

Risk management

Basic principles of enterprise risk management

The risk policy of the Semperit Group reflects the effort to achieve competitive advantages, thus increasing the Semperit Group's company value in the long term. In addition to meeting legal requirements (compliance) and occupational safety, the aim is to increase risk awareness. The knowledge gained as a result should be incorporated into operational work and strategic company development.

The Semperit Group manages risks by reducing, avoiding or transferring them. The Group-wide risk management of the Semperit Group is an integral part of planning and implementing the Semperit Group's business strategies, with the Executive Board defining the risk policy. In accordance with the organisation and the accountability structure, all Semperit companies are obliged to follow and implement the defined risk management process. Enterprise Risk Management is organised in the Group Risk Management & Assurance department.

Enterprise risk management process

The Semperit Group uses coordinated internal control and risk management systems, which support the Semperit Group in identifying and reducing material risks and negative surprises that threaten the continued existence of the company at an early stage. In this context, the greatest importance is attached to group-wide processes and developments which serve to assess potential risks as long as possible before major business decisions are made. The internal reporting system allows monitoring such risks in business development in greater detail.

The Semperit Group's risk management is based on a comprehensive enterprise risk management approach (ERM approach), which is integrated into corporate organisation. The ERM approach is based on a globally recognised framework of the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO), the "Enterprise Risk Management – Integrated Framework" (2017). The ERM process aims at an early identification, assessment and control of risks which could have a significant influence on achieving strategic, operational, financial and social risks as well as risks related to governance, compliance, occupational safety, health and environment (HSEQ) goals of the company.

Along a structured process combining elements of both the bottom-up and the top-down approach, risks are identified and evaluated. In the reporting period within the framework of the ERM approach, the risk assessment usually amounts to one and five years, according to medium-term planning. Transition to a five-year risk assessment period started in 2019.

The ERM is based on a net principle, according to which only the risks remaining after (control) measures have been conducted are addressed. If potential negative deviations have already been accounted for in planning, in medium-term planning or in the consolidated financial statements, these risks are no longer shown. The progress made in implementing risk-reducing measures is monitored on a regular basis. Internal risk reporting is broken down to the individual companies.

The Group Risk Management & Assurance department is responsible for the central coordination, moderation and monitoring of the structured risk management process for the entire group. Relevant risks are prioritised from different perspectives and in a further step assessed with regard to their potential impact and their probability of occurrence. The bottom-up identification and prioritisation process is supported by (remote) workshops with the management of the respective Semperit companies. This bottom-up element ensures that potential new risks are brought up for discussion at the management level and are then incorporated into the reporting, if relevant. These risks are discussed and coordinated with the segment management (top down). Individual reporting follows immediately after the respective risk update in the respective Semperit companies. A comprehensive risk report of

the individual risks and an aggregation are submitted to the Audit Committee and the Supervisory Board at least once per year. The regular reporting process is supplemented by an ad hoc reporting process in order to call attention to critical topics in due time.

Integrated risk management must identify, evaluate and manage internal and external trends and effects in the field of ESG (Environment, Social and Governance). In order to address current and future issues, Semperit conducts an annual ESG Risk & Opportunity Assessment. In a comprehensive process that is temporarily independent of the classic risk process, the main risks are developed and evaluated together with the Group Risk Management.

Organisation of risk management and responsibilities

To monitor the ERM process and to drive the integration and standardisation of existing controlling activities in accordance with legal and operational requirements, the Executive Board has established the Risk Management Board. This Board consists of the CEO, CFO and Group Risk Management & Assurance. If required, the COO is called in. In addition, the top risks are monitored quarterly in the Executive Board.

The Group Risk Management & Assurance department is supported in the process by the individual corporate companies. The update on the measures is provided by the persons responsible for the risks and measures. Insurable risks are covered by insurance policies, as far as this makes economic sense (see also "Insurable risks").

The relevant legal framework and principles applicable to risk management are set forth in the Risk Management Guideline.

Ernst & Young Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft m.b.H. audited and confirmed the functionality of the risk management system of the Semperit Group for the year 2020 in the reporting year 2021 in accordance with C-Rule 83 of the Austrian Code of Corporate Governance.

Risk report

The global economic development with its strong regional variations continuously confronts Semperit as a group with international activities with new challenges. The Semperit Group operates in countries with different economic framework conditions. Moreover, these countries are in different phases of political, constitutional and social development. The success of the Semperit Group's two sectors and/or the five operating segments depends on the overall economic environment to a varying degree based on their strategic orientation. In addition, the global corona pandemic shaped 2020 through increased uncertainty and presented the Semperit Group with new challenges.

The global presence and the segments of the Semperit Group, which depend on various market factors, represent diversification and thus spread of risks.

Selected individual risks are explained below. In addition to the risks listed here, further strategic, operational, financial, social as well as external risks related to governance, compliance, occupational safety, health and environment (HSEQ) and other external risks possibly exist, which are currently unknown to the Semperit Group or which the Semperit Group is not aware of at present. If one or several known or unknown risks occur, this may have significant adverse effects on the business, asset, financial and earnings position as well as the reputation of the Semperit Group.

Strategic risks

Transformation, restructuring and governance risks

After three years of successful restructuring, transformation and cost reduction initiatives, evaluation of the Semperit Group's portfolio and adjustments in the manufacturing footprint, key milestones such as margin increases, and efficiency improvements were achieved in 2020. Particularly in 2020, which was characterised by corona, the industrial segments proved to be very resilient after the successful restructuring of recent years. Higher volumes in the Medical Sector due to increased production quantities and higher demand with better margins, which could be met thanks to successful restructuring steps, also had a positive effect.

However, as the modernisation of some parts of the management information system and implementation of some structures and standardised processes has not yet been fully completed this could lead to risks in corporate management. This risk is being countered by pushing ahead with projects for transformation in financing on the one hand and by various projects to harmonise processes across the value chain and to standardise IT systems on the other hand.

There is a risk that the transformation and governance decisions made take more time and are associated with higher costs so that their actual benefit is lower than originally estimated, that they take effect later than assumed or they have no effect at all. In any case, the Semperit Group's profitability is influenced by savings actually achieved and the ability of the Semperit Group to implement the ongoing projects on a sustained basis.

Technology development

The markets in which the Semperit Group operates are not only becoming increasingly sensitive to sustainability but are also subject to other significant changes resulting from the introduction of innovative and disruptive technologies. In the area of digitalisation (Industry 4.0), there are risks of the substitution of existing products and new business models. In addition, there is a risk that competitors are able to launch their products and solutions in the market earlier than the Semperit Group due to faster time-to-market strategies. The development of results significantly depends on the ability to anticipate changes in the markets, to adjust accordingly and to cut the manufacturing costs of the products. The innovation projects launched in connection with the introduction of new products and technologies are associated with substantial investments of financial resources and are not always successful. It could lead to a negative influence on the earnings situation when investments do not lead to the expected success or are not met with the expected market acceptance. Existing patents and other intellectual property rights of the Semperit Group cannot completely prevent competitors from developing and selling products that are very similar to Semperit products. Furthermore, not all trade secrets are patentable. In order to ensure appropriate secrecy, confidentiality instructions are agreed in service contracts or non-competition clauses.

Customer needs and market trends

There is an inherent risk for the Semperit Group that market trends are not identified in due time or that the company is not flexible enough to adjust its products, production and services to market changes in time. This may lead to a non-competitive cost position and a significant negative effect on the business, asset, financial and earnings position of the Semperit Group. For example, due to the changed framework conditions caused by the corona pandemic, visibility with regard to demand from customers in Semperit's Industrial Sector has become lower and thus riskier.

Operational risks

Organisational risks

The organisation of the Semperit Group in the form of a matrix organisation partially includes the risk of process overlaps, inflexibility and inefficiency, which is inherent in matrix organisations. Decision-making procedures in response to market-related or critical developments potentially bear the risk of time delays or other inefficiencies. The control systems and the measurement of key figures against internal and external benchmarks are subject to ongoing further development. As transparency is consequently limited, wrong decisions could be made. In addition, there is a potential risk of losing existing competitive advantages or not being able to generate new ones.

Investment and divestment risks

The Semperit Group invests in existing sites, for example through the construction of new buildings, purchasing new machines and replacement investments. In addition, there is the possibility that acquisitions of new companies or divestments (sale, closure) of existing parts of the company are carried out. In the course of such investments and divestments there are among other things transaction risks and risks of misjudgements and of accrued legacy issues of any kind.

The announcement of the separation from the Sempermed segment causes a high degree of uncertainty among the staff, which could lead to increased fluctuation, reduced productivity and loss of know-how.

