



Statement on the  
Corporate Governance  
and Steering System  
2016

Statement on the Corporate Governance and Steering System

## Finnvera's Financial Review 2016

### Statement on the Corporate Governance and Steering System

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Statement on the Corporate Governance and Steering System

## Statement on the Corporate Governance and Steering System

The statement on the corporate governance and steering system of Finnvera plc (hereinafter Finnvera) has been drawn up in accordance with the Finnish Corporate Governance Code 2015 issued by the Securities Market Association, and with the provisions of the Securities Markets Act. The Finnish Corporate Governance Code is publicly available on the website of the Securities Market Association, at [www.cgfinland.fi](http://www.cgfinland.fi).

Finnvera plc is a specialised financing company owned 100 per cent by the State of Finland. For this reason, Finnvera complies with the recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the Finnish Corporate Governance Code whenever appropriate and applicable.

Apart from the parent company, Finnvera plc, the Finnvera Group comprises Finnish Export Credit Ltd, which provides export credit financing and administers interest equalisation, and the subsidiaries ERDF Seed Fund Ltd and Veraventure Ltd, engaged in venture capital investments.

Finnvera's statement on the corporate governance and steering system includes a description of the principal features of the internal control and risk management systems pertaining to the financial reporting process.

The Inspection Committee of Finnvera's Board of Directors has reviewed the statement and Finnvera's auditor, KPMG Oy Ab, has checked that the statement has been issued and that its description of the principal features of the internal control and risk management systems pertaining to the financial reporting process is in agreement with the financial statements.

### Acts and rules governing the operations

Finnvera Group operations are steered by the legislation on Finnvera, the Limited Liability Companies Act (624/2006), the obligations laid down in international treaties, and the industrial and ownership policy goals

determined by the State. When performing public administrative tasks, Finnvera complies with the Administrative Procedure Act.

Directive 2006/48/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to the taking up and pursuit of the business of credit institutions states that the Directive on credit institutions does not apply to Finnvera. In consequence, Finnvera adheres to the recommendations of the Financial Supervisory Authority, whenever applicable.

However, when presenting reports and financial information, Finnvera – as an issuer of bonds – is bound by the guidelines of the Financial Supervisory Authority and the Securities Market Association, the Securities Market Act (746/2012), the stock exchange rules (NASDAQ OMX Helsinki, London Stock Exchange), and the decisions of the Ministry of Finance.

Finnvera draws up the consolidated financial statements, the parent company's financial statements, and the half-year reports in keeping with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The notes to the consolidated financial statements and the parent company's financial statements also comply with Finnish accounting and corporate law.

The financial statements of the Finnvera Group and the parent company are publicised in February, the Annual Report in March, and the Half-year Report for the period 1 January–30 June in August. The Annual Report, including the financial statements and the annual review, and the Half-year Report are published in Finnish and English.

The auditors' report encompasses audits of the Finnvera Group's and the parent company's accounting, financial statements, report on operations, and governance.

## Statement on the Corporate Governance and Steering System

### The goals of good corporate governance

The Finnvera Group complies with good corporate governance, and the goal is to ensure transparency at all levels of the organisation.

Finnvera's Board of Directors has approved the key policies, principles and guidelines that steer the company's operations.

Finnvera's operations are guided by the Code of Conduct ratified by the Board of Directors. The Code of Conduct brings together both the ethical principles and legal rules. The Code of Conduct includes both the general and the financing principles followed by Finnvera in its operations, the points of departure concerning the confidentiality of our operations, and the principles applied to the work community.

The Code of Conduct is supplemented by Finnvera's ethical guidelines that consist of the principles of good conduct, guidelines for ensuring impartiality in decision-making and in the preparation of matters, guidelines on non-disclosure and the exchange of information, and guidelines on insider information. The Code of Conduct and the ethical guidelines apply to both Finnvera's employees and the members of the governing bodies.

The principles of good conduct include guidelines on equality, commitment to purpose, objectivity, relativity, trust and on the principles of service and publicity.

The principles of disqualification are meant to reinforce equity, neutrality and independence in Finnvera's operations. The guidelines on non-disclosure and exchange of information define the points of departure for confidentiality in Finnvera's operations and steer the management of permissible exchange of information in an appropriate manner. The guidelines on insider information clarify the concept of insider information for Finnvera's employees so that they are prepared to identify in advance what type of information on client enterprises is classified as insider information and to prevent its misuse.

