# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

This report was prepared in accordance with the Swedish Annual Accounts Act (1995:1554) and the Swedish Code of Corporate Governance (the Code)

#### INTRODUCTION

Crown Energy AB (Crown Energy) is a Swedish Public Company with its headquarters in Stockholm. The Company's ordinary shares are traded on NGM Equity.

Crown Energy's corporate governance is allocated among shareholders, the Board, the CEO, and senior management. Governance is regulated mainly by the Articles of Association, the Swedish Companies Act, NGM's rules for companies whose shares are traded on NGM Equity, the Code, good practice on the stock market, and internal guidelines and policies.

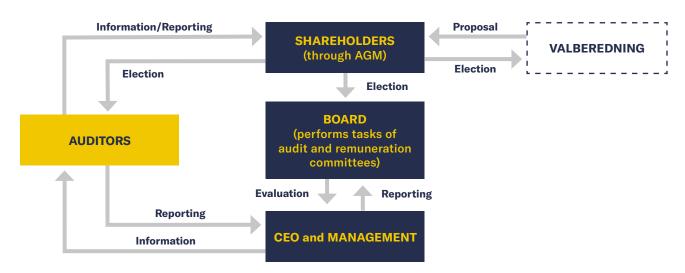
Companies whose shares are traded on a regulated market are required to implement the Code. The Code is part of self-regulation in the Swedish business community and is based on the principle of comply or explain. This means that a company applying the Code may deviate from individual rules but must explain the reason for each deviation and provide a description of the solution that was chosen instead. The Code is available at www. corporategovernanceboard.se. In accordance with the provisions of the Annual Accounts Act and the Code, Swedish companies whose shares are traded on a Swedish regulated market must also prepare a Corporate Governance Report. Crown Energy's 2017 Corporate Governance Report was prepared accordingly.

Rules of the Code from which Crown Energy deviated in 2017 are indicated in this report. Explanations and solutions that were used instead are described in each respective section of the Corporate Governance Report.

The Company did not have any breaches of NGM's rules for companies whose shares are traded on NGM Equity or breaches of good practice on the stock market to report for the year.

### **GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

The shareholders of Crown Energy exercise their influence on the Annual General Meeting, the Company's highest decision-making body, while the Board of Directors and the CEO are responsible for the Company's organisation and management of the Company's affairs in accordance with the Swedish Companies Act, other laws and regulations, applicable rules for listed companies, the Articles of Association and the Board's internal control instruments. Crown Energy's governance structure is described in the following organizational chart of the various governing bodies. A description of each governing body follows.



### **SHAREHOLDERS**

As at 31 December 2017, Crown Energy had about 1,500 share-holders. The Company's three largest owners as of 31 December 2017, with regard to both share capital and votes, are Yoav Ben-Eli (through YBE Ventures Ltd) with approximately 74.0 per cent of the shares, Cement Fund SCSp with 13.2 percent and Veronique Salik with 3.0 per cent. All outstanding shares are ordinary shares.

The five largest shareholders had combined holdings corresponding to 93.6 per cent of the shares as well as the votes at the end of 2017.

According to Chap. 6, Sec. 6, Sub sec. 2, Par. 3 of the Annual Accounts Act, corporate governance reports must present direct or indirect shareholdings that represent at least one-tenth of the number of votes for all shares in the Company. There were two shareholders with shareholdings of this type at 31 December 2017: Yoav Ben-Eli and Cement Fund SCSp. Further information about the share and shareholders can be found on pages 20–22 of this Annual Report.

### **GENERAL MEETING**

The General Meeting is Crown Energy's highest decision-making body. By law, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) must be held within six months of year-end. Decisions are made at the AGM on such issues as adoption of the income statement and balance sheet, appropriation of profits, discharge of liability and election of Board members and auditors. Decisions are also made at the general meeting on the Articles of Association, dividends, and any changes to the share capital.

