

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

Holmen AB is a Swedish public limited company, listed on the Stockholm Stock Exchange (Nasdaq Stockholm) since 1936. The preparation of a corporate governance report is a requirement under the Swedish Annual Accounts Act. The corporate governance report complies with the rules and instructions stipulated in the Swedish Code of Corporate Governance.

Shareholders

Holmen had 48 104 shareholders at year-end 2020. Private individuals with Swedish citizenship accounted for the largest category of owners with 45 749 owners.

The largest owner at year-end, with 62.3 per cent of votes and 34.1 per cent of capital, was L E Lundbergföretagen, which means that a Group relationship exists between L E Lundbergföretagen AB (corporate ID number 556056-8817), whose registered office is in Stockholm, and Holmen. The

second-largest owner was the Kempe Foundations and their holdings of Holmen shares amounted to 17.5 per cent of votes and 7.4 per cent of capital at the same date. No other individual shareholder controlled as much as 10 per cent of the votes. Employees have no holdings of Holmen shares via a pension fund or similar system.

There is no restriction on how many votes each shareholder may cast at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

At the 2020 AGM, the Board's authorisation to purchase up to 10 per cent of the company's shares was renewed. No shares were repurchased in 2020, but 7 000 000 of the class B treasury shares that were previously repurchased by the company were cancelled in 2020. After the cancellation Holmen AB holds 586 639 shares in treasury.

See pages 46–47 for further information on the shares and ownership structure.

General meeting of shareholders

The notice convening the AGM is sent no earlier than six and no later than four weeks

before the meeting. The notice contains: a) information about registering intention to attend and entitlement to participate in and vote at the meeting; b) a numbered agenda of the items to be addressed; c) information on the proposed dividend and the main content of other proposals. Shareholders or proxies are entitled to vote in respect of the full number of shares owned or represented. Registration for the meeting is made by letter, telephone or at holmen.com. Notices convening an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) called to deal with changes to the company's articles of association shall be sent no earlier than six and no later than four weeks before the meeting.

Proposals for submission to the AGM should be addressed to the Board and submitted in good time before the notice is distributed. Information about the rights of shareholders to have matters discussed at the meeting is provided at holmen.com.

It was announced on 25 September 2020 that the 2021 AGM would take place in Stockholm on 22 April 2021.

↓ AGM 2020

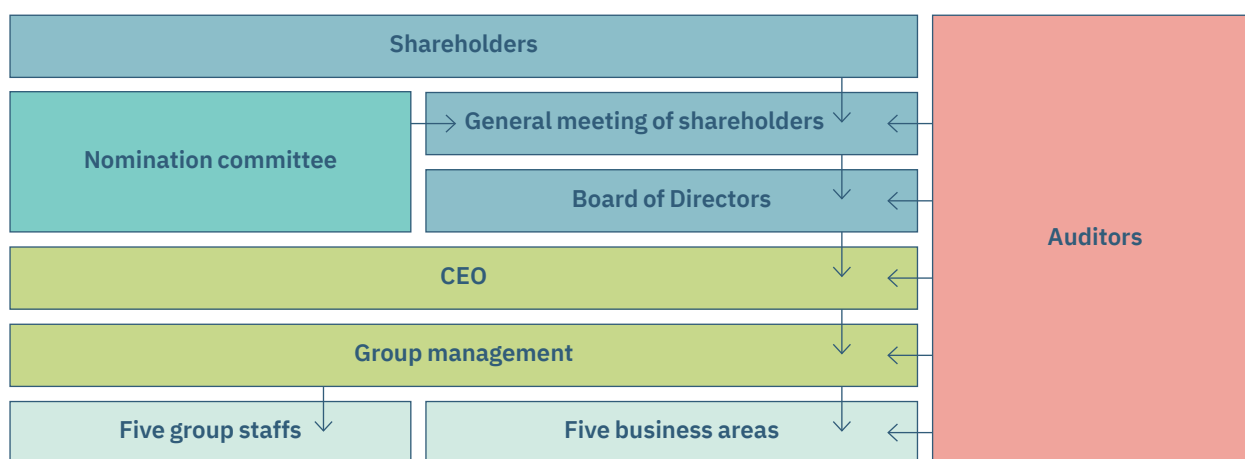
The 2020 AGM and the material presented was in Swedish. The notice convening the meeting, the agenda and the minutes are available at holmen.com. According to item 1.2 of the Swedish Corporate Governance Code, the Chairman of the Board and as many members of the Board as are required for a quorum are to be present at meetings. In light of the risk of spreading the coronavirus, however, the Board resolved to conduct the AGM so that as few participants as possible would be present. For this reason, only the Chairman of the Board and the CEO were present at the AGM. However, as many members as were needed for the Board to have a quorum were prepared to hold a telephone meeting on the day of the AGM. During the AGM, the shareholders had the opportunity to ask and obtain answers to questions. The AGM adopted the income statement and balance sheet, decided on the appropriation of profits and granted the departing Board discharge from liability. Fredrik Lundberg and Hans Hedström, Carnegie Funds, checked and approved the minutes. It was not possible to follow or participate in the meeting from other locations using communication technology. No changes in this regard are planned for the 2021 AGM.

