

Independent auditor's report

To: the shareholders and management of Stichting The Kepler Cheuvreux Foundation

Report on the audit of the financial statements 2020 included in the annual report

Our opinion

We have audited the financial statements 2020 of Stichting The Kepler Cheuvreux Foundation, based in Amsterdam.

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Stichting The Kepler Cheuvreux Foundation as at 31 December 2020, and of its result for 2020 in accordance with the guidance for non-profit organizations and fundraising institutions as issued by the Council for Annual Reporting, (guideline RJ640) and Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

The financial statements comprise:

- The balance sheet as at 31 December 2020;
- The profit and loss account for 2020
- The notes comprising a summary of the accounting policies and other explanatory information

Basis for our opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements" section of our report.

We are independent of Stichting The Kepler Cheuvreux Foundation in accordance with the Wet toezicht accountantsorganisaties (Wta, Audit firms supervision act), the Verordening inzake de onafhankelijkheid van accountants bij assurance-opdrachten (ViO, Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, a regulation with respect to independence) and other relevant independence regulations in the Netherlands. Furthermore, we have complied with the Verordening gedrags- en beroepsregels accountants (VGBA, Dutch Code of Ethics).

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Report on other information included in the annual report

In addition to the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon, the annual report contains other information that consists of:

- Other information as required by Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code

Based on the following procedures performed, we conclude that the other information:

- Is consistent with the financial statements and does not contain material misstatements
- Contains the information as required by Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code

We have read the other information. Based on our knowledge and understanding obtained through our audit of the financial statements or otherwise, we have considered whether the other information contains material misstatements. By performing these procedures, we comply with the requirements of Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code and the Dutch Standard 720. The scope of the procedures performed is substantially less than the scope of those performed in our audit of the financial statements.

Management is responsible for the preparation of the other information in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code and other information as required by the Dutch Standard 640 and Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

Description of responsibilities for the financial statements

Responsibilities of management for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Dutch Standard 640 and Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code. Furthermore, management is responsible for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

As part of the preparation of the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern. Based on the financial reporting framework mentioned, management should prepare the financial statements using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Management should disclose events and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern in the financial statements.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objective is to plan and perform the audit engagement in a manner that allows us to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence for our opinion.

Our audit has been performed with a high, but not absolute, level of assurance, which means we may not detect all material errors and fraud during our audit.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. The materiality affects the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and the evaluation of the effect of identified misstatements on our opinion.

We have exercised professional judgment and have maintained professional skepticism throughout the audit, in accordance with Dutch Standards on Auditing, ethical requirements and independence requirements.

Our audit included among others:

- Identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, designing and performing audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control
- Obtaining an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control
- Evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management
- Concluding on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting, and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause a company to cease to continue as a going concern
- Evaluating the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures
- Evaluating whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation

We communicate with management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant findings in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Amsterdam, 30 April 2021

Ernst & Young Accountants LLP

Signed by R. Koekkoek

1 Conditions

Authorization to publish the auditor's report is granted subject to the following conditions:

- ▶ Further consultation with the auditor is essential if, after this authorization has been granted, facts and circumstances become known which materially affect the view given by the financial statements.
- ▶ The authorization concerns inclusion of the auditor's report in the annual report to be tabled at the Annual General Meeting (hereafter AGM) incorporating the financial statements as drawn up.
- ▶ The authorization also concerns inclusion of the auditor's report in the annual report to be filed with the Trade Registrar, provided consideration of the financial statements by the AGM does not result in any amendments.
- ▶ Financial statements for filing at the offices of the Trade Registrar which have been abridged in accordance with Section 397 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code must be derived from the financial statements adopted by the AGM and a draft version of these financial statements for filing purposes must be submitted to us for inspection.
- ▶ The auditor's report can also be included if the financial statements are published electronically, such as on the internet. In such cases, the full financial statements should be published and these should be easily distinguishable from other information provided electronically at the same time.
- ▶ If the published financial statements are to be included in another document which is to be made public, authorization to include the auditor's report must again be granted by the auditor.

2 Explanations to the conditions

2.1 Board of supervisory directors and board of executive directors

The auditor usually forwards his report to the board of supervisory directors and to the board of executive directors. This is pursuant to Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code, section 393 which stipulates inter alia: "The auditor sets out the outcome of his examination in a report". "The auditor reports on his examination to the board of supervisory directors and the board of executive directors".

