

hold in treasury. Our purchases of our own shares are subject to acquisition price conditions as authorized by our shareholders' meeting. Our Articles of Association provide that we shall be able to acquire shares in our own share capital in order to transfer these shares under employee stock option or stock purchase plans, without an authorization of our shareholders' meeting.

Upon the proposal of our Supervisory Board, our shareholders' meeting may, in accordance with the legal provisions, reduce our issued capital by canceling the shares that we hold in treasury, by reducing the par value of the shares or by canceling our preference shares.

Liquidation Rights (Articles 42 and 43)

In the event of our dissolution and liquidation, after payment of all debts and liquidation expenses, the holders of preference shares if issued, would receive the paid up portion of the par value of their preference shares. Any assets then remaining shall be distributed among the registered holders of common shares in proportion to the par value of their shareholdings.

Limitations on Right to Hold or Vote Shares

There are currently no limitations imposed by Dutch law or by our Articles of Association on the right of non-resident holders to hold or vote the shares.

C. Material Contracts

None.

D. Exchange Controls

None.

E. Taxation

Dutch Taxation

This section only outlines certain material Dutch tax consequences of the acquisition, holding and disposal of our common shares. This section does not purport to describe all possible tax considerations or consequences that may be relevant to a holder or prospective holder of common shares and does not purport to deal with the tax consequences applicable to all categories of investors, some of which (such as trusts or similar arrangements) may be subject to special rules. In view of its general nature, this section should be treated with corresponding caution.

Tax matters are complex, and the tax consequences of the acquisition, holding and disposal to a particular holder of common shares will depend in part on such holder's circumstances. Accordingly, you are urged to consult your own tax advisor for a full understanding of the tax consequences of the acquisition, holding and disposal to you, including the applicability and effect of Dutch tax laws.

Where in this section English terms and expressions are used to refer to Dutch concepts, the meaning to be attributed to such terms and expressions shall be the meaning to be attributed to the equivalent Dutch concepts under Dutch tax law. Where in this section the terms "The Netherlands" and "Dutch" are used, these refer solely to the European part of the Kingdom of The Netherlands.

This section assumes that we are organized, and that our business will be conducted, in the manner outlined in this Form 20-F. A change to such organizational structure or to the manner in which we conduct our business may invalidate the contents of this section, which will not be updated to reflect any such change.

Please note that this section does not describe the Dutch tax consequences for a holder of our common shares:

- (i) who may be deemed an owner of our common shares for Dutch tax purposes pursuant to specific statutory attribution rules in Dutch tax law;

- (ii) who has a substantial interest (*aanmerkelijk belang*) or deemed substantial interest (*fictief aanmerkelijk belang*) in us under the Dutch Income Tax Act 2001 (*Wet inkomstenbelasting 2001*). Generally, a holder is considered to hold a substantial interest in us if such holder alone or, in the case of an individual, together with such holder's partner for Dutch income tax purposes, or any relatives by blood or marriage in the direct line (including foster-children), directly or indirectly, holds (i) an interest of 5% or more of the total issued and outstanding capital of us or of 5% or more of the issued and outstanding capital of a certain class of shares; or (ii) rights to acquire, directly or indirectly, such interest; or (iii) certain profit sharing rights that relate to 5% or more of our annual profits or to 5% or more of our liquidation proceeds. A deemed substantial interest may arise if a substantial interest (or part thereof) in has been disposed of, or is deemed to have been disposed of, on a non-recognition basis;
- (iii) if the common shares held by such holder qualify or qualified as a participation (*deelnemings*) for purposes of the Dutch Corporate Income Tax Act 1969 (*Wet op de vennootschapsbelasting 1969*). Generally, a holder's shareholding of, or right to acquire, 5% or more in our nominal paid-up share capital qualifies as a participation. A holder may also have a participation if (a) such holder does not have a shareholding of 5% or more but a related entity (statutorily defined term) has a participation or (b) we are a related entity (statutorily defined term);
- (iv) which is or who is entitled to the dividend withholding tax exemption (*inhoudingsvrijstelling*) with respect to any profits derived from the common shares (as defined in Article 4 of the Dutch Dividend Withholding Tax Act 1965 (*Wet op de dividendbelasting*)). Generally, a holder of common shares may be entitled or required to apply, subject to certain other requirements, the dividend withholding tax exemption if it is an entity and holds an interest of 5% or more in our nominal paid-up share capital;
- (v) pension funds, investment institutions (*fiscale beleggingsinstellingen*) and tax exempt investment institutions (*vrijgestelde beleggingsinstellingen*) (each as defined in the Dutch Corporate Income Tax Act 1969) and other entities that are, in whole or in part, not subject to or exempt from Dutch corporate income tax, entities that have a function comparable to an investment institution or a tax exempt investment institution, as well as entities that are exempt from corporate income tax in their country of residence, such country of residence being another state of the European Union, Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland or any other state with which The Netherlands has agreed to exchange information in line with international standards; and
- (vi) if such holder is an individual for whom the common shares or any benefit derived from the common shares is a remuneration or deemed to be a remuneration for (employment) activities performed by such holder or certain individuals related to such holder (as defined in the Dutch Income Tax Act 2001).

