

# Corporate Governance Statement Pursuant to Section 289f of the German Commercial Code (HGB)

## Responsible corporate governance is what governs the actions of the Executive Board and the Supervisory Board.

Responsible corporate governance geared toward sustainable, long-term value creation and in the interests of all stakeholder groups is what governs the actions of the Executive Board and Supervisory Board of Continental AG. The following report presents the corporate governance at Continental. This corporate governance statement pursuant to Section 289f of the German Commercial Code (*Handelsgesetzbuch - HGB*) is supplemented by the remuneration report of Continental AG and is a part of the company's management report.

### Declaration pursuant to Section 161 AktG and deviations from the German Corporate Governance Code

In December 2020, the Executive Board and the Supervisory Board issued the following annual declaration in accordance with Section 161 of the German Stock Corporation Act (*Aktiengesetz - AktG*):

"The Executive Board and the Supervisory Board of Continental AG declare in accordance with Section 161 German Stock Corporations Act (*AktG*) that the recommendations of the "Government Commission on the German Corporate Governance Code" in the version dated February 7, 2017 (published by the Federal Ministry of Justice in the official part of the electronic Federal Gazette (*Bundesanzeiger*) on April 24, 2017; hereinafter "Code 2017") were complied with, with the exceptions set out in Item 1, and further the recommendations of the "Government Commission on the German Corporate Governance Code" in the version dated December 16, 2019 (published by the Federal Ministry of Justice in the official section of the electronic Federal Gazette (*Bundesanzeiger*) on March 20, 2020; hereinafter "Code 2020"), are being complied with, with the exceptions stated under Item 2. Reference is made to the declaration of the Executive Board and the Supervisory Board of December 2019 as well as to previous declarations in accordance with Section 161 of the German Stock Corporation Act (*AktG*) and the deviations from the recommendations of the German Corporate Governance Code explained therein.

- > Item 1: According to Section 5.4.1 Paragraph 2 of the Code 2017, the Supervisory Board should specify specific objectives for its composition, which, among other things, take into account an age limit to be specified for Supervisory Board members. The Supervisory Board has specified such objectives. However, the Supervisory Board did not establish an age limit because it is of the opinion that such a general criterion is not suitable for evaluating the qualifications of an individual candidate's nomination to the Supervisory Board.
- > Item 2: According to recommendation C.2 of Code 2020, the Supervisory Board shall set an age limit for members of the Supervisory Board. The Supervisory Board does not set an age limit

because it does not consider such a general criterion to be appropriate for evaluating the qualifications of a Supervisory Board member general criterion is not suitable for evaluating the qualifications of members of the Supervisory Board.

Hanover, December 2020

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Wolfgang Reitzle  
Chairman of the Supervisory Board

Nikolai Setzer  
Chairman of the Executive Board"

The declaration is published in the Company/Corporate Governance section of Continental's website [📄](#). Earlier declarations in accordance with Section 161 AktG can also be found there. Out-of-date corporate governance statements can also be found there for a period of at least five years.

### Key corporate governance practices

The following documents are key foundations of our sustainable and responsible corporate governance:

- > OUR BASICS - Continental AG's corporate guidelines. OUR BASICS have reflected the vision, values, desired behavior and self-image of the Continental Group since 1989, and are available in the Company/Corporate Strategy section of Continental's website [📄](#).
- > Sustainability ambition; available on Continental's website at [📄 www.continental-sustainability.com/downloads](#).
- > Compliance with the binding Code of Conduct for all Continental employees. For more information, see the Compliance section on page 22 or Continental's website at [📄 www.continental-sustainability.com/downloads](#).

