# **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT**

TF Bank AB (publ), corporate identity number 556158-1041

# INTRODUCTION

The shares in TF Bank AB (publ) ("TF Bank") have been listed on Nasdaq Stockholm's main market since 14 June 2016. The Company is the Parent Company in the TF Bank Group, which conducts banking operations and is under the supervision of the Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority. TF Bank complies with several laws and regulations pertaining to good corporate governance and control of the business, such as the Swedish Banking and Financing Business Act (2004:297), the Consumer Credit Act (2010:1846), the Swedish Companies Act (2005:551), the Annual Accounts Act (1995:1554), Act (1995:1559) on Annual Accounts in Credit Institutions and Securities Companies Act, the Swedish Corporate Governance Code ("the Code"), Nasdaq's rulebook for issuers and International Financial Reporting Standards. TF Bank also adheres to a number of regulations and general guidelines issues by the Swedish Financial Supervisory and the European Banking Authority (EBA). TF Bank has prepared this Corporate Governance Report in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act and the Code.

TF Bank is domiciled in Borås and is authorised by the Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority to conduct banking operations in Sweden, and also in Norway, Finland, Estonia and Poland via bank branches. In addition, TF Bank conducts cross-border activities in Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania, Germany and Austria in accordance with the Swedish Banking and Financing Business Act. In addition, the company has three small service subsidiaries: TFB Service UAB, TFB Service SIA och TFB Service GmbH.

#### **OWNERSHIP**

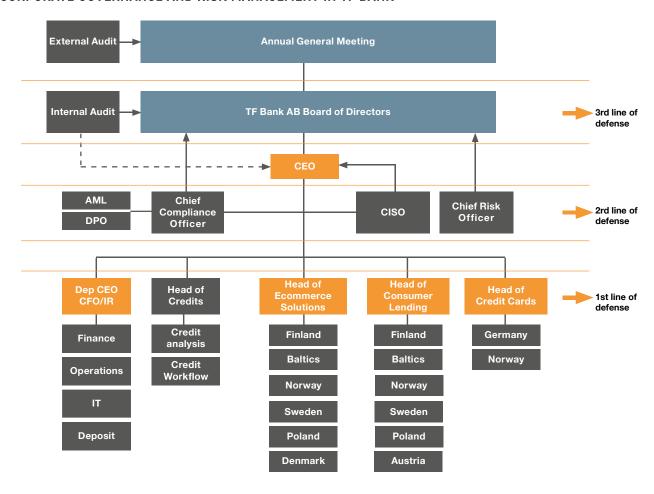
Ownership structure 31 December 2020:

|    |                               | Number     | Share of  |
|----|-------------------------------|------------|-----------|
|    | Owner                         | of shares  | equity, % |
| 1  | TFB Holding AB                | 7,229,859  | 33.63     |
| 2  | Tiberon AB                    | 3,179,291  | 14.79     |
| 3  | Erik Selin Fastigheter AB     | 2,688,708  | 12.51     |
| 4  | Proventus Aktiebolag          | 1,109,300  | 5.16      |
| 5  | Jack Weil                     | 1,000,200  | 4.65      |
| 6  | Nordnet Pensionsförsäkring AB | 912,908    | 4.25      |
| 7  | Merizole Holding LTD          | 507,495    | 2.36      |
| 8  | Futur Pension                 | 340,269    | 1.58      |
| 9  | Skandia fonder                | 288,445    | 1.34      |
| 10 | Carnegie Fonder               | 257,761    | 1.20      |
| 11 | Avanza Pension                | 224,413    | 1.04      |
| 12 | CBLDN-EQ Nordic Small CAP     | 205,242    | 0.95      |
| 13 | Pareto Nordic Return          | 203,980    | 0.95      |
| 14 | Anders Simon Klein            | 200,000    | 0.93      |
| 15 | BNY Mellon NA                 | 195,000    | 0.91      |
| 16 | Six Sis AG                    | 186,974    | 0.87      |
| 17 | AB Monarda                    | 156,000    | 0.73      |
| 18 | Mattias Carlsson              | 154,432    | 0.72      |
| 19 | Bank Julius Bear & Co LTD     | 122,500    | 0.57      |
| 20 | Stena Metall Finans           | 121,848    | 0.57      |
|    | Other shareholders            | 2,215,375  | 10.29     |
|    | Total                         | 21,500,000 | 100.00    |