Dividend withholding tax

Dividends distributed by us are generally subject to Dutch dividend withholding tax at a rate of 15%. Generally, we are responsible for the withholding of such dividend withholding tax at source; the Dutch dividend withholding tax is for the account of the holder of common shares.

The expression "dividends distributed" includes, but is not limited to:

- distributions in cash or in kind, deemed and constructive distributions and repayments of paid-in capital not recognized for Dutch dividend withholding tax purposes;
- liquidation proceeds, proceeds from the redemption of common shares or proceeds from the repurchase of common shares (other than as temporary portfolio investment; *tijdelijke belegging*) by us or one of our subsidiaries or other affiliated entities, in each case to the extent such proceeds exceed the average paid-in capital of those common shares as recognized for Dutch dividend withholding tax purposes;

- an amount equal to the nominal value of the common shares issued or an increase of the nominal value of the common shares, to the extent that no related contribution, recognized for Dutch dividend withholding tax purposes, has been made or will be made; and
- partial repayment of the paid-in capital, recognized for Dutch dividend withholding tax purposes, if and to the extent that we have “net profits” (*zuivere winst*), unless (i) our general meeting of shareholders has resolved in advance to make such repayment and (ii) the nominal value of the common shares concerned has been reduced by an equal amount by way of an amendment to our articles of association. The term “net profits” includes anticipated profits that have yet to be realized.

Corporate legal entities that are resident or deemed to be resident of The Netherlands for Dutch corporate income tax purposes (“Dutch Resident Entities”) generally are entitled to an exemption from, or a credit for, any Dutch dividend withholding tax against their Dutch corporate income tax liability. The credit in any given year is, however, limited to the amount of Dutch corporate income tax payable in respect of the relevant year with an indefinite carry forward of any excess amount. Individuals who are resident or deemed to be resident of The Netherlands for Dutch personal income tax purposes (“Dutch Resident Individuals”) generally are entitled to a credit for any Dutch dividend withholding tax against their Dutch personal income tax liability and to a refund of any residual Dutch dividend withholding tax. The above generally also applies to holders of common shares that are neither resident nor deemed to be resident of The Netherlands (“Non-Resident Holders”) if the common shares are attributable to a Dutch permanent establishment of such Non-Resident Holder.

A holder of common shares resident of a country other than The Netherlands may, depending on such holder's specific circumstances, be entitled to exemptions from, reduction of, or full or partial refund of, Dutch dividend withholding tax under Dutch domestic tax law, EU law, or treaties for the avoidance of double taxation in effect between The Netherlands and such other country.

