



## Compliance with Articles 88 to 96 of CRD IV for the year ended 31 December 2020

Article 96 of the Capital Requirements Directive IV (“Directive 2013/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on access to the activity of credit institutions and the prudential supervision of credit institutions and investment firms, amending Directive 2002/87/EC and repealing Directives 2006/48/EC and 2006/49/EC”) (the “**CRD IV**”), as transposed into the Cyprus legal and regulatory framework, requires institutions to publish on their website how they comply with the requirements of Articles 88 to 95 of the CRD IV.

### **Governance arrangements (Article 88 of the CRD IV)**

Article 88 of the CRD IV has been transposed into the Cyprus regulatory framework by the provisions of the “Directive to Credit Institutions on Governance and Management Arrangements in Credit Institutions”, issued by the Central Bank of Cyprus in July 2014 (the “**Corporate Governance Directive**”).

#### *Compliance with Article 88(1) of the CRD IV*

The Management Body<sup>1</sup> of RCB BANK LTD (the “**Bank**”), as referred to in Article 88(1) of the CRD IV, is the Bank’s Board of Directors (the “**Board**”). Specifically:

- The majority of the members of the Board are independent.
- Two members of the Board are executive members, one of which is the Chief Executive Officer of the Bank.
- An independent member of the Board holds the position of the Chairperson of the Board, so that there is a clear division of responsibility between the position of the Chairperson of the Board who presides over the Board meetings, and the position of the Chief Executive Officer who is responsible for managing and steering the overall business activities of the Bank.
- A non-executive member of the Board holds the position of the Vice Chairperson of the Board.

Information on the members of the Board, including a short CV, can be accessed [here](#).

The key roles and responsibilities of the Board are set out in detail in the “Regulations of the Management Body” (the “**Board Regulations**”), which have been approved by the Board.

According to the Board Regulations, the Board has the primary responsibility for internal governance at all times, and defines, oversees and is accountable for the implementation of governance arrangements that ensure effective and prudent management of the Bank, including the segregation of duties and the prevention of conflicts of interest. Specifically, the Board is, inter alia, responsible for:

- setting, periodically reviewing, approving and overseeing the implementation of the Bank’s business objectives and strategies for achieving those objectives, including its risk strategy and internal capital plans, taking into account the Bank’s long-term financial interests and solvency as well as the interests of depositors, shareholders and other relevant stakeholders;
- ensuring the integrity of the accounting and financial reporting systems, including financial and operational controls and compliance with the applicable laws and relevant standards;
- overseeing the process of disclosure and communications; and
- providing effective oversight of senior management.

#### *Compliance with Article 88(2) of the CRD IV*

In accordance with the provisions of the Corporate Governance Directive, the Board has established, among others, a Nominations Committee. It is composed by a majority of members who are independent directors, and who do not perform any executive functions in the Bank. The members of the Nominations Committee can be accessed [here](#).

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of these disclosures, the Board or Board of Directors has the same meaning as the Management Body in the Governance and Management Arrangements Directive of July 2014.

The duties and responsibilities, as well as the rights and powers, of the Nominations Committee are set out in detail in the “Terms of Reference of the Nominations Committee” (the “**Terms of Reference**”), which have been approved by the Board.

Pursuant to the Terms of Reference, the duties and responsibilities of the Nominations Committee include, among others, the following:

- identifying and recommending, for the approval of the Board or for the approval of the general meeting of the shareholders of the Bank, as the case may be, candidates to fill the Board vacancies;
- evaluating the balance of knowledge, skills, diversity and experience of the Board and preparing a description of the roles and capabilities for a particular appointment and assessing the time commitment expected;
- assessing periodically, and at least annually, the structure, size, composition and performance of the Board and making recommendations to the Board with regard to any changes;
- assessing periodically, and at least annually, the knowledge, skills and experience of individual members of the Board and of the Board collectively, and reporting to the Board accordingly;
- reviewing periodically, and at least annually, the policy of the Board for selection, development, appointment and replacement of senior executive managers and heads of internal control functions and making recommendations to the Board.

Furthermore, and pursuant to the Terms of Reference, the Nominations Committee is responsible for deciding on a target for the representation of the underrepresented gender on the Board and for preparing a policy on how to increase the number of the underrepresented gender on the Board in order to meet that target. The target and policy are incorporated in the Bank’s Diversity Policy, which can be accessed [here](#).