↓ Extraordinary General Meeting

At an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on 16 September 2020 the shareholders resolved to pay a dividend of SEK 3.50 per share. In light of the risk of the spread of coronavirus, the EGM was conducted without physical presence, by shareholders exercising their voting rights only by postal voting pursuant to the Act (2020:198) on temporary exemptions to facilitate the conduct of general and association meetings. Shareholders were given the opportunity to submit questions in writing to the Board and the CEO prior to the EGM.

↓ Board meetings

The Board held twelve meetings in 2020, four of which were in connection with the company's publication of its quarterly reports. One meeting was dedicated to reviews of strategic issues and the Group budget for 2021. Two meetings were held in connection with the company's AGM. In addition, the Board paid particular attention to strategic, financial and accounting issues, the monitoring of business operations, the valuation of the company's forests, effects of the coronavirus pandemic, sustainability issues, acquisition of the sawmill group Martinsons and other significant investment matters. On two occasions the company's auditor reported directly to the Board, providing a presentation about their audit of the accounts and internal control.



Nomination committee

The AGM resolved that the nomination committee shall consist of the chairman of the Board and one representative from each of the three shareholders in the company that control the most votes at 31 August each year. The composition of the nomination committee for the 2020 and 2021 AGMs is shown in the table on page 39.

The nomination committee's mandate is to submit proposals for the election of Board members and the Board chairman, for the Board fee and auditing fees and, where applicable, for the election of auditors. The committee's proposals are presented in the notice convening the AGM.

The nomination committee applies rule 4.1 of the Swedish Corporate Governance Code (the Code) as a diversity policy in putting forward proposed Board members, which means the composition of the Board should reflect the company's business operations, phase of development and other circumstances, and should be diverse and

wide-ranging in terms of the expertise, experience and background of the members elected by general meetings. An even gender distribution is sought. The nomination committee has observed this policy in its proposals to the Board. Further information about the work of the nomination committee will be provided at the 2021 AGM.

For the 2021 AGM, the nomination committee proposes that the Board consist of nine members elected by the AGM. The nomination committee proposes the re-election of the current Board members: Fredrik Lundberg (who is also proposed for re-election as Chairman of the Board), Carl Bennet, Alice Kempe, Lars Josefsson, Lars G Josefsson, Louise Lindh, Ulf Lundahl, Henrik Sjölund and Henriette Zeuchner.

The audit committee conducted a procurement process for a new auditing company in 2020. For the 2021 AGM, the nomination committee proposes, in line with the recommendation of the audit committee, that PWC, PricewaterhouseCoopers AB, is the first choice and Ernst & Young AB is the

second choice to serve as the company's auditor for a period of one year until the adjournment of the 2022 AGM.

Composition of the Board

The members of the Board are elected each year by the AGM for the period until the end of the next AGM. According to the articles of association, the Board should consist of seven to eleven members. The company's articles of association contain no other rules regarding the appointment or dismissal of Board members, or regarding amendments to the articles, or restrictions on how long members can serve on the Board.

The 2020 AGM re-elected Fredrik Lundberg, Carl Bennet, Lars G Josefsson, Lars Josefsson, Alice Kempe, Louise Lindh, Ulf Lundahl, Henriette Zeuchner and Henrik Sjölund to the Board. Fredrik Lundberg was re-elected Chairman of the Board. At the statutory first meeting of the new Board in 2020, Henrik Andersson, Senior Vice President Legal Affairs, was appointed company secretary.

↓ Members of the Board of Directors

| Board members | Elected | Role on the Board | Audit committee | Remuneration committee | Attendance at meetings in 2020: | | | Fee (SEK '000) |
|--------------------|---------|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| | | | | | Board of Directors | Audit committee ¹⁾ | Remuneration committee ²⁾ | |
| Fredrik Lundberg | 1988 | Chairman | Member | Chairman | 12/12 | 6/6 | 2/2 | 710 |
| Carl Bennet | 2009 | Member | – | Member | 12/12 | 2/6 | 2/2 | 355 |
| Lars O Josefsson | 2016 | Member | Member | – | 11/12 | 6/6 | – | 355 |
| Lars G Josefsson | 2011 | Member | – | – | 12/12 | 2/6 | – | 355 |
| Alice Kempe | 2019 | Member | – | Member | 12/12 | 2/6 | 1/2 | 355 |
| Louise Lindh | 2010 | Member | – | – | 11/12 | 2/6 | – | 355 |
| Ulf Lundahl | 2004 | Member | Chairman | – | 10/12 | 5/6 | – | 355 |
| Henriette Zeuchner | 2015 | Member | – | – | 12/12 | 2/6 | – | 355 |
| Henrik Sjölund | 2014 | Member, President & CEO | – | – | 12/12 | – | – | – |

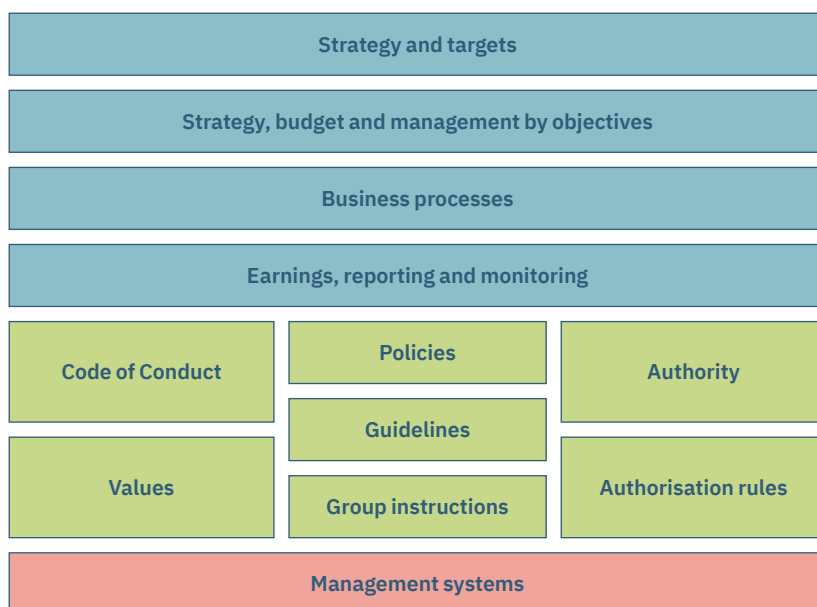
1) As of the 2020 AGM the audit committee consists of Ulf Lundahl (Chair), Fredrik Lundberg and Lars O Josefsson. Before that time, the audit committee consisted of the external Board members.

2) As of the 2020 AGM, the remuneration committee consists of Fredrik Lundberg (Chair), Carl Bennet and Alice Kempe. Before that time the remuneration committee consisted of Fredrik Lundberg and Carl Bennet.

According to the nomination committee, Fredrik Lundberg, Carl Bennet, Lars G Josefsson, Lars Josefsson, Alice Kempe, Louise Lindh, Ulf Lundahl and Henriette Zeuchner are independent of the company and its senior management, and Lars O Josefsson, Lars Josefsson, Ulf Lundahl, Henriette Zeuchner and Henrik Sjölund are independent of the company's major shareholders.

Employee representatives

Steewe Björklundh, member, elected 1998/Kenneth Johansson, member, elected 2004/Tommy Åsenbrygg, member, elected 2009/Per-Arne Berg, deputy member, elected 2015/Daniel Håggglund, deputy member, elected 2014/Christer Johansson, deputy member, elected 2017.