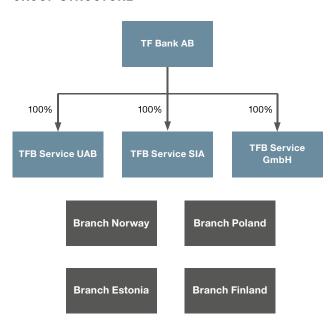
Source: Euroclear

The largest owner, TFB Holding AB, with a total holding of 33.63 % as at 31 December 2020, is represented on the Nomination Committee through Paul Källenius.

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT IN TF BANK



## **GROUP STRUCTURE**



List of companies included in consolidation for accounting and supervisory purposes:

| Parent<br>Company    | Subsidiaries                | Corporate<br>identity<br>number | Interest | Consolidation (superv./acc.) |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|
| TF Bank AB<br>(publ) |                             | 556158-1041                     |          |                              |
|                      | TFB Service<br>UAB          | 304785170                       |          | Full/<br>Full                |
|                      | TFB Service<br>S <b>I</b> A | 40203015782                     |          | Full/<br>Full                |
|                      | TFB Service<br>GmbH         | HRB 208869 B                    |          | Full/<br>Full                |

#### **ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION**

The Articles of Association are adopted by the AGM and contain mandatory information on the basic nature of TF Bank's operations. The Articles of Association, which are available on the Company's website www.tfbankgroup. com, set out, inter alia, the kind of business to be conducted by the Company, the limits for the share capital, share classes and number of votes per share, as well as the number of Board members. The Articles of Association do not contain any provisions on the appointment or dismissal of Board members or on amendments to the Articles of Association.

# **GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

TF Bank's shareholders can exercise their decision-making rights at the General Meeting of Shareholders. According to the Swedish Companies' Act, the General Meeting is the Company's highest decision-making body, which takes deci-

sions on such issues as amendments to the Articles of Association, discharge from liability, adoption of balance sheets and income statements, dividends, election of board members, auditors and fees to board members and auditors. The Companies Act and Articles of Association contain rules governing the General Meeting and what this should include.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020**

The 2020 Annual General Meeting was held in Stockholm on 7 May 2020. Due to the spread of Covid-19, share-holders were provided with the opportunity of postal voting with the support of the temporary exception law for general meetings. The AGM resolved in accordance with all proposals that had been put forward. Among other resolutions, the AGM resolved to of the total funds of SEK 659,019,908 that were at the AGM's disposal, the full amount were to be carried forward into the next period, in accordance with the Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority's request regarding dividends. The AGM also resolved that the Board members and CEO were to be discharged from liability for the financial year 2019.

The AGM resolved that the Board of Directors shall consist of six members. John Brehmer, Bertil Larsson, Tone Bjørnov, Charlotta Björnberg-Paul and Mari Thjømøe were re-elected as board members and Sara Mindus was elected as a new board member. John Brehmer was elected as Chairman of the Board. CEO Mattias Carlsson was dismissed from the Board. PricewaterhouseCoopers AB was elected as auditor for the period until the end of the Annual General Meeting in 2021, with Authorised Public Accountant Martin By as Auditor in charge.

The AGM resolved to authorise the Board of Directors to decide, on one or more occasions in the period up until the next AGM, on a new issue of shares, with or without deviation from shareholders' preferential rights. The number of shares issued pursuant to the authorisation may correspond to an increase in share capital of not more than twenty per cent based on the Company's share capital at the time of the AGM in 2020. The AGM also authorised the Board of Directors to decide, in the period up until the next AGM, on acquisitions and transfers of shares in TF Bank. The Company shall not acquire more shares than that its holding, including shares otherwise acquired and held, does not at any given time exceed five per cent of the total number of shares in the Company.

The AGM also resolved on a change in wording in article 9 item 1 in the Articles of Association regarding shareholders' rights to participate at a general meeting. The full Articles of Association as well as minutes and information regarding the 2020 AGM are available at www.tfbankgroup.com.