### Ownership and ownership policy

Finnvera is a specialised financing company owned 100 per cent by the State of Finland.

The Acts on Finnvera define the tasks whereby Finnvera influences the development of enterprise and employment in Finland. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment supervises and monitors Finnvera's operations. Being responsible for the ownership and industrial policy steering of Finnvera, the Enterprise and Innovation Department of the Ministry sets industrial and ownership policy goals for the company for a period of four years. Whenever necessary, the Ministry revises these goals annually.

On the basis of the industrial and ownership policy goals confirmed by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, an assessment is made annually on how well Finnvera has succeeded, for instance, in correcting market failures in enterprise financing and in promoting enterprise, employment, the growth and internationalisation of enterprises, and exports. In 2016, Finnvera's goals highlighted the financing of start-up enterprises and the promotion of growth, internationalisation and exports.

The ownership policy goals, set by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, apply to the self-sustainability of the company's operations, the efficiency of operations and to capital adequacy. Finnvera should conduct its business so that the income from the company's operations covers the expenses of the operations over a period exceeding a business cycle. The review period is 10 years for SME financing and 20 years for export financing. Finnvera should act efficiently and should improve the productivity of work in keeping with the goal set by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. The company's capital adequacy must be sufficient to ensure the ability to bear risks and to keep the costs of funding as reasonable as possible.

### Administrative bodies of Finnvera

Responsibility for Finnvera's administration is vested in the General Meeting of Shareholders, the Supervisory Board, the Board of Directors, and the Chief Executive Officer.

### General Meeting of Shareholders

The General Meeting of Shareholders can make decisions on issues assigned to it by law and the Articles of Association. The General Meeting of Shareholders elects

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the members of the Supervisory Board and the Board of Directors, the Chairs and Vice Chairs of both bodies, and the auditors for a term of one year at a time.

The Annual General Meeting is held yearly, by the end of June.

### Supervisory Board

The Supervisory Board supervises the company's administration. It gives the Annual General Meeting its opinion on the financial statements and the auditors' report, and counsels on issues that concern considerable reduction or expansion of the company's operations or substantial reorganisation of the company. Moreover, the Supervisory Board provides the Board of Directors with guidelines in matters that have far-reaching consequences or that are important as issues of principle.

The Supervisory Board consists of at least eight (8) and at most eighteen (18) members.

In 2016, the Supervisory Board had 18 members (17 in January–August, 18 in September–December). The Supervisory Board met six (eight) times in 2016. The average attendance rate at the Supervisory Board meetings was 83 per cent (87).

### Members on 31 December 2016

#### Chairman

Antti Rantakangas, Member of Parliament (Centre Party)

#### Vice Chairman

Krista Kiuru, Member of Parliament (Finnish Social Democratic Party)

#### Members

Eeva-Johanna Eloranta, Member of Parliament (Finnish Social Democratic Party)

Mika Harjunen, Information Security Manager, Finnvera plc

Lasse Hautala, Member of Parliament (Centre Party)

Laura Huhtasaari, Member of Parliament (The Finns Party)

Timo Kalli, Member of Parliament (Centre Party)

Olli Koski, Chief Economist, Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions – SAK

Kari Kulmala, Member of Parliament (The Finns Party)

Leila Kurki, Senior Adviser, Finnish Confederation of Professionals STTK

Kari Luoto, Managing Director, Finnish Grocery Trade Association

Veli-Matti Mattila, Chief Economist, Federation of Finnish Financial Services

Ville Niinistö, Member of Parliament (Green Party).

Carita Orlando, Managing Director, ACC Orlando Oy

Eero Suutari, Member of Parliament (National Coalition Party)

Christel Tjeder, Second Vice Chairman (Finnish Business School Graduates)

Tommi Toivola, Senior Adviser, Financing, Confederation of Finnish Industries EK

Sofia Vikman, Member of Parliament (National Coalition Party)

[www.finnvera.fi](http://www.finnvera.fi) > Finnvera > Finnvera in brief

> Organisation > Supervisory Board

### Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is responsible for the company's administration and for the proper organisation of activities and approves the company's strategy and annual plans, the half-year reports and the financial statements, as well as the risk management principles.