2.2 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Publication of the auditor's report will only be permitted subject to the auditor's express consent. Publication is understood to mean: making available for circulation among the public or to such group of persons as to make it tantamount to the public. Circulation among shareholders or members, as appropriate, also comes within the scope of the term "publication", so that inclusion of the auditor's report in the annual report to be tabled at the AGM similarly requires authorization by the auditor.

2.3 Auditor's reports and financial statements

The authorization concerns publication in the annual report incorporating the financial statements that are the subject of the auditor's report. This condition is based on the auditors' rules of professional practice, which state that the auditor will not be allowed to authorize publication of his report except together with the financial statements to which this report refers.

The auditor will also at all times want to see the rest of the annual report, since the auditor is not allowed to authorize publication of his report if, owing to the contents of the documents jointly published, an incorrect impression is created as to the significance of the financial statements.

2.4 Events between the date of the auditor's report and the AGM

Attention should be paid to the fact that between the date of the auditor's report and the date of the meeting at which adoption, as appropriate, of the financial statements is considered, facts or circumstances may have occurred which materially affect the view given by the financial statements. Under COS 560, the auditor must perform audit procedures designed to obtain sufficient audit evidence to ensure that all events occurring before the date of the auditor's report that warrant amendment of or disclosure in the financial statements have been identified.

If the auditor becomes aware of events that may be of material significance to the financial statements, the auditor must consider whether those events have been adequately recognized and sufficiently disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. If between the date of the auditor's report and the date of publication of the financial statements, the auditor becomes aware of a fact that may have a material impact on the financial statements, the auditor must assess whether the financial statements should be amended, discuss the matter with management and act as circumstances dictate.

2.5 Trade Registrar

The financial statements are tabled at the AGM (legal entities coming within the scope of Title 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code table the directors' report and the other information as well). The AGM considers adoption of the financial statements. Only after the financial statements have been adopted, do they become the statutory (i.e., the company) financial statements. As a rule, the statutory financial statements will be adopted without amendment. The auditor's report must be attached to the statutory financial statements as part of the other information. As a rule, the text of this report will be the same as that issued earlier. The documents to be made public by filing at the offices of the Trade Registrar will consist of the statutory financial statements, the directors' report and the other information. The auditor's report which refers to the unabridged financial statements will then have to be incorporated in the other information. If consideration of the financial statements by the AGM does not result in any amendments, the auditor's report may be attached to the financial statements adopted, by the AGM and, provided the annual report and financial statements are filed promptly at the offices of the Trade Registrar, published as part of these annual report and financial statements.

2.6 Other manner of publication

The financial statements may also be published other than by filing at the offices of the Trade Registrar. In that event, too, inclusion of the auditor's report is permitted, provided the financial statements are published in full. If publication concerns part of the financial statements or if the financial statements are published in abridged form, publication of any report the auditor has issued on such financial statements will be prohibited, unless:

- a. He has come to the conclusion that, in the circumstances of the case, the document concerned is appropriate
Or
- b. Based on legal regulations, publication of the document concerned is all that is required

If less than the full financial statements are published, further consultation with the auditor is essential. If the financial statements and the auditor's report are published on the internet, it should be ensured that the financial statements are easily distinguishable from other information contained on the internet site. This can be achieved, for example, by including the financial statements as a separate file in a read-only format or by including a warning message when the reader exits the financial statements document.

2.7 Inclusion in another document

If the published financial statements are to be included in another document which is to be made public, this is considered a new publication and authorization must again be obtained from the auditor. An example of this situation is the publication of an offering circular which includes the financial statements, after these financial statements have been filed at the office of the Trade Registrar together with the other annual reports. For each new publication, authorization must again be obtained from the auditor.

2.8 Events after the AGM

Even if facts and circumstances have become known after the adoption of the financial statements as a result of which they no longer give the statutory true and fair view, the auditor must stand by the report issued on the financial statements as adopted and by the auditor's report filed at the offices of the Trade Registrar. In that event, the legal entity is required to file a statement at the offices of the Trade Registrar on these facts and circumstances accompanied by an auditor's report. In this situation, too, further consultation with the auditor is essential.