# FY 2021 CORPORATE **GOVERNANCE REPORT**

Good corporate governance is a prerequisite for cooperation based on trust between the owners, the Board of Directors ("the Board") and the management of MPC Container Ships ASA ("the Company", together with its subsidiaries "the Group"), with a view to achieving long-term growth.

The Board actively adheres to good corporate governance standards and will ensure that the Company either complies with or explains possible deviations from the Norwegian Code of Practice for Corporate Governance ("the Code"). The Code can be found at www.nues.no.

As at 31 December 2021, there are no significant deviations between the Code and how the Company complies with the Code. Two minor deviations under Section 5 on general meetings and one deviation under Section 6 on the nomination committee have been justified and disclosed.

+ Adopting a long-term perspective in our business strategy and decision making, that is taking economic and ecological aspects equally into account

The Company is listed on the Oslo Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol "MPCC".

As set out in the risk factors section in the Board of Director's report in the Annual Report 2021, the Board has defined clear objectives, strategies and risk profiles for the Company's business activities to ensure shareholder value creation. The Board will evaluate these objectives, strategies and risk profiles on a regular basis, and routinely monitors risk exposure vis-à-vis its business objectives.

Deviations from the Code: none

## **Business**

The business activity of the Company is set out in article 3 of its articles of association: "The Company's business activity is to (i) invest in maritime assets (vessels, shares in ship-owning companies, loans secured by vessels and/or shares in ship-owning companies) with a main focus on small-size container ships between 5.000 and 5,000 TEU, (ii) chartering-out the vessels per time charter agreements, operate and sell them as well as (iii) working-out the acquired maritime loans in order to take over the securing assets."

As a globally active shipping company, MPC Container Ships considers the creation of share- and stakeholder value as the core purpose of our business activities. Yet, we believe that the ability to create long-term sustainable value lies in linking economic and financial advancements with environmental, social and governance propositions and thus following the principles of Corporate Social Responsibility.

Adapting to the future and changing environment of our business and the general market as well as preparing for the challenges that those developments imply, is the key element of our long-term business strategy. Our mission is to future-proof our business and create stakeholder value through:

- + Being a professional and positive workplace with an inclusive working environment. Health and safety of our employees are always the main priority.
- + Supporting collective climate ambitions and leverage industry networks to accelerate change.
- + Valuing professional, transparent, and fair business relationships by acting as a transparent and trustworthy business partner.

# **Equity and** dividends

#### Share capital

All shares issued in the Company are equal in all respects. The Company has one class of shares, each carrying one vote and an equal right to dividend. All shares are validly issued and fully paid. The shares are issued in accordance with the laws of Norway and registered in the Norwegian Central Securities Depository (VPS) with ISIN N00010791353. As at 31 December 2021, the Company's share capital is NOK 444,051,377 divided into 444,051,377 shares, each with a nominal value of NOK 1.00.

Any increase of the Company's share capital must be mandated by the general meeting. If a mandate is to be granted to the Board to increase the Company's share capital, such mandate will be restricted to a defined purpose. If the general meeting is to consider mandates to the Board for the issuance of shares for different purposes, each mandate will be considered separately by the general meeting.

MPC Münchmeyer Petersen Capital AG ("MPC Capital"), through its subsidiary MPC Capital Beteiligungs-gesellschaft mbH & Co. KG has been granted warrants to subscribe for additional shares in the Company. Please refer to note 24 in the Company's consolidated financial statements 2021 for additional information.

On the Company's annual general meeting held 28 April 2021, the Board was authorised to increase the Company's share capital by up to NOK 98,564,031. Subject to this aggregate amount limitation, the Board's authority may be used on more than one occasion and for such purposes as the Board finds to be in the interest of the Company. On 9 August 2021 the Group completed the acquisition of Songa Container AS. In connection with the acquisition of Songa Container AS, a total of 49,795,250 new shares were issued as part of the consideration paid. As at 31 December 2021, the remaining Board authority comprised a further share capital increase of up to NOK 48,768,781.

The Board's authority shall remain in force until the annual general meeting in 2022, but not later than 30 June 2022. Pre-emptive rights of existing shareholders may be set aside. The authority covers (i) capital increases against contributions in cash and noncash, (ii) the right to incur special obligations for the Company, (iii) resolutions on mergers and (iv) takeover situations.