The Board advances the company's development and ensures that the operations conform to law and meet the goals set by the owner. The Board ensures the supervision of accounting and asset management and approves other matters of principle. The Board also has the power to decide important individual cases of financing.

The Board of Directors steers and supervises Finnvera's executive management and ensures the functioning of the management system. The Board decides on the appointment and dismissal of the company's Chief Executive Officer, the Deputy CEO, and other members of the company's senior management, and on their salaries and fees. The Board has appointed the Inspection Committee and the Remuneration Committee from among its members to assist the Board in managing its tasks.

Separate agreement has been made on the division of operational duties and business-related decision-

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making between the Board of Directors, the Chief Executive Officer and other management.

According to the goal set by the company, the Board should have a suitable combination of continuity, experience, know-how and variety with respect to education and experience so that it can successfully complete its tasks at any given time. When the Board is elected, the goal is that the Board as a whole has sufficient know-how and experience in the sectors important for the company's operations.

When Board members are elected, attention is paid to the aspects of equality pertaining to State-owned companies.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment is responsible for the ownership steering of Finnvera and for the proposal concerning the composition of the Board of Directors submitted to the General Meeting. The company strives to influence the proposal on the Board's composition so that the principles concerning variety are taken into account.

The plan for Board meetings is drawn up yearly. Besides the issues discussed at each specific meeting, the meeting plan includes issues discussed quarterly, semi-annually or annually, such as the financial statements, the half-year report, interim reports and the attainment of strategic and annual targets, risk position reviews, measures to strengthen the credit and guarantee policies and asset management policy, the report on internal auditing, and certain specifically named themes, such as reviews of the Large Corporates and SME Units and of Finnvera's digitisation project.

Finnvera's Board of Directors consists of at least six members and at most nine members. The General Meeting elects the members for a term of one year at a time. One Board member is elected among candidates named by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and one among candidates named by the Ministry of Finance.

In 2016, the Board had seven members, three of whom were women and four men (4). In 2016, the Board met

a total of 15 times (16). The regular members' average attendance rate at Board meetings was 95 per cent (95).

### Members on 31 December 2016

#### Chairman

Markku Pohjola, b. 1948  
B.Sc. (Econ.)

Markku Pohjola has been a member and Chairman of Finnvera's Board of Directors since 2012. He is also the Chairman of the Boards of Tieto Corporation and Koskitukki Oy and a member of the Board of Onvest Oy. Between 1972 and 2008, Pohjola held executive posts in Nordea and its predecessor banks, most recently as Deputy Group CEO and Country Senior Executive of Nordea in Finland.

Markku Pohjola's attendance rate at Board meetings in 2016 was 100 per cent.

#### First Vice Chairman

Pekka Timonen, b. 1960  
LL.D.

Pekka Timonen has been a member of Finnvera's Board of Directors since 2013. He was a researcher and teacher at the University of Helsinki in 1984–2001 and served as a senior adviser in ownership steering affairs for the Ministry of Trade and Industry in 2001–2007. He was Director General of the Ownership Steering Department at the Prime Minister's Office in 2007–2012 and has served as Director General of the Labour and Trade Department at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment since the start of 2013.

Pekka Timonen's attendance rate at Board meetings in 2016 was 93 per cent.

#### Second Vice Chairman

Marianna Uotinen, b. 1957  
LL.M.

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Marianna Uotinen has been a member of Finnvera's Board of Directors since 2013. She served as a Specialist Counsel for Financial Markets Regulation at the Ministry of Finance from 2007 to October 2016, when she was employed as a National Expert by the European Commission. In 1985–2001 she worked first at Nordea and in 2001–2006 at Nokia Corporation, holding, among others, advisory and supervisory positions related to financing and securities markets.

Marianna Uotinen's attendance rate at Board meetings in 2016 was 87 per cent.

Kirsi Komi, b. 1963  
LL.M.

