# Profitability and solvency



**Denis Kessler**Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of SCOR

Net 2005 income of EUR 131 million, up by 75%

Group shareholders' equity

EUR 1,719 million,

up by 29%

### Dear Shareholder,

In 2005, SCOR recorded an annual result of EUR 131 million, up 75% compared to 2004.

The Group's regained profitability reflects the pertinence of the strategy it has been following for the past three years, which includes: the geographic reorientation of underwriting in favour of Europe and Asia, an underwriting policy centred on technical profitability, the diversification of risks by markets and product lines, a prudent reserving policy and the pursuit of a level of solvency that corresponds to our clients' expectations. Moreover, SCOR is devoting itself to managing the residual CRP portfolio and the portfolio from 1997 – 2000 underwriting in the United States. This strategy, which has been pursued with determination, resulted in the upgrade of the Group's rating by Standard & Poor's to "A-, stable outlook" on 1 August 2005.

The 2005 net income is all the more noteworthy for having been obtained during a financial year marked by natural catastrophes of historic proportions: storms in Northern Europe in January, floods in Central Europe and in India in August and, above all, three successive exceptional hurricanes in the form of Katrina, Rita and Wilma in September and October, which wreaked havoc in the Caribbean, the United States and Mexico.

SCOR was significantly less affected than its competitors due to an underwriting policy aimed at preserving the Group's equity capital. Technical expenses net of the major natural catastrophes that took place in 2005 thus amounted to EUR 116 million after taxes and retrocessions. When these events of exceptional frequency and severity are taken into account, operating income for Non-Life reinsurance is up 4%, reaching EUR 159 million.

For its part, Life reinsurance showed a net income of EUR 83 million for 2005, compared to EUR 46 million in 2004. Gross written premiums reached EUR 1,024 million for 2005, compared to EUR 1,165 million in 2004. This decrease is due to the contraction of the annuities business in the United States, which was penalized by the Group's rating. In Europe, Life reinsurance business has grown by 3%, and in Asia and the rest of the world by 5%.

SCOR has benefited from a favourable financial environment. The Group has implemented a more dynamic investment policy, increasing its proportion of equity investments in order to benefit from the expanding stock markets. The contribution made by asset management to the results was up by 33%, standing at EUR 460 million and representing a return on assets of 4.3% in 2005 compared to 3.3% in 2004. SCOR is conducting a prudent financial policy: 85% of its assets are invested in very high quality bonds

•••/•••



•••/•••

and in short-term investments. In this regard, SCOR is pursuing a bond strategy that has been adapted to the rise in interest rates and to the transformation of the yield curve.

SCOR has significantly strengthened its solvency. At 31 December 2005, the Group's equity capital stood at EUR 1,719 million, up 29%. This increase is due to the inclusion of the 2005 net income and to the June 2005 capital increase to buy out the minority shares of our subsidiary IRP. This solvency enables us to offer our clients the level of financial security that they expect from a leading reinsurer.

In 2005, the level of operating expenses remained quasistable in absolute terms. SCOR is actively pursuing a policy of improving its operating performance in order to lower the Group's cost ratio. In this context, SCOR is regrouping all of its Non-Life reinsurance business within the same subsidiary, which will be 100% owned by SCOR S.A. SCOR also intends to opt for the recently issued European Company statutes, which seem to be particularly well suited to the Group's European and international dimension.

At the close of the 2005 financial year, net income per share was also up by 59% to 15 Euro cents. A dividend of 5 Euro cents per share will be submitted for the approval of the General Shareholders' Meeting, which will be held at the Group's Paris headquarters on 16 May 2006. 5 Euro cents represents a distribution rate of 36.5%, which is slightly higher than last year's.

Dear Shareholder, SCOR is progressively achieving the objectives it set for itself as part of the three year Plan adopted in August 2004. SCOR is proving that its equity capital is fully sufficient to meet its underwritings, as its reserves are to meet its commitments. It is demonstrating its ability to create value in a context of increased competitiveness and heightened loss occurrence.

**Denis Kessler**Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of SCOR

### SHAREHOLDER CONTACTS

If you are a shareholder: SCOR wants to provide you with complete, rapid and clear information about its business and its results. There are three ways in which to keep in touch with us:

- **By writing** to the Investor Relations Department at the following address: SCOR, Investor Relations Department, 1, avenue du Général de Gaulle 92074 Paris La Défense cedex Fax: +33 (0) 1 46 98 77 83.
- **By visiting our website: www.scor.com**, where you will find specific pages dedicated to Group shareholders.
- Finally by subscribing to our mailing list in order to receive all of SCOR's financial news by email, such as press releases, presentations to financial analysts, and Group events. In order to do this, simply visit our website www.scor.com and fill in the e-mail alert form under Subscription Services.

## Regrouping of shares: 1 new share for 10 old shares

SCOR submits the proposed regrouping of shares to exchange 1 new share for 10 old shares for approval by the General Shareholders' Meeting.

This technical measure should enable the Group to reduce the apparent volatility of SCOR shares. By way of example, a share valued at EUR 2 which undergoes an increase or decrease of a few cents sees the visible variation in its value reach a significant percentage. This feature of shares with a low unit price attracts more speculative short-term behaviour on a relative basis than higher nominal value shares.

Since the variation unit in which the shares are listed is cents, a share valued at EUR 2 varies by a minimum of +/- 0.5%, whereas a share valued at EUR 20 can adjust by +/- 0.05%. The visible volatility of a share valued at EUR 20 is therefore automatically reduced.

# SCOR shares in 2005



# Internal yield rate of SCOR shares since November 2002

### Initial investment:

EUR 100 in SCOR shares, representing 13.76 shares, at 4 November 2002, the day of the General Meeting when the Group's first recapitalisation was approved.

Shareholders who took part in the capital increases and reinvested their dividends would have EUR 898.02 at 20 March 2005,

representing 411.94 shares.

The initial capital and the capital added during the capital increases have thus increased by

+ 31.9%

This represents an internal yield rate of 13.24%

Source: Exane BNPP, based on market closing price at 03/20/2006.



# **Group Financial Calendar**

Upcoming appointments with the SCOR group
• 13 April 2006 2006 Asia Renewals • 16 May
2006 Annual General Meeting • 16 May 2006
1st Quarter 2006 Results • 30 August 2006
1st Half 2006 Results • 8 November 2006
3rd Quarter 2006 Results.

