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CrelanCo's General Meeting approves 4.25% dividend during an inspiring afternoon

- CrelanCo looks back at strong cooperative year marked by significant growth in member numbers.
- General Meeting approves 4.25% dividend.
- Members respond to invitation and play an active part in the meeting by asking questions.

Nearly 300 CrelanCo members gathered for the General Meeting, which provided an opportunity to review the organisation's strong performance in the 2024 financial year, present development prospects and reaffirm the importance of the cooperative model in the bank's strategy.

2024: a year of merger and transition

CrelanCo holds 100% of shares in the cooperative bank Crelan, which reached a major strategic milestone in 2024 by completing its merger with AXA Bank Belgium. Despite this challenging transition, the bank maintained its close relationship with its clients.

This momentum enabled CrelanCo to strengthen its cooperative base, with **296,751 members by the end of 2024** – up more than 10,000 from the previous year.

Katrien Pottie, Business Development Manager at Amundi, addressed the general meeting, outlining the challenges of sustainable investing in a context of increased volatility and stressing its importance.

Approval of 4.25% dividend

The mandatory part of the meeting's agenda provided an opportunity to answer members' questions about the bank's strategic direction and preferred investment sectors and the outlook for the CrelanCo Foundation.

The members approved the annual financial statements, the profit allocation for 2024 and the distribution of a **4.25% dividend**, representing a total of €43.8 million. This return demonstrates the bank's financial strength and its ability to create value for its members.

Strengthened commitment to the cooperative economy

On the occasion of International Year of Cooperatives 2025, CrelanCo highlighted its work to promote a sustainable, environmentally friendly and inclusive society, in particular through the CrelanCo Foundation.

A round table discussion was then held with Crelan's Chief Cooperative Bank Officer, a director and a cooperative shareholder of CrelanCo, and the manager of Bednet. The panel members explained CrelanCo's cooperative initiatives and their benefits for the members, such as CrelanCo Deals and the events organised for members under the name CrelanCo Connect. Members were also told about the CrelanCo Foundation, with particular attention being drawn to the local charities, in which the members themselves have a decisive say through the CrelanCo Foundation's regional committees, and, of course, to the national charities that are supported, including Bednet and ClassContact. The members who were present thus had an opportunity to find out at first hand how being part of a cooperative is better for everyone.

'As a cooperative bank, we also want to really put international cooperative principles into practice. That means:

- putting people and society first,*
- having a local presence,*
- involving our members in what we do,*
- playing a role in society and encouraging knowledge sharing,*
- giving something back to our members to thank them for their commitment to the bank.*

The general meeting was thus the perfect moment to put this into practice with our members, with a dividend into the bargain!' – Benoit Bayenet, Chair of CrelanCo.

The day ended with a friendly networking event, giving members a chance to exchange ideas freely with Crelan's management.

About the Crelan Group

The financial group consists of CrelanCo SC, Crelan SA and Europabank SA. It is the fifth-largest Belgian retail bank by total assets. The Crelan Group is represented by two bank logos: Crelan and Europabank. As of 31 December 2024, the Crelan Group had: 4,327 associates (personnel members, independent banking agents and their employees), 727 branches, 296,751 members, nearly 1.7 million customers and a balance sheet total of €55.8 billion. In addition, the banking group manages €44.3 billion of customer deposits and €16.5 billion of off-balance sheet investments, and supports Belgian households and businesses with €49.5 billion of loans.

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