



## **Explanatory Report of the Board of Management of Covestro AG according to Section 176 Paragraph 1 of the German Stock Corporation Act on Takeover-relevant Information in accordance with Section 289a and Section 315a of the German Commercial Code at the Reporting Date as of December 31, 2023**

Pursuant to Section 176 Paragraph 1 of the German Stock Corporation Act the Board of Management of Covestro AG hereinafter reports separately on takeover-relevant information as of December 31, 2023, in accordance with Section 289a and Section 315a of the German Commercial Code.

### **Investments in capital interest held, exceeding 10% of total voting rights**

We have received no notification nor are we otherwise aware of direct or indirect investments in the capital of Covestro AG, equal to or exceeding 10% of the voting rights. Additional information on Covestro's ownership structure is available at: <https://www.covestro.com/en/investors/share-details/shareholder-structure>

### **Board of Management**

#### **Appointment and Dismissal of Members of the Board of Management, Changes to the Articles of Incorporation**

The appointment and dismissal of members of the Board of Management are subject to the provisions of Sections 84 and 85 of the German Stock Corporation Act, Section 31 of the German Codetermination Act, and Article 6 of the Articles of Incorporation of Covestro AG. Pursuant to Section 84, Paragraph 1 of the German Stock Corporation Act, the members of the Board of Management are appointed and dismissed by the Supervisory Board. The maximum term of service for a Board of Management member appointed for the first time is three years. Since Covestro AG falls within the scope of the German Codetermination Act, the appointment or dismissal of members of the Board of Management requires a majority of two-thirds of the votes of the members of the Supervisory Board on the first ballot pursuant to Section 31, Paragraph 2 of that act. If no such majority is achieved, the appointment is resolved pursuant to Section 31, Paragraph 3 of the Codetermination Act on a second ballot by a simple majority of the votes of the members of the Supervisory Board. If the required majority still is not achieved, a third ballot is held. Here again, a simple majority of the votes of the members suffices, but in this ballot, the Supervisory Board Chair has two votes pursuant to Section 31, Paragraph 4 of the Codetermination Act. Under Article 6, Paragraph 1 of the Articles of Incorporation, the number of members of the Board of



Management is determined by the Supervisory Board but must be at least two. The Supervisory Board may appoint one member of the Board of Management to be its Chair and one member to be the Vice Chair pursuant to Section 84, Paragraph 2 of the German Stock Corporation Act and Article 6, Paragraph 1 of the Articles of Incorporation of Covestro AG.

Any amendments to the Articles of Incorporation are made pursuant to Section 179 of the German Stock Corporation Act and Articles 10 and 17 of the Articles of Incorporation. Under Section 179, Paragraph 1 of the German Stock Corporation Act, amendments to the Articles of Incorporation require a resolution of the Annual General Meeting. Pursuant to Section 179, Paragraph 2 of the German Stock Corporation Act, this resolution must be passed by a majority of three-quarters of the voting capital represented at the meeting, unless the Articles of Incorporation provide for a different majority. However, where an amendment relates to a change in the object of the company, the Articles of Incorporation may only specify a larger majority. Article 17, Paragraph 2 of the Articles of Incorporation utilizes the scope for deviation pursuant to Section 179, Paragraph 2 of the German Stock Corporation Act and provides that resolutions may be passed by a simple majority of the votes cast or, where a capital majority is required, by a simple majority of the capital represented. Pursuant to Article 10, Paragraph 9 of the Articles of Incorporation, the Supervisory Board may resolve on amendments to the Articles of Incorporation that relate solely to their wording.

## **Capital**

### **Composition of the Capital Stock**

The capital stock of Covestro AG amounted to €189,000,000 as of December 31, 2023, and is composed of 189,000,000 no-par value bearer shares. Each share confers equal rights and one vote at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). On December 5, 2023, the Board of Management of Covestro AG resolved to retire 4,200,000 treasury shares and reduce the capital stock by €4,200,000 at the same time. By way of a resolution of the Supervisory Board of December 6, 2023, the company's Articles of Incorporation were amended accordingly.

### **Board of Management's Authorizations to Issue Shares**

The AGM adopted a resolution on April 16, 2021, authorizing the Board of Management, with the approval of the Supervisory Board, to increase the capital stock of the company by up to €57,960,000 in the period through April 15, 2026, by issuing



new, no-par value bearer shares against cash contributions and/or contributions in kind (Authorized Capital 2021).