#### NOMINATION COMMITTEE

According to a resolution by the 2020 AGM on the appointment of the Nomination Committee, the three largest shareholders in terms of voting power who wish to participate in the Nomination Committee will have the right to appoint one member each. The member representing the largest shareholder should be appointed Chairman of the Nomination Committee. The members of the Nomination Committee were appointed on the basis of the ownership structure as at 31 August 2020.

The Nomination Committee shall prepare proposals in the following matters to be submitted to the AGM:

- Proposal for a Chairman for the general meeting;
- Proposal for the Board of Directors;
- Proposal for Chairman of the Board;
- Proposals for Board fees with the distribution between the Chairman and other Board members, and fees for Committee work:
- Proposals for auditors; and
- Proposal for remuneration to the Company's auditors
- The Nomination Committee shall apply Regulation 4.1 of the Code for the preparation of a proposal for the Board of Directors, in order to achieve a balanced Board composition in terms of broad range of qualifications.

The Nomination Committee ahead of the AGM in 2021 comprises:

- Paul Källenius, representing TFB Holding AB
- Erik Selin, representing Erik Selin Fastigheter AB
- Jonas Weil, representing Merizole Holding LTD <sup>1</sup>
- Paul Källenius has been appointed Chairman of the Nomination Committee

The composition of the Nomination Committee was disclosed through a press release and on the Company's website on 29 October 2020.

# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors has the ultimate responsibility for TF Bank's organisation and management. In addition, the Board shall supervise the CEO and ensure that TF Bank's financial position is examined in a satisfactory manner. The decisions taken by the Board should seek to promote shareholders' interests with respect to value generation and returns. The Board's duties and working methods are governed by the Companies Act, the Articles of Association and the Board's Rules of Procedure (see below). The duties and work of the Board of TF Bank as a regulated company are also governed by the Banking and Financing Business Act. The responsibilities and duties of the Board of Directors include establishing objectives and strategies for the Company's operations, striving to ensure that the

organisation and operations of the Company's business are characterised by internal governance and control, preparing internal regulations on risk management and risk control and regularly following up compliance, ensuring that there is an audit function and monitoring the Company's financial position. Furthermore, it is the task of the Board of Directors to appoint the CEO, adopt instructions for the CEO's work and monitor the outcome of this work. The Board of Directors receives regular reports from internal and external auditors and from the CEO and CFO.

The Board of Directors is responsible for considering TF Bank's risk-taking and has established rules for a resolutions procedure, financial reporting and financing. There are also guidelines for work in other areas, such as: environment, ethics, quality, information, staff, IT and security monitoring and communication.

The Board's work follows annually established rules of procedure which comprise the matters to be dealt with by the Board at each ordinary meeting and the division of duties within the Board, with special commitments for the Chairman. The rules of procedure also set out rules for financial reporting to the Board and more detailed rules for the responsibilities and powers of the CEO.

According to the Articles of Association, the Board of Directors should comprise not less than three and not more than ten ordinary members. Information about the Board representatives is available at www.tfbankgroup.com and on page 101.

# Significant matters

In 2020, the Board held sixteen meetings, of which four were ordinary meetings, nine were additional/telephone meetings and three meetings were held by correspondence. Two of the additional meetings were held due to issues related to Covid-19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Since 18 February 2021, Jonas Weil represents Proventus Aktiebolage