Internal management processes and guideline documents.

Over and above the nine members elected by the AGM, the local labour organisations have a statutory right to appoint three members and three deputy members.

Of the nine Board members elected by the AGM, eight are deemed independent of the company as defined by the Code. The CEO is the only Board member with an operational position in the company. Further information about the members of the Board is provided on pages 84–85.

The Board's activities

The activities of the Board follow a plan, one of whose aims is to ensure that the Board obtains all requisite information. Each year the Board decides on written working procedures and issues written instructions relating to the division of responsibilities between the Board and the CEO and the information that the Board is to receive continually on financial developments and other key events. Employees of the company participate in Board meetings to submit reports.

In order to develop the work of the Board, an annual evaluation is undertaken involving each member answering a questionnaire containing relevant questions concerning the Board's work and having the opportunity to make suggestions on how to enhance the Board's work. Their responses were presented and discussed at a Board meeting. The results of the 2020 evaluation will form the basis for planning the Board's work for the coming year. The Chairman of the Board has reported the results of the evaluation to the nomination committee.

Remuneration

The Board has appointed a remuneration committee consisting of Fredrik Lundberg, Carl Bennet and Alice Kempe. During the year, the committee prepared matters pertaining to the remuneration and other

employment conditions of the CEO and also evaluated guidelines for remuneration and share savings programmes.

Remuneration and other employment conditions for senior management who report directly to the CEO are decided by the latter and approved by the remuneration committee in accordance with the instructions for the remuneration committee adopted by the Board of Directors, as well as the guidelines adopted by the AGM for remuneration of senior management.

The Group applies the principle that each manager's manager must approve decisions on remuneration in consultation with the relevant personnel manager.

At the 2020 AGM the Board set out its proposals regarding guidelines for remuneration of the CEO and other senior management, i.e. heads of business areas and heads of Group staffs who report directly to the CEO. The AGM adopted the guidelines in accordance with the Board's proposal. Current guidelines and information about remuneration are presented in Note 4 on page 61.

The 2020 AGM approved the Board fee and payment of the auditors' fee as invoiced.

The 2020 AGM resolved to adjust the performance terms of the share savings programme adopted by the 2019 AGM, which covers 54 members of senior management in the company. The adjustment was made because of a change of accounting policy for the company's forest assets. The programme will expire upon publication of the interim report for January–March 2022. The company's commitment to provide shares under the programme will be met by means of free transfers of treasury shares. The effects on key ratios and profit per share are marginal. See Note 4 on page 61 for further information about the share savings programme.

Group management

The Board has delegated operational responsibility for management of the company and the Group to the CEO. The Board annually decides on instructions covering the distribution of tasks between the Board and the CEO.

Holmen's Group management comprises the company's CEO, the heads of the five business areas, the heads of the five Group staffs and the head of international affairs. Information about the CEO and other members of Group management is provided on page 86.

Group management met on nine occasions in 2020. The meetings dealt with matters such as earnings performance and reports before and after Board meetings, strategic issues, budgets, investments, acquisition of the sawmill group Martinsons, internal control, work environment, sustainability issues, climate and environmental issues and silviculture matters. Meetings were also dedicated to reviews of market conditions, the coronavirus pandemic, economic developments, possible consequences of Brexit and other external factors affecting the business, as well as discussion about governance of the Group and the tools, such as the management-by-objectives model and Group-wide policies, used in such governance.

Audit

KPMG, which has been Holmen's auditor since 1995, was re-elected by the 2020 AGM as auditor for a period of one year. Authorised Public Accountant Joakim Thilstedt was appointed as the principal auditor. KPMG audits Holmen AB and almost all of its subsidiaries.

The examination of internal procedures and control systems begins in the second quarter and continues thereafter until year-end. The interim report for January–September is subject to review by the auditors. The examination and audit of the final annual accounts and the annual report, including the sustainability report, take place in January–February.

