
CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

by Siegfried Luther

In the face of a tougher economic climate, I am pleased to confirm that RTL Group generated sound results throughout 2008, with operating profit (EBITA) increasing above €900 million for the first time, while return on sales improved to 15.9 per cent. Mediengruppe RTL Deutschland and FremantleMedia contributed strongly to this. All in all, the Group has made good progress in its declared strategy.

During 2008, RTL Group generated revenue and EBITA above last year's record level, despite mixed advertising conditions across Europe, and again showed substantial cash generation. Strong performances from the RTL family in Germany, and globally by FremantleMedia, compensated for negative effects. These include: the slowdown in several advertising markets, particularly in Spain, France and the UK; major programme investments for the European football championship 2008 at Groupe M6 in France; and restructuring charges at RTL Nederland. The revised outlook for the UK TV advertising market also led to a significant impairment of goodwill in Five, affecting the Group's net result.

Of course the world financial crisis and a weak economic outlook have affected all stockmarkets. The RTL Group share price finished the year down 47.5 per cent year on year, from €81 to €42.5. Despite this fact, RTL Group enters 2009 in a very solid position. We have no debt. We have a balanced portfolio, with businesses in many countries. We have broadcasting activities in 11 European countries as well as a worldwide production arm, which makes us less dependent on advertising. This broad and secure set-up, combined with our strong content and brands, is the foundation of RTL Group's reliable business model.

With a view to continuing our selective, strategic geographical expansion, we acquired a 66.6 per cent majority shareholding in Alpha Media Group, Greece's number four broadcasting

company. Another element of our strategy has moved forward with our increasing presence on all digital platforms. We now offer comprehensive catch-up TV services in our major markets, as well as high-quality editorial websites, social networking sites and mobile TV channels.

Finally it goes without saying that the Executive Management could only pursue and achieve its strategy successfully with the right people, of the right capabilities, in place throughout our organisation, and doing their jobs to such high standards. Therefore I would like to thank everyone within our Group companies and at the Corporate Centre for their efforts during 2008.



Siegfried Luther
Chairman



“RTL Group enters 2009 in a very solid position.”

Siegfried Luther, Chairman of the Board of Directors