Notice of the AGM, as well as of Extra General Meeting where questions of amending the Articles of Association will be handled, shall be issued no earlier than six and no later than four weeks before the meeting through a press release, a public announcement in Post- och InrikesTidningar (Post and Domestic Times), and on the Company's website. Notice of any other general meeting shall be issued no earlier than six and no later than three weeks before the meeting. In order to attend and vote at the AGM, shareholders must be entered in the register maintained by Euroclear Sweden AB on Crown Energy's behalf no later than five working days before the meeting and must have reported their participation to the Company as described in the meeting notice. Shareholders may be represented by proxy.

### **Annual General Meeting**

Crown Energy's 2017 Annual General Meeting was held on 12 May 2017 in Stockholm. At the meeting, 27.35 per cent of the votes and 7.73 per cent of the total number of outstanding shares were represented. The following items and others were resolved at the meeting:

- Adoption of the income statements and balance sheets for the Parent Company and the Group
- Discharge from liability for the Board and CEO
- Adoption of appropriation of profits, entailing that the Company's accumulated earnings of SEK 202,772,513 be brought forward
- Adoption of the number of Board members (four) and election of Board members (re-election of all members)
- Adoption of Board fees of SEK 225,000, with SEK 150,000 to the Chairman and SEK 75,000 to each non-employed Board member
- Re-election of Auditors and adoption of audit fees as per approved invoices
- Adoption of guidelines for remuneration of Group senior executives
- Change of the Articles of Association with respect to removal of the post-transfer purchase right clause.

The 2018 AGM will be held on 17 May 2017 at 10.00 am at the Company's lawyer's (Baker & McKenzie) head office at Vasagatan 7 in Stockholm. For information on the AGM, see the Company's website at www.crownenergy.se.

### Other general meetings

No extra general meetings were held in 2017.

### **NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

A nomination committee's main tasks are to present proposals for election of the Chairman of the Board and Board members,

fees to Board members, election of auditors, and auditor fees to the AGM. Principles for appointing a nomination committee are resolved at the AGM.

Historically, Crown Energy has not had a nomination committee, which is a deviation from the Code of Corporate Governance. The Board decided with the principal shareholders that a nomination committee is currently not necessary in view of the composition of shareholders. Depending on any future changes in shareholders, the issue of a nominations committee may need to be raised again and Crown Energy is planning to engage in an ongoing dialogue with the principal shareholders on this issue.

#### **BOARD**

The Board's composition, functions, and rules of procedure The Board's work is conducted in compliance with the Companies Act, the Code, and other applicable rules and regulations prescribed by the Company. The Board's overall function is to manage the Company's affairs and organisation.

According to the Articles of Association, Crown Energy's Board is to consist of at least three and no more than ten members, with no more than five deputies. The composition of the Board was unchanged during the year and consisted of four members.

Board of Directors at 31 December 2017:

- Pierre-Emmanuel Weil (Chairman)
- Alan Simonian (Board Member)
- Jean Benaim (Board Member)
- Yoav Ben-Eli (Board Member)

There is no specific division of duties between Board members. For additional information on the current Board, see the "Board of Directors, senior executives, and auditors" section on pages 18–19 of the Annual Report.

At the organisational Board meeting after the AGM, the Board of Directors of Crown Energy sets out rules of procedure with instructions on the rules of procedure between the Board and the CEO as well as instructions for financial reporting. The rules of procedure are reviewed and approved annually. The Board holds at least four regular meetings in addition to the statutory meeting. The meetings are scheduled as far as possible to coincide with financial reporting and the AGM. Besides regular meetings, the Board gathers for additional meetings as required.

The work is led by the Chairman of the Board, who has a particular responsibility for ensuring that it is well organised and efficient. This includes ensuring that the Board has the relevant education to discharge its duties, ensuring that it receives sufficient information and supporting documents, and that it is evaluated annually. The Chairman also maintains frequent contact with the Company's CEO. The Chairman is appointed at the AGM. Pierre-Emmanuel Weil was re-elected Chairman of the Board at the 2017 AGM.

The Board may establish committees to delegate certain tasks. Normally these committees consist of audit and remuneration committees. Board committees deal with issues that fall within

their respective areas and submit reports and recommendations that form the basis of decisions made by the Board. The Board decides whether or not a committee should be established. The Board may, in accordance with the Swedish Companies Act, decide to perform the duties of a committee themselves, that is, address the issues within the regular Board. In 2017, Crown Energy did not have an audit committee or remuneration committee since the Board found it to be more appropriate to handle these types of issues within the regular Board. Accordingly, the Board performs the duties of each committee.

