

VONOVIA SE – Annual General Meeting on 8 May 2024

**Address given by the Chair of the Supervisory Board
Clara C. Streit**

at the virtual AGM of Vonovia SE in Bochum on 8 May 2024

- Extract from the statements of the Chair of the Supervisory Board -
- Convenience Translation -
- Check against delivery -

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow me to say a few personal words.

The last few years have been dominated by a large number of crises. They included the Covid-19 pandemic with its many restrictions, the ongoing war of aggression in Ukraine and the attack of Hamas on Israel. In addition, there are strong migration movements. Refugees are looking to find a safe haven in our country. It's our responsibility to help, but above all also to integrate those people as quickly as possible. All this is making demands on our society. We are faced with a mood that is marked by fear, insecurity and a generally high level of dissatisfaction.

When I talk to business owners, I often hear about major challenges. But they also say that those challenges can be mastered. There is a determination to take part in shaping the current social transformation and to leverage the resulting opportunities for the future.

For this to succeed, we need to give Germany a significant boost as a business location among its international competitors.

In particular, this concerns the areas of regulation, taxation and the cost of energy, where it's essential to provide relief. This is especially true for the housing industry, a sector that is vital for our country because everyone needs a home. It's where families bring up their children. And as more and more people are working from home, that home often doubles up as their office space. Our industry is vital if we want to attract some urgently needed skilled labour to Germany, but we can only convince people to come to us if they can find accommodation for their families.

Germany is still a location providing many strengths; otherwise, international companies wouldn't want to open subsidiaries here. We've got well-trained specialists, and we've also got a high level of innovation.

Above all, we live in a democracy.

And in a democracy it's alright to have a variety of different views. We work together to negotiate compromises that are most suitable for the community. It's exhausting, sometimes time-consuming, and not always cost-effective.

However – and this is important to me – our democracy is the basic foundation on which people can develop freely, both privately and in their jobs. So we have a responsibility to nurture and shape this democracy.

We all have the duty to defend our freedom, our values and our democracy. This also means that everyone of us should use their votes in the European elections this year. The European Union is of crucial significance to our peace – and indeed also to the

economy, jobs and prosperity. The countries in the EU have a population of around 450 million. We benefit from this European community in terms of trade and as a location for industrial production. Against the background of demographic change, immigration is crucial for the future of our society.

Diversity also plays an important role at Vonovia. Our Tenants are looked after by employees from 80 different countries. And looking at the neighbourhoods of Vonovia, the level of diversity is even greater, with over a million people living next door to each other and having neighbourly relationships.

Ladies and gentlemen, we live at a time when cohesion is more important than ever before. We mustn't allow radical forces to split our society. We must continue to talk to one another about the issues that are important to us, and we must be open to good arguments. This applies to our private environment just as much as it does to our workplaces.