Up until the 2020 AGM, the audit committee consisted of the external Board members, who met two times. After that date, the committee consisted of Ulf Lundahl, Chairman, Fredrik Lundberg and Lars Josefsson who met four times. The Board's reporting instructions include requirements that the members of the Board shall receive a report each year from the auditors confirming that the company's organisation is structured to enable satisfactory supervision of accounting, management of funds and other aspects of the company's financial circumstances. The auditors reported in 2020 to the audit committee at three meetings and to the Board of Directors on two occasions. In addition to the audit assignment, Holmen has consulted KPMG on matters pertaining to taxation, accounting and for various investigations. The remuneration paid to KPMG for 2020 is stated in Note 5 on page 62.

KPMG is required to assess its independence before making decisions on whether to provide Holmen with independent advice alongside its audit assignment.

Internal management processes

Holmen's business strategy is formulated by Group management in order to create long-term value for both shareholders and customers, while contributing to a better climate and thriving rural communities. A review is conducted annually of each business area's strategy, including the business' goals. The strategy, which is presented to and adopted by the Board, forms the basis of the expectations applied to the units in each respective business area. On the basis of the expectations, each unit sets objectives and identifies success factors for achieving them. Key performance indicators (KPIs) are linked to the success factors in order to measure and demonstrate changes in performance. The strategy review also provides the basis for the budget, in which decisions are taken on the distribution of resources and targets for the coming year are set. Use of a simple and well-implemented management-by-objectives tool for continuous follow-up ensures that the entire organisation is applying appropriate priorities to attain the objectives established.

The business areas guide the operating businesses towards these targets using processes for purchasing, production and sales, and supported by HR, financial management, research and development, IT, environment and communication processes.

Operations are followed up through regular reporting of performance and KPIs that reflect business activity, along with additional qualitative analysis. Reporting of sustainability data is integrated with financial reporting.

Code of Conduct. Holmen's Code of Conduct is in line with the UN Global Compact and provides guidance on day-to-day operations and clarifies what expectations are made of employees. Holmen's operations should be characterised by responsible behaviour

towards both internal and external stakeholders. The Supplier Code of Conduct complies with the UN Global Compact and covers the areas of anti-corruption, human rights, health and safety and the environment.

With respect for human rights, Holmen endeavours to ensure a workplace climate that is founded on the equal value of all people. All Holmen's employees must have the same rights, obligations and opportunities irrespective of their sex, transgender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation and age. Holmen is subject to the UK Modern Slavery Act and a report relating to this is available at holmen.com.

Policies. Holmen uses policies, guidelines and Group instructions to clarify how employees should act within key and critical areas. The Group's 11 policies cover matters

materials should be used efficiently, pollution should be prevented and that we should aspire to make continuous improvements. Financial risk is managed centrally and should be characterised by a low level of risk. The policies should also ensure that the company's assets are managed in accordance with Group rules, risks of errors in financial reporting are minimised and irregularities are prevented. The Group's purchasing should contribute to long-term profitability. The sustainable sale of raw materials, products and services should be ensured in both the short and long term. Communication must be accurate, transparent and easily accessible and comply with legal requirements and commercial confidentiality.

Compliance. Holmen's Code of Conduct, policies and values are part of every

"Holmen is a forest-owning company whose business is to create lasting value over time and mitigate global warming. The climate benefit is created by capture and storage of carbon dioxide, as well as the production of renewable energy and products that replace fossil materials."

Louise Lindh, Holmen Board member

such as expectations of employee participation and leadership, specify the scope of management by objectives, talent management, interaction with trade union organisations, equality and employment terms and conditions. In addition to this, a good work environment is covered in terms of health and safety, anti-corruption and competition issues, and how good business practice is maintained in relation to external contacts on different markets. Employees in departments at risk of encountering unauthorised behaviour receive special training on business ethics. The policies specify that raw

employee's induction programme, and are reiterated by managers at employee meetings. Compliance is monitored partly through employee surveys and appraisal talks, pay surveys, safety statistics and audits of the organisational and social work environment. Where non-compliance or failings are found in terms of the corporate culture, the issue is addressed on a case-by-case basis. A few events linked to Holmen's Code of Conduct were reported during the year, which were handled according to internal procedures.