Value chain risks

The value chain of the Semperit Group covers virtually all stages from research and development, through supply chain management and production to marketing and sales. In particular, bottlenecks in raw material supply may arise along the value chain; likewise, production disruptions, scrap, quality defects in products/packaging/storage/delivery may occur and lead to additional costs and delivery bottlenecks and/or delays. Moreover, this may result in reputational damage and loss of orders as well as potential product liability, occupational safety, compliance and environmental risks, which may have a negative effect on the asset, financial and earnings position of the Semperit Group.

The earnings position of the Semperit Group depends on the reliable and effective management of the supply chain for raw materials and mixes as well as on ensuring the appropriate cost-optimised logistical framework conditions, such as transport facilities. Capacity limitations and supply shortages – also in the face of the corona pandemic – could lead to delays and additional costs. The Semperit Group is fully dependent on external suppliers with regard to raw material and energy supply, and partially depends on them for the supply of mixes. This reduces the indirect possibilities of influencing productivity, quality assurance, delivery dates and costs, and increases the risk of not being able to react in due time and adequately to changing situations. The corona pandemic can have a negative impact on the supply chain and lead to interruptions as the Semperit Group regularly sources raw materials from different regions around the world. Active management of the supplier portfolio and globally oriented and coordinated Group-wide purchasing and supply chain management counteract these risks.

Supply shortages and delays can damage the business activities of the Semperit Group to a significant extent. Unexpected price increases for raw materials and components, for example due to market shortages, could also have a negative effect on the asset, financial and earnings position of the Semperit Group. Furthermore, the Semperit Group could be confronted with the risk of delays and disruptions of the supply chain as a result of disasters, especially if the Semperit Group does not manage to open up alternative sources of supply for various countries and regions. If the Semperit Group is not able to gain sufficient security along the supply chain, its reputation could also be adversely affected.

Procurement risks

The Semperit Group purchases large amounts of raw materials such as rubber, (natural and synthetic rubber), chemicals, bulking agents and both textile and steel reinforcing materials as well as energy (gas, electricity) for manufacturing its products. These raw materials are subject to high price volatility. Price increases can be passed on to the customer only partially or with delay – depending on the respective market situation. Therefore, an increase in raw material prices may have a negative impact on earnings. In some areas, there are also monopolistic and oligopolistic supply situations for raw material and chemical suppliers as well as energy and water providers, which leads to only limited options for negotiations for the Semperit Group.

The management of appropriate safety stocks, multiple sourcing (i.e., reducing dependence on individual suppliers), the conclusion of long-term contracts and price escalation clauses with suppliers counteract these risks. Semperit's presence in Asia, the world's most important region for the extraction of natural rubber, ensures proximity to producers along the entire value chain.

Furthermore, the Sempermed segment is to a certain extent dependent on the supply of finished products by third parties, which can be volatile and requires flexible shifts in volumes within the supplier portfolio.

A supply shortage of (individual) raw materials or finished products, or restrictions on imports, or a failure of an important supplier may lead to a massive production loss and to a strongly negative impact on the asset, financial and earnings position of the Semperit Group.

Production and utilisation risks

Within the Semperit machine park, there are (partly outdated) facilities which are essential for production and for which there are no adequate replacements. An essential failure of one of these machines would lead to a (partial) loss of production and negative effects on the asset, financial and earnings position of the Semperit Group.

The risk of failure of the production facilities is counteracted by regular inspections, including preventive maintenance and servicing. Disruptions can also be caused particularly by natural hazards that are beyond the control of the Semperit Group. As far as possible, such risks are reduced to an economically reasonable extent through technical preventive measures and insurance.

Quality problems may arise in Semperit products, which are caused by raw materials with quality problems or result from the development or production of these products. Despite all efforts, the risk of operational downtimes, accidents, underutilisation and overload of production sites, and limited availability of production, movement and storage areas cannot be ruled out. Such risks may lead to delayed deliveries and, subsequently, potentially to a loss of customers, with possible negative effects on the asset, financial and earnings position of the Semperit Group.

Information technology (IT) and data protection risks

The majority of production and control systems as well as services are dependent on a functioning and error-free IT landscape. The failure of essential servers and production scheduling units, ERP systems, non-availability and unauthorised access to IT networks (cyber-crime) may lead to an irrecoverable loss of production volumes, a negative impact on quality or delivery delays and thus be detrimental for the Semperit Group. Like other multi-national companies, the Semperit Group is also subject to the risk of cyber-attacks. Such attacks can potentially lead to the disclosure, falsification, espionage or loss of information, abuses of information systems or product faults, production losses and supply shortages, with negative effects on the reputation and competitiveness as well as the asset, earnings and financial position of the Semperit Group. Measures to increase cyber security have been defined and are subject to continuous development.

Additional risks are posed by IT systems developed in-house and a wide variety of different systems in use requiring a large number of manual interventions or depending on specific persons, which could have a negative effect on data quality and processes. The traceability of goods produced may not be given due to faulty and non-existent systems.

Handling sensitive/confidential data inappropriately or not in compliance with legal requirements (particularly GDPR) may also represent a risk.

Personnel risks

The Semperit Group continuously needs highly qualified employees. The competition for qualified employees continues to be intensive in regions where the company operates. Some Semperit sites are located in regions with persistently low unemployment and constant high demand for qualified skilled workers. The Semperit Group's future business performance will be largely determined by the recruitment of adequately qualified professional and managerial staff at the individual locations, their integration, further development and long-term retention. The departure of key personnel must be covered by internal successors who have been trained in due time. Should this not be possible, it may lead to a risk of a deterioration of the business, asset, liabilities, financial, and earnings position of the Semperit Group.

Labour shortages or restrictions on the admission of guest workers or outsourcing, state minimum wage regimes, strikes or outflow/unauthorised disclosure of know-how may lead to an impairment of production and to limitations in other business areas, thus also burdening productivity and the business, asset, financial and earnings position. The risk of a staff shortage due to high absences caused by illness during the corona pandemic is countered with substitutions, flexibilisation and preventive measures using shift models for attendances and remote working – as is also the case in other situations of long-term staff absences.

External criminal actions

Fraud attacks (e.g., e-mail fraud, fake president fraud, etc.) generally represent a major risk for companies. Non-identification of such attacks or the failure of internal control systems cannot entirely be ruled out and can thus contribute to a deterioration of the business, asset, financial and earnings position. The IKS system and ongoing training are designed to counteract this risk.

Financial risks

As required by IFRS 7.31, the financial risks are described in detail in the notes under chapter 11 (Risk management). A summary and interpretation are provided below.

Capital, financial and liquidity risks (capital management)

Capital risk is the risk of capital tied in investments. Liquidity risk (also known as refinancing risk) refers to the risk of being unable to raise the necessary cash for possible payments or only at increased refinancing costs. Financing risk refers to the risk that financing instruments are not available or not available to the required extent and thus threaten to cause payment difficulties or even insolvency.

The objective of capital management in the Semperit Group is to ensure the continuation of the company, to enable growth-oriented organic and non-organic investment activities and a dividend policy based on this goal.

The risk from capital management can be divided into market and corporate risks.

Market risks to which the Semperit Group is exposed include political and economic developments that negatively influence the financial markets all over the world. These may be, for example, more restrictive regulations of the finance sector or policies of central banks, the limited availability of financial resources, changes of the credit ranking and legal capacity of banks and other funders, changes of interest rates or restrictions on the use of financial instruments, which affect the company's scope of action regarding the taking up of financing operations or which impair the financing costs and deposit conditions.

Furthermore, the Semperit Group is subject to corporate risks in capital management. For example, a deterioration of its own creditworthiness may lead to higher expenses for borrowings, or no further financing granted by creditors. An increase in credit risk premiums may also result in a negative change of the market values of financial assets due to uncertainty and risk aversion on the financial markets. In the context of loan contracts and *Schuldschein* loans, there are customary clauses ("Covenants criteria"), which, if not met, could lead to a termination by investors. In addition, there are agreements with joint venture partners which could have a potential influence on liquid funds, i.e. the return of funds to the parent company.

The risks from capital management may have a significant negative impact on the business, asset, financial and earnings situation of the company.

Foreign currency risks

Foreign currency risks can generally be divided in transaction and translation risks. A transaction risk exists in the case of receivables or payables in a foreign currency, whose value may change due to exchange rate fluctuations. Translation risk is the risk that arises when consolidating foreign investments whose functional currency is not the euro. Due to international trade relations and existing subsidiaries all over the world, the Semperit Group is exposed to both risks.

