its co-operators.

In addition, the most important pillars of the cooperative commitment at Crelan were explained:

- the importance of proximity and local anchoring
- the commitment to an inclusive and sustainable society
- the focus on strengthening knowledge and development
- the participation and involvement of the cooperators

Finally **renowned business economist and author Geert Noels** offered a few **educational insights into the power of loyalty and how it relates to cooperative banking.**

“Our cooperative roots are authentic. They form a part of our DNA, of our history.”
– Philippe Voisin – CEO

Increase in the maximum number of cooperative shares

And there is even more good news for the CrelanCo cooperative shareholders. The maximum **number of shares individual cooperative shareholders can purchase was increased.**

Previously they could subscribe for up to €5,009.60 (404 shares) per person. This amount has now been increased to a maximum of €7,502 (605 shares). This is the maximum amount a cooperative shareholder can subscribe to, but is not an obligation of course. And in fact, a cooperative shareholder customer **with a holding of ten shares (€124) also has voting rights at the general meeting.**

The maximum amount has been increased several times in the past. This is due to the bank's growth strategy and the interest shown by the cooperative shareholders.

Cooperative operation forms the core of Crelan Group.

“As loyal customers, cooperative shareholders demonstrate their belief in the Crelan Group strategy. By becoming shareholders, they help strengthen the capital base to help the bank evolve and continue to grow. We want our customers to benefit from the good results and the solidity of the group.” – Philippe Voisin – CEO

Annual report, sustainability report and first climate report

As a cooperative bank, Crelan is taking its responsibility to play an important role in a sustainable climate transition seriously. This is why, in addition to an annual and sustainability report, Crelan is today publishing its first climate report containing its ambitious goals. The report provides an excellent opportunity for Crelan to demonstrate its commitment to achieving the Paris Climate Agreement and providing the best possible support to its customers during the transition to more sustainability and corporate social responsibility.

The climate report complements the sustainability report, which communicates our 2023 cooperative initiatives and ESG projects concerning the environment, social issues and good governance. The main focus of the annual report is on Crelan's figures and financial results.

The publication of these three reports allows Crelan to describe how strategy, actions and ambitions are integrated into the organisational structure and vision of the bank, and puts the bank on the path of greater transparency.

“Crelan is convinced that the success of a climate-neutral society depends on a joint effort in which governments, sectors and customers join forces to take decisive action. We strive for a

*strong commitment to the climate and the environment. At the same time, our customers also expect the **bank to continue to grow healthily** and that this should be **in a responsible and respectful manner**. In the meantime, we want to **take responsibility for our role as a catalyst for positive change**.” – Philippe Voisin, CEO*

In 2023, **Crelan** was **named Top Employer in Belgium for the eighth year in a row**.

You can read the full **sustainability report** [here](#)

The **climate report** [here](#)

The **annual report** [here](#)

* CrelanCo cv is a recognised cooperative company and is the sole and full shareholder of Crelan Group. The CV CrelanCo owns 100% of the shares and voting rights in NV Crelan.

About Crelan Group

The financial group is formed by the cooperative society CrelanCo, the public limited company Crelan, the public limited company Europabank and the public limited company AXA Bank Belgium. It is in fifth position in relation to Belgian retail banks based on the balance sheet total. Crelan Group is known through the following three bank logos: Crelan, AXA Bank and Europabank. On 31/12/2022 Crelan Group consisted of: 4,456 employees (both members of staff and independent bank agents and their staff), 792 branches, 283,629 cooperative shareholders, nearly 1.8 million customers and a balance sheet total of EUR 54 billion. In addition, the banking group manages EUR 42.4 billion in customer deposits, EUR 15.5 billion in Euro off-balance sheet investments and supports Belgian families and enterprises with EUR 49.0 billion Euro in loans.

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