

#### **COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The following is a company announcement issued by AX Investments p.l.c. ('the Company') pursuant to the Listing Rules issued by the Listing Authority:

On the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020, the Board of Directors of AX Investments p.l.c. have approved the Company's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

These accounts are herewith attached and also available for viewing on the AX Investments' website (https://axinvestmentsplc.com/category/financial-statements/) and at the Company's registered office (AX House, Mosta Road, Lija).

Dr. Ian Vella Galea Company Secretary

14th February 2020

Company Announcement AXI202

AX Investments p.l.c.

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Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 October 2019

## **Contents**

	Page
Directors, Officer and Other Information	1
Directors' Report	2 - 4
Statement of Directors' Responsibilities	5
Corporate Governance - Statement of Compliance	6 - 9
Independent Auditors' Report on Corporate Governance Matters	10
Independent Auditors' Report	11 - 15
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income	16
Statement of Financial Position	17
Statement of Changes in Equity	18
Statement of Cash Flows	19
Notes to the Financial Statements	20 - 38

### **Directors, Officer and Other Information**

Directors:	Mr Angelo Xuereb - Chairman
Directors.	wii i ingelo i tueleo e ciiai i ii ai

Dr Patrick J. Galea Chev Philip A. Ransley Mr Michael Sciortino Mr Michael Warrington

Secretary: Dr Ian Vella Galea

Registered office: AX House

Mosta Road Lija LJA 9010

Malta

Country of incorporation: Malta

Company registration

*number:* C 27586

Auditors: Nexia BT

The Penthouse, Suite 2

Capital Business Centre, Entrance C

Triq taz-Zwejt

San Gwann SGN 3000

Malta

Bank of Valletta p.l.c.

Labour Avenue

Naxxar Malta

Legal adviser: Dr David Wain

AX House Mosta Road Lija LJA 9010

Malta

#### **Directors' Report**

#### **Principal activities**

The company was formed principally to act as a finance and investment company, in particular the financing or re-financing of the funding requirements of related companies within the AX Group.

#### Performance review

#### **Financial**

The company's operating income is derived from the lease of Palazzo Capua in Sliema. Revenue remained stable in line with previous year results. Administrative expenses were slightly lower than previous year. The operating profit during the year under review amounted to  $\[ \in \]$ 59,380 (2018:  $\[ \in \]$ 58,128).

The share of results of associate relate to the holding of 19.91% in Suncrest Hotels plc. In 2019, Suncrest Hotels plc revised the lease of operational assets charged to a related party. During the same period the related party loan with AX Investments plc was settled in full and no interest was charged to its associate.

Interest income from related parties decreased by  $\in 30,031$ , from  $\in 2.90$  million in 2018 to  $\in 2.87$  million in 2019, reflecting an overall decrease of 1.03%. On the other hand, finance costs remained constant at  $\in 2.4$  million in line with previous year.

During the year under review, the company registered a net profit before taxation of  $\in$  974,894 (2018:  $\in$ 1,425,048).

The resulting earnings per share for the year under review decreased from 0.19 per share to 0.13 per share. This comprises the profit attributable to ordinary shareholders divided by the average number of shares in issue during the year.

Total equity increased by €600,597 from €18,662,796 to €19,263,393 reflecting the retained profits for the year.

#### Financial Key Performance Indicators

	2019 €	2018 €	2017 €
Operating income	238,360	238,360	238,360
Operating profit	59,380	58,128	53,224
Net finance income	472,747	502,778	505,136
Net profit after tax	668,299	936,690	611,267
Earnings per share	0.13	0.19	0.12
Total equity and liabilities	65,886,078	65,330,349	63,844,424

### **Directors' Report**

#### Principal risks and uncertainties

The company is exposed to risks inherent to its' operation and can be summarized as follows:

#### 1. Strategy Risk

Risk management falls under the responsibