

analysis considers the interdependency between interest rates and lapse behavior for products sold in the Americas where there is clear evidence of dynamic lapse behavior. Management action is taken into account to the extent that it is part of AEGON's regular policies and procedures, such as established hedging programs. However, incidental management actions that would require a change in policies and procedures are not considered.

Each sensitivity analysis reflects the extent to which the shock tested would affect management's critical accounting estimates and judgment in applying AEGON's accounting policies¹. Market-consistent assumptions underlying the measurement of non-listed assets and liabilities are adjusted to reflect the shock tested. The shock may also affect the measurement of assets and liabilities based on assumptions that are not observable in the market. For example, a shock in interest rates may lead to changes in the amortization schedule of DPAC or to increased impairment losses on equity investments. Although management's short-term assumptions may change if there is a reasonable change in a risk factor, long-term assumptions will generally not be revised unless there is evidence that the movement is permanent. This fact is reflected in the sensitivity analyses provided below.

The accounting mismatch inherent in IFRS is also apparent in the reported sensitivities. A change in interest rates has an immediate impact on the carrying amount of assets measured at fair value. However the shock will not have a similar effect on the carrying amount of the related insurance liabilities that are measured based on prudent assumptions or on management's long-term expectations. Consequently, the different measurement bases for assets and liabilities lead to increased volatility in IFRS net income and shareholders' equity. AEGON has classified a significant part of its investment portfolio as 'available for sale', which is one of the main reasons why the economic shocks tested have a different impact on net income than on shareholders' equity. Unrealized gains and losses on these assets are not recognized in the income statement but are booked directly to the revaluation reserves in shareholders' equity, unless impaired. As a result, economic sensitivities predominantly impact shareholders' equity but leave net income unaffected. The effect of movements of the revaluation reserve on capitalization ratios and capital adequacy are minimal. AEGON's target ratio for the composition of its capital base is based on shareholders' equity excluding the revaluation reserve.

The sensitivities do not reflect what the net income for the period would have been if risk variables had been different because the analysis is based on the exposures in existence at the reporting date rather than on those that actually occurred during the year. Nor are the results of the sensitivities intended to be an accurate prediction of AEGON's future shareholders' equity or earnings. The analysis does not take into account the impact of future new business, which is an important component of AEGON's future earnings. It also does not consider all methods available to management to respond to changes in the financial environment, such as changing investment portfolio allocations or adjusting premiums and crediting rates. Furthermore, the results of the analyses cannot be extrapolated for wider variations since effects do not tend to be linear. No risk management process can clearly predict future results.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE RISK

As an international group, AEGON is subject to foreign currency translation risk. Foreign currency exposure exists when policies are denominated in currencies other than the issuer's functional currency. Currency risk in the investment portfolios backing insurance and investment liabilities is managed using asset liability matching principles. Assets allocated to equity are kept in local currencies to the extent shareholders' equity is required to satisfy regulatory and self-imposed capital requirements. Therefore, currency exchange rate fluctuations will affect the level of shareholders' equity as a result of translation of subsidiaries into euro, the Group's presentation currency. AEGON holds the remainder of its capital base (convertible core capital securities, perpetual capital securities, subordinated and senior debt) in various currencies in amounts that are targeted to correspond to the book value of the country units. This balancing mitigates currency translation impacts on shareholders' equity and leverage ratios. AEGON does not hedge the income streams from the main non-euro units and, as a result, earnings may fluctuate due to currency translation. As AEGON has significant business segments in the Americas and in the United Kingdom, the principal sources of exposure from currency fluctuations are from the differences between the US dollar and the euro and between the UK pound and the euro. AEGON may experience significant changes in net income and shareholders' equity because of these fluctuations.

¹ Please refer to note 3 for a description of the critical accounting estimates and judgments.