The Nominations Committee is authorized, by the Terms of Reference, to use any form of resources that it considers to be appropriate, including external expert advice, and to receive appropriate funding to that effect.

#### Disclosures pursuant to Articles 89 - 90 of the CRD IV

The Bank offers a wide range of everyday banking products and services to its customers from its headquarters in Cyprus and its branch in Luxembourg.

#### Country - by country reporting - Public disclosure of return on assets

	31/12/2020 Amounts in EUR000		
	RCB Bank Ltd Cyprus	RCB Bank Ltd, Luxembourg Branch Luxembourg	Total
Geographical location			
Turnover (gross interest and other similar income and commission income from third parties)	177.678	6.027	183.705
Number of employees on a FTE basis	371	9	380
Profit before tax	22.145	3.110	25.255
Tax	(12.864)	(901)	(13.765)
Public subsidies received	-	-	-
Return on assets (Net profit divided by year-end total assets)			0,2%

#### Management Body (Article 91 of the CRD IV)

Article 91 of the CRD IV has been transposed into the Cyprus regulatory framework by the provisions of the Corporate Governance Directive as well as the provisions of the “Directive on the Assessment of Suitability of Members of Management Body and Key Function Holders of Authorised Credit Institutions”, issued by the Central Bank of Cyprus in 2020.

The Bank’s “Policy for Assessment of the Fitness and Probity of Members of the Management Body and Key Function Holders” (the “**Policy**”), describes how the fitness and probity of the members of the Board and key function holders of the Bank is assessed by the Nominations Committee.

In particular, according to the Board Regulations and/or the above Policy:

- The Board shall *inter alia*:
  - possess adequate collective knowledge, skills and experience to be able to understand the Bank's activities, including the main risks; and
  - be sufficiently diverse as regards age, gender and educational and professional background to reflect an adequately broad range of experiences and facilitate a variety of independent opinions and critical challenge.

As set out above, the Bank has established a Diversity Policy, in order to promote diversity on the Board and ensure that the Nominations Committee engages a broad set of qualities and competences when recruiting Board members. In line with the Diversity Policy of the Bank, the members of the Board have a broad knowledge and expertise in the areas such as banking, financial services, law and accounting. Further, the Board and its Committees have the appropriate level of skills, experience, independence and knowledge to enable them to discharge their respective duties and responsibilities effectively.

- During the year 2020, each member of the Board had:
  - at all times sufficiently good repute and possessed sufficient knowledge, skills and experience to perform his/her duties;
  - acted with honesty, integrity and independence of mind to effectively assess and challenge the decisions of the senior management where necessary and to effectively oversee and monitor management decision-making; and
  - committed sufficient time to perform his/her functions in the Bank including the preparation for Board meetings.

The above have been confirmed in the "Evaluation Report on the Performance of the Management Body as a whole, its committees and individual members" approved by the Nominations Committee and signed by the Chairperson of the Board, Mr Christakis Santis. The report was discussed and approved by the Nominations Committee and by the Board. Furthermore, each Committee undertook a self-assessment for the year 2020 and reported its conclusions and recommendations for improvements and changes to the Board. The Self-Assessment Questionnaires of the Board Committees also confirmed the above requirements. The Questionnaires have been discussed at the Committees' meetings and approved by the Board.

The Policy further provides that, in the case where the person proposed by the Bank as a member of the Board is also a member of the board or manager of one or more entities, the Bank shall ensure that the proposed appointment does not create conflicts of interest. In particular, the members of the Board shall not hold more than one of the following combinations of directorships at the same time:

- i. one executive directorship and two non-executive directorships; or
- ii. four non-executive directorships.

The following shall count as a single directorship:

- a. Executive or non-executive directorships held within the same group;
- b. Executive or non-executive directorships held within:
  - i. Institutions which are members of the same institutional protection scheme provided that the conditions set out in Article 113(7) of Regulation (EU) No 575/2013 are fulfilled; or
  - ii. Undertakings (including non-financial entities) in which the institution holds a qualifying holding.

The directorships of the members of the Board do not exceed the above allowed maximum number and are in compliance with the permitted requirements.

