QUESTIONS FROM DWS INVESTMENT GMBH LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS 20<sup>TH</sup> OF APRIL 2023 INTENDED FOR ONLINE PUBLICATION



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Dear Mr Arnault, Dear Mr Croisset, Dear members of the board,

DWS Investment GmbH (DWS) is one of the largest asset managers in Europe. As a responsible investor in LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE, it is part of our fiduciary duty to express our expectations in the best interest of our clients. Our commitment to environmental, social and governance practices (ESG) is a crucial element of our responsibilities and forms an integral part of our investment process.

Ahead of your 2023 annual general meeting of shareholders (AGM), we would like to share our questions with you. We would greatly appreciate your answers in written form. Please note that we will also share our questions on our website (www.dws.com) on the day of your AGM. Thank you for your consideration.

#### **Independence**

Qualified, experienced and independent directors are essential for competent and efficient decision making processes at the board level. DWS values independent chairs as an independent representation of shareholder interests.to ensure objective-driven decision making and challenging discussions. Where one person assumes a combined CEO/chairperson role, a qualified and strong lead independent director must ensure the proper work of the board and the communication with investors.

In this regard, we appreciate the work of Mr Croisset. However, due to his tenure of more than 10 years, we do not consider him independent according to our Corporate Governance and Proxy Voting Policy.

# QUESTION 1: When can we expect you to appoint a new lead independent director to counterbalance the role of a combined CEO/chairperson? If this not the case, why?

Having a majority of independent members serving on the board as well as on its committees and independent committee chairpersons is important for us to ensure challenging discussions. We appreciate that the Governance and Compensation Committee's independence was enhanced by appointing Ms Valla as the new chair in January 2023. We also appreciate the proposal to appoint Ms Mignon as director because she is an independent director. However, we noticed the board and its committees are still not majority independent (excluding employee representatives).

# QUESTION 2: When are you expecting to appoint a majority of independent directors? If that is not anticipated, could you please provide us with your rationales?



#### **Overboarding**

Directors should not hold an excessive amount of mandates to ensure that they have sufficient time and capacities to fulfill their board commitments. DWS considers directors overboarded where they hold more than two external non-executive mandates and the candidate assumes any executive role (three overall maximum),or more than five mandates (including the nominated position) where the candidate assumes non-executive roles. Due to their extended responsibilities, DWS attributes an additional mandate to members assuming the executive position of CEO, the chair position of the board or the chair position of the audit committee. In principle, internal board seats are counted as one as long as they are clearly indicated as such.

In this regard, we would like to thank Mr Arnault for his work in the last year and we appreciate the proposal to appoint Ms Mignon as director in order to enhance the company's independence. Nevertheless, we noticed that both directors are currently overboarded, based on the calculation laid down in our Corporate Governance and Proxy Voting Policy.

#### QUESTION 3: Are there any plans for the above-mentioned directors to reduce their mandates by the next AGM?

#### Transparency: CVs

In order to assess directors' qualifications and potential overboarding, DWS expects the CV of each executive and non-executive director to be permanently published on the investee company's website. The CV shall state the year the individual was first appointed, information about the qualification, date of birth and any mandates (including external listed companies, internal mandates and mandates also related to other than commercially oriented organisations).

Several CVs of the board members are currently missing on the company's homepage (www.lvmh.com/group/about-lvmh/governance/board-of-directors). Furthermore, the CVs, which are available, do not differentiate between listed and not-listed/private mandates. This lack of information makes it difficult for investors to assess the mandates and potential overboardings of the board members.

# QUESTION 4: When can we expect you to update the CVs of all board members on your website (including highlighting all external as well as group mandates)?

#### Net Zero

Corporations and investors have a key role to play towards the need for emissions to be reduced in the mutual goal of coping with the impacts of global warming. In this regard, we support the Climate Action 100+ and the Net Zero Asset Managers initiatives with the aim to enhance the governance of climate change risk and opportunities, to curb emissions and to strengthen climate-related financial disclosures.

You have set short-term targets for scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions 50% by 2026 and for scope 3 GHG emissions 55% per million € value added by 2030 from a 2019 base year.

Limited liability Company domiciled in Frankfurt am Main, Germany

HRB No. 9135, Frankfurt am Main Local Court

Chairman of the Supervisory Board: Dr. Stefan Hoops

Management Board: Manfred Bauer (Speaker),

Dr. Matthias Liermann, Petra Pflaum, Vincenzo Vedda

VAT Identification Number: DE 811 248 289



QUESTION 5: Can we expect that you will set and disclose mid-term by 2035 and long-term by 2050 decarbonisation targets? Can we expect that you will validate these targets by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi)?

#### <u>Water</u>

The business of LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE requires high usage of water for its wines and spirits and the other segments – including the abovementioned segment – may lead to high risk of water usage, pollution and emissions. In order to assess the level of severity and risks, DWS requires adequate disclosures. Furthermore, the water consumption of the company has increased compared to last year and the water sources (from where the water is withdrawn) and the region/area or the sources (such as the sea/ground) are not disclosed.

QUESTION 6: When can we expect LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE to report on operations in extremely high and high water stress regions (including the value chain)?

# QUESTION 7: Are you looking into reporting the sources and regions of water withdrawals for consumption? If not, could you please provide us with your rationales?

In 2020, LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE highlighted having three vineyards located in areas where water stress is close to 100%, using the AWARE method to calulcate water footprint (value chain). However, the saving water discussion is no longer to be found in the 2021 reporting.

# QUESTION 8: Could you please explain why saving water/water reduction targets are not part of the 2021 reporting, while they were in 2020?

Chemical oxygen demand (COD) measures different inorganic nutrients in water (pollutants). In this regard, LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE reports high amounts of COD in the 2021 reporting (1350 metric tons per year only for wines and spirits in 2021 compared to 920 metric tons per year in 2020). This directly impacts the Principal Adverse Impact (PAI) Indicators 8 for hazardous/toxic emissions.

# QUESTION 9: Are there any particular reasons for the sharp increasement in the COD this year?

To conclude, we would like to thank all members of the board and all the employees of LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE on their commitment and dedication over the past year. We appreciate the possibility to raise questions at your AGM and already thank you in advance for your answers.