On the Company's annual general meeting held 28 April 2021, the Board was authorised to carry out a reverse share split in a ratio of 10:1 so that ten shares in the Company, each with a nominal value of NOK 1.00, are consolidated to one share with a nominal value of NOK 10.00. In carrying out a reverse share split, the total number of issued shares in the Company would be reduced accordingly. The Board is authorised to determine the date and further process for carrying out the reverse share split. As at 31 December 2021, the Board has made no plans to effectuate the aforementioned reverse share split.

#### Capital structure

The Board regards its capital structure and equity ratio as appropriate considering the Group's objectives, strategy and risk profile.

#### Dividend policy

In support of its objective of maximizing returns to shareholders, MPC Container Ships' intention is to pay regular dividends by way of distributing 75% of net profit after considering CAPEX and working capital requirements, including liquidity reserves and one-off effects. Dividends will be declared or proposed by the Board at the sole discretion of the Board and will depend on the financial position, earnings, debt covenants, distribution restrictions, capital requirements and other factors related to MPC Container Ships and its subsidiaries. The Company cannot guarantee that its Board will declare or propose dividends in the future. Furthermore, the Company may make event-driven distributions based on non-recurring proceeds, such as vessel sales, by way of extraordinary dividends or share buybacks, to be applied according to the Board's discretion.

#### Purchase of own shares

As at 31 December 2021, the Company owned 351,098 treasury shares. On the annual general meeting held 28 April 2021, the Board was granted authorisation to acquire shares in the Company on behalf of the Company with an aggregate nominal value of up to NOK 39,425,612 and with a consideration per share of no less than NOK 1.00 and no more than NOK 200.00. The Board's authority shall remain in force until the annual general meeting in 2022, but not later than 30 June 2022.

Deviations from the Code: none

# **Equal treatment** of shareholders

#### Equal treatment

Equal treatment of all shareholders is a core governance principle of the Company. The Company has one class of shares, and each share confers one vote at the general meeting. The articles of association contain no restrictions on voting rights and all shares have equal rights.

#### Transactions in own shares

The Company's transactions in own shares are carried out over the stock exchange or by other means at market price. Should there be an increase in capital which involves a waiver of the existing shareholders' pre-emptive rights, and the Board resolves to carry out such an increase on the basis of a mandate granted by the general meeting, the Board will explain the justification for waiving the pre-emptive rights in the stock exchange announcement.

Deviations from the Code: none

# **Shares And Negotiability**

The Company's shares are listed on the Oslo Stock Exchange and are freely negotiable. The Company has one class of shares, each carrying one vote at the general meeting. The shares have no trading restrictions in the form of Board consent or ownership limitation, and the Company does not limit any party's ability to own, trade or vote for shares in the Company.

Deviations from the Code: none

# **General meetings**

The general meeting of shareholders is the Company's supreme corporate body. It serves as a democratic and effective forum for interaction between the Company's shareholders, Board and management.

According to the Company's articles of association, the annual general meeting shall be held once a year before the end of June. Furthermore, extraordinary general meetings may be convened either by the Board, the auditor or shareholders representing at least 5% of the Company's share capital.

#### Notice of meeting

Notice of the general meeting is sent at the latest two weeks before the meeting. All shareholders registered in the Norwegian Central Securities Depository (VPS) will receive a notice of meeting and are entitled to submit proposals and vote directly or via proxy. Agenda papers will also be published on the Company's website.

Pursuant to the Company's articles of association, when documents concerning matters to be discussed at general meetings have been made available to the shareholders on the Company's website, the Board may decide that the documents shall not be sent to the shareholders. If so, a shareholder may request that documents concerning matters to be discussed at the general meeting be sent to him or her. The Company will not charge any form of compensation for sending the documents to the shareholders.

The agenda papers must contain all necessary information so that the shareholders can decide on the issues to be addressed. The registration deadline for the general meeting will be as close to the general meeting as practically possible but no sooner than five days prior to the meeting, cf. the Company's articles of association.