#### **Compliance with Articles 92 - 95 of the CRD IV for the year ended 31 December 2020**

The Remuneration Policy (hereinafter the "**Remuneration Policy**") of the Bank applies to employees at all levels of the Bank but with a particular emphasis on employees who are regarded as Material Risk Takers ("MRTs"). For example, members of the Management Body and Senior Executive Management. As a matter of principle, the Bank supports the levels of remuneration and compensation necessary to attract, retain and motivate the high quality workforce required to lead, manage and serve the Bank in a competitive environment. As such, the Bank considers appropriate levels of remuneration and compensation as essential to the enhancement of the long-term interests of the Bank's stakeholders (including its shareholders). The Remuneration Policy therefore takes account of the competitiveness of the market in which it operates and the strategic targets of the business, but it also seeks to reward its employees who promote the Bank's corporate values and who support long-term generation of value.

Responsibility for oversight of the implementation and supervision of the Bank's remuneration strategy rests with the Management Body through the Remuneration Committee. Thus the Management Body is ultimately responsible for the Bank's compliance with applicable laws, rules, regulations and regulatory guidance. Furthermore, the Management Body is responsible for ensuring

that the shareholders of the Bank have adequate information about the Remuneration Policy, including the main components of remuneration and the main characteristics and objectives of the Bank's remuneration package.

No amendment to or exception or exemption from this Remuneration Policy is permitted without the prior approval of Management Body or a delegate of Management Body.

Although the Management Body has ultimate responsibility for the implementation and supervision of the Bank's remuneration strategy, it also takes into account advice, views and material information received from the Bank's control functions, Legal Department, Human Resources Department and, where appropriate, its shareholders.

The Management Body has established a Remuneration Committee (hereinafter the "RC") which as at 31 December 2020 comprised of 4 members who were appointed by the Management Body. The Chairperson and two of the members were Independent Directors and the other member was a Non-Executive Director. The Remuneration Committee is guided by terms of reference set out in the Bank's "Terms of Reference of the Remuneration Committee" and collaborates with other Committees to the extent that those Committees have impact on the design and functioning of the Remuneration Policy.

The key duties and responsibilities of the RC were as follows:

- Provide its support and advice to the Management Body on the design of the Bank's Remuneration Policy;
- Support the Management Body in overseeing the remuneration policies, practices and processes, and the compliance with the Remuneration Policy;
- Formulate proposals for approval by the Management Body, as regards to the Remuneration Policy, and always ensure that those are in line with all the regulatory requirements;
- Ensure that internal control functions are involved in the design, review and implementation of the Remuneration Policy;
- Collaborate with other Committees of the Management Body, whose activities may have an impact on the design and proper functioning of the remuneration policies and practices, and provide adequate information to the Management Body, and where appropriate, to the shareholders' meeting about the activities performed;
- Ensure that those personnel members who are involved in the design, review and implementation of the remuneration policies and practices have relevant expertise and are capable of forming independent judgment, including suitability for risk management;
- In cooperation with the internal control functions, as well as other Committees (e.g. Audit & Risk), it must ensure on a regular basis that changes in the objectives of the Bank's business and risk strategy, long-term interests, corporate culture and values are adequately identified and accordingly embedded in the Remuneration Policy;
- Work closely with the Risk Committee to ensure that the Remuneration Policy is consistent with and promotes sound and effective risk management;
- Contribute actively in the process to identify the members of personnel whose professional activities have a material impact on the Bank's risk profile, in line with its responsibilities for the preparation of decisions regarding remuneration. Review and also approve, the exemptions made for those who do not have a material impact on the Bank's risk profile;
- Prepare decisions regarding remuneration, including those that have implications for the risk and risk management of the Bank and that are to be taken by the Management Body, in particular regarding the remuneration of the members of the Management Body in its management function, as well as of other identified staff;
- Assess the achievement of the performance targets and the need for ex-post risk adjustment, including the application of malus and clawback arrangements;
- Report on its main activities and results to the Management Body on a regular basis, but not less frequently than once per quarter;
- Conduct an annual self-assessment, and report conclusions and recommendations for improvements of its practices and changes thereafter to the Management Body;
- Circulate any minutes to the Management Body in advance of any Management Body meetings.

The Remuneration Policy is subject to review at least annually by the Internal Audit function in line with the regulatory framework. In 2020 a review was carried out by the Internal Audit Department, and the findings were submitted to the Management Body through the Audit Committee.