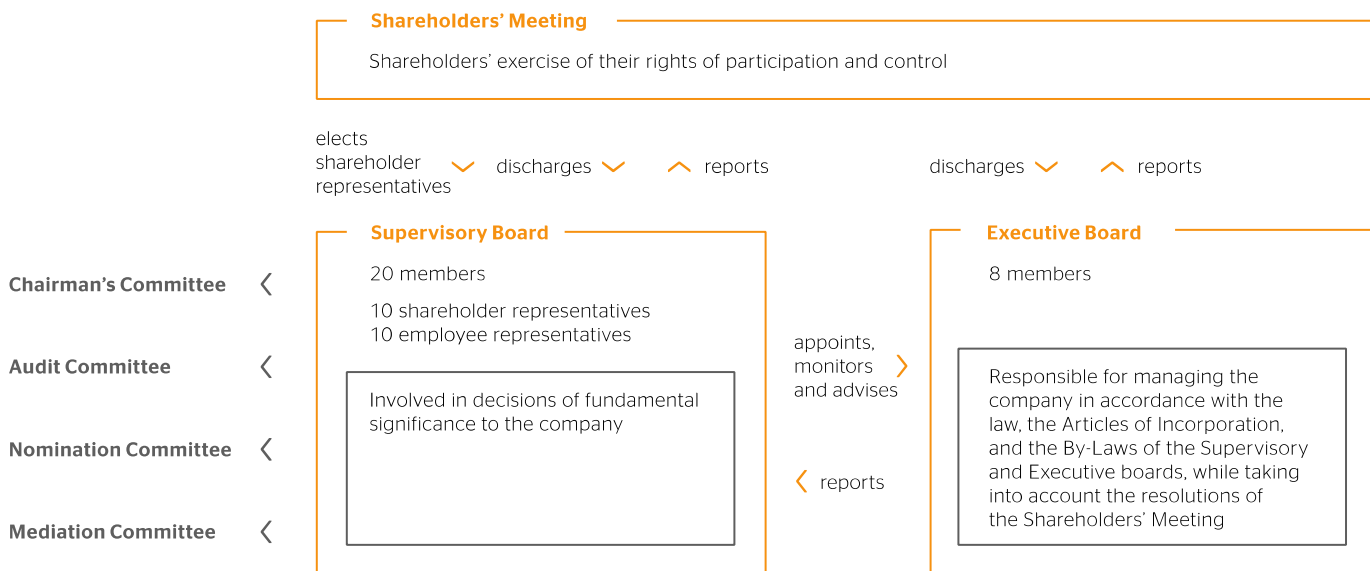
### Corporate bodies

In line with the law and the Articles of Incorporation, the company's corporate bodies are the Executive Board, the Supervisory Board and the Shareholders' Meeting. As a German stock corporation, Continental AG has a dual management system characterized by a strict personnel division between the Executive Board as the management body and the Supervisory Board as the monitoring body. The cooperation between the Executive Board, Supervisory Board and Shareholders' Meeting is depicted on the next page.

### The Executive Board and its practices

The Executive Board has sole responsibility for managing the company in the interests of the company, free from instructions from third parties in accordance with the law, the Articles of Incorporation and the Executive Board's By-Laws, while taking into account the resolutions of the Shareholders' Meeting. All members of the Executive Board share responsibility for the management of the company jointly. Regardless of this principle of joint responsibility, each Executive Board member is individually responsible for the areas entrusted to them. The chairman of the Executive Board is

**Corporate bodies of the company**



responsible for the company's overall management and business policy. Nikolai Setzer was appointed chairman of the Executive Board of Continental AG with effect from December 1, 2020. In this role, he ensures management coordination and uniformity on the Executive Board and represents the company to the public. The Executive Board jointly develops the company's strategy, agrees it with the Supervisory Board and ensures its implementation.

The Executive Board currently has eight members. The first time a person is appointed to the Executive Board, his or her term as a rule is three years only. As a rule, a member of the Executive Board is not appointed beyond the statutory retirement age. Only under exceptional circumstances will a member of the Executive Board be reappointed prior to one year before the end of their term of appointment with simultaneous annulment of their current appointment. More information on the members of the Executive Board can be found on page 218 and in the Company/Corporate Governance section of Continental's website [📄](#).