Dividend stripping

According to “Dutch domestic anti-dividend stripping” rules, no credit against Dutch tax, exemption from, reduction, or refund of Dutch dividend withholding tax will be granted if the recipient of the dividends we paid is not considered the beneficial owner (*uiteindelijk gerechtigde*; as described in the Dutch Dividend Withholding Tax Act 1965) of those dividends. This legislation generally targets situations in which a shareholder retains its economic interest in shares but reduces the withholding tax costs on dividends by a transaction with another party. It is not required for these rules to apply that the recipient of the dividends is aware that a dividend stripping transaction took place. The Dutch State Secretary of Finance takes the position that the definition of beneficial ownership introduced by this legislation will also be applied in the context of a double taxation convention. As from 1 January 2024, more stringent rules apply to the setoff, exemption from, and reduction or refund of Dutch dividend withholding tax to address situations where a claim for setoff, exemption, reduction or refund may align with the letter of Dutch tax law or a double taxation convention but goes against the underlying intention or spirit of the dividend stripping rules, as perceived by the legislator. In addition, the burden of proof in cases related to dividend stripping and beneficial owner status has in certain circumstances been shifted from the tax inspector to the person making a claim for a setoff, reduction or refund of or exemption from Dutch dividend withholding tax. Furthermore, for shares traded on a regulated market, including the Ordinary Shares, it has been codified that the record date is used when determining the person who is entitled to the dividend.

Conditional withholding tax on dividends

In addition to the regular Dutch dividend withholding tax as described above, a Dutch conditional withholding tax will be imposed on dividends distributed by us to entities related (*gelieerd*) to us (within the meaning of the Dutch Withholding Tax Act 2021; *Wet bronbelasting 2021*), if such related entity:

- (i) is considered to be resident (*gevestigd*) in a jurisdiction that is listed in the yearly updated Dutch Regulation on low-taxing states and non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes (*Regeling laagbelastende staten en niet-coöperatieve rechtsgebieden voor belastingdoeleinden*) (a “Listed Jurisdiction”); or

- (ii) has a permanent establishment located in a Listed Jurisdiction to which the common shares are attributable; or
- (iii) holds the common shares with the main purpose or one of the main purposes of avoiding taxation for another person or entity and there is an artificial arrangement or transaction or a series of artificial arrangements or transactions; or
- (iv) is not considered to be the beneficial owner of the common shares in its jurisdiction of residence because such jurisdiction treats another entity as the beneficial owner of the common shares (a hybrid mismatch); or
- (v) is not resident in any jurisdiction (also a hybrid mismatch); or
- (vi) is a reverse hybrid (within the meaning of Article 2(12) of the Dutch Corporate Income Tax Act 1969), if and to the extent (x) there is a participant in the reverse hybrid which is related (*gelieerd*) to the reverse hybrid, (y) the jurisdiction of residence of such participant treats the reverse hybrid as transparent for tax purposes and (z) such participant would have been subject to the Dutch conditional withholding tax in respect of dividends distributed by us without the interposition of the reverse hybrid,

all within the meaning of the Dutch Withholding Tax Act 2021.

The Dutch conditional withholding tax on dividends will be imposed at the highest Dutch corporate income tax rate in effect at the time of the distribution (2024: 25.8%). The Dutch conditional withholding tax on dividends will be reduced, but not below zero, by any regular Dutch dividend withholding tax withheld in respect of the same dividend distribution. As such, based on the currently applicable rates, the overall effective tax rate of withholding the regular Dutch dividend withholding tax (as described above) and the Dutch conditional withholding tax on dividends will not exceed the highest corporate income tax rate in effect at the time of the distribution (2024: 25.8%).

Taxes on income and capital gains

Dutch Resident Entities

Generally, if the holder of common shares is a Dutch Resident Entity, any income derived or deemed to be derived from the common shares or any capital gains realized on the disposal or deemed disposal of the common shares is subject to Dutch corporate income tax at a rate of 19% with respect to taxable profits up to €200,000 and 25.8% with respect to taxable profits in excess of that amount (rates and brackets for 2024).