For the purposes of the Remuneration Policy, "remuneration" consists of:

- All forms of payments and benefits, monetary or non-monetary, in exchange for services rendered by an employee to the Bank. Remuneration is either Fixed Remuneration or Variable Remuneration. There is no third category of Remuneration;
- An employee's Variable Remuneration is calculated by reference to that Employee's Fixed Remuneration.

The Bank has in place the following in relation to the determination of the variable component of remuneration:

- A non-cash instrument - Restricted Stock Unit;
- Specific ratios for the purpose of Risk Alignment of Variable Remuneration;
- Explicit Deferral Requirements for Cash and Non-cash Awards to MRTs;
- Expanded requirements and criteria for the application of Malus and Clawback arrangements.

Where a variable remuneration is paid to an MRT who has an impact on the risk profile of the Bank, it is not a pure up-front cash payment but it contains a deferred component which considers the risk horizon of the underlying performance. At least 40% of the variable remuneration component is deferred over a period of not less than three years and is aligned with the nature of the business, its risks and the activities of the MRT in question.

The variable remuneration, including any deferred portion, is paid or vests only if it is sustainable based on the financial situation of the Bank. Without prejudice to the general principles of the local legal framework, the total variable remuneration shall be considerably contracted where subdued or negative financial performance of the Bank occurs, taking into account both current remuneration and deductions in pay-outs of amounts previously earned, including through malus or clawback arrangements. Whilst taking into account all legal and fiscal constraints, any up-front bonus payment shall be subject to clawback, if it is later established that it resulted from fraudulent activities. Remuneration payable under deferral arrangements shall vest no faster than on a pro-rata spreading and the vested amount shall not be sooner than twelve months after the accrual.

Up to one hundred percent (100%) of the total variable remuneration shall be subject to malus or clawback arrangements. Ex-post risk adjustment (or performance adjustment) is used by the Bank such as malus or clawback arrangements. By using these mechanisms, the Bank adjusts the remuneration of the employees in certain circumstances, as stated below. Ex-post risk adjustment is performance related and is a response to the actual risk outcomes of the employee's actions. These mechanisms enable the Bank to perform an analysis (similar to back testing) as to whether its initial decision regarding the deferred remuneration of an employee was correct. As a general rule, malus/clawback arrangements result in a reduction of the variable remuneration.

Control functions, namely, Internal Audit, Risk Management, Compliance and Information Security are compensated in accordance with their own objectives and not in relation to the performance of the business areas that they control. The remuneration of employees engaged in control functions is also based on periodical salary surveys within the banking and financial services sector to ensure that individuals are compensated commensurately with their roles and duties in the Bank and independently of the areas they oversee. The remuneration of employees in the Bank's internal control functions is not linked to the performance of the operational functions of the Bank which the relevant internal control function monitors and controls and is predominantly fixed. Operational functions are not permitted to determine the remuneration of control functions where this would result in a potential or actual conflict of interest.

The fees of the members of the Management Body are directly overseen by the Remuneration Committee and recommended by the Management Body to the shareholders of the Bank for approval. Members of the Management Body are compensated only with fixed remuneration.

*Information on the performance criteria on which the entitlement to variable components of remuneration is based.*

The Bank translates its long-term objectives on an annual basis, which derive from its business and risk strategy, corporate values, risk appetite and long-term interests as well as from methods used within the Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process (ICAAP) into financial and non-financial performance and professional development targets for the Chief Executive Officer, Senior Executive Management, organisational departments and employees within such departments.

Performance targets are defined at the beginning of the period by the immediate supervisors of employees and all the departments of the Bank (including the Management Body for the Chief Executive Officer) in consultation and alignment with the Risk Management Department.

Targets for MRTs and other Heads of Departments within the Bank are set via Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which differ depending on the business unit/profit centre and reflect the targets/objectives of the specific area. Indicatively, adherence to the Bank's approved policies and procedures, compliance with the regulatory and legal framework, efficiency and effectiveness of the control functions, the cost of tied-up capital that is associated to risks undertaken, are set by the Bank's Senior Executive Management. More specifically the Bank uses following criteria:

- Net profit;
- Return on Equity;
- RAROC;
- Strategy implementation;
- Compliance and conduct;
- Net interest income;
- Net fee & commission income;
- Volume of deposits;
- Volume of loans;
- Number of new NPLs;
- Implementation of new products and strategic initiatives;
- Other qualitative and quantitative indicators reflecting key duties and responsibilities of particular department/unit/employee.

