

6.1.3 Statutory Auditors' report on the consolidated financial statements

This is a free translation into English of the Statutory Auditors' report issued in French and is provided solely for the convenience of English speaking readers. The Statutory Auditors' report includes information specifically required by French law in such reports, whether modified or not. This information is presented below the opinion on the consolidated financial statements and includes an explanatory paragraph discussing the Auditors' assessments of certain significant accounting and auditing matters. These assessments were considered for the purpose of issuing an audit opinion on the consolidated financial statements taken as a whole and not to provide separate assurance on individual account captions or on information taken outside of the consolidated financial statements. This report should be read in conjunction with, and construed in accordance with, French law and professional auditing standards applicable in France.

At the bioMérieux Annual General Meeting,

Opinion

In performing the duty assigned to us by your Annual General Meetings, we conducted an audit of the consolidated financial statements of bioMérieux for the financial year ended December 31, 2020, as appended to this report.

We certify that the consolidated financial statements are in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union, are reliable and give a true and fair view of the results of the operations for the year under review as well as of the financial position and assets, at the end of the year, of the parties and entities included in the consolidation scope.

The opinion expressed above is consistent with the contents of our report to the Audit Committee.

Basis for opinion

Audit Standard

We conducted our audit according to generally accepted professional standards in France. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Our responsibilities under these standards are stated in the section "Responsibilities of the Statutory Auditors relating to the audit of the consolidated financial statements" of this report.

Independence

We have conducted our audit in accordance with the rules of independence as set out in the French Commercial Code and in the French Code of Ethics for Statutory Auditors, over the period between January 1, 2020 to the date of issue of our report, and in particular we have not provided any services prohibited by Article 5(1) of EU Regulation No. 537/2014.

Justification for our assessments – Key points of the audit

The global crisis related to the COVID-19 pandemic creates special conditions for the preparation and audit of this financial year's accounts. Indeed, this crisis and the exceptional measures taken due to the health emergency have several consequences for businesses, in particular for their activity and financing, and create greater uncertainties about their future prospects. Some of these measures, such as travel restrictions and remote working, also had an impact on the internal organization of companies and on the way audits are performed.

In this complex and evolving situation, pursuant to the provisions of Articles L. 823-9 and R. 823-7 of the French Commercial Code relating to the justification of our assessments, we draw your attention to the key points of the audit relating to risks of material misstatements which, according to our professional judgment, were the most significant for the audit of the consolidated financial statements for the financial year, plus the answers we have provided to control these risks.

These assessments were made in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements taken as a whole and the formation of our opinion expressed above. We do not express an opinion on the elements of these consolidated financial statements taken separately.

Evaluation of goodwill

Risk identified	Our response
<p>At December 31, 2020, goodwill amounted to €629.4 million and represented 16% of the Group's balance sheet.</p> <p>As described in Note 5 of the notes to the consolidated financial statements, on the date of acquisition, this goodwill is attached to a cash-generating unit depending on the synergies expected for the Group. At least once per year the Group systematically tests cash-generating units (CGUs) for impairment and also determines whether there are any indications of impairment losses.</p> <p>Impairment testing is used to determine the recoverable amount of a CGU or group of CGUs, representing the higher of</p>	<p>We included assessment specialists in the audit team in order to examine the impairment tests performed by senior management. Our work consisted mainly in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● assessing the principles and methods for determining evidence of impairment losses and the recoverable amount of goodwill; ● analyzing, most notably through interviews with senior management, the main data and assumptions on which the estimates are based (such as the discount rate and the perpetuity growth rate);

Risk identified	Our response
<p>their value in use and fair value less costs to sell. In practice, the value in use of a CGU or group of CGUs is determined primarily on the basis of discounted operating cash flow projections covering a period of five years and based on the most recent business plan, and a terminal value.</p> <p>We consider this to be a key audit issue, given the uncertainties inherent in the likelihood of achieving forecasts in the current environment and the fact that the recoverable amount of goodwill relies heavily on management's judgment, particularly with regard to operating margin rates, growth rates used for cash flow projections and the discount rates applied to them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● reviewing business forecasts and prospects of legal entities or ranges through interviews with senior management and comparing the accounting estimates of cash flow projections of previous periods with the corresponding actual figures; ● comparing, through random sampling, the accounts of the data used in carrying out impairment tests and testing the accuracy of the arithmetic calculations of the valuations used by the Group.