Dutch Resident Individuals

If the holder of common shares is a Dutch Resident Individual, any income derived or deemed to be derived from the common shares or any capital gains realized on the disposal or deemed disposal of the common shares is subject to Dutch personal income tax at the progressive rates (with a maximum of 49.5% in 2024), if:

- (i) the common shares are attributable to an enterprise from which the holder of common shares derives a share of the profit, whether as an entrepreneur (*ondernemer*) or as a person who has a co-entitlement to the net worth (*medegerechtigd tot het vermogen*) of such enterprise without being a shareholder (as defined in the Dutch Income Tax Act 2001); or
- (ii) the holder of common shares is considered to perform activities with respect to the common shares that go beyond ordinary asset management (*normaal, actief vermogensbeheer*) or otherwise derives benefits from the common shares that are taxable as benefits from miscellaneous activities (*resultaat uit overige werkzaamheden*).

Taxation of savings and investments

If the above-mentioned conditions (i) and (ii) do not apply to the Dutch Resident Individual, the common shares will be subject to an annual Dutch income tax under the regime for savings and investments (*inkomen uit sparen en beleggen*). Taxation only occurs insofar the Dutch Resident Individual's net investment assets for the

year exceed a statutory threshold (*heffingvrij vermogen*). The net investment assets for the year are the fair market value of the investment assets less the fair market value of the liabilities on January 1 of the relevant calendar year (reference date; *peildatum*). Actual income or capital gains realized in respect of the common shares are as such not subject to Dutch income tax.

The Dutch Resident Individual's assets and liabilities taxed under this regime, including the common shares, are allocated over the following three categories: (a) bank savings (*banktegoeden*), (b) other investments (*overige bezittingen*), including the common shares, and (c) liabilities (*schulden*). The taxable benefit for the year (*voordeel uit sparen en beleggen*) is equal to the product of (x) the total deemed return divided by the sum of bank savings, other investments and liabilities and (b) the sum of bank savings, other investments and liabilities minus the statutory threshold, and is taxed at a flat rate of 36% (rate for 2024).

The deemed return applicable to other investments, including the common shares, is set at 6.04% for the calendar year 2024. Transactions in the three-month period before and after January 1 of the relevant calendar year implemented to arbitrate between the deemed return percentages applicable to bank savings, other investments and liabilities will for this purpose be ignored if the holder of common shares cannot sufficiently demonstrate that such transactions are implemented for other than tax reasons.

The current Dutch income tax regime for savings and investments was implemented in Dutch tax law following the decision of the Dutch Supreme Court (*Hoge Raad*) of 24 December 2021 (ECLI:NL:2021:1963) (the "Decision"). In the Decision, the Dutch Supreme Court ruled that the (old) system of taxation for savings and investments based on a deemed return may under specific circumstances contravene with Section 1 of the First Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights in combination with Section 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights (the "EC-Human Rights"). A new court procedure is pending before the Dutch Supreme Court questioning whether the current tax system for savings and investments is in line with the Decision. On 18 September 2023 (ECLI:NL:PHR:2023:655) the Attorney General Wattel concluded that the new tax system is not in line with the Decision, except for the taxation of bank savings, as the system is, in short, still based on a deemed return rather than actual returns, and as a result, the regime contravenes with the EC-Human Rights. The decision of the Dutch Supreme Court is expected mid-2024. In addition, on 8 September 2023, the former cabinet published a law proposal for a new tax system for savings and investments on the basis of actual returns according to an asset accumulation system, the 'Actual Return Box 3 Act' (*Wet werkelijk rendement box 3*). The proposed system is expected to come into effect on 1 January 2027 at the earliest. However, it is up to the new cabinet to submit a final law proposal to the Dutch parliament.

Holders of common shares are advised to consult their own tax advisor to ensure that the tax in respect of the common shares is levied in accordance with the applicable Dutch tax rules at the relevant time.

Non-Resident Holders

A holder of common shares that is neither a Dutch Resident Entity nor a Dutch Resident Individual will not be subject to Dutch income tax in respect of income derived or deemed to be derived from the common shares or in respect of capital gains realized on the disposal or deemed disposal of the common shares, provided that:

- (i) such holder does not have an interest in an enterprise or deemed enterprise (as defined in the Dutch Income Tax Act 2001 and the Dutch Corporate Income Tax Act 1969, as applicable) which, in whole or in part, is either effectively managed in The Netherlands or carried on through a permanent establishment, a deemed permanent establishment or a permanent representative in The Netherlands and to which enterprise or part of an enterprise the common shares are attributable; and
- (ii) in the event the holder is an individual, such holder does not carry out any activities in The Netherlands with respect to the common shares that go beyond ordinary asset management and does not otherwise derive benefits from the common shares that are taxable as benefits from miscellaneous activities in The Netherlands.