Targets for the remaining personnel are set on departmental and unit level by direct supervisors using the Management by Objectives approach.

After the end of the accrual period the Bank conducts the appraisal of actual performance of personnel vis-à-vis relevant targets. For this reason, the participation in the annual employee appraisal is compulsory for all employees. The appraisals are also reviewed by the Bank's Senior Executive Management.

For the calculation of the 2020 annual bonus, the Bank has used the following approach:

Award = (Gross Monthly Base Salary Factor) \* (Grade Factor) \* (Length of Service Factor) \* (Performance Factor) \* (Bonus Pool Factor)

Where:

- **"Award"** - total gross amount to be awarded to employee as a bonus for 2020 year;
- **"Gross Monthly Base Salary Factor"** - average amount of gross monthly fixed salary paid to employee during the last three months of 2020;
- **"Grade Factor"** - a factor representing the standard bonus amount in terms of monthly salaries for the grade and position of the employee;
- **"Length of Service Factor"** - multiplier representing duration of work of the employee in 2020. If the employee worked for less than 90 calendar days, the factor is zero, if from 91 to 365 then it is pro-rata calculation to the number of days employed in 2020;
- **"Performance Factor"** - a factor representing the overall result of the Performance Appraisal (i.e. A++, A+, A, B, C);
- **"Bonus Pool Factor"** - a factor representing the level of achievement of strategic goals on the Bank and/or on the business line/business unit level;

The Bank counterbalances the incentives of the Award of Variable Remuneration with measures to incentivise sound risk management. In particular, it:

- Established risk sensitive performance criteria for the assessment of employees and operational functions, for example:
  - Volume of new NPLs;
  - Risk-Adjusted Return on Capital (RAROC);
  - Other KPIs related to market and operational risks (for example: # of significant system errors led to unavailability of the core banking system).
- Ensured that a proposed award out of the Bank-wide bonus pool does not lead the Bank to a negative financial performance (net loss) and/or a breach of capital and liquidity requirements to which the Bank is subject; and that no other ratios are breached, including each of the following:
  - Common Equity Tier 1 Ratio;
  - Total Capital Adequacy Ratio;
  - Liquidity Coverage Ratio.

In order to conservatively take into account all material risks at the Bank's and business unit levels, and to achieve sound breakdown of undertaken risks by business units and different types of risks, the Bank uses the same measurement methods and risk allocation approaches as used within the ICAAP.

*The main parameters and rationale for any variable component scheme and any other non-cash benefits.*

In addition to the information provided above, the KPIs clearly measure performance, and are linked to the strategic objectives of the Bank. Ultimately, they monitor the execution of the business strategy and adherence to the sound risk management.

Through the application of KPIs, the Bank's aim is to equip decision-makers with the information they need to make informed decisions that lead to improvements, to comply with external and internal reporting requirements and to guide and direct people's behaviours and actions in relation to performance. Results from KPIs are used to set goals, to objectively assess the achievement of these goals, and to provide feedback on any unwanted variance between achievements and goals. KPI results are linked to reward and recognition structures.

All employees of the Bank are categorised by grades. The classification of employees, and the assignment of a grade, is based on their management and organisational role, hierarchy, existing reporting lines, qualifications and experience as well as annual remuneration package. Certain non-cash benefits such as type of medical insurance scheme, life insurance, limit of monthly corporate mobile phone, class of air tickets for business trips etc., apply to each grade.

The Bank does not benefit from exceptional government intervention and therefore Article 93 of the CRD IV is not applicable to the Bank.

The requirements for Severance payments in case of early termination of an employee's employment agreement are covered under the Remuneration Policy of the Bank, which applies to all employees. Should such an early termination occur, the Bank complies with all applicable laws, including local labour laws. Payment in such a case reflects performance over time and is neither a reward for performance nor penalty for failure.

The Bank does not offer remuneration to "buy out" a person from a previous contract of employment and in case the Bank does so, the provisions of the applicable law and regulations, including without limitation, section 9 of the EBA Guidelines on Sound Remuneration Policies will be followed.

Personal hedging strategies are not allowed by the employees of the Bank, as it is prohibited to transfer the downside risks of variable remuneration to another party through hedging or certain types of insurance.

Further information on the Remuneration Policy and practices, can be found in the "Pillar III Disclosures 2020" available on the Bank's website and can be accessed [here](#).