Kirsi Komi has been a member of Finnvera's Board of Directors since 2013. She also has a seat on the Boards of the following companies: Metsä Board Corporation, Bittium Corporation, Citycon Oyj, Martela Corporation, Docrates Ltd (Chair) and the Finnish Red Cross Blood Service (Chair). In 2016 Komi chaired the Board of Directors of Veikkaus Ltd, and in 2011–2016 she served as Vice Chair on the Board of Directors of Patria Plc. In 1992–2010, Komi was employed by Nokia Corporation, first as a legal counsel, then as Vice President and Director, Legal Affairs at Nokia Networks, and most recently as Director of Legal Affairs and a member of the Executive Board at Nokia Siemens Networks.

Kirsi Komi's attendance rate at Board meetings in 2016 was 93 per cent.

Pirkko Rantanen-Kervinen, b. 1949  
B.Sc. (Econ.)

Pirkko Rantanen-Kervinen has been a member of Finnvera's Board of Directors since 2013. She is also a member of the Board of LocalTapiola Mutual Insurance Company, and she chairs the Board of LocalTapiola Uusimaa. In 1974–2010, Rantanen-Kervinen held various executive posts at Saga Furs Oyj, most recently as CEO.

Pirkko Rantanen-Kervinen's attendance rate at Board meetings in 2016 was 93 per cent.

Harri Sailas, b. 1951  
B.Sc. (Econ.)

Harri Sailas has been a member of Finnvera's Board of Directors since 2015. He worked as President and CEO of Mutual Pension Insurance Company Ilmarinen in 2007–2015. Before that he held executive posts at Nordea and its predecessor banks, most recently as Director of the Helsinki Regional Bank and as Deputy CEO of Nordea Bank Finland. Sailas also chairs the Boards of Directors of Alko Inc., Finavia Corporation and Solidium Oy.

Harri Sailas's attendance rate at Board meetings in 2016 was 100 per cent.

Antti Zitting, b. 1956  
M.Sc. (Tech.)

Antti Zitting has been a member of Finnvera's Board of Directors since 2015. Until 2014 he worked as an entrepreneur in Sacotec Components Oy and serves currently as Chairman of the Boards of the Sacotec companies. Zitting is also a member of the Boards of the following companies and organisations: The Finnish Olympic Committee; Sten&Co Oy Ab; TT Foundation; the Board for the Centenary of Finland's Independence 2017 – Finland 100; and Plastep Oy. In addition, he chairs the Board of the Technology Industries of Finland Centennial Foundation and the Finnish Basketball Association.

Antti Zitting's attendance rate at Board meetings in 2016 was 100 per cent.

**Inspection Committee of the Board of Directors**

The Inspection Committee assists Finnvera's Board of Directors in ensuring that the company's accounting and supervision of asset management are arranged appropriately and that internal control, risk management, auditing of the accounts and internal auditing have been organised in accordance with laws, regulations and the operating principles confirmed by the Board of Directors. The plan for the Inspection Committee's meetings is drawn up yearly.

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The Inspection Committee has at least three members. The Board of Directors selects the Inspection Committee's members and chairman from among the Board members, for a term of one year at a time.

The Inspection Committee elected after the Annual General Meeting of 2016 comprised Board Member Kirsi Komi (Chair), Vice Chairman Marianna Uotinen, Board Member Pirkko Rantanen-Kervinen and Board Member Antti Zitting.

In 2016, the Committee met five times (5) and the members' attendance rate was 100 per cent (100).

Apart from the Inspection Committee, the Board of Directors and the executive management monitor the results of operations by means of regular reporting. Furthermore, they receive reports on risk management, evaluation of the quality system, internal auditing, and on the auditing of the accounts.

### Remuneration Committee of the Board of Directors

The Remuneration Committee assists Finnvera's Board of Directors in managing issues pertaining to the appointment, terms of employment and salaries of senior executives, and the rewards and incentive systems applied to the management and personnel. The plan for the Remuneration Committee's meetings is drawn up yearly.

The Committee has at least three members. The Board of Directors selects the Remuneration Committee's members and chairman from among the Board members, for a term of one year at a time.

The Remuneration Committee elected after the Annual General Meeting of 2016 comprised Chairman Markku Pohjola, Vice Chairman Pekka Timonen and Board Member Harri Sailas.

In 2016, the Committee met two times (5) and the members' attendance rate was 100 per cent (100).