#### Registration and proxy

Registration should be made in writing, either via mail or e-mail. The Board will ensure so that as many shareholders as possible are able to participate. Shareholders who are unable to attend in person, are encouraged to appoint a proxy. A special proxy form is available which facilitates separate voting instructions for each issue to be considered by the general meeting and for each of the candidates nominated for election. The Company will nominate one or more persons to vote as proxy for shareholders. Representatives from the Board, management and/or the auditor will participate in the general meeting.

If shares are registered by a nominee in the Norwegian Central Securities Depository (VPS) and the beneficial shareholder wants to vote for their shares, the beneficial shareholder must re-register the shares in a separate VPS account in their own name prior to the general meeting. If the holder can prove that such steps have been taken and that the holder has a de facto shareholder interest in the Company, the shareholder will be allowed to vote for the shares. Decisions regarding voting rights for shareholders and proxy holders are made by the person opening the meeting, whose decisions may be reversed by the general meeting by simple majority vote.

#### Minutes

The minutes of the general meetings are made available on the Company's website immediately after the meeting.

Deviations from the Code: The Board might not make arrangements for an independent chairperson for general meetings as the Company believes that the Chairman of the Board can act independently and in the interests of shareholders. Similarly, the Board may not deem it appropriate for all Board members and the auditor to participate in all general meetings.

# Nomination committee

Considering the scope of the Company's operations, the Board considers it reasonable and appropriate that the Company should have two Board sub-committees: the Risk & Audit Committee and the Remuneration Committee. The Risk & Audit Committee is made up of Ulf Holländer (Chairman), Laura Carballo and Ellen Hanetho. The Remuneration Committee is made up of Ulf Holländer (Chairman), Ellen Hanetho and Paul Gough, with Ellen Hanetho replacing Darren Maupin.

Deviations from the Code: Contrary to the recommendations of the Code, the Company presently does not have a dedicated Nomination Committee due to the above considerations. Regardless, the Company shall account for the interests of the shareholders when considering the composition of the Board. This is done by (i) seeking a diverse and highly qualified pool of Board candidates with relevant competence and industry expertise and (ii) ensuring that shareholder input on Board member nomination, election and evaluation are properly addressed. The Board must take appropriate measures to avoid self-perpetuation.

# Board of directors: composition and independence

Pursuant to the Company's articles of association, the Board shall consist of between three to seven members who are elected by the general meeting for up to four years at a time. MPC Capital has the right to elect 40% of the members of the Board (rounded down). If the aggregate share ownership of MPC Capital and affiliates falls below 20% of the total number of shares in the Company, MPC Capital shall only have the right to elect one board member. If neither MPC Capital nor any affiliates own any shares in the Company, MPC Capital shall not have the right to elect a board member.

Board appointments are communicated through the notice of general meetings and the members are elected by majority vote.

The Board considers its composition to be diverse and competent with respect to the expertise, capacity and diversity appropriate to attend to the Company's objectives, main risks and challenges, and the common interest of all shareholders. The Board composition adheres to the requirement regarding gender equality and representation of both sexes on the board of directors of Norwegian public entities, as set forth in the Norwegian Public Limited Liability Companies Act Section 6-11a. Further, the Board deems its composition to be made up of individuals who are willing and able to work as a team, resulting in the Board working effectively as a collegiate body. The Board does not include executive personnel of the Company.

As at 31 December 2021 the Board comprises the following

#### Ulf Holländer (Chairman)

Term of office: Re-elected on 28 April 2021 for a period of two years.

Experience: Commerce degree from the University of Hamburg. Audit assistant and auditor at Dr. W Schlage & Co Wirtschaftsprüfungs- und Steuerberatungsgesellschaft in Hamburg (1984-1987). Various positions at shipping group Hamburg Süd and affiliated companies in Australia and the U.S. (1987-2000) such as financial controller at Columbus Overseas Services Pty. (1990-1992), commercial director at Columbus Line USA Inc. (1992-1996) and head of Hamburg Süd's finance and accounting department (1997-2000). CFO of MPC Capital (2000-2015). CEO of MPC Capital from 2015.

Other matters: in 2021, Ulf Holländer participated in 19 board meetings.