If you are neither a Dutch Resident Individual nor a Dutch Resident Entity, you will for Dutch tax purposes not carry on or be deemed to carry on an enterprise, in whole or in part, through a permanent

establishment or a permanent representative in The Netherlands by reason only of acquisition or holding of the common shares.

Gift and inheritance taxes

Residents of The Netherlands

Gift or inheritance taxes will arise in The Netherlands with respect to a transfer of common shares by way of a gift by, or on the death of, a holder of common shares who is resident or deemed resident of The Netherlands at the time of the gift or such holder's death.

Non-Residents

No gift or inheritance taxes will arise in The Netherlands with respect to a transfer of common shares by way of a gift by, or on the death of, a holder of common shares who is neither resident nor deemed to be resident of The Netherlands, unless:

- (i) in the case of a gift of a common share by an individual who at the date of the gift was neither resident nor deemed to be resident of The Netherlands, such individual dies within 180 days after the date of the gift, while being resident or deemed to be resident of The Netherlands; or
- (ii) in the case of a gift of a common shares is made under a condition precedent, the holder of common shares is resident or is deemed to be resident of The Netherlands at the time the condition is fulfilled; or
- (iii) the transfer is otherwise construed as a gift or inheritance made by, or on behalf of, a person who, at the time of the gift or death, is or is deemed to be resident of The Netherlands.

For purposes of Dutch gift and inheritance taxes, amongst others, a person that holds the Dutch nationality will be deemed to be resident of The Netherlands if such person has been a resident of The Netherlands at any time during the ten years preceding the date of the gift or such person's death. Additionally, for purposes of Dutch gift tax, amongst others, a person not holding the Dutch nationality will be deemed to be resident of The Netherlands if such person has been a resident of The Netherlands at any time during the twelve months preceding the date of the gift. Applicable tax treaties may override deemed residency.

Value added tax (VAT)

No Dutch VAT will be payable by a holder of common shares in respect of any payment in consideration for the holding or disposal of the common shares.

Stamp Duties

No Dutch documentation taxes (commonly referred to as stamp duties) will be payable by a holder of common shares in respect of any payment in consideration for the holding or disposal of the common shares.

United States Federal Income Taxation

The following discussion is a general summary of the material U.S. federal income tax consequences to a U.S. holder (as defined below) of the ownership and disposition of our common shares. You are a U.S. holder only if you are a beneficial owner of common shares:

- that is, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, (a) a citizen or individual resident of the United States, (b) a U.S. domestic corporation or a U.S. domestic entity taxable as a corporation, (c) an estate, the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source, or (d) a trust, if a court within the United States can exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more U.S. persons are authorized to control all substantial decisions of the trust;

- that owns, directly, indirectly or by attribution, less than 10% of our voting power or outstanding share capital;
- that holds the common shares as capital assets;
- whose functional currency for U.S. federal income tax purposes is the U.S. dollar;
- that is a resident of the United States and not also a resident of The Netherlands for purposes of the United States – The Netherlands Income Tax Treaty (the “U.S./NL Income Tax Treaty”);
- that is entitled, under the “limitation on benefits” provisions contained in the U.S./NL Income Tax Treaty, to the benefits of the U.S./NL Income Tax Treaty; and
- that does not have a permanent establishment or fixed base in The Netherlands.

This summary does not discuss all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to you in light of your particular circumstances. Also, it does not address holders that may be subject to special rules including, but not limited to, U.S. expatriates, tax-exempt organizations, persons subject to the alternative minimum taxes, banks, securities broker-dealers, financial institutions, regulated investment companies, insurance companies, traders in securities who elect to apply a mark-to-market method of accounting, persons holding our common shares as part of a straddle, hedging or conversion transaction, or persons who acquired common shares pursuant to the exercise of employee stock options or otherwise as compensation. Because this is a general summary, you are advised to consult your own tax advisor with respect to the U.S. federal, state, local and applicable foreign tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of our common shares. In addition, you are advised to consult your own tax advisor concerning whether you are entitled to benefits under the U.S./NL Income Tax Treaty.

