BARCO NV

Statutory auditor's report to the general shareholders’ meeting on the consolidated accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

10 February 2021
STATUTORY AUDITOR’S REPORT TO THE GENERAL SHAREHOLDERS’ MEETING OF THE COMPANY BARCO NV ON THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

We present to you our statutory auditor’s report in the context of our statutory audit of the consolidated accounts of Barco NV (the “Company”) and its subsidiaries (jointly “the Group”). This report includes our report on the consolidated accounts, as well as the other legal and regulatory requirements. This forms part of an integrated whole and is indivisible.

We have been appointed as statutory auditor by the general meeting d.d. 26 April 2018, following the proposal formulated by the board of directors and following the recommendation by the audit committee and the proposal formulated by the works’ council. Our mandate will expire on the date of the general meeting which will deliberate on the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020. We have performed the statutory audit of the consolidated financial statements of Barco NV for 3 consecutive years.

Report on the consolidated accounts

Unqualified opinion

We have performed the statutory audit of the Group’s consolidated accounts, which comprise the consolidated balance sheet as at 31 December 2020, the consolidated statement of income, the statement of comprehensive income, the consolidated statement of changes in equity and the consolidated statement of cash flow for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and which is characterised by a consolidated balance sheet total of EUR ‘000 1,018,203 and a net loss attributable to the equity holder of the parent of EUR ‘000 4,393.

In our opinion, the consolidated accounts give a true and fair view of the Group’s net equity and consolidated financial position as at 31 December 2020, and of its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union and with the legal and regulatory requirements applicable in Belgium.

Basis for unqualified opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as applicable in Belgium. Furthermore, we have applied the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as approved by the IAASB which are applicable to the year-end and which are not yet approved at the national level. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the “Statutory auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated accounts” section of our report. We have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the consolidated financial statements in Belgium, including the requirements related to independence.

We have obtained from the board of directors and Company officials the explanations and information necessary for performing our audit.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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**Key audit matters**

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated accounts of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated accounts as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

**Impairment testing of goodwill - Note 8**

**Description of key audit matter**

The carrying value of the Group’s goodwill amounts to EUR’000 105,612 at 31 December 2020.

These assets are subject to impairment testing on an annual basis or more frequently if there are indicators of impairment.

We consider this matter as key to our audit because the determination of whether or not an impairment charge is necessary involves significant judgement in estimating the future results of the business.

**How our audit addressed the key audit matter**

We evaluated the appropriateness of the Group’s accounting policies and assessed compliance with the policies in accordance with IFRS.

We evaluated management’s annual impairment testing and assessment of the indicators of impairment and challenged impairment calculations by assessing the future cash flow forecasts used in the models, and the process by which they were drawn up, including comparing them to the latest budgets approved by the board of directors.

We understood and challenged:

- Assumptions used in the Group’s budget and internal forecasts and the long-term growth rates by comparing them to economic and industry forecasts;
- The discount rate by assessing the cost of capital and other inputs including benchmarking with comparable organizations;
- The historical accuracy of budgets to actual results to determine whether cash flow forecasts are reliable based on past experience;
- The mechanics of the underlying calculations.

In performing the above work, we utilized our internal valuation experts to provide challenge and external market data to assess the reasonableness of the assumptions used by management.

We evaluated the sensitivity analysis around the key drivers within the cash flow forecasts to ascertain the extent of change in those assumptions and also considered the likelihood of such a movement in those key assumptions arising.

Whilst recognizing that cash flow forecasting, impairment modeling and valuations are all inherently judgmental, we found that the assumptions used by management were within an acceptable range of reasonable estimates.
Valuation of deferred taxes and valuation allowance on deferred tax assets related to tax losses carried forward - Note 10

Description of key audit matter

Deferred tax assets on tax losses carried forward and tax credits amounts to EUR’000 36,470 (note 10). The valuation of the deferred tax positions at Barco involved significant judgement, more specifically in the determination of the recognition of deferred tax assets related to tax losses carried forward. The estimation of the future taxable basis is highly judgemental as well as the assessment of the impact of tax laws and regulations, tax planning action and strategies, rulings and transfer pricing.

The valuation and recoverability of deferred tax assets is key to our audit due to the magnitude of the amount recognized for these assets and because the assessment requires management estimates, mainly on the assumptions regarding expected future market and economic conditions and tax laws and regulation.