The Executive Board has By-Laws that regulate in particular the allocation of duties among the Executive Board members, key matters pertaining to the company and its subsidiaries that require a decision to be made by the Executive Board, the duties of the Executive Board chairman, and the process in which the Executive Board passes resolutions. The Executive Board By-Laws are available in the Company/Corporate Governance section of Continental's website [📄](#). The Supervisory Board By-Laws on the basis of the Articles of Incorporation require the consent of the Supervisory Board for significant actions taken by management.

The Executive Board has established the Automotive Board, which aims to foster the increased decentralization of responsibility that the global reorganization of the company seeks to achieve, relieve the burden on the corporate Executive Board and significantly

shape the ongoing transformation process in the Automotive Technologies group sector. To this end, the Executive Board also delegated decision-making powers to the Automotive Board for certain matters that affect only Automotive Technologies. In addition to the chairman of the Executive Board, who serves as chairman of the Automotive Board, the Automotive Board comprises the Executive Board members for the Autonomous Mobility and Safety as well as Vehicle Networking and Information business areas, and other members.

In preparation for its planned spin-off with subsequent listing, Vitesco Technologies was granted greater organizational independence as of January 1, 2021, with the aim of promoting its flexibility and agility. As part of this move, the Executive Board transferred decision-making authorities, effective January 1, 2021, to the Management Board of Vitesco Technologies GmbH for certain matters relating exclusively to the business of Vitesco Technologies.

**The Supervisory Board and its practices**

The Supervisory Board appoints the members of the Executive Board and collaborates with the Executive Board to develop a long-term succession plan. The Supervisory Board discusses this at least once a year without the Executive Board. In order to become acquainted with potential successor candidates, the Supervisory Board, in consultation with the Executive Board, offers them the opportunity to deliver presentations to the Supervisory Board.

The Supervisory Board supervises and advises the Executive Board in managing the company. The Supervisory Board is directly involved in decisions of material importance to the company. As specified by law, the Articles of Incorporation or the Supervisory Board By-Laws, certain corporate management matters require the approval of the Supervisory Board. The chairman of the Supervisory Board coordinates its work and represents it vis-à-vis third

parties. Within reasonable limits, he is prepared to talk to investors about issues specific to the Supervisory Board. He maintains regular contact between meetings with the Executive Board, and in particular with its chairman, to discuss issues relating to the company's strategy, business development, risk management and compliance.

### Composition of the Supervisory Board

The Supervisory Board comprises 20 members in accordance with the German Co-determination Act (*Mitbestimmungsgesetz - MitbestG*) and the company's Articles of Incorporation. Half the members of the Supervisory Board are elected individually by the shareholders in the Shareholders' Meeting (shareholder representatives), while the other half are elected by the employees of Continental AG and its German subsidiaries (employee representatives). Both the shareholder representatives and the employee representatives have an equal duty to act in the interests of the company. The Supervisory Board's chairman must be a shareholder representative. He has the casting vote in the event of a tie.

The current Supervisory Board was constituted on April 26, 2019. The term of office of the Supervisory Board members lasts until the end of the 2024 Annual Shareholders' Meeting. The chairman of the Supervisory Board is Prof. Dr.-Ing. Wolfgang Reitzle who, in accordance with the German Corporate Governance Code, is independent of the company and its Executive Board. The Supervisory Board does not include any members who previously belonged to the Executive Board of Continental AG, who exercise an executive function or advisory role at a major competitor of Continental, or who have a personal relationship with such a competitor.

The company has set up an informational program that provides newly elected members of the Supervisory Board with a thorough overview of the company's products and technologies as well as finances, controlling and corporate governance at Continental.

The Supervisory Board has drawn up its own By-Laws that supplement the law and the Articles of Incorporation with more detailed provisions, including provisions on Supervisory Board meetings, the duty of confidentiality, the handling of conflicts of interest and the Executive Board's reporting obligations, and a list of transactions and measures that require the approval of the Supervisory Board. The Supervisory Board By-Laws are available in the Company/Corporate Governance section of Continental's website [📄](#). The Supervisory Board consults, in the absence of the Executive Board, on a regular basis. Before each regular meeting of the Supervisory Board, the representatives of the shareholders and of the employees each meet separately with members of the Executive Board to discuss the upcoming meeting.