On July 30, 2020, the AGM additionally authorized the Board of Management to issue bonds with conversion or exchange rights or warrants, or with conversion obligations, or a combination of these instruments on up to 18,300,000 no-par value bearer shares of Covestro AG. Based on this authorization, convertible/warrant bonds can be issued up to a total nominal value of €2,000,000,000 by the company or a Group company in the period through July 29, 2025. The 2020 AGM also resolved to conditionally increase the capital stock by up to €18,300,000 by issuing up to 18,300,000 no-par value bearer shares to grant shares to the holders or creditors of such convertible/warrant bonds (Conditional Capital 2020). New shares from Authorized Capital 2021 and the aforementioned bonds can be issued against cash contributions or contributions in kind. They must generally be offered to the shareholders for subscription. The Board of Management is authorized, with the approval of the Supervisory Board, to disapply shareholders' subscription rights when instruments are issued against contributions in kind. When issuing instruments against cash contributions, subscription rights can be disappplied with the approval of the Supervisory Board in the following cases:

- Subscription rights must be disappplied where the subscription ratio gives rise to fractional amounts.
- Subscription rights are disappplied to provide compensation for dilution in connection with convertible/warrant bonds already issued.
- The issue price of the new shares or bonds will not be significantly lower than their share market price or the theoretical fair value of the bonds calculated using recognized financial valuation methods (disapplication of subscription rights limited to 10% of the capital stock under or in accordance with Section 186, Paragraph 3, Sentence 4 of the German Stock Corporation Act).

Additional restrictions, which are described in greater detail in the respective authorization, may apply to the new shares issued or to be issued against cash contributions or contributions in kind while disapplying the subscription rights of shareholders. In addition, the Board of Management declared in a Corporate Commitment ending no later than April 15, 2026, that it will not increase the company's capital stock from Authorized Capital 2021 and Conditional Capital 2020 by a total of more than 10% of the amount of capital stock at the time of the AGM on April 16, 2021,



insofar as capital increases are implemented from Authorized Capital 2021 against cash contributions or contributions in kind while disapplying subscription rights, or for the purpose of servicing convertible/warrant bonds issued under the authorization resolved on July 30, 2020, while disapplying subscription rights.

### **Acquisition and Use of Treasury Shares**

By a resolution adopted by the Annual General Meeting on April 12, 2019, the Board of Management is authorized to acquire and use treasury shares, also using derivatives. The individual details of the resolution are as follows:

1. Authorization Granted to the Board of Management to Acquire and Use Treasury Shares
  - 1.1 The Board of Management is authorized until April 11, 2024, to acquire treasury shares with a proportionate interest in the capital stock totaling up to 10% of the company's capital stock existing at the date of the resolution, or if this amount is lower, at the time the authorization is exercised, subject to the proviso that the shares acquired as a result of this authorization, together with other shares of the company that the company has already acquired and still holds, or which are attributable to it under Sections 71a et seqq. of the German Stock Corporation Act, at no time exceed 10% of the capital stock of the company. The provisions in Section 71, Paragraph 2, Sentences 2 and 3 of the German Stock Corporation Act must be complied with.

Exercising the authorization to acquire treasury shares, the Board of Management resolved on February 28, 2022, that the company would acquire treasury shares in a total amount of €500 million (excluding transaction costs).

The acquisition may only take place via the stock exchange or by means of a public purchase offer and must satisfy the principle of the equal treatment of shareholders (Section 53a of the German Stock Corporation Act). If the acquisition takes place via the stock exchange, the purchase price paid by the company (excluding transaction costs) may neither exceed, nor be lower than, the company's share price as determined by the opening auction in Xetra trading (or a comparable successor system) on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange on the trading day, by more than 10%. If the acquisition takes place by means of a public purchase offer, the offer price paid by the company (excluding transaction costs) may neither exceed, nor be lower than, the company's share price as determined by the closing auction in Xetra trading (or a comparable successor system) on



the Frankfurt Stock Exchange on the last trading day before the publication of the purchase offer, by more than 10%. If the total number of the shares tendered in response to a public purchase offer exceeds the offer volume, purchases may be made in proportion to the number of shares tendered (tender ratios); in addition, preferential acceptance of small numbers of shares (up to 50 shares per shareholder), as well as rounding in accordance with commercial principles to avoid notional share fractions, may be provided for. Any further shareholder tender rights are disappplied to this extent.

- 1.2 The authorization may be exercised in full, or in a number of partial amounts split across several acquisition dates, until the maximum purchase volume has been reached. The acquisition may also be carried out by Group companies that are dependent on the company within the meaning of Section 17 of the German Stock Corporation Act, or by third parties on behalf of the company or such Group companies. The authorization may, subject to compliance with the statutory requirements, be exercised for any purpose permissible in law, especially in pursuit of one or more of the purposes listed in 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, and 1.6. Trading in treasury shares is not permitted.

If the treasury shares acquired are used for one or more of the purposes described under 1.3 or 1.4, the shareholders' subscription rights are disappplied. The Board of Management is authorized to disapply subscription rights if the treasury shares acquired are used for the purpose specified in 1.6. Shareholders likewise do not have any subscription rights if the treasury shares acquired are sold via the stock exchange. In the event that the treasury shares acquired are sold by means of a public offer to shareholders, and this public offer complies with the principle of equal treatment, the Board of Management is authorized to disapply the shareholders' subscription rights for fractions.

