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PRESS RELEASE

Results and dividend for the financial year 2009

The Council of Regency has today approved the annual accounts of the National Bank of Belgium, in accordance with Article 44 of the Statutes. The external auditor issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statements and confirmed that the accounting data used in this notice match the annual accounts.

The National Bank's annual accounts and annual report will be published in full on 12 April 2010.

Results

After-tax profits for the financial year 2009 amount to € 1,912 million, compared with € 445 million the previous year. Two exceptional factors have had a strong influence on the financial results. On the one hand, writing back past general provisions (for contingencies and for future foreign exchange losses) has pushed up profits by € 954 million. As previously announced, this amount is allocated to the new available reserves through the distribution of profits. On the other hand, the Law of 3 April 2009 abolished the so-called 3% rule. Under this rule, part of the financial proceeds - € 317 million in 2008 - were allocated to the State before determining the results for the year. This rule no longer applies for the financial year 2009.

If, for comparison purposes, the two above-mentioned exceptional factors are removed, the following overall picture is obtained:

(in millions of euro)	2009	2008
Annual profits	1,912	445
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ minus: writeback of general provisions ▪ plus: the State's share: the 3% rule 	-954	317
Profits excluding exceptional factors	958	762

Dividend

A total amount of 1,207 million from the annual profits is allocated to the available reserves. This amount consists mainly of the writeback of the general provisions and the 25% of the profits to be distributed that must be paid into the reserves in compliance with the policy that has been decided and published.

In accordance with this policy, the gross dividend has been fixed at € 126.48 per share (net € 94.86), compared with a gross dividend of € 75 (net € 56.25) for the financial year 2008. It therefore falls in the upper band of the range (€ 114.0 - € 131.5) that had been put forward by the Bank in November 2009.

The balance of the distributed profits that goes to the State is € 654 million.

NBB shares will be quoted ex-coupon as from 2 June 2010 and the dividend shall be payable from 7 June 2010.

On the same date, the dividend will be automatically paid to the holders of dematerialised shares, registered shares and shares that are held in open deposit at the National Bank of Belgium. For holders of bearer shares, the dividend shall be payable from this date onwards, against presentation of coupon nr 208 at the National Bank's head office in Brussels or at any of its branches.