The Code requires that a majority of Board members be independent of the company and its management. At least two of the independent Board members must be independent of the Company's major shareholders. Major shareholders are defined as owners who control ten per cent or more of the shares or votes in the Company. The Board's composition was unchanged in 2017. At the AGM in May 2017, all four Board members were re-elected. One of them is independent of the Company, its

management, and major shareholders. As only one person is independent both in relation to the Company's management as well as major shareholders, this is a deviation from the Code.

### The work of the Board in 2017

Under the Board's rules of procedure, the Board is to convene at least four times per year in addition to the statutory meeting. The Board held 18 meetings in 2017, including one statutory meeting. As a result of the acquisition of ESI Group S.A., the Board worked extensively during the year on the completion of and Company formalities in connection with the deal, in addition to current regular questions.

In 2018, a number of meetings have been held. Including one in April regarding a debriefing from the Company's auditors regarding the 2017 financial year.

A summary of the Board members and their attendance at Board meetings can be found below:

Name	Position	Independent of Company and management	Independent of Company's major shareholders	Board meeting attendance 2017
Pierre-Emmanuel Weil	Chairman	Yes	No	18/18
Alan Simonian	Board member	No	Yes	18/18
Jean Benaim	Board member	Yes	Yes	14/18
Yoav Ben-Eli	Board member	Yes	No	15/18

### **Authorisation**

The Company has no outstanding authorisations.

### **CEO AND MANAGEMENT**

The CEO ensures that operations are conducted in accordance with the Companies Act, other laws and ordinances, applicable rules for listed companies, the Articles of Association, and the Board's internal control instruments, and in accordance with the Board's established goals and strategies. In consultation with the Chairman of the Board, the CEO compiles the necessary informational and supporting documents for Board meetings, presents reports and motivates decision proposals. The CEO is Andreas Forssell.

The Management Group is otherwise comprised of Jenny Björk, CFO (with Thomas Falck as interim CFO from October 2017), Alan Simonian, COO, and Peter Mikkelsen, chief geologist and exploration manager. Thomas Falck and Peter Mikkelsen perform their duties as consultants, not as employees of Crown Energy.

See the presentation of the CEO and other senior executives on pages 18–19 of the Annual Report.

### **INTERNAL AUDITING**

The Company has had, until the acquisition of ESI Group S.A., a simple legal and operational structure along with established management and internal control systems. As a result, the Board determined in 2017 that a separate internal audit function was not necessary. The Board regularly monitors the Company's assessment of internal control through contact with the Com-

pany's auditors and by other means. In 2018, the Board intends to increase resources for internal control, including through the appointment of a Controller.

### **AUDITOR**

The auditor is appointed at the AGM to review, on behalf of the shareholders, Crown Energy's Annual Report and accounts and the Board's and CEO's administration of the Company.

The 2017 AGM re-elected audit firm Öhrlings Pricewaterhouse-Coopers AB as Crown Energy's auditor until the end of the 2018 AGM. As chief auditor, authorised public accountant Bo Lagerström was appointed to sign the auditor's report.

The audit team had regular contact with the Company in 2017 in addition to the audit procedures performed. The Company's auditors reviewed the annual accounts and the Company's internal controls for 2017. Apart from this, the auditor also performed statutory reviews in conjunction with the year's share issues. The Company's financial nine-month report was reviewed.

### REMUNERATION

### Remuneration guidelines

Guidelines for remuneration of senior executives at Crown Energy are approved at the AGM and currently cover the CEO and the Company's CFO, who are in senior management and who are employees of the Company. The policy is that remuneration should be commercially competitive. The remuneration level should be based on position, competence, experience, and performance.