Assessment of obligations related to post-employment defined benefit plans

Risk identified	Our response
<p>The Group creates provisions to cover post-employment defined benefit obligations and other long-term benefits primarily in France.</p> <p>As at December 31, 2020, the Group recorded a net liability of €52.4 million for these obligations, of which €35.3 million in post-employment benefit obligations. The amount of post-employment benefit obligations corresponds to the difference between the present value of the defined benefit obligations (€74.9 million) and the fair value of the plan assets, amounting to €39.6 million.</p> <p>These obligations are calculated according to the "projected unit credit" method and take into consideration actuarial assumptions, in particular the discount rate, the rate of future salary increases, employee turnover and the mortality rate, as described in Note 15.3 of the notes to the consolidated financial statements;</p> <p>As of December 31, 2019, the Group's main pension liability related to bioMérieux Inc. for €198.6 million, which was covered by plan assets held for €187.4 million. As described in Note 1.2.4, this pension plan was wound up in 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● by transferring part of the obligation to insurance companies, which generated an expense of €4.3 million recognized in contributive operating income before non-recurring items; ● a payment of the residual portion of the plan for those plan participants who had elected to do so. The difference between the amount paid and the residual obligation at the payment date in accordance with the terms of the plan resulted in the recognition of €9.9 million in income, fully recognized in other comprehensive income. <p>We considered the assessment of obligations related to post-employment defined benefit plans and the recognition of the impacts of the settlement in 2020 of the bioMérieux Inc. post-employment defined benefit plan to be a key issue of the audit insofar as the determination of the actuarial assumptions is based on management judgments. Therefore a change in these assumptions is likely to result in a material change in the amount of the net liability, taking into account the significant impacts of the settlement of the bioMérieux Inc. post-employment defined benefit plan.</p>	<p>We noted the process of measuring post-employment employee benefits implemented by management.</p> <p>With the help of our actuarial specialists, we examined the key assumptions used by senior management and the information used by the actuaries appointed by senior management to assess post-employment benefit obligations.</p> <p>We carried out the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a review of the main actuarial assumptions used; ● sampling of the employee data used in order to carry out the valuation of the obligations; ● a reconciliation of the fair value of plan assets against external comparisons; ● a review of the calculation method; ● consistency checks on the weight of the current service cost, the interest expense given the discount rate assumption, the rate of return of financial assets, the impact on profit and equity; ● a review and reconciliation of the accounting impacts corresponding to the effects of the liquidation of the post-employment defined benefit plan for employees of bioMérieux Inc. <p>We have analyzed the appropriateness of the level of information provided in the notes to the consolidated financial statements and in particular of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the correctness of the assessment of the sensitivity of the value of the obligation to a change in the discount rates; ● information on the impact on the financial statements of the settlement of the bioMérieux Inc.

Specific verification

As required by the legal and regulatory provisions, and in accordance with the professional standards applicable in France, we have also verified the information presented in the Board of Directors' management report for the Group.

We have no matters to report as to its fair presentation and its consistency with the consolidated financial statements.

We hereby certify that the consolidated statement of non-financial performance set forth in Article L. 225-102-1 of the French Commercial Code appears in the Group's management report, it being specified that, in accordance with the provisions of Article L. 823-10 of that Code, we have not verified the fairness of the information contained in this statement, nor its consistency with the consolidated financial statements, which must be the subject of a report by an independent third party.

Other verifications or information required by laws and regulations

Format of the consolidated financial statements to be included in the annual financial report

In accordance with the professional standard on the due diligence of statutory auditors in relation to the annual and consolidated financial statements presented in accordance with the single European electronic reporting format, we have also verified compliance with this format, as defined by European Delegated Regulation No. 2019/815 of December 17, 2018, as presented in the consolidated financial statements to be included in the annual financial report referred to in Article L. 451-1-2, I of the French Monetary and Financial Code. These have been prepared under the responsibility of the chairman and chief executive officer.

Our work with consolidated financial statements includes verifying that the markup of these financial statements complies with the format defined by the above-mentioned regulation.

Based on our work, we conclude that the presentation of the consolidated financial statements for inclusion in the annual financial report complies, in all material respects, with the single European electronic reporting format. It is not our responsibility to verify that the consolidated financial statements that your entity will include in the annual financial report filed with the AMF correspond to those we have audited.

Appointment of Statutory Auditors

We were appointed Statutory Auditors of bioMérieux by your General Meeting of May 30, 2017 for GRANT THORNTON and May 30, 2012 for ERNST & YOUNG et Autres.