Every two to three years, the Supervisory Board reviews how effectively the overall Supervisory Board and its committees have fulfilled their responsibilities. The Supervisory Board recently carried out such a review in 2016 with the help of an external consultant. This once again confirmed the positive development of the Supervisory Board's work in the past years. The Supervisory Board has adopted the recommendations that resulted from the 2016 efficiency review. The next self-assessment was originally scheduled

for 2020 but was postponed until 2021 because it could not reasonably have been carried out in 2020 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Profile of skills and expertise for the Supervisory Board

In accordance with recommendation C.1 of the German Corporate Governance Code, the Supervisory Board has prepared a profile of skills and expertise and specified targets for its composition.

The Supervisory Board as a whole should possess the skills and expertise described in more detail below. It is not expected that all Supervisory Board members possess all skills and expertise. Instead, each area of expertise must be covered by at least one Supervisory Board member. The Supervisory Board assumes that all Supervisory Board members possess the knowledge and skills required for the proper performance of their duties and the characteristics necessary for successful Supervisory Board work. In particular, these include integrity, commitment, capacity for discussion and teamwork, sufficient availability and discretion.

- › **Internationality:** Due to Continental AG's global activities, its Supervisory Board requires international professional or business experience. This means professional training or work abroad or with a strong connection to foreign markets. International professional and business experience with regard to Asian markets is also desirable.
- › **Industry experience:** The Supervisory Board should have professional experience in the automotive industry or other industries in which the company operates. In particular, the Supervisory Board wants to increase its expertise in the new business areas that are important parts of the company's strategy. Therefore, professional knowledge or experience of digitalization, information technology, telecommunications, mobility services, electric mobility, or related areas should be available.
- › **Management experience:** The Supervisory Board should include members with management experience. In particular, this includes experience in corporate management or as a senior manager of a business, or experience in a managerial role at other large organizations or associations.
- › **Financial experience:** The Supervisory Board should possess financial knowledge and experience, namely in the areas of accounting, control and risk management systems, and the audit of financial statements. The chairman of the Audit Committee must have in-depth knowledge in these areas.
- › **Corporate governance and board experience:** Members of the Supervisory Board should have experience as a member of the supervisory board or executive board of a German listed company or as a member of such a body of a foreign listed company.

The Supervisory Board has specified the following targets for its composition:

- › The number of members of the Supervisory Board who have the required international experience should at a minimum remain constant. At least seven members currently have international skills and experience.
- › An appropriate number of members with industry experience should be maintained. Far more than half of the Supervisory Board members cover this area of expertise.
- › The Supervisory Board should have an appropriate number of members on the shareholder side whom it deems to be independent in accordance with the German Corporate Governance Code. The Nomination Committee was mandated by the Supervisory Board to assess the independence of the shareholder representatives in accordance with the German Corporate Governance Code and to determine compliance with the targets for the proportion of independent shareholders. As determined by the Nomination Committee, the Supervisory Board has an appropriate number of members on the shareholder side who are independent in accordance with the German Corporate Governance Code.
- › More than one half of the shareholder representatives should be independent of Continental AG and its Executive Board. The shareholder representatives currently on the Supervisory Board are all, without exception, independent of Continental AG and its Executive Board.
- › At least five shareholder representatives should be independent of the controlling shareholder, the IHO Group, headquartered in Herzogenaurach, Germany. The shareholder representatives independent of the controlling shareholder are:
  - › Prof. Dr.-Ing. Wolfgang Reitzle
  - › Dr. Gunter Dunkel
  - › Satish Khata
  - › Isabel Corinna Knauf
  - › Sabine Neuß
  - › Prof. Dr. Rolf Nonnenmacher
  - › Prof. KR Ing. Siegfried Wolf
- › In its nominations for election to the Supervisory Board, the Supervisory Board as a rule does not nominate candidates who have already held this position for three full terms of office at the time of the election.
- › The Supervisory Board has not stipulated an age limit as recommended in recommendation C.2 of the German Corporate Governance Code. It does not consider such a general criterion to be suitable for deciding whether a candidate is eligible to be a member of the Supervisory Board.