#### Dr. Axel Schroeder

Term of office: Re-elected on 28 April 2021 for a period of two years.

Experience: Economics and Social Science studies at the University of Hamburg (1985-1990) followed by a doctorate (1993). Various positions within the MPC Group since 1990, including engagements at MPC Capital from its beginnings in 1994. CEO of MPC Capital (1999-2015), during which period the company was listed at the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (2000). Chairman of the Supervisory Board of MPC Capital since 2015. Managing partner of MPC Münchmeyer Petersen & Co. GmbH, MPC Participia GmbH and CSI Beteiligungsgesellschaft mbH.

Other matters: in 2021, Dr. Axel Schroeder participated in 19 board meetings.

#### Laura Carballo

Term of office: Re-elected on 28 April 2021 for a period of two years.

Experience: B.S. in Economics from Duke University. MBA from INSEAD. Merrill Lynch (1998-2000), Compass Partners International (2000-2002), STAR Capital Partners Ltd. and successor STAR Capital Partnership LLP from 2004.

Other matters: in 2021, Laura Carballo participated in 19 board meetings.

#### Ellen Hanetho

Term of office: Re-elected on 28 April 2021 for a period of two years.

Experience: MBA from Solvay Business School. BSBA in Business and Administration from Boston University. Analyst and senior associate at the investment bank division of Goldman Sachs International Ltd. (1997-2002). Investment manager and later partner at Credo Partners AS (2003-2012). CEO of Frigaard Invest AS (2013-2019). Founder and Chairwoman of the board at Cercis as well as board member of Kongsberg Automotive ASA, Fearnley Securities AS, Stokke Industri AS and Stor-Oslo Eiendom AS, among others.

Other matters: in 2021, Ellen Hanetho participated in 18 board meetings.

#### Darren Maupin

Term of office: Re-elected on 28 April 2021 for a period of two years.

Experience: BA in Economics and Finance from Boston College. Further studies at the London School of Economics and Beijing Language and Culture University. Analyst and fund manager at Fidelity Investments in Boston, London, and Hong Kong (1998-2007). Founder and a director of the Pilgrim Global ICAV, its predecessors, and associated value-oriented investment funds since 2009. Founder and executive director of Anglo International Shipping Co. Ltd. and non-executive director of both private and publicly listed companies in a variety of industries.

Other matters:

- in 2021, Darren Maupin participated in 19 board meetings.
- as a subsequent event, Darren Maupin resigned from his position as member of the board effective by 23 January 2022

#### Peter Frederiksen (elected 28 February 2022 as new board member)

Term of office: Elected 25 February 2022 as a new board member until the ordinary general meeting in 2022.

Experience: Peter Frederiksen, who has served as a member of the Sounding Board of the Company since 2019, has extensive background in the shipping sector and currently serves on the board for several shipping and maritime companies. Frederiksen was born in 1963 and after completion of the A.P. Møller Maersk Shipping Education attended several Executive Development Programmes at INSEAD and Cornell Johnson Graduate School of Management. He resides in Copenhagen, Denmark, and holds no shares in the Company. He has previously held management and board positions at Hamburg Süd for 9 years and at Maersk Line for 25 years.

Other Matters: In 2021, Peter Frederiksen did not participate in any board meetings.

Ellen Hanetho and Peter Frederiksen are considered independent of the Company's day-to-day management, majority shareholders and major business connections.

Deviations from the Code: none

# The work of the board of directors

#### The duties of the Board

The Board has overall responsibility for the management of the Company and for supervising the day-to-day management and the Company's operations. This involves defining the Company's objectives, strategies and risk profiles to ensure value creation for its shareholders. The Board is also responsible for following-up on the implementation of objectives and strategies, as well as for control functions to ensure that the Company has proper operations as well as asset and risk management.

#### Instructions for the Board

Pursuant to the provisions of the Norwegian Public Limited Liability Companies Act, the Board has established rules of procedure that provide detailed regulations and guidelines for the Board's work and administrative procedures and define the functions and duties of the CEO towards the Board.

#### Agreements with related parties

The Board and the management are committed to promoting equal treatment of all shareholders.