If a partnership (including for this purpose any entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds common shares, the tax treatment of a partner generally will depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner in a partnership that holds common shares, you are urged to consult your own tax advisor regarding the specific tax consequences of the ownership and the disposition of common shares.

This summary is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, the U.S./NL Income Tax Treaty, judicial decisions, administrative pronouncements and existing, temporary and proposed Treasury regulations as of the date of this Form 20-F, all of which are subject to change or changes in interpretation, possibly with retroactive effect.

Dividends

In general, you must include the gross amount of distributions paid (including the amount of any Dutch taxes withheld from those distributions) to you by us with respect to the common shares in your gross income as foreign-source taxable dividend income. The amount of any distribution paid in foreign currency (including the amount of any Dutch withholding tax thereon) will be equal to the U.S. dollar value of the foreign currency on the date of actual or constructive receipt by you regardless of whether the payment is in fact converted into U.S. dollars at that time. Gain or loss, if any, realized on a subsequent sale or other disposition of such foreign currency generally will be U.S.-source ordinary income or loss. Special rules govern and specific elections are available to accrual method taxpayers to determine the U.S. dollar amount includible in income in the case of taxes withheld in a foreign currency. Accrual basis taxpayers are urged to consult their own tax advisers regarding the requirements and elections applicable in this regard.

Subject to applicable limitations, Dutch taxes withheld from a distribution paid to you at a rate not exceeding the rate provided in the U.S./NL Income Tax Treaty will be eligible for credit against your U.S. federal income tax liability. The limitation on foreign taxes eligible for credit is calculated separately with respect to specific classes of income. For this purpose, dividends distributed by us with respect to the common shares generally will constitute “passive category income” or in the case of certain U.S. holders, “general category income”. The use of foreign tax credits is subject to complex rules and limitations. In lieu of a credit, a U.S. holder who itemizes deductions may elect to deduct all of such holder’s foreign taxes in the taxable year. A deduction does not reduce tax on a dollar-for-dollar basis like a credit, but the deduction for foreign taxes is not

subject to the same limitations applicable to foreign tax credits. You should consult your own tax advisor to determine whether and to what extent a credit would be available to you.

Certain non-corporate U.S. holders (including individuals) are eligible for reduced rates of U.S. federal income tax in respect of “qualified dividend income”. For this purpose, “qualified dividend income” generally includes dividends paid by a non-U.S. corporation if, among other things, the U.S. holders meet certain minimum holding period and other requirements and the non-U.S. corporation satisfies certain requirements, including either that (i) the shares of the non-U.S. corporation are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States, or (ii) the non-U.S. corporation is eligible for the benefits of a comprehensive income tax treaty with the United States (such as the U.S./NL Income Tax Treaty) which provides for the exchange of information. We currently believe that dividends paid by us with respect to our common shares should constitute “qualified dividend income” for U.S. federal income tax purposes; however, this is a factual matter and subject to change. You are urged to consult your own tax advisor regarding the availability to you of a reduced dividend tax rate in light of your own particular situation. A dividends-received deduction will not be allowed with respect to dividends paid by us to corporate U.S. holders.

Sale, Exchange or Other Disposition of Common Shares

Upon a sale, exchange or other disposition of common shares, you generally will recognize capital gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized and your tax basis in the common shares, as determined in U.S. dollars. This gain or loss generally will be U.S.-source gain or loss, and will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if you have held the common shares for more than one year. If you are an individual, capital gains generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at preferential rates if specified minimum holding periods are met. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to significant limitations.

Net Investment Income Tax

Certain U.S. holders that are individuals, estates or trusts and whose income exceeds certain thresholds generally will be subject to a 3.8% tax on “net investment income”, including, among other things, dividends on, and gains from the sale or other taxable disposition of, our common shares, subject to certain limitations and exceptions. You should consult your own tax advisor regarding the effect, if any, of such tax on your ownership and disposition of our common shares.