- [www.finnvera.fi](http://www.finnvera.fi) > Finnvera > Finnvera in brief > Organisation > Board of Directors

The Report of the Board of Directors is presented in the Financial Statements for 2016 on Finnvera's website.

### Chief Executive Officer, Management Group and Corporate Management Team

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the company's operational administration in keeping with the guidelines and regulations issued by the Board of Directors. In management of the tasks specified in the Limited Liability Companies Act, the Chief Executive Officer is assisted by the Management Group and the Corporate Management Team.

Pauli Heikkilä (1962), D.Sc. (Tech.), has served as the Chief Executive Officer of Finnvera plc since 2005.

Finnvera's operations are managed in accordance with the management organisation approved in the company.

- [www.finnvera.fi](http://www.finnvera.fi) > Finnvera > Finnvera in brief > Organisation > Management Group/Corporate Management

### Salaries and fees

When remunerating its administrative bodies, Finnvera applies the guidelines on remuneration issued by the Government's Ownership Steering Department. The fees paid to the administrative bodies are approved by the General Meeting of Shareholders. The fees paid in 2016 totalled EUR 181,000.

The Board of Directors, upon the presentation of the Remuneration Committee, decides on the salaries and fees paid to the CEO, the Deputy CEO and to other executives appointed by the Board.

The salaries and fees paid to the Chief Executive Officer of Finnvera plc in 2016 totalled EUR 376,000. The total remuneration includes the taxable value of the car benefit. The CEO has a notice period of six months. In addition, the CEO is entitled to a severance compensation corresponding to 18 months' pay if he is dismissed by the company.

The salaries and fees paid to the Managing Directors of Finnvera's subsidiaries Veraventure Ltd and Finnish



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Export Credit Ltd in 2016 were EUR 187,000 and EUR 151,000, respectively.

The salaries and fees paid to the rest of the members of the Management Group totalled EUR 992,000 in 2016. The supplementary pension contributions had an impact of EUR 111,000 on the company. The Chief Executive Officer's supplementary pension accounted for EUR 35,000 of this.

The Management Group members' salaries are based on total remuneration. The total remuneration includes a phone benefit and it may include a car benefit, which is regarded as taxable income in full.

The Board of Directors has approved the principles of the Management Group's performance bonus system and the targets set for the system in 2016. The performance bonus system adheres to the guidelines that the State owner has issued on the executive management's remuneration.

The performance bonus system encompasses the CEO and the members of the Management Group.

A general prerequisite for paying a performance bonus is that the financial performance of the Group and the parent company for the period shows a profit when the performance bonuses paid are also taken into account. The maximum performance bonus is 15 per cent of the annual earnings when the so-called target level is reached, and 30 per cent of the annual earnings if the company's and the bonus recipient's performance has been exceptionally good.

The performance bonus is determined on the basis of the following three common areas as well as individual performance:

- Owner and impact
- Customer experience
- Digitisation and productivity.

On 25 February 2016, Finnvera's Board of Directors decided to pay the CEO and the other Management Group members a performance bonus that is on average 22

per cent. The decision was based on the outcome of the performance bonus model.

Finnvera's personnel are covered by an incentive bonus system. The objective of the incentive bonus system encompassing the entire personnel is to reward employees for exceptionally good work performance. The members of the Management Group are outside the scope of the incentive bonus system.

The CEO and one member of the Management Group are encompassed by a defined contribution pension plan, in which supplementary pension can be withdrawn at the age of 63 years at the earliest. In addition, three other executives in Finnvera are encompassed by a defined contribution pension plan. The Deputy CEO has a defined benefit pension plan that includes the option of retiring at the age of 60 years.

- [www.finnvera.fi](http://www.finnvera.fi) > Finnvera > Finnvera in brief > Corporate governance > Remuneration

**Operating principles for internal control**

Internal control is an integral element of the Finnvera Group's management. Its aim is to ensure the achievement of the goals defined by Finnvera and its subsidiaries. The Boards of Directors and senior executives of Finnvera and its subsidiaries are responsible for arranging and organising internal control, which is implemented by the entire organisation. Each supervisor is responsible for the functioning of internal control for his or her own area of responsibility.

Internal control is a continuous process. The control system supports the implementation of the Group's strategy and ensures for the management that the company's operations are efficient and profitable, that economic reporting is reliable, and that laws and other regulations pertaining to the operations are followed.