Most recently approved remuneration guidelines – 2017 AGM For the 2017 AGM, the Board proposed the following, essentially unchanged, guidelines, which were later adopted at the AGM on 12 May 2017:

- The Board shall be entitled to deviate from the guidelines in individual cases if there are specific reasons for doing so. In the event of such a deviation, notice of the deviation and the reason for it must be reported at the next AGM.
- The remuneration of the CEO and other senior executives shall consist of a fixed, market-based salary. Any potential benefits shall constitute only a limited portion of the remuneration.
- The CEO and other senior executives shall have defined contribution pension plans, which means that vesting occurs through the Parent Company's annual payments of premiums. The pension provision for the CEO shall be 25% of the CEO's annual salary. Pensions for other senior executives must be in line with the ITP plan.
- Upon termination by the Company, severance pay for senior executives can be paid to a maximum of 24 monthly salaries, including fixed salary, during the notice period.
- Decisions on share and share price related incentive schemes for senior executives shall be taken at the AGM. Share and share price related incentive schemes shall be designed with the aim of achieving greater alignment of interests between the participating executives and the Company's shareholders. Schemes that involve the acquisition of shares shall be designed so that a personal shareholding in the Company is promoted. The vesting period, or the period from the conclusion of the agreement until shares may be acquired shall not be less than three years. Board members who are not also employees of the Company shall not participate in schemes directed to management or other employees. Share options shall not be included in schemes directed to the Board.
- The Company's Board members shall, in specific cases, be allowed to receive fees for services rendered within their respective areas of expertise that are not associated with Board work. Fees for these services shall be market-based, approved by the Board, and disclosed at the AGM.

### The Board's proposed remuneration guidelines for the 2018 AGM

The Board's proposed remuneration guidelines for the 2017 AGM are the same as the most recently adopted guidelines (see above).

### **Remuneration of the Board of Directors**

Resolutions on the remuneration of the Board are made at the AGM. At the AGM on 12 May 2017, it was decided that the Chairman of the Board's remuneration would be SEK 150,000 and that the remuneration of other Board members not employed by the Company would be SEK 75,000 each.

Chairmen and Board members who are not also employees of the Company do not receive a salary from the Company and are not

eligible to participate in any of the Company's future incentive schemes. However, as mentioned earlier, Yoav Ben-Eli receives a fee for management services from 1 July 2017. During the period July - December 2017, this fee totalled SEK 679,792.

Board fees, amount in SEK thousands	2017	2016
Chairman of the Board	150	150
Board member (per person)	75	75

### Remuneration of and benefits for senior executives in 2017 Decisions on the remuneration of the CEO are made by the Board.

CEO Andreas Forssell has since July 2016 received SEK 130,000 per month. Andreas Forssell also receives pension benefits, which, as far as the Board can determine, are comparable to CEOs of companies that are similar to Crown Energy.

The other senior executives of Crown Energy are Jenny Björk, CFO (on parental leave from October 2017), Thomas Falck, Interim CFO (from October 2017), Alan Simonian, COO, and Peter Mikkelsen, Exploration Manager. Decisions regarding the remuneration of other senior executives are made by the CEO. Jenny Björk receives from July 2016 a monthly remuneration of SEK 65,000. Jenny Björk also receives pension benefits, which, as far as the Board can determine, are comparable to corresponding positions in companies that are similar to Crown Energy. Alan Simonian was hired effective June 2016 and his monthly remuneration is SEK 100,000. Alan Simonian also receives pension benefits, which, as far as the Board can determine, are comparable to corresponding positions in companies that are similar to Crown Energy.

Between the Company and the CEO, CFO and COO, there is a notice period of 24 months from the Company and 6 months from the employee.

Apart from public pension plans, Crown Energy has no contracted pension benefits other than the pension benefits of the CEO, CFO and COO. Unless otherwise stated above, the Company has not entered into any agreement with members of the Company's administrative, management, or supervisory bodies that entitle such members to any benefits after termination of their assignments.

Thomas Falck is hired consultant via ProXecutive Consultants AB, which is replaced on a regular basis. In 2017, ProXecutive Consultants AB invoiced a total fee of SEK 1,050 thousand.

Peter Mikkelsen performs his management obligations to the Company on a consultant basis and is hired as needed. In 2017, Peter Mikkelsen invoiced a total fee corresponding to SEK 84 thousand.