Passive Foreign Investment Company Status

We believe that we should not be classified as a passive foreign investment company (a “PFIC”) for U.S. federal income tax purposes for the year ended December 31, 2023 and we do not expect to become a PFIC in the foreseeable future. This conclusion is a factual determination that must be made annually at the close of each taxable year and therefore we can provide no assurance that we will not be a PFIC in our current or any future taxable year. If we were to be characterized as a PFIC for any taxable year, the tax on certain distributions on our common shares and on any gains realized upon the disposition of common shares may be materially less favorable than as described herein. In addition, if we were a PFIC in a taxable year in which we were to pay dividends or the prior taxable year, such dividends would not be “qualified dividend income” (as described above) and would be taxed at the higher rates applicable to other items of ordinary income. You should consult your own tax advisor regarding the application of the PFIC rules to your ownership of our common shares.

U.S. Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

Dividend payments with respect to our common shares and proceeds from the sale, exchange, retirement or other disposition of our common shares may be subject to information reporting to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (the “IRS”) and possible U.S. backup withholding. Backup withholding will not apply to you, however, if you furnish a correct taxpayer identification number and make any other required certification, or if you are otherwise exempt from backup withholding. U.S. persons required to establish their exempt status generally must provide certification on IRS Form W-9. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Amounts withheld as backup withholding may be credited against your U.S. federal income tax liability, and you may obtain a refund of any excess amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules by timely filing the appropriate claim for refund with the IRS and furnishing any required information.

In addition, U.S. holders should be aware of annual reporting requirements with respect to the holding of certain foreign financial assets, including our common shares that are not held in an account maintained by certain types of financial institutions, if the aggregate value of all of such assets exceeds \$50,000 (or \$100,000 for married couples filing a joint return). You should consult your own tax advisor regarding the application of the information reporting and backup withholding rules to our common shares and the application of the annual reporting requirements to your particular situation.

F. Dividends and Paying Agents

Not applicable.

G. Statement by Experts

Not applicable.

H. Documents on Display

Any statement in this Form 20-F about any of our contracts or other documents is not necessarily complete. If the contract or document is filed as an exhibit to this Form 20-F the contract or document is deemed to modify the description contained in this Form 20-F. You must review the exhibits themselves for a complete description of the contract or document.

Our Articles of Association, the minutes of our AGM, reports of the auditors and other corporate documentation may be consulted by the shareholders and any other individual authorized to attend the meetings at our head office at Schiphol Airport Amsterdam, The Netherlands, at the registered offices of the Managing Board in Geneva, Switzerland and at Crédit Agricole-Indosuez, 9, Quai du Président Paul-Doumer, 92400 Courbevoie, France.

You may review a copy of our filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), including exhibits and schedules filed with it, at the SEC's public reference facilities in Room 1024, Judiciary Plaza, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information. In addition, the SEC maintains an internet site (www.sec.gov) that contains reports and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC. These SEC filings are also available to the public from commercial document retrieval services.

WE ARE REQUIRED TO FILE REPORTS AND OTHER INFORMATION WITH THE SEC UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934. REPORTS AND OTHER INFORMATION FILED BY U.S. WITH THE SEC MAY BE INSPECTED AND COPIED AT THE SEC'S PUBLIC REFERENCE FACILITIES DESCRIBED ABOVE OR THROUGH THE INTERNET (WWW.SEC.GOV). AS A FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER, WE ARE EXEMPT FROM THE RULES UNDER THE EXCHANGE ACT PRESCRIBING THE FURNISHING AND CONTENT OF PROXY STATEMENTS AND OUR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND MAJOR SHAREHOLDERS ARE EXEMPT FROM THE REPORTING AND SHORT-SWING PROFIT RECOVERY PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN SECTION 16 OF THE EXCHANGE ACT. UNDER THE EXCHANGE ACT, AS A FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER, WE ARE NOT REQUIRED TO PUBLISH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS FREQUENTLY OR AS PROMPTLY AS UNITED STATES COMPANIES.