In relation to its ordinary business, the Group may enter into transactions with certain entities in which the Group has ownership interests or with entities otherwise deemed related parties of the Group, its shareholders, Board or executive personnel. Such transactions are carried out on an arm's length basis and disclosed in Note 23 of the Company's Annual Report 2021.

Guidelines regulating loyalty, ethics, impartiality and conflict of interests are stipulated in the Company's Code of Conduct, applicable to all entities controlled by the Company and all employees, directors, officers and agents.

The Code of Conduct is made available on the Company's website.

Deviations from the Code: none

#### Conflicts of interest and disqualification

Members of the Board and executive management cannot consider matters in which they may hold a special interest. In order to ensure that items brought to the Board's attention can be considered in an unbiased and satisfactory way, Board members and executive management have a duty to inform the Board of any potential special interest in Board matters, and the Board must account for the individual's interest in its consideration of the item.

#### Instructions for the CEO

A clear division of responsibilities and tasks has been established between the Board and executive management. The CEO, appointed by the Board, has a particular responsibility to ensure that the Board receives accurate, relevant and timely information that is sufficient to allow the Board to carry out its duties.

#### Financial reporting

The Board receives periodic reports with comments on the Company's financial status. In terms of the annual accounts which the Board is asked to adopt, the Board may ask the executive management to confirm that accounts have been prepared in accordance with EU IFRS (Group level) and Norwegian GAAP (parent level), that all the information included is in accordance with the actual situation of the Company and that nothing of material importance has been omitted.

#### Chairman of the Board

The principal duty of the Chairman is to ensure that the Board operates well and carries out its duties. In addition, the Chairman has certain specific duties in respect of the general meetings. Matters to be considered by the Board are prepared by the CEO in collaboration with the Chairman, who chairs the board meetings.

In order to ensure an independent approach by the Board, another member should take the chair when the Board considers matters of a material nature in which the Chairman has, or has had, an active involvement.

#### Meeting structure

The Board intends to meet at least five times each year and routinely receives reports on the Company's operational and financial performance, market updates, etc. Furthermore, the Board is consulted on or informed about matters of special importance.

#### Risk & Audit Committee

The Risk & Audit Committee shall act as a preparatory and advisory body for the Board and support the Board in the exercise of its responsibility for financial reporting, internal control and risk management. Furthermore, the Risk & Audit Committee shall review and discuss with the Company's management and statutory auditor the Company's annual and quarterly financial statements, and assess and monitor the independence of the statutory auditor.

The Risk & Audit Committee shall meet at least four times a year and at such other times as the Chairman of the committee deems appropriate.

A Risk & Audit Committee consisting of three members, one of them independent of the Company's business activities and main shareholders, was established in January 2018.

#### Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee shall act as a preparatory and advisory body for the Board and shall assist the Board in its work in relation to the Company's remuneration policies and terms of employment for the CEO.

A Remuneration Committee consisting of three members, one of them independent of the Company's business activities and main shareholders, was established in March 2018.

#### The Board's self-evaluation

The Board conducts an annual evaluation of its performance, way of working and expertise.

Deviations from the Code: none

# Risk management and internal control

in accordance with the principles underlying value-based management, the Board places great importance on systematic risk management. This is done not only to satisfy the requirements set out by law, but also to ensure the Company's governance in a highly dynamic market environment by identifying existing and potential risk exposures.

Through (i) quarterly reviews of the Company's most prominent areas of risk exposure and its internal control arrangements, (ii) management guidelines and (iii) the appointment of a dedicated risk management unit to perform risk monitoring and provide regular risk management updates to the Risk & Audit Committee, the Board aims to ensure that the Company has sound internal controls and systems for risk management that are appropriate in relation to the extent and nature of the Company's activities.

In view of the extent and nature of the Company's activities, the Board considers the Company's internal control and risk management to be sound and appropriate. It is composed of the majority shareholder's governing elements, such as the code of conduct, business standards, whistleblowing system and other relevant policies and procedures.

The Board reviews the Company's risk matrix regularly, as well as the internal control arrangements at least annually.

MPC Container Ships ASA reports to the financial market on a quarterly basis. The Board performs an internal financial audit review prior to the release of quarterly results, and when otherwise required.