Finnvera's corporate culture, the ethical guidelines adopted by the Board of Directors, confidentiality regulations, the personnel's high professional standards and integrity, and the guidelines and practices agreed upon lay the foundation for the internal control environment throughout the whole Group. Operations are based on

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predetermined and planned processes and the associated approval procedures, tallies and other checks.

The daily operations are steered by a separate operating system conforming to the ISO 9001 standard. The operating system helps ensure the quality of Finnvera's services and the management of operating risks. At the same time, it provides a solid foundation for the completion of development projects. The operating system includes the descriptions of processes agreed specifically for the parent company and the subsidiaries, as well as operating instructions supplementing these processes. The operating system is implemented in the parent company through three core processes – Customership, Financing Services and Liability Management – and through two processes supporting them: HR and Competence; and Systems Development. The operating system also includes descriptions of processes agreed for the subsidiaries. The processes described have their designated owners and owner teams, who are responsible for the development of the processes. Processes are assessed annually by means of both internal and external audits.

**Risk management**

Finnvera's Board of Directors confirms the principles of the Group's risk management, the policies to be observed, the risk appetite and decision-making powers. Risk management is part of internal control, and the primary responsibility for it rests with the Business Units. Risk Control, which is independent of the Business Units, is responsible for risk management reporting and for maintaining the risk management system; it reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer. The principal component tasks of Risk Control are participation in the determination of strategies and policies and in the preparation of guidelines for operations, as well as monitoring and controlling the risk position realised, and the related reporting. These components are emphasised in different ways depending on the type of risk.

The goal of Risk Control is, for its own part, to ensure prerequisites for implementing the company's strategy. Finnvera's risks can be grouped as follows:

1. Risks pertaining to credits and guarantees
2. Operational risks
3. Financing and market risks
4. Other risks.

Operational risks pertaining to financial reporting are identified, assessed and controlled as part of operational risk management. Utilisation of information technology and investing in the quality of operations play a central role in financial reporting systems.

The internal reporting system for risk management works at all levels of the Group. The parent company manages risks arisen in subsidiaries through ownership steering and by keeping all subsidiaries within the sphere of the risk management and internal auditing practised within the Group.

**Controlling the financial reporting process**

The operating policies and guidelines for Finnvera's financial operations ensure the management and control of financial operations and financial reporting. The Finance and IT Unit is responsible for the processes and development of financial reporting. Financial processes, operations and reporting are developed regularly. Process descriptions have been drawn up for the main financial processes. These descriptions are approved by the System Development ownership team.

Detailed instructions have been compiled for activities associated with financial systems and financial reporting. These instructions set the standards for financial operations and financial reporting. The internal controls and the tallies and checks included in these activities are a central element of the range of functions ensuring the correctness, reliability and timeliness of monthly, quarterly and annual reporting. Named persons have been assigned responsibility for maintaining guidelines for financial reporting, which are available for everyone participating in financial reporting.

Apart from financial operations, Risk Control participates in the determination of criteria for calculating capital adequacy and impairment losses.

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**Compliance function**

The purpose of Finnvera's Compliance function is to ensure that the organisation's operations are run in accordance with rules and internal operating principles.

The Compliance function assists the organisation's management and other functions in managing the risks associated with non-compliance of rules. To this end, the Compliance function provides proactive legal monitoring, control and consulting. The value added produced by the Compliance function is not limited to the management of the legal risk. It also increases the transparency of operations, thereby helping to sustain the trust of the owner, clients and markets.

**The State's responsibility for Finnvera's commitments**

Finnvera's objective is to ensure that, in the long term, the expenses incurred in the company's operations can be covered by the income received from operations. If the government decides to support some of Finnvera's activities separately, the necessary appropriations are included in the State Budget. For instance, the State has made a commitment to Finnvera concerning compensation for the parent company's credit and guarantee losses.

The State's commitments enable Finnvera to take higher risks in domestic operations than those taken by commercial financial institutions. In addition, the Government is entitled to grant State guarantees as security for domestic and foreign loans taken by Finnvera.