| Date                   | Significant matters raised at the board meetings   |
|------------------------|--|
| 2020-01-17             | Decision on procuration rights for the company's Finnish branch  |
| 2020-02-05             | Year-end report 2019   |
| 2020-03-27             | Notice to attend the AGM on 7 May 2020   |
| 2020-03-27             | Update of policies, guidelines and instructions.<br>Adoption of pillar 3 report, Report from internal audit<br>and decision on annual plan for 2020  |
| 2020-04-05             | Discussion on the macroeconomic situation following Covid-19, the Board decides on an additional provision of SEK 30 million   |
| 2020-04-15             | Interim report Q1 2020   |
| 2020-04-23             | Decision to enable postal voting to the AGM  |
| 2020-05-07<br>(const.) | Adoption of rules of procedures on the Board of Directors including rules of procedures on Audit Committee and Renumeration Committee respectively as well as adoption of CEO instructions. Appointment of authorised signatories              |
| 2020-05-28             | Decision to offer to repurchase warrants   |
| 2020-06-24             | Adoption of ICAAP 2020 and credit policy   |
| 2020-07-13             | Interim report Q2 2020   |
| 2020-09-22             | Decision to halt new lending in the Polish operations within Consumer Lending, updates of policies, guidelines and instructions  |
| 2020-10-14             | Interim report Q3 2020   |
| 2020-11-29             | Decision to issue a T2 bond of SEK 100 million   |
| 2020-12-16             | Approval of budget for 2021, updates of policies, guidelines and instructions, Decision to adopt activity plan for 2021 and the reported risk assessment for the risk control and compliance function. Decision on new sustainability program. |

#### Board attendance was as follows:

| Board member             | Independent of major shareholders | Attendance |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| John Brehmer (Chairman)  | No                                | 16 of 16   |
| Bertil Larsson           | Yes                               | 15 of 16   |
| Tone Bjørnov             | Yes                               | 15 of 16   |
| Charlotta Björnberg-Paul | Yes                               | 15 of 16   |
| Mari Thjømøe             | Yes                               | 16 of 16   |
| Sara Mindus              | Yes                               | 8 of 16    |
| Mattias Carlsson         | No                                | 8 of 16    |

CEO Mattias Carlsson and CFO Mikael Meomuttel participated in all meetings.

# Reporting to the Board of Directors and Board committees

The Board of Directors receives a monthly financial report, including balance sheet and income statements as well as information on the Company's capital and liquidity situation. Additionally, the CEO, CFO and the risk control, compliance and credit risk functions report directly to the Board of Directors at each ordinary Board meeting.

The overarching responsibilities of the Board of Directors cannot be delegated but the Board of Directors is assisted by two committees: The Audit Committee and the Remuneration Committee.

#### **Remuneration Committee**

The Remuneration Committee shall meet twice (2) a year and its main role is to support the Board in its work to ensure that risks associated with TF Bank's remuneration system are measured, managed and reported. The Remuneration Committee is also responsible for assisting the Board in establishing standards and principles for decisions on remuneration of TF Bank's staff and Executive Management and in ensuring that the remunerations systems are compatible with applicable laws and regulations. The Board of Directors decides on remuneration of the CEO, Deputy CEO, Compliance Officer and Chief Risk Officer following the preparatory work of the Remuneration Committee.

The Remuneration Committee shall prepare a remuneration policy for the Company and present it to the Board of Directors for approval. At least once (1) a year, the Board of Directors must adopt a remuneration policy covering all TF Bank staff in accordance with the Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority's regulations on remuneration systems in credit institutions and investment firms. Adoption of the remuneration policy is based on an analysis that is performed annually in order to identify employees whose work has had a significant impact on TF Bank's risk profile.

The remuneration policy stipulates that remuneration and other benefits must be competitive in order to promote TF Bank's long-term interests and to discourage excessive risk-taking. A more detailed description of remuneration paid in 2020 can be found on TF Bank's website: www.tfbankgroup.com.

In connection with the AGM, the Board of Directors appointed the Remuneration Committee by new election of Bertil Larsson, John Brehmer and Charlotta Björnberg-Paul.

All members of the Remuneration Committee have been members of the Board. Board member Bertil Larsson is Chairman of the Remuneration Committee.

In 2020, the Remuneration Committee held two (2) minuted meetings. Attendance at Committee meetings was as follows:

| Board member                        | Attendence |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Bertil Larsson (Committee Chairman) | 2 of 2     |
| John Brehmer                        | 2 of 2     |
| Charlotta Björnberg-Paul            | 2 of 2     |

# **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee is responsible for the preparation of the Board's work on quality assurance of the Company's financial reporting, internal control and risk management. The Audit Committee carries out the preparatory work by looking at critical accounting issues and the financial reports submitted by the Company.