Transaction risks exist in all subsidiaries that, for example, purchase raw materials in a currency other than the functional currency or sell products in a currency other than the functional one. The main currencies in this context are US dollar, Czech koruna, Polish zloty, Chinese renminbi and Malaysian ringgit. In the notes under chapter 11 "Risk management/Currency risk management" there is a listing of revenue by the major currencies as well as those currency pairs that exist versus the euro and the US dollar which pose a significant currency risk. Translation risks exist in the Semperit Group wherever a consolidation of annual financial statements takes place in different currencies.

Furthermore, in some countries there are capital controls that limit the Semperit Group in its freedom of action. Some national banks, for example, have restrictions on trade in currencies and hedging instruments.

The risks from foreign currency risk management may have a significant negative impact on the business, asset, financial and earnings situation of the Semperit Group.

Interest rate risks

Interest rate risks arise from the change in interest rates, both for variable and fixed interest financing, in the form of interest change risks or cash value risks.

The external financings of the Semperit Group are partly variable and partly fixed interest rates. With an increase in variable interest rates, this leads to higher interest expenses. The Semperit Group is exposed to the cash value risk when fixed market interests decline. Individual risk positions are hedged using derivative financial instruments. For details see the notes under chapter 11 Risk management/Management of interest rate risks.

The interest rate risks may have a significantly negative influence on the business, asset, financial and earnings position of the company.

Default risks of customers and banks

The Semperit Group is exposed to the default risk with regard to receivables from customers. If the credit rating of Semperit customers deteriorates, the default risk increases. Credit risks and the risk of payment default are managed through standardised credit checks, defined credit limits and credit insurance. Where credit insurance is not effective, there is an increased risk of bad debt losses depending on the customer's credit rating. The default of a key business partner could have a negative impact on the results and the liquidity of the Semperit Group. Due to a higher counterparty risk caused by the corona pandemic, the costs for hedging credit risks could be increased.

There are also default risks relating to the Semperit Group's bank deposits. These deposits are partially or not secured by deposit protection funds. There is an investment guideline, which limits the amount of liquid assets that may be held per bank and defines the financial instruments in which the excess liquidity may be invested. In case of bankruptcy of individual banks or another bank and/or financial crisis, the Semperit Group might not, only partially or only with some delay be able to access this liquidity or credit lines.

The risks from the default of customers and banks can have a significantly negative influence on the business, asset, financial and earnings position of the company.

Tax risks

The group companies of the Semperit Group are subject to local tax legislation in the respective countries and have to pay profit taxes as well as other (local) taxes and fees. Changes in tax legislation and regulations in these jurisdictions could lead to higher tax expenses. The constant change and, in some cases, tightening of tax regulations increases the demands on tax compliance to comply with and monitor these regulations. Inadequate controls in business processes or lack of documentation can lead to the violation of regulations in national and international tax law and result in negative findings in tax audits.

A negative influence on tax receivables and liabilities of the Semperit Group as well as on deferred tax assets and liabilities is also possible. Unused tax loss carryforwards could be subject to tax audits and be questioned in part. Moreover, uncertainties in the tax environment of some regions could limit the possibilities of enforcing our own rights. The Semperit Group and its local companies are subject to regular tax audits by financial authorities which may entail negative findings.

If one or several of the above-mentioned events occur, a negative effect on the business, asset, financial and earnings position has to be assumed.

Compliance risks

The constant tightening of international codes of conduct and laws increases the requirements for compliance and monitoring of these regulations. Inadequate controls in business processes or insufficient documentation can lead to the violation of applicable rules and jeopardise the company's reputation and economic success through compliance violations. Among other things, the Semperit Group counters this risk with a new Group-wide Code of Conduct and continuous training for all employees worldwide in order to further increase awareness of non-compliance. The implemented whistle-blowing system can also make a valuable contribution in this regard by pointing out concerns and abuses regarding unethical or illegal behaviour.

Regulatory risks and potential sanctions

The Semperit Group has business activities with customers and suppliers in countries such as Russia, Ukraine or China, which are subject to export and import control regulations or other forms of trade restrictions (for example through the USA and the EU). New or extended sanctions in countries in which the Semperit Group has business operations could lead to restrictions of the raw material supply and also the existing business activities in these countries, or indirectly in other countries. In addition, the Semperit Group could be subject to claims or other measures by customers due to the termination of their business in countries, which are subject to sanctions.

For business activities in emerging countries, there are risks such as unrest, health risks, cultural differences, for example regarding employment relationships and business practices, volatility of the gross domestic product, economic and governmental instability and legal uncertainty, possible nationalisation of private assets as well as imposition of currency restrictions and stricter environmental requirements.