At December 31, 2020, GRANT THORNTON was in the fourth continuous year of its audit engagement, while ERNST & YOUNG et Autres was in the ninth year.

Responsibilities of senior management and the persons constituting corporate governance for the consolidated financial statements

Senior management is responsible for the preparation of consolidated financial statements that present a true view in accordance with the IFRS standard adopted by the European Union, together with the implementation of the internal control it deems relevant to the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

When preparing the consolidated financial statements, senior management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, to present in these financial statements, if necessary, information concerning the continuity of the Company's operations and to apply the accounting policy of going concern, unless there are plans to unwind the Company or discontinue the business.

The Audit Committee is responsible for monitoring the financial reporting preparation process and the effectiveness of internal control and risk management systems and, if necessary, the Internal Audit Department with respect to procedures relating to preparation and treatment of financial and accounting information.

These consolidated financial statements have been approved by the Board of Directors.

Responsibilities of the Statutory Auditors relating to the audit of the consolidated financial statements

Audit objective and procedure

It is our duty to draw up a report on the consolidated financial statements. Our objective is to obtain reasonable assurance that the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement. Reasonable assurance corresponds to a high level of assurance, without however guaranteeing that an audit conducted in accordance with professional standards will systematically detect any material misstatement. Misstatements may arise from fraud or result from errors and are considered as material when it can be reasonably expected that, taken singly or together, they can influence the economic decisions that users of the financial statements take based thereon.

As stated in Article L. 823-10-1 of the French Commercial Code, our engagement to certify the financial statements does not consist in guaranteeing the viability or quality of management of your Company.

Within the framework of an audit conducted in compliance with professional standards applicable in France, the statutory Auditor exercises his professional judgment throughout the audit. Furthermore:

- the statutory auditor identifies and assesses the risks whereby the consolidated financial statements may contain material misstatements, whether from fraud or errors; defines and implements audit procedures in view of those risks; and collects the elements they consider sufficient and appropriate on which to base their opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement arising from fraud is higher than the risk of a material misstatement resulting from error, because fraud may imply collusion, falsification, voluntary omissions, false declarations or the circumvention of internal control;
- the statutory auditor reviews the relevant internal control for the audit in order to define the appropriate audit procedures for the circumstances and not to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control;
- he assesses the appropriateness of the accounting methods used and the reasonable nature of the accounting estimates made by senior management, as well as information concerning these methods provided in the consolidated financial statements;
- he assesses the appropriateness of the application by the management of the going concern concept and, according to the elements collected, whether or not there is a material uncertainty linked to events or circumstances likely to compromise the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. This assessment is based on the information collected until the date of his report. It is however pointed out that subsequent circumstances or events could jeopardize continuity as a going concern. If he concludes that there is a material uncertainty, the statutory auditor draws the attention of the readers of the report to the information provided in the consolidated financial statements about such uncertainty, or if this information is not provided or is not relevant, he issues a certification with reservations or a refusal to certify;
- they assess the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements and whether these reflect underlying operations and events, so as to give a true view;
- concerning the financial information of the persons or entities included in the consolidation scope, he collects the information considered sufficient and appropriate to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. He is responsible for the management, supervision and performance of the audit of the consolidated financial statements as well as the opinion expressed thereafter.

Report to the Audit Committee

We submit a report to the Audit Committee that presents, in particular, the scope of the audit and the work schedule implemented as well as the conclusions of our audit. Our audit also informs the Audit Committee of any material weaknesses of internal control that we have identified with respect to the procedures relating to the preparation and treatment of accounting and financial information.

The points mentioned in the report to the Audit Committee include the risks of material misstatements that we consider to have been the most important for the audit of the consolidated financial statements of the financial year, which therefore constitute the key points of the audit, which it is our duty to describe in this report.

We also submit to the Audit Committee the declaration provided in Article 6 of EU Regulation No. 537-2014 confirming our independence, as defined in the rules applicable in France, as set out in Articles L. 822-10 to L. 822-14 of the French Commercial Code and in the Statutory Auditors' Professional Code of Ethics. If necessary, we will meet the Audit Committee to discuss the risks that threaten our independence and the safeguard measures applied.

Lyon, March 15, 2021

The Statutory Auditors

GRANT THORNTON

French member of Grant Thornton International

Françoise Mechin

ERNST & YOUNG et Autres

Nicolas Perlier