- 1.3 The Board of Management is authorized to also sell the treasury shares acquired on the basis of the above or an earlier authorization in a manner other than via the stock exchange or by way of an offer to all shareholders, provided that the sale takes place against cash payment and at a price which, at the date of the sale, is not significantly lower than the market price for the same class of shares in the company. This authorization governing the use of shares is restricted to shares whose proportionate interest in the capital stock may not in total exceed 10% of the capital stock either at the date this authorization becomes effective



or, if this amount is lower, at the date the present authorization is exercised. The upper limit of 10% of the capital stock is reduced by the proportionate interest in the capital stock that is attributable to those shares which are issued or sold during the term of this authorization while disapplying subscription rights under or in accordance with Section 186, Paragraph 3, Sentence 4 of the German Stock Corporation Act. The upper limit of 10% of the capital stock is further reduced by the proportionate interest in the capital stock that is attributable to those shares which are to be issued to service bonds with warrants or conversion rights or obligations, provided that these bonds are issued during the term of this authorization while disapplying subscription rights in application of Section 186, Paragraph 3, Sentence 4 of the German Stock Corporation Act, with the necessary modifications.

- 1.4 The Board of Management is authorized to transfer the treasury shares acquired under the above or an earlier authorization to third parties, provided this is done for the purpose of acquiring companies, parts of companies, equity interests in companies, or other assets, or to effect business combinations.
- 1.5 The Board of Management is authorized to retire the treasury shares acquired under the above or an earlier authorization without a further resolution by the Annual General Meeting. The shares may also be retired without reducing the capital by adjusting the proportionate interest of the remaining no-par value shares in the capital stock of the company. In this case, the Board of Management is authorized to amend the number of no-par value shares in the Articles of Incorporation.
- 1.6 The Board of Management is authorized to use the treasury shares acquired under the above or an earlier authorization to pay a scrip dividend.
- 1.7 The Board of Management may only use the authorizations in 1.3, 1.4, and 1.6 with the approval of the Supervisory Board. Moreover, the Supervisory Board may determine that the measures taken by the Board of Management on the basis of this resolution by the Annual General Meeting may only be implemented with its approval.
- 1.8 Overall, the above authorizations governing the use of shares may be utilized on one or several occasions, individually or together, in relation to partial volumes of the treasury shares, or all treasury shares held in total.



Under the share buyback program, the company acquired 4,687,991 treasury shares in three tranches at a total cost of €199 million (excluding transaction costs) in the period from March 21, 2022, up to and including June 29, 2023; that corresponded to a proportional share of 2.43% of the company's capital stock registered up to that date in an amount of €193,200,000. In the period from January 1, 2023 to June 29, 2023, a total of 1,208,035 treasury shares were acquired at a total cost of €49 million. This corresponds to a proportional share of 0.63% of the company's registered capital stock in an amount of €193,200,000. In view of the overall situation and the limited time remaining until the program expires, the Board of Management resolved on October 26, 2023 to terminate the share buyback program prematurely.

## 2. Authorization for Acquisition Using Derivatives

- 2.1 Treasury shares being acquired as part of the authorization under 1.1 may also be acquired using put or call options. In this case, the option transactions must be entered into with a credit institution, or a company which operates in accordance with Section 53, Paragraph 1, Sentence 1 or Section 53b, Paragraph 1, Sentence 1 or Paragraph 7 of the German Banking Act, that is independent of the company (financial institution), provided that this financial institution, when the option is exercised, only delivers shares which were previously acquired via the stock exchange at a market-driven price in compliance with the principle of equal treatment.
- 2.2 The acquisition of shares using put or call options is limited to a maximum of 5% of the capital stock in existence either at the date of the resolution by the Annual General Meeting or, if this amount is lower, at the date the authorization is exercised.
- 2.3 The option premium paid by the company in the case of call options may not be materially higher and the option premium received in the case of put options may not be materially lower than the theoretical fair value of the options concerned calculated using accepted financial valuation methods. The exercise price agreed in the option transaction (in each case not including transaction costs, but taking into account the option premium received or paid) may not be more than 10% higher or lower than the price of the company's shares as determined by the opening auction in Xetra trading (or a comparable successor system) on the



Frankfurt Stock Exchange on the trading day on which the option transaction was entered into.

- 2.4 The term of the individual derivatives may not, in each case, exceed 18 months; it must end at the latest on April 11, 2024, and must be selected so that the shares are not acquired using derivatives after April 11, 2024.
- 2.5 The provisions under 1. also apply to the use of company shares acquired on the basis of the authorization under 2. using derivatives.

### **Material Conditional Agreements**

Some debt financing instruments contain clauses that refer to cases of change of control. Such clauses grant the respective investor additional rights of termination, which may be restricted by additional conditions – such as a rating being downgraded. Our syndicated credit line and our bonds, for example, are governed by change-of-control agreements.

For the case of a takeover offer for Covestro AG, agreements are in place that impose limits on the financial benefits in the event of early termination of the service contract of a Board of Management member due to a change of control. Such payments are subject to the severance cap set out in the German Corporate Governance Code as amended on April 28, 2022, and may not exceed compensation for the remaining term of the contract.

Covestro AG

- The Board of Management -