According to Section 96 (2) *AktG*, the Supervisory Board of Continental AG is also subject to the requirement that at least 30% of its members be women and at least 30% be men. The company reports on this on page 21, in accordance with Section 289f (2) No. 4 to 6 *HGB*.

In its nominations of candidates for election to the Supervisory Board, the Supervisory Board takes into account the requirements of the profile of skills and expertise for the board as a whole as well as the aforementioned targets.

The corporate governance statement will continue to provide regular updates on the status of the implementation of the targets.

#### Committees of the Supervisory Board

The Supervisory Board currently has five committees: the Chairman's Committee, the Audit Committee, the Nomination Committee, the committee formed in accordance with Section 27 (3) *MitbestG* (the Mediation Committee) and the committee for the approval of company transactions with related persons (Committee for Related Party Transactions) (Section 107 (3) Sentence 4; Section 111b (1) *AktG*).

The members of the **Mediation Committee** also form the Chairman's Committee, which comprises the chairman of the Supervisory Board, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Wolfgang Reitzle (chairman); his vice chairperson, Christiane Benner; Georg F. W. Schaeffler; and Jörg Schönfelder. Key responsibilities of the **Chairman's Committee** are preparing the appointment of Executive Board members and concluding, terminating and amending their employment contracts and other agreements with them. However, the plenum of the Supervisory Board alone is responsible for establishing the total remuneration of the Executive Board members. Another key responsibility of the Chairman's Committee is deciding on the approval of certain transactions and measures by the company as specified in the Supervisory Board By-Laws. The Supervisory Board has conferred some of these participation rights on the Chairman's Committee, each member of which may however, in individual cases, demand that a matter again be submitted to the plenary session for decision.

The **Audit Committee's** tasks relate to the company's accounting, the audit of the financial statements, risk management and compliance. In particular, the committee deals with the audit of the accounts, monitors the accounting process and the effectiveness of the internal control system, the risk management system, the internal audit system and compliance; and performs a preliminary examination of Continental AG's annual financial statements and the consolidated financial statements. The committee makes its recommendation to the plenary session of the Supervisory Board, which then passes resolutions pursuant to Section 171 *AktG*. Furthermore, the committee discusses the company's draft interim financial reports. It is also responsible for ensuring the necessary independence of auditors and deals with additional services performed by the auditors. The committee engages the auditors, determines the focus of the report as necessary, negotiates the fee and regularly reviews the quality of the audit. It also gives its recommenda-

tion for the Supervisory Board's proposal to the Annual Shareholders' Meeting for the election of the auditor. The Audit Committee is also responsible for the preliminary audit of non-financial reporting and for the engagement of an auditor for its review, if any. The chairman of the Audit Committee is Prof. Dr. Rolf Nonnenmacher. He is independent in all respects as defined in the German Corporate Governance Code and, as an auditor, has special knowledge and experience in the application of accounting principles and internal control procedures. Another committee member, Klaus Rosenfeld, is also a financial expert. The other members are Francesco Grioli, Dirk Nordmann, Georg F. W. Schaeffler and Michael Iglhaut. Neither a former Executive Board member nor the chairman of the Supervisory Board may act as chairman of the Audit Committee.

The **Nomination Committee** is responsible for nominating suitable candidates for the Supervisory Board to propose to the Annual Shareholders' Meeting for election. In addition, the committee must propose targets for the Supervisory Board's composition and profile of skills and expertise and review both regularly. The Nomination Committee consists entirely of shareholder representatives, specifically the two members of the Chairman's Committee, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Wolfgang Reitzle (chairman) and Georg F. W. Schaeffler, the chairman of the Audit Committee, Prof. Dr. Rolf Nonnenmacher, and Maria-Elisabeth Schaeffler-Thumann as an additional member.