The annual profits from domestic financing and export financing are transferred to two separate reserves on Finnvera's balance sheet. Correspondingly, losses from domestic operations are covered from the reserve for domestic financing, while losses from export credit guarantees and special guarantees are covered from the reserve for export financing. There is no cross-subsidy between the reserves. At the end of the year, before appropriations, the assets of the reserves totalled EUR 823 million. The State Guarantee Fund and, after the State Guarantee Fund, the State of Finland are responsible for Finnvera's losses only if the losses cannot be covered by assets in these two reserves.

The State Guarantee Fund serves as a buffer between the State Budget and any losses that might arise from Finnvera's export credit and special guarantee activities. Defined in §4 of the Act on the State Guarantee Fund, these losses are ultimately the State's responsibility. The State Guarantee Fund's assets are also used to cover the liability arising from the guarantees and other commitments granted by the Finnish Guarantee Board – subsequently incorporated into Finnvera – and by its predecessors. Finnvera manages this 'old' liability for the State, and the State Guarantee Fund pays Finnvera a fee for its management. The 'old' liability totalled EUR one million at year's end.

Moreover, Finnvera's balance sheet includes a reserve for venture capital investments, under unrestricted equity. This reserve is used for monitoring the assets allocated by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for venture capital investments.

**Funding**

Finnvera's long-term acquisition of funds takes place primarily by issuing bonds and notes under the Euro Medium Term Note (EMTN) programme of EUR 6.0 billion. The programme is guaranteed by the State of Finland. Both Moody's and Standard & Poor's have rated the loan programme. The rating given by Moody's to Finnvera is Aaa and that given by Standard & Poor's is AA+.

The State can give guarantees as security for the loans taken by Finnvera and for the associated interest rate and currency swaps. As defined in the Act on Finnvera, the outstanding principal of State-guaranteed loans cannot exceed the equivalent of EUR 15.0 billion. At the end of 2016, the principal of the loans guaranteed by the State totalled EUR 4.8 billion (3.9 billion).

Finnvera uses the funds acquired both for financing export credits and for SME financing. By means of currency and interest rate swaps, Finnvera converts the funds acquired into euros or US dollars, depending on the final use of the funds. Finnvera trades in currency, interest and derivative products only for hedging purposes.

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### Communications

Finnvera's external financial communications is based on a separate set of guidelines where the main principles are: relevant information, correctly, promptly, simultaneously and available to all.

In keeping with the guidelines, the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for Finnvera's financial communications. The Finance and IT Unit is responsible for the generation of financial information. The information is published by the Communications and HR Unit.

### Internal auditing

Internal auditing supports the Finnvera Group and its executive management in meeting goals by providing a systematic approach for evaluating and developing the functioning and efficiency of the organisation's internal control, risk management, and managerial and governance processes.

Organised under the Chief Executive Officer of Finnvera plc, internal auditing is a function independent of the business operations. Finnvera's Board of Directors approves the guidelines and annual plans for internal auditing. Internal auditing reports regularly on audits and on the observations made to the Board of Directors and its Inspection Committee. Auditing is done in keeping with the international professional standards applied in the sector.

### External auditing

Finnvera has a minimum of one and a maximum of two auditors, depending on the decision made by the General Meeting of Shareholders. The auditors must be authorised public accountants or accounting firms.

In competitive bidding arranged in 2012, the Finnvera Group selected KPMG Oy Ab to serve as its auditor. The auditor with the main responsibility is elected annually by the General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting of 2016 elected KPMG Oy Ab to serve as Finnvera's auditor. The auditor with the main responsibility is Juha-Pekka Mylén, Authorised Public Accountant.

Once every quarter, the auditor participates in the meetings of the Inspection Committee of the Board of

Directors and draws up a separate semi-annual report to the Board and to its Inspection Committee. In addition, the auditor's report is submitted to the Supervisory Board.

The Financial Supervisory Authority monitors Finnvera's bond issues. In other respects, Finnvera's finances are supervised by the Auditing Unit of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, applying the standards of the Financial Supervisory Authority. Realisation of the industrial and ownership policy goals set by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment for Finnvera is monitored by the Ministry's Enterprise and Innovation Department, which receives reports from Finnvera twice a year.

The fees paid by the Finnvera Group to the auditors in 2016 totalled EUR 93,000. In addition, the auditing company was paid EUR 100,000 for advisory services.

### Switchboard

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