In addition, the Audit Committee shall meet with the Company's auditor on a regular basis to monitor adherence to accounting policies, obtain information about changes in current regulations as well as information about the focus and scope of the audit, and to discuss coordination of the external and internal audit and the view of the Company's risks. The Audit Committee shall also review and monitor the impartiality and independence of the auditor, paying particular attention to whether the auditor provides the Company with services other than audit services.

The Audit Committee shall also evaluate the work carried out by the auditor and inform the Company's Nomination Committee of the outcome of the evaluation and assist the Nomination Committee in the preparation of proposals for auditor and setting the fee for the audit work. The Audit Committee shall meet at least four times per financial year and otherwise as required. Minutes must be taken at each meeting and be distributed to all Board members.

In connection with the AGM, the Board of Directors appointed the Audit Committee by re-electing Tone Bjørnov, Mari Thjømøe and John Brehmer.

All members of the Audit Committee have been members of the Board. Board member Tone Bjørnov is Chairman of the Audit Committee.

In 2020, the Audit Committee held eight (8) minuted meetings. Attendance at Committee meetings was as follows:

| Board member                      | Attendance |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Tone Bjørnov (Committee Chairman) | 7 of 8     |
| Mari Thjømøe                      | 8 of 8     |
| John Brehmer                      | 8 of 8     |

The CEO, CFO and Head of Group Accounting were present at all meetings, the bank's CEO and auditor in charge from PwC also attended several meetings.

# **Remuneration of Board members**

The 2020 AGM resolved on the following remuneration for Board members:

- Chairman of the Board SEK 600,000,
- Other members of the Board SEK 300,000,
- Chairman of the Audit Committee SEK 100,000,
- Other members of the Audit Committee SEK 50 000,
- Chairman of the Remuneration Committee SEK 50 000,
- Other members of the Remuneration Committee SEK 30 000.

# Evaluation of the Board's work

The Board of Directors regularly performs a systematic evaluation where Board members are offered the opportunity to give their views on working methods, Board materials, their own and other members' contributions to the Board's work in order to develop the work performed by the Board, and to provide the Nomination Committee with relevant information required for decisions ahead of the AGM. The evaluation before the AGM in 2021 was carried out and the results of the evaluation have been presented to the Board of Directors and Nomination Committee.

#### **CEO AND EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT**

The CEO is responsible for the management of the Company in accordance with the Swedish Companies Act and the instructions of the Board of Directors. The CEO is responsible for keeping the Board of Directors informed of the Company's operations and for ensuring that the Board of Directors is provided with as true and accurate information as possible on which to base decisions.

As at 31 December 2020, TF Bank's Executive Management comprised: Mattias Carlsson (CEO), Mikael Meomuttel (CFO), Espen Johannesen (Head of Consumer Lending) and Mikael Johansson (Head of Ecommerce Solutions).

Further information about the Executive Management representatives is available at www.tfbankgroup.com and on page 101.

# Remuneration of senior executives

The AGM in 2020 adopted the following guidelines for remuneration of TF Bank's senior executives:

These guidelines comprise the CEO, CFO as well as any other members of the senior management. The guidelines shall be applied on remuneration which has been agreed upon, and changes made to already agreed remuneration, after the guidelines has been adopted by the 2020 AGM. The guidelines do not compromise remuneration which has been agreed upon by the AGM.

# Guidelines for promoting the banks business strategy, long-term interests and sustainability

TF Bank was founded 1987 and is an internet-based niche bank offering consumer banking services and e-commerce solutions through a proprietary IT platform with a high degree of automation. Deposit and lending activities are conducted in Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany and Austria through branch or cross-border banking. From 2020 the operations are divided into three segments: Consumer Lending, Ecommerce Solutions and Credit Cards.

A successful implementation of the banks business strategy and the safeguarding of the bank's long-term interests, including its sustainability, requires the bank to be able to recruit and retain qualified members of staff. This means that the bank must be able to offer a competitive remuneration package. The guidelines enable the bank to offer a competitive remuneration package to its executive management.

Variable cash remuneration which are compromised by these guidelines should aim to promote the Company's business strategy and long-term interests, including its sustainability.

#### The forms of remuneration etc.

The remuneration shall be competitive and may comprise the following components: fixed salary, variable remuneration, pensions and other economic benefits. In addition, the Annual General Meeting may decide upon, for example, share- and share price-related remuneration.