The remuneration of employed senior executives is summarised below:

Senior executives, All amounts in SEK thousand	Base salary	Variable remuneration	Other benefits	Pension expences	Total 2017	2016
Andreas Forssell, CEO	1,596	-	-	434	2,030	2,058
Jenny Björk, CFO	795	-	-	120	915	925
Alan Simonian, COO	1,200	-	-	139	1,339	770
Total	3,591	_	_	693	4,285	3,753

#### **Remuneration of auditors**

The 2017 AGM elected Öhrlings PricewaterhouseCoopers AB as the auditor. Bo Lagerström has served as chief auditor since autumn 2016. Bo Lagerström succeeded Peter Burholm due to rotation rules. Mr Lagerström is an authorised public accountant and a member of FAR SRS, Sweden's association for accountancy professionals. Remuneration to the auditor is paid on open account. Remuneration paid to the auditor by the Group for financial year 2017 (2016) totalled SEK 1,019 thousand (730), of which SEK 900 thousand (718) pertained to audit engagements and SEK 119 thousand (12) was for other engagements. An audit involves reviewing the Annual Report and bookkeeping along with the administration of the Board of Directors and CEO, other tasks incumbent upon the Company's auditor to perform, and advice or other assistance prompted by observations made during the audit or the performance of other tasks. Everything else is considered other assignments.

### INTERNAL CONTROL AND RISK MANAGEMENT OF FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR THE 2017 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Board is responsible for the internal control of the Company and, according to the Annual Accounts Act, the Board must annually submit a description of the key elements of the Company's internal control and risk management regarding financial reporting. Following is a brief description of how internal control and financial reporting works.

### **Control environment**

The control environment forms the basis of internal control of the financial reporting. The Company's internal control structure is based on a clear division of responsibilities and duties between the Board and CEO as well as within operational activities. In addition to guidance documents such as instructions for the Board and CEO, the disclosure policy and the financial reporting policy, there are also guidelines and policies for operating and administrative activities. All guidance documents and process descriptions are communicated within the organization and are available and known to the personnel concerned.

### Risk assessment

The Company identifies, analyses, and makes decisions on managing the risk of errors in financial reporting. Currently, the business is relatively small and involves a limited number of persons. The Company has identified the operational processes and income statement and balance sheet items for which there

is a risk that errors, omissions, or irregularities could occur if the necessary control elements were not built into routines. The Company's risk assessment analysed how and where errors may occur in the procedures. Issues that are important to risk assessment are things such as whether assets and liabilities exist on a given date, accurate valuation, whether a business transaction actually occurred, and whether items are recognised in accordance with laws and ordinances. Currently, the Company's biggest risk is linked to the economic development of the markets in which the Company operates.

### **Control activities**

A number of control measures were established based on the Company's risk assessments. These are both of a preventive nature, meaning that they are designed to avoid reporting losses or errors, and of an investigative nature. The controls are also meant to ensure that errors are corrected.

### Information and communication

Internal regulations, policies, and procedural descriptions are available on the Company's internal network. Internal communication to and from the Board and management takes place through regular meetings, either physically or by telephone.

To ensure that external communication with the stock market is accurate, there is a disclosure policy that regulates how investor relations are managed.

### Follow-up

Under 2017 har uppföljning främst skett genom att verksamheten har behandlats i samband med ordinarie styrelsemöten.

In 2017, follow-up of operations was mainly done in connection with regular Board meetings. The Company's auditors regularly reviewed the internal controls during 2017.

The Company intends to update procedural descriptions, policies, and guidance documents as necessary, but at least annually. The Board shall receive quarterly financial results, including management's comments on operations. The Company's auditor participates in at least one Board meeting to present observations of the Company's internal routines and control systems.

## AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

To the general meeting of the shareholders in Crown Energy AB (publ), corporate identity number 556804-9598

### **Engagement and responsibility**

It is the board of directors who is responsible for the corporate governance statement for the year 2017 on pages 25–29 and that it has been prepared in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act.

### The scope of the audit

Our examination has been 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 the Annual Accounts Act and chapter 7 section 31 the second paragraph the same law are consistent with the annual accounts and the consolidated accounts and are in accordance with the Annual Accounts Act.

Stockholm 26 April 2018

Öhrlings PricewaterhouseCoopers AB

Bo Lagerström Authorized Public Accountant