Deviations from the Code: none

# Remuneration of the board of directors

For financial year 2021, each Board member will receive NOK 200,000 in remuneration, covering work related to both Board representation and committee participation, as approved by the annual general meeting on 28 April 2021.

The remuneration of the Board is not linked to Company performance. Board members have no options to buy shares in the Company, nor do they receive compensation other than the Board remuneration. Board remuneration is considered to be on market terms.

Deviations from the Code: none

# **Remuneration of** executive personnel

Pursuant to the Norwegian Public Limited Liability Companies Act, the Board prepares guidelines for the remuneration of the Company's CEO and other executive personnel. The guidelines set out the main principles applied in determining the salary and other remuneration of the executive personnel considered to reflect market conditions and help to ensure convergence of the financial interests of the executive personnel and shareholders.

The Board's statement on executive personnel remuneration is communicated to the annual general meeting in a separate appendix, highlighting which guidelines are advisory and which, if any, are binding.

Any performance-related remuneration such as incentive programmes, share option schemes or similar shall be linked to value creation for shareholders and results delivered in the Group over time. Such arrangements aim to drive performance and be based on financial, operational and other quantifiable measures over which the employee in question can impact. Performance-related remuneration is subject to limits.

For information about remuneration of the Company's CEO and other executive personnel, see the Remuneration report and note 23 in the Company's FY 2021 Annual Report.

Deviations from the Code: None

# Information and communications

the Company seeks to treat all participants in the securities market equally through publishing interim reports, annual reports, press releases and all relevant information for the market in a timely, efficient and non-discriminating manner. All reports will be available on the Company's website www.mpc-container.com and through regulatory and non-regulatory disseminations at the Oslo Stock Exchange.

The Board has adapted an Investor Relations Policy to ensure that the Company's investor relations are carried out in compliance with applicable rules, regulations and recommended practises. The policy shall also ensure awareness of investor relations amongst the management and the Board.

The Company's current financial calendar with dates of important events including the annual general meeting, publishing of quarterly reports and its presentations, etc. is publicly accessible on the Company's website www.mpc-container.com and through regulatory and non-regulatory disseminations at the Oslo Stock Exchange.

Deviations from the Code: none

## **Takeovers**

The Company has implemented guidelines on how to act in the event of a takeover bid.

In the event of a takeover bid being made for the Company, the Board will follow the overriding principle of equal treatment for all shareholders and will seek to ensure that the Company's business activities are not disrupted unnecessarily. The Board will strive to ensure that shareholders are given sufficient information and time to evaluate an offer the Board considers attractive for the

The Board will not seek to prevent any takeover bid unless it believes that the interests of the Company and the shareholders justify such actions.

If a takeover bid is made, the Board will issue a statement with a recommendation on whether such bid should be accepted or not by the shareholders. Such statement shall, inter alia, include information on whether the assessment of the bid is unanimous and, if not, on which basis individual Board members have made reservations regarding the Board's statement.

In the event of a takeover bid, the Board will consider obtaining a valuation from independent experts. If a major shareholder, any member of the Board or executive management, related parties or close associates of such individuals or anyone who has recently held such a position is either the bidder or has a particular personal interest in a takeover bid, the Board will arrange for an independent valuation.

Deviations from the Code: none

### **Auditor**

Under Norwegian law the auditor of the Company is elected by the general meeting. Ernst & Young AS (org. no. 976 389 387) was elected as the Company's auditor on 18 May 2017.

The auditor participates in meetings of the Risk & Audit Committee that cover interim, quarterly and annual financial reporting, board meetings that deal with the annual accounts as well as the annual general meeting. At these meetings, the auditor reviews any deviations in the accounting principles applied and comments on key aspects of the audit, material accounting estimates and issues of special interest to the auditor, including possible disagreements between the auditor and the management.

At least once a year the auditor and the Board meet without the members of the executive management present.

The auditor presents and discusses annually with the Risk & Audit Committee the main features of their plan for the audit of the Company as well as a review of the Company's internal control procedures.

The auditor shall annually submit a written confirmation that the auditor continues to satisfy the requirements for independence and a summary of all services in addition to audit work that has been undertaken for the Company.

Deviations from the Code: none