The fulfilment of criterions for variable cash remuneration must be measurable over a time period of one or several years. The variable cash remuneration may amount to a maximum of 100 per cent of the total fixed salary during the measurement period.

Furthermore, the following applies in accordance with the regulations in place with regards to remuneration in banks. Variable remuneration can be emanated in the form of shares, and there shall be a limit to the maximum result. Payment of variable remuneration shall be postponed and be made conditional on that the criteria on which the remuneration is based was shown to be sustainable in the long-term and on that the group's position has not declined substantially. If the conditions for payment are not met, the remuneration shall be cancelled in whole or in part.

Pension benefits, including health insurance, shall be premium-determined, insofar as the executive is not covered by a collective bargaining agreement and/or premium based benefit. Pension premiums for defined contribution schemes may amount to a maximum of 25 per cent of pension-based income.

Regarding employment conditions that are governed by rules other that Swedish, in so far as pension benefits and other benefits are concerned, appropriate adjustments are made to comply with such mandatory rules or fixed local practices, whereby the general purpose of these guidelines should be met as far as possible.

# Termination of employment

In the event of termination of employment by the bank, the notice period may not exceed 12 months. Fixed salary during the notice period and severance pay may not, in total, exceed an amount corresponding to the fixed salary for 6-12 months. In the event of termination by the executive, the notice period may not exceed six months, and there will be no right to receive severance pay.

Furthermore, compensation for any commitment to restrict competition may be received. Such remuneration shall compensate for any loss of income and shall only be paid to the extent that the former executive has no right to severance pay. The remuneration shall be based on the fixed salary at the time of termination and shall be paid during the period subject to the restriction of competition, which shall not exceed 6-12 month after termination of employment.

# Criteria for distributing variable remuneration

The variable remuneration shall be linked to pre-determined and measurable criteria's that may be financial or non-financial. The criteria's may also be individualized quantitative or qualitative goals. The criteria's must be designed to promote the banks business strategy and long-term interests including its sustainability, for example by having a clear link to the business strategy or promoting the long-term development of the executive.

When the measurement period for fulfillment of the criteria for payment of variable remuneration has been completed, the extent to which the criteria's have been met shall be assessed and determined, respectively. The Board of Directors are responsible for such an assessment in respect of variable cash remuneration to senior executives. The fulfillment of financial criteria's must be determined based on the latest financial information published by the company.

## Salary and terms of employment for the employees

In preparing the Boards proposal for these remuneration guidelines, salaries and terms of employment for the banks employees have been considered in that information about employees' total remuneration, the components of the remuneration and the increase and rate of remuneration over time have been part of the Boars decision when evaluating the reasonableness of the guidelines and the limitations that follow.

# The decision-making process to establish, review and implement the quidelines

The Board of Directors shall establish proposals for new guidelines when there is a need for significant changes, at least every 4 years. The proposals shall be submitted for the resolution at the AGM. The guidelines shall apply until new guidelines have been adopted by the AGM. The board shall also follow and evaluate programs for variable remuneration for the executives, the application of guidelines for remuneration senior executives, as well as current remuneration structures and remuneration levels in the bank. The CEO and other members of executive management shall not attend board meeting when decisions are being made about remuneration-related issues, insofar as they are affected by the issues.

## Deviations from the guidelines

The Board of Directors may decide to temporarily deviate from the guidelines, in whole or part, if there are special reasons that motivate such action in an individual case and deviation is necessary to meet the banks long-term interests, including its sustainability, or to ensure the banks financial viability.

## Commission-based compensation for senior executives

In 2020, commission-based compensation amounted to SEK 318 thousand (2,005). Additional commission-based

compensation is paid on the basis of individual attainment of financial targets established for the year. TF Bank has ensured that all targets related to commission-based compensation for the fiscal year can be measured in a reliable way. None of the commission-based compensation payments are qualifying payments for pension purposes.