In accordance with Section 31 (3) Sentence 1 *MitbestG*, the **Mediation Committee** becomes active only if the first round of voting on a proposal to appoint a member of the Executive Board or to remove a member by consent does not achieve the legally required two-thirds majority. This committee must then attempt mediation before a new vote is taken.

The Committee for Related Party Transactions (**RPT Committee**) deals with transactions between Continental AG and a related person, where these transactions require the prior consent of Continental AG's Supervisory Board in accordance with Sections 111a and 111b *AktG*. Transactions in this case require the prior consent of the Supervisory Board. In addition to the chairman of the Supervisory Board, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Wolfgang Reitzle, and the chairman of the Audit Committee, Prof. Dr. Rolf Nonnenmacher, the Committee for Related Party Transactions includes two further members elected by the Supervisory Board from among the employee representatives.

More information on the members of the Supervisory Board and its committees can be found on pages 219 and 220. Current resumes, which are updated annually, are available in the Company/Corporate Governance section of Continental's website [📄](#). They also contain information on how long each member has held their position on the Supervisory Board.

### Shareholders and the Shareholders' Meeting

The company's shareholders exercise their rights of participation and control in the Shareholders' Meeting. The Annual Shareholders' Meeting, which must be held in the first eight months of every fiscal year, decides on all issues assigned to it by law, such as the appropriation of profits, the election of shareholder representatives to the Supervisory Board, the discharging of Supervisory Board

and Executive Board members, the appointment of auditors and amendments to the company's Articles of Incorporation. Each Continental AG share entitles the holder to one vote. There are no shares conferring multiple or preferential voting rights and no limitations on voting rights.

All shareholders who register in a timely manner and prove their entitlement to participate in the Shareholders' Meeting and to exercise their voting rights are entitled to participate in the Shareholders' Meeting. To facilitate the exercise of their rights and to prepare them for the Shareholders' Meeting, the shareholders are fully informed about the past fiscal year and the points on the upcoming agenda before the Shareholders' Meeting by means of the annual report and the invitation to the meeting. All documents and information on the Shareholders' Meeting, including the annual report, are published on the company's website [📄](#) in German and English. Moreover, the entire Annual Shareholders' Meeting can also be watched on the company's website. When holding the Annual Shareholders' Meeting, the chairperson presiding over the meeting is guided by the fact that an ordinary annual shareholders' meeting should be concluded after four to six hours. To make it easier for shareholders to exercise their rights, the company offers all shareholders who cannot or do not want to exercise their voting rights themselves the opportunity to vote at the Shareholders' Meeting via a proxy who is bound by instructions. The required voting instructions can also be issued to the proxy via an internet service (InvestorPortal) before the end of the general debate on the day of the Shareholders' Meeting. In addition, the service provider that assists the company with conducting the Shareholders' Meeting is instructed not to forward the individual voting instructions to Continental until the day before the Shareholders' Meeting.

### Accounting and auditing of financial statements

The Continental Group's accounting is prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adopted by the European Union (EU). The annual financial statements of Continental AG are prepared in accordance with the accounting regulations of the German Commercial Code (*Handelsgesetzbuch - HGB*). The Annual Shareholders' Meeting on July 14, 2020, elected KPMG AG Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft, Hanover (KPMG) to audit the consolidated financial statements for fiscal 2020 as well as the interim financial reports of the company. KPMG has audited the consolidated financial statements and the separate financial statements for more than 30 years. Andreas Modder has been the responsible auditor at KPMG since assuming this role for the consolidated financial statements for fiscal 2019.

### Internal control system and risk management

Diligent corporate management and good corporate governance also require that the company deal with risks responsibly. Continental has a corporate-wide internal control and risk management system, especially in terms of the accounting process, that helps analyze and manage the company's risk situation. The risk management system serves to identify and evaluate developments that could result in significant disadvantages and to avoid risks that would jeopardize the continued existence of the company. We report on this in detail in the report on risks and opportunities, which forms part of the management report for the consolidated financial statements.