↓ Composition of the nomination committee

| Name | Representing | Before AGM: | | Independent of the: | |
|------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| | | 2021 | 2020 | Company | Largest shareholder (in terms of votes) |
| Mats Guldbbrand | L E Lundbergföretagen* | x (chairman) | x (chairman) | Yes | No |
| Fredrik Lundberg | Chairman of the Board | x | x | Yes | No |
| Carl Kempe | Kempe Foundations* | x | x | Yes | Yes |
| Hans Hedström | Carnegie Funds* | x | x | Yes | Yes |

*At 31 August 2020, L E Lundbergföretagen controlled 62.3 per cent of the votes, the Kempe Foundations controlled 17.5 per cent and Carnegie Funds (Sweden) controlled 1.5 per cent.

Whistleblower function. A whistleblower function is available so that employees and other stakeholders can highlight any deficiencies in Holmen's financial reporting or other possible areas of concern at the company. No complaints about deficiencies were reported through this channel in 2020.

Internal control of financial reporting

The Board's responsibility for internal control and financial reporting is regulated by the Swedish Companies Act and the Swedish Corporate Governance Code. Under this code, the Board is also responsible for ensuring that the company is managed in a sustainable and responsible manner. Day-to-day responsibility for all these matters is delegated to the CEO.

Purpose and structure. The purpose of internal control is to ensure that Holmen achieves its financial reporting objectives (see below), ensure the company's assets are managed according to Group rules and to prevent irregularities. Group Finance coordinates and monitors the internal control process concerning financial reporting.

This work adheres to guidelines issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in respect of internal control over financial reporting. The framework comprises five basic elements: control environment, risk assessment, control activities, information and communication, as well as monitoring activities and evaluations. The framework has been modified to suit the estimated needs of Holmen's various operations.

Control environment. The control environment provides the basis for internal control of financial reporting and is based in part on

the company's internal management processes. The Board of Directors' procedural rules and the instruction for the CEO establish the distribution of roles and responsibilities to ensure effective control and management of the business' risks.

Policies, guidelines and instructions contribute to making individuals aware of their role in establishing good internal control. These documents also ensure that financial reporting complies with the laws and rules that apply to companies listed on Nasdaq Stockholm and the local rules in each country where the company operates.

Risk assessment. Risk assessment activities aim to identify and evaluate the risks that can result in the Group's financial reporting objectives not being met. The results of these risk-related activities are compiled and assessed under the guidance of Group Finance.

Holmen's greatest risks regarding financial reporting are linked to the valuation of forest assets, pension provisions, other provisions and to financial transactions. The risk assessment also involves identifying and assessing operational risks. For further information, see the Risk Management section on pages 41–45.

Control activities. To ensure that Holmen's financial reporting objectives are met, control requirements are incorporated into the processes that are deemed relevant: sales, purchasing, investments, personnel, financial statements, payments and IT. Control activities aim to prevent, identify and rectify errors and discrepancies. Business-specific self-assessments that are completed by all Group units set out what control requirements apply for each respective process and whether or not they are met.

Information and communication. Holmen's financial information provision, both external and internal, adheres to a communication policy established by the CEO. The provision of financial information for Holmen's shareholders and other stakeholders must be accurate, comprehensive, transparent and consistent, and must take place on equal terms and at the right time.

Follow-up and evaluation. Control activities are assessed regularly to ensure that they are effective and appropriate. The results of self-assessments are followed up on a continual basis and discrepancies are reported to the Executive Vice President. The accuracy of self-assessments is subject to testing.

The reporting of internal control to Group management takes place once a year. The company's auditors report their observations from the review of internal control to the audit committee and Board during the year.

Follow-up is an important tool to identify possible deficiencies within the Group and to address these through the development of new control requirements.

Statement on internal audit. The Board of Directors does not believe that particular circumstances in the business or other conditions exist to justify an internal audit function. The internal control managed by the Group, together with the activities carried out by the external auditors, is deemed to be sufficient.

↓ Holmen's financial reporting

External financial reporting must:

- be accurate and complete, and comply with applicable laws, regulations and recommendations
- provide a true and fair description of the company's business
- support a reasoned and informed valuation of the business.

Internal financial reporting must also support correct business decisions at all levels in the Group.

"Climate benefit is fundamental in Holmen's business and sustainability is naturally integrated into our corporate governance. We were among the first to integrate the sustainability report into our annual report and have done so since 2010."

Anders Jernhall, Executive Vice President and CFO, Holmen