BONDPARTNERS SA

Avenue de l'Elysée 24
Case postale / CH-1001 Lausanne
Tel. 021 613 43 43 / Fax 021 617 97 15
Web: www.bpl-bondpartners.ch

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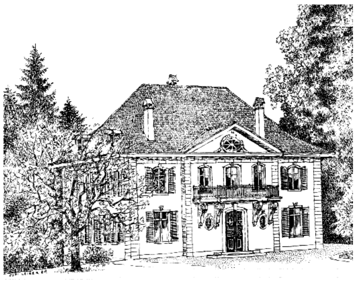

PRESS RELEASE (N° 135) *(translation, French text prevails)*

Bondpartners SA: Significant improvement of annual profit and increase in reserves

As for 2021, Bondpartners' preliminary and unaudited net income rose 66% compared to previous year to reach CHF 2.5mio. For its part, the operating profit doubled to CHF 4.4mio and costs remained overall contained.

While they were still tossed around by the pandemic and its economic repercussions, financial markets continued their recoveries, with some downward movements, influencing favourably income from securities held in positions, whereas results generated by trading operations, even if turnover remained sustained, did not reach the high levels recorded during the previous year. Lastly, our national currency continued to strengthen, the negative impact on assets expressed in foreign currencies was however of lesser importance than in 2020.

As in the past, both the balance-sheet structure and solvency ratio remained extremely consistent, shareholders' equity reaching nearly CHF 87mio, e.g. 71% of the total assets (thus achieving a CET1 ratio of 65%) while current assets accounted for 92% of total balance-sheet.

For the fiscal year ended 31st December 2021, Bondpartners (BPL), hereby announces a *preliminary and non-audited* net individual income of CHF +2.5mio versus CHF +1.5mio in 2020. The gross ordinary income (*including valuation of own equity positions and excluding currency exchange gains or losses*), reached CHF 12.3mio (vs CHF 11.1mio at the end of 2020) and the operating result amounted to CHF +4.4mio (vs CHF +2.1mio in 2020).

Turnover rose 5.5% whilst margins decreased in a still persistently unfavourable environment for bonds (the trading of structured products, in contrast, having pursued its development); the strong performance of stockmarkets positively contributed to the Company's portfolios, while the Swiss franc sustained a strengthening particularly against euro and yen.

In terms of net ordinary results, interest income was even at CHF 1.6mio, proceeds from commission transactions progressed to CHF 0.6mio (vs CHF 0.5mio) and income from trading transactions reported lower earnings at CHF 5.2mio (vs CHF 6.9mio). Income from the valuations of securities holdings amounted higher at CHF +3.7mio (vs CHF +0.7mio) and the result from currencies and forex totalled a loss of CHF -0.7mio (vs a loss of CHF -1.5mio in 2020).

Operating expenses were slightly higher at CHF 6.1mio (vs CHF 6.0mio), whilst total charges, *including amortization/depreciation and excluding taxes*, were contained at CHF 7.2mio (-1.5%).

Reserves for general banking risks were replenished by CHF 1.5mio, as was the case in 2020 for CHF 0.4mio.

The statutory balance sheet was stable at CHF 122.5mio (vs CHF 124mio); current assets making up 92.2% of the latter (namely, receivables from banks: 39%, due from customers and non-banking companies: 8.5%, securities portfolio: 44.5% of the balance-sheet total). Fixed assets (comprised mostly of two buildings owned by the Company) accounted for 8% of the balance sheet.

With regard to liabilities as of 31.12.2021, commitments towards banks (including trading operations) reached CHF 8.1mio (vs CHF 3.2mio) and amounts due to customers (deposits) and non-banking institutions (also including open transactions) came to CHF 26.7mio (vs CHF 35.3mio). Total liabilities amounted thus to CHF 35.9mio (vs CHF 39.7mio). The reserves for general banking risks improved further to CHF 42.6mio (+3.5%), while other reserves remained steady at CHF 37.75mio and individual shareholders' equity gained 3.25% to CHF 86.7mio.

The parent company's solvency ratio (Tier One/CET1, according to Basel III principles) reflected a persisting high rate of nearly 65% (vs 63%). Eligible and required capitals respectively amount to about CHF 78.5mio and CHF 10mio, giving a net free equity of CHF 69mio (vs 67mio) according to preliminary figures. These data on capital adequacy continue, as in the past, to be widely above regulatory requirements.

Unsurprisingly, the Covid-19 pandemic remained a dominant theme in 2021, as new variants emerged and vaccines deployed on a large scale. On the economic scene, the production of goods and services unquestionably and strongly rebounded, but was nevertheless confronted with bottlenecks and shortages which penalized various sectors of activity. The imbalance between supply and demand have also been exacerbated by a substantial increase in the costs of energy and raw materials which induced a sharp rise in inflation for numerous countries.

On the geopolitical level, the period under review was also dense between China's continued upsurge, President Biden's entry into function, conservatives' victory in Iran, Lukashenko's isolation in Byelorussia, growing tensions with Russia, or Taliban return in Kabul. 2021 was also the fifth warmest year on record, bringing a renewed procession of climatic catastrophes which are increasingly costly.

This concoction of events which were not always reassuring, created little disturbance during the spectacular bounce-back of stockmarkets (MSCI World index +20%) relying admittedly to a greater extent on the economic recovery and strong growth of corporate profits. The situation was less favourable for bonds in the context of potential interest hikes and less accommodative monetary policy by central banks. Lastly, the Swiss franc played again its role as safe-haven in the current changing environment.

Omicron, inflation, growing inequalities, the World Bank did worsen its expectations for 2022. A certain degree of caution continues to prevail given the large uncertainties and the major risks involved. It is therefore difficult again to issue any guidance for the coming months. Nevertheless, it seems clear that the future evolution of interest rates might, after a long spell, stimulate some action in capital markets.

About Bondpartners: BPL is a Swiss financial company founded in 1972 in Lausanne, whose business hinges on three main axes: the inter-professional dealing of securities, the market making and market keeping, and the execution of orders issued by independent managers. It is authorized and supervised by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA) as a securities firm.

Contacts:
Christian Plomb / Olivier Perroud, members of the management
Tel. +41 (0)21 613 43 43
christian.plomb@bpl-bondpartners.ch / olivier.perroud@bpl-bondpartners.ch

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