How our audit addressed the key audit matter

We challenged the assumptions made to assess the recoverability of deferred tax assets related to tax losses carried forward and the timing of the reversal of deferred tax positions. During our procedures, we used amongst others budgets, forecasts and tax laws and in addition we assessed the historical accuracy of management’s assumptions. We involved tax specialists in our audit. An important management judgement was the period over which taxable profits can be reliably estimated and consequently, no deferred tax assets are recognised for tax losses used in any period beyond. We verified that the deferred tax position was calculated at the enacted tax rate for the year in which the deferred tax position is expected to reverse.

We also assessed the adequacy and completeness of the Company’s disclosure included in Note 10 in respect of deferred taxes.

We found management’s judgements in respect of the Group’s deferred tax positions to be consistent and in line with our expectations.

Responsibilities of the board of directors for the preparation of the consolidated accounts

The board of directors is responsible for the preparation of consolidated accounts that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union and with the legal and regulatory requirements applicable in Belgium, and for such internal control as the board of directors determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated accounts, the board of directors is responsible for assessing the Group’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the board of directors either intends to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.
Statutory auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated accounts.

In performing our audit, we comply with the legal, regulatory and normative framework applicable to the audit of the consolidated accounts in Belgium. A statutory audit does not provide any assurance as to the Group’s future viability nor as to the efficiency or effectiveness of the board of directors' current or future business management at Group level.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

• Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated accounts, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;

• Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group’s internal control;

• Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the board of directors;

• Conclude on the appropriateness of the board of directors’ use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group’s ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our statutory auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the consolidated accounts or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our statutory auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern;

• Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated accounts, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated accounts represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation;

• Obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the Group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.
We communicate with the audit committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the audit committee with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with the audit committee, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the consolidated accounts of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor’s report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter.

**Other legal and regulatory requirements**

**Responsibilities of the board of directors**

The board of directors is responsible for the preparation and the content of the directors’ report on the consolidated accounts, the separate report on non-financial information and the other information included in the report on the consolidated financial statements.

**Statutory auditor’s responsibilities**

In the context of our mandate and in accordance with the Belgian standard which is complementary to the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as applicable in Belgium, our responsibility is to verify, in all material respects, the directors’ report on the consolidated accounts, the separate report on non-financial information and the other information included in the report on the consolidated accounts and to report on these matters.

**Aspects related to the directors’ report on the consolidated financial statements and to the other information included in the annual report on the consolidated financial statements**

In our opinion, after having performed specific procedures in relation to the directors’ report on the consolidated accounts, this report is consistent with the consolidated accounts for the year under audit, and it is prepared in accordance with article 3:32 of the Companies’ and Associations’ Code.

In the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements, we are also responsible for considering, in particular based on the knowledge acquired resulting from the audit, whether the directors’ report is materially misstated or contains information which is inadequately disclosed or otherwise misleading. In light of the procedures we have performed, there are no material misstatements we have to report to you.

The non-financial information required by virtue of article 3:32, §2 of the Companies’ and Associations’ Code is included in the directors’ report on the consolidated accounts. The Company has prepared the non-financial information, based on Global Reporting Initiative Standards. However, in accordance with article 3:80, §1, 5° of the Companies’ and Associations’ Code, we do not express an opinion as to whether the non-financial information has been prepared in accordance with the Global Reporting Initiative Standards as disclosed in the consolidated accounts.
**Statement related to independence**

- Our registered audit firm and our network did not provide services which are incompatible with the statutory audit of the consolidated financial statements, and our registered audit firm remained independent of the Group in the course of our mandate.
- The fees for additional services which are compatible with the statutory audit of the consolidated financial statements referred to in article 3:65 of the Companies’ and Associations’ Code are correctly disclosed and itemized in the notes to the consolidated financial statements.

**Other statements**

- This report is consistent with the additional report to the audit committee referred to in article 11 of the Regulation (EU) N° 537/2014.

Ghent, 10 February 2021

The statutory auditor  
PwC Reviseurs d'Entreprises SRL / PwC Bedrijfsrevisoren BV  
Represented by

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Réviseur d'Entreprises / Bedrijfsrevisor

Peter Opsomer  
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