#### INTERNAL GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

In addition to laws, ordinances, regulations, etc. TF Bank has a number of internal governing documents relating to daily management. These have been adopted by the Board of Directors, CEO or other managers and include the Articles of Association, the Board of Directors' Rules of Procedure, instructions for the Audit Committee and Remuneration Committee, instructions for the CEO and financial reporting to the Board, insider policy, risk management policy, credit policy, remuneration policy, management of ethical issues and conflicts of interest (code of conduct), outsourcing, business continuity, liquidity management, financial policy, capital policy, governing documents for risk control, compliance and internal audit, handling of complaints and anti-money laundering and terrorist financing policy. All governing documents are available on the intranet.

#### **EXTERNAL AUDITORS**

The Company's external auditors are appointed by the AGM. It is the responsibility of the external auditors to review the Annual Report and the financial statements, as well as the work of the Board of Directors and the CEO. In 2020, PricewaterhouseCoopers AB was appointed auditor of the Company with Authorised Public Accountant Martin By as auditor in charge.

Information about fees and reimbursement of expenses for the auditors is presented in Note 12.

#### INTERNAL CONTROL AND RISK MANAGEMENT

# First line of defence

TF Bank's activities primarily comprise three business areas; Consumer Lending, Ecommerce Solutions and Credit Cards, and four group-wide support functions, Credits, Finance, Operations and IT.

Risk management is based on the business and support units and includes all employees. In the first line of defence, managers of units/functions are responsible for daily risk management and compliance, and for taking appropriate action in the event of unwanted risk exposure or failing compliance within the respective business areas. Reporting lines are to the immediate manager, the Compliance, Risk Control and Information Security functions or the CEO.

# Second line of defence - Compliance, Information Security and Risk Control

The independent control functions Compliance, Information Security and Risk Control examine, evaluate and report to the Executive Management and the Board of Directors regarding risks and compliance. The work of the three functions is governed by instructions established by the Board of Directors. The control functions in the second line of defence are responsible for reviewing risk management and compliance in the first line of defence but should also provide support for the latter.

An independent review of compliance with external and internal regulations is carried out by the Compliance function in accordance with applicable laws and regulations in the countries where TF Bank has operations, as well as the Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority's (or equivalent) regulations and general guidelines on governance and control in credit institutions. The Compliance function is organised under the CEO and reports directly to the Board of Directors and is regularly reviewed by the internal audit function. TF Bank's Chief Compliance Officer is Niclas Carling. The Compliance function is independent of all business units and support functions.

Independent risk control and monitoring of risk management in TF Bank is carried out by the internal independent Risk Control function in accordance with current risk practice, the Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority's regulations and general guidelines on governance, risk management and control in credit institutions as well as applicable guidelines and recommendations issued by the EBA. The Risk Control function is also organised under the CEO and reports directly to the Board of Directors and is regularly reviewed by the internal audit function. Reporting to the Board of Directors covers the Company's capital position, liquidity risk, credit risk, market risk and operational risk, including any incidents.

TF Bank's Chief Risk Officer is Magnus Löfgren. The Risk Control function seeks to ensure that all risks in the business are identified and highlighted. The function's responsibilities include independent monitoring and analysis of how risks at an aggregate level develop over time, and to report on these to the Board of Directors and management. The function's responsibilities also include contributing to the development of risk management processes, for instance by providing methods for identification, measurement, analysis and reporting of risks. The Risk Control function works independently of all business units and support functions.

Information security is achieved by analysing the bank's processes and defining vulnerability based on confidentiality, accuracy, availability and traceability. The function is responsible for defining appropriate levels of security measures, including policies and routines, processes, organ-

isational structures and functions in software and hardware based on the bank's information assets and its risk classification. The work of the information security function is based on TF Bank's Information Security instruction and Instruction for classification, marking and handling of information and IT systems. TF Bank's Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) is Navaz Sumar.

## Third line of defence - Internal audit

TF Bank's internal audit is an independent audit function, reporting directly to the Board of Directors. The internal audit is primarily responsible for providing the Board of Directors with reliable and objective evaluation of risk management, financial reporting and control and governance processes in order to reduce the occurrence of risks and improve the control structure. TF Bank's internal audit carried out by KPMG AB and the person principally responsible for the task was Åsa Feivik. The audits are performed according to an audit plan adopted by the Board of Directors.