Risks arising from cartel and corruption allegations

Current and future proceedings against the Semperit Group regarding corruption and cartel allegations as well as other violations of laws could lead to monetary fines under criminal or civil law as well as to penalties, sanctions, court orders regarding future behaviour, disgorgement of profits, to the exclusion from directly or indirectly participating in certain business transactions, to the loss of trade licences or other restrictions and legal consequences. Part of the Semperit Group's business activities is accounted for by state-owned companies. Pending and possible future investigations into corruption or cartel allegations or allegations regarding other legal violations could have a long-term impact on the Semperit Group's business, including even an exclusion from public and private-sector orders. Moreover, such investigations could also lead to the cancellation of existing contracts and loss of orders and customers, and proceedings against the Semperit Group could be initiated.

Developments in ongoing or potential future investigations, such as the reaction to requests by the authorities and cooperation with the authorities, could distract the attention and resources of the management from other business matters.

One subsidiary is currently involved in unfair competition proceedings. The case is currently at a stage at which the outcome cannot be estimated with a sufficient degree of probability. The case is being heard before the authorities in consultation with local specialists. The subsidiary is cooperating with the competent authorities and is providing all the necessary assistance. For the anticipated costs and the appropriate risk, an appropriate provision has been made according to the assessment of the Semperit Group.

Risks related to legal proceedings

The Semperit Group is, and will be in the future, confronted with different legal disputes and proceedings as part of its ordinary business activities. As a consequence of such litigation, the payments of damages, punitive damages, meeting other claims as well as criminal or civil sanctions, fines or disgorgements may be imposed on the Semperit Group. In addition, this may in individual cases result in the formal or informal exclusion from tendering procedures, or withdrawal or loss of business licences or permits. Moreover, further proceedings may be initiated, and existing proceedings could be extended. Asserted claims from litigation are generally subject to interest payments.

In some of these legal disputes, negative decisions can be made against the Semperit Group, which may have significant effects on the business, asset, financial and earnings position of the company.

The Asian markets are of major importance for the Semperit Group. These legal systems are subject to regular changes, which could have negative effects on the business, asset, financial and earnings position of the Semperit Group.

Occupational safety, health and environmental risks (HSEQ)

Present or future occupational safety-related, health-related and environmental or other state regulations, or changes of such regulations, could require adjustments of the operating activities of the Semperit Group or lead to a significant increase in operating costs, as is the case under the general conditions of the corona pandemic. Moreover, there are risks regarding a possible occupational safety-related, environmental and health-related incident, also when handling hazardous substances, as well as non-compliance with environmental, health- or occupational safety-related regulations, which could subsequently lead to severe accidents, staff absences, reputation loss and legal consequences. Environmental damage could result in losses for the Semperit Group, which exceed the insured amount or are not covered by insurance, and such losses could have a negative impact on the business, asset, financial and earnings position. Personnel safety and health are focal points of the corporate strategy with the aim of ensuring the protection of employees and further raising awareness of hazardous situations and continuously improving occupational safety. In the wake of the corona pandemic, additional disinfection measures were taken, and distance regulations in all locations implemented. Furthermore, the possibility of remote working was created and subsequently promoted where necessary.

Compliance risks regarding Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

There is a risk of violating existing CSR regulations of the local jurisdictions and NGOs (non-governmental organisations) in the respective countries, of which the company is currently not aware. In addition to burdens on the company's business, asset, financial and earnings position, this could also result in reputational damage and loss of customers (for detailed risk description also see Sustainability Report). To counter these risks, the Semperit Group regularly has itself audited by external Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI) auditors. In addition, the Semperit Group is a member of EcoVadis to further improve its CSR performance with regard to the environment, labour and human rights, ethics and sustainable procurement. The Semperit Group is also a member of TfS, an initiative of leading chemical companies to improve sustainability in the supply chain with the goal of ensuring the improvement of environmental and social standards at its suppliers.

Insurable risks

The existing insurance cover does not protect the Semperit Group from possible reputational damage or the occurrence of elementary events such as fire or natural disasters.

Fire, elementary events and natural disasters hold significant loss potential for the Semperit Group, which may not be fully covered despite the insurance programme in place. In addition, the company may suffer, among other things, losses from legal disputes that exceed the insured amounts or are not covered by insurance.

