

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

**To the stockholders of  
Joint Stock Company "PATA Saldus"**

### **Our Qualified Opinion on the Consolidated Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of AS "PATA Saldus", reg.No. 40003020121 ("the Company") and its subsidiaries ("the Group") set out on pages 7 to 36 of the accompanying consolidated annual report, which comprise:

- the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2017,
- the consolidated statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended,
- the consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended,
- the consolidated statement of changes in equity for the year then ended, and
- the notes to the consolidated financial statements, comprising significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the consolidated financial position of AS "PATA Saldus" and its subsidiaries as at 31 December 2017, and of its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union.

### **Basis for Qualified Opinion**

The Auditor's Report on the Group's Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2016 contained a modification regarding the recognition of deferred tax liabilities from the long-term investment revaluation reserve. In 2017, this circumstance was solved (see pages 20, 21 and 27 of the notes to the consolidated financial statements), however, the management decided not to re-classify the relevant figures for the year ended 31 December 2016. Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements for the reporting year has been modified in light of the effect of this circumstance on comparative financial information.

In accordance with the Law on Audit Services of the Republic of Latvia we conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing adopted in the Republic of Latvia (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements* section of our report.

We are independent of the Group in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) and independence requirements included in the Law on Audit Services of the Republic of Latvia

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that are relevant to our audit of the consolidated financial statements in the Republic of Latvia. We have also fulfilled our other professional ethics responsibilities and objectivity requirements in accordance with the IESBA Code and Law on Audit Services of the Republic of Latvia.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

### **Key Audit Matters**

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

In addition to the matters described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section, we have determined the matters described below to be the key audit matters to be communicated in our report:

#### *Existence and valuation of inventories*

Key audit matter	Our response
<p><i>The Group's consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2017 includes inventories with carrying amount of EUR 5 991.7 thousand, which represents 17.5% of total assets of the Group.</i></p> <p><i>We refer to Note 14, page 29 to the consolidated financial statements of the Group.</i></p> <p>Taking into account the specifics of the forestry, primary processing of timber - the lumber industry and the volume of inventories in the Group's consolidated financial statements, it is essential to determine the net realizable value of the inventories, therefore we consider this issue to be significant in the context of the audit.</p>	<p>Our procedures included, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• we evaluated the results of internal control activities in inventory count and other control measures;</li> <li>• we considered the results of the inventory count;</li> <li>• we participated in warehouse inventories count, observing the inventory count procedures and progress;</li> <li>• we tested the purchase value of inventories on a sampling basis;</li> <li>• we performed analytical and detailed procedures and reviewed calculations of the net realizable value of inventories.</li> </ul>



**Other Matter**

Consolidated financial statements of AS "PATA Saldus" for the year ended 31 December 2016 were audited by another auditor; modified opinion was issued on 30 April 2017.

**Reporting on Other Information**

The Company management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises:

- general information about the Group, as set out on pages 3-4 of the accompanying consolidated Annual Report,
- the Management Report, as set out on page 5 of the accompanying consolidated Annual Report,
- the Statement on Management Responsibility, as set out on page 6 of the accompanying consolidated Annual Report,
- the Statement on Corporate Governance, prepared as a separate part of the consolidated Annual report, indicating in the Management Report the website address on the Internet, where the Statement on Corporate Governance is available to the public in electronic form.

Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information included in the consolidated annual report, and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon, except as described in the *Other reporting responsibilities in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Latvia related to other information* section of our report.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed and in light of the knowledge and understanding of the Group and its environment obtained in the course of our audit, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard, except as described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion*.

**Other reporting responsibilities in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Latvia related to other information**

In addition, in accordance with the Law on Audit Services of the Republic of Latvia with respect to the Management Report, our responsibility is to consider whether the Management Report is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law On the Annual Reports and Consolidated Annual Reports of the Republic of Latvia.

Based solely on the work required to be undertaken in the course of our audit, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Management Report for the financial year for which the consolidated financial statements are prepared is consistent with the consolidated financial statements; and
- the Management Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law On the Annual Reports and Consolidated Annual Reports of the Republic of Latvia.

In accordance with the Law on Audit Services of the Republic of Latvia with respect to the Statement of Corporate Governance, our responsibility is to consider whether the Statement on Corporate Governance includes the information required in section 56.<sup>1</sup>, first paragraph, clause 3, 3, 6, 8 and 9, as well as section 56.<sup>2</sup>, second paragraph, clause 5 of the Financial Instruments Market Law.

In our opinion, the Statement on Corporate Governance includes the information required in section 56.<sup>1</sup>, first paragraph, clause 3, 3, 6, 8 and 9, as well as section 56.<sup>2</sup>, second paragraph, clause 5 of the Financial Instruments Market Law.

### **Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Consolidated Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Group's financial reporting process.

### **Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.



As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves a fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and objectivity, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the consolidated financial statements

of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditors' report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

**Other reporting responsibilities and confirmations required by the legislation of the Republic of Latvia and the European Union when providing audit services to public interest entities**

We were appointed by those charged with governance on 4 December 2017 to audit the consolidated financial statements of AS "PATA Saldus" for the year ended 31 December 2017. Our total uninterrupted period of engagement is 1 year, covering the period ending 31 December 2017.

We confirm that:

- our audit is consistent with the additional report presented to the Audit Committee of the Group;
- as referred to in the paragraph 37.<sup>6</sup> of the 'Law On the Annual Report and Consolidated Annual Report' of the Republic of Latvia we have not provided to the Group the prohibited non-audit services (NASs) referred to of EU Regulation (EU) No. 537/2014. We also remained independent of the audited Group in conducting the audit.

The responsible certified auditor on the audit resulting in this independent auditors' report is Marija Jansone.

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**Marija Jansone**  
Member of the Board,  
The responsible Certified Auditor,  
Certificate No. 25

Riga, Latvia  
April 27, 2018



**Andrejs Ponomarjovs**  
Chairman of the Board,  
Director General