The internal audit function reviews and assesses whether systems, internal controls and procedures are appropriate and effective and issues recommendations and monitors adherence to the recommendations. In 2020, the audit performed by the internal audit function in addition to the mandatory areas included a general assessment of governance, internal control and risk management within TF Bank's operations in Estonia as well as the bank's adaption to the Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority's credit risk regulation FFFS 2018:16.

The Board of Directors issues and revises all the policies that form the framework for the business at least annually.

INFORMATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 6, SECTION 2 OF THE ACT (2014:968) ON SPECIAL SUPERVISION OF CREDIT INSTITUTIONS AND INVESTMENT FIRMS AND CHAPTER 8, SECTION 2 OF THE FINANCIAL SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY'S REGULAIONS ON PRUDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS AND CAPITAL BUFFERS (FFFS 2014:12)

TFB Service UAB, TFB Service SIA and TFB Service GmbH are 100% owned by TF Bank. All companies are wholly owned subsidiaries and as the sole or majority shareholder, TF Bank is able to control the companies by exercising its voting rights at the AGM. Through its shareholding, TF Bank is also able to determine the board that is elected at each company's AGM.

# THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' DESCRIPTION OF INTERNAL CONTROL AND RISK MANAGEMENT RELATING TO FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Board of Directors is responsible for the internal control of both the TF Bank Group and TF Bank AB (publ), according to the Swedish Companies Act and the Swedish Annual Accounts Act.

Internal control relating to financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of external financial reporting and whether the financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, applicable laws and regulations and other requirements for companies whose negotiable debt instruments are admitted to trading on a regulated market. The internal regulatory framework of policies, instructions and procedure and process descriptions constitutes the primary tool for safeguarding financial reporting. The effectiveness and practicality of control mechanisms are reviewed on an annual basis by the control functions and internal audit function.

The internal control activities form part of TF Bank's administrative procedures. TF Bank's internal control is based on a control environment that covers values and management culture, follow-up, a clear and transparent organisational structure, segregation of duties, the duality principle and quality and efficiency of internal communications. The basis for internal control of financial reporting also comprises a control environment covering organisation, decision-making pathways, powers and responsibilities that are documented and communicated in governing documents and job descriptions for control functions.

TF Bank takes a proactive approach to risk management, focusing on ongoing controls and training. Risk management is an integral part of the business. The control activities include both general and detailed controls intended to prevent and detect errors and discrepancies so that these can be rectified. The control activities are developed and documented at company and departmental level, at an appropriate level based on the risk of errors and the effect of such errors. The manager responsible for each function is the person who in the first instance is responsible for managing the risks associated with the activities and financial reporting processes of their department (so-called "first line of defence").

The procedures and processes relating to financial reporting are also performed by TF Bank's Risk Control function ("second line of defence"). The control consists of an assessment of whether existing procedures and processes are adequate and of spot checks.

Monthly financial reports are submitted to the Board of Directors and the financial position of the Company and the Group is discussed each board meeting. The Board of Directors receives a report from the Risk Control function and the Compliance function before all scheduled meetings.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Further information about corporate governance is available at www.tfbankgroup.com.

# **AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

To the annual meeting of the shareholders in TF Bank AB (publ), corporate identity number 556158-1041.

# **Engagement and responsibility**

The Board of Directors is responsible for that the corporate governance statement on pages 81-89 has been prepared in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act.

#### The scope of the audit

Our examination of the corporate governance statement is conducted in accordance with FAR's auditing standard RevU 16 The auditor's examination of the corporate governance statement. This means that our examination of the corporate governance statement is different and substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and generally accepted auditing standards in Sweden. We believe that the examination has provided us with sufficient basis for our opinions.

# **Opinions**

A corporate governance statement has been prepared. Disclosures in accordance with chapter 6 section 6 the second paragraph points 2-6 of the Annual Accounts Act and chapter 7 section 31 the second paragraph the same law are consistent with the other parts of the annual accounts and consolidated accounts and are in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act for Credit Institutions and Securities Companies.

Stockholm 18 March 2021 PricewaterhouseCoopers AB

Martin By
Authorised Public Accountant
Auditor in Charge