Finally, it cannot be guaranteed that the Semperit Group will also receive adequate insurance cover on economically reasonable conditions in the future.

Market risks

Competitive environment

The global markets for the Semperit Group's products are highly competitive in terms of pricing, product and service quality, production technology, product development and introduction times, customer service and financing conditions, and shifts in market needs. The Semperit Group is confronted with strong competitors, partially also from emerging countries, which have a more favourable cost structure. Some industries in which the Semperit Group operates are undergoing consolidation, which could lead to increased competition and a change in the relative market position of the Semperit Group. Furthermore, it must be noted that suppliers are also increasingly becoming serious competitors for the Semperit Group. In order to further strengthen the competitiveness of the Semperit Group, projects to strengthen innovative power, reduce costs, improve efficiency, reduce waste and maintain sustainable energy management are being implemented within the Group.

Economic, political and geopolitical framework conditions

From the Semperit Group's perspective there is currently a high level of insecurity regarding the future development of the global economy. There is a risk that the global economic climate, particularly due to the global corona pandemic, will recover more slowly than expected and that the negative impact particularly in Asia, Europe and the USA will continue. A slowdown in economic growth in Asia or even a collapse of the real estate market, the banking sector or the stock market represent further significant risks. In the euro zone, too, the cooling of the economic climate might continue. Another risk results from the United Kingdom's leaving the EU (Brexit). This could increase business volatility and represent risks for the financial markets. The investment climate could suffer a slump due to political upheavals, further independence movements in countries of the European Union or because of sustainable successes of protectionist parties and policies that are hostile to business and the EU.

A further intensification of the trade conflicts between the USA and China as well as USA and Russia and the consequences of a dispute with Iran could have negative effects on the business performance of the Semperit Group.

A terrorist attack or a series of such attacks in large economies could impair the global economic activity and cause the business climate to collapse. Further risks include political tensions, for example in Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, Russia, Iran and Egypt.

If the Semperit Group is not able to further adjust its production and cost structures appropriately in the current economic development, there is a risk of a negative impact on the asset, financial and earnings position of the company. For example, the financing options of the customers could deteriorate. As a result, intended purchases of the company's products could be changed, delayed or dropped, or purchases or contracts that have been commenced could not be completed. Moreover, the margins on Semperit products could drop to a greater extent than the Semperit Group can currently foresee. In addition, contractual terms of payment could change to the disadvantage of Semperit, which could lead to negative effects on the company's financial position.

Internal Control System (ICS)

The Semperit Group's internal control system is designed to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of its business activities, the reliability of its financial reporting and compliance with relevant statutory regulations. It also supports the early recognition and monitoring of risks deriving from inadequate monitoring systems and fraudulent actions and is improved and expanded on an ongoing basis by the Group Risk Management & Assurance department together with the relevant specialist departments. The management of the respective business unit is responsible for implementing and monitoring the ICS and the risk management system. The Executive Board of Semperit AG Holding stipulates cross-divisional framework conditions and regulations that are applicable throughout the group. Regular follow-up audits are performed at the locations to ensure the sustained implementation of the framework conditions and regulations.

The following principles form the basis of the ICS:

- Recognition of potential operating risks and making losses visible that have already occurred
- Protection of property
- Improvement in operating effectiveness
- Ensuring the accuracy of accounting and reporting
- Compliance with internal regulations (limits of authority) and external laws and regulations
- Auditability by independent experts
- Ensuring adequate implementation and segregation of duties
- Ensuring the controls provided in the process

At the time this management report was prepared, no risks could be identified in connection with future developments that could threaten the continued existence of the Semperit Group either in isolation or jointly. Adequate insurance has been taken out for specific liability risks and damages when reasonable and cost effective.

Essential characteristics of the internal control and risk management system with regard to the financial reporting process

The key points of the existing internal control system and the risk management system with regard to the (corporate) financial reporting process are summarised as follows:

- With regard to the financial reporting process, the functions of accounting are separated from other areas of responsibility such as treasury.
- The applied financial systems are protected against unauthorised access by appropriate IT facilities.
- With regard to applied financial systems, standard software is widely used.
- A guideline system (e.g., accounting guidelines, payment guidelines) has been implemented.
- Received or forwarded accounting data will be examined for completeness and correctness, e.g. by means of random samples, by the responsible persons.
- The dual-control-principle is applied in accounting-related processes.
- Accounting-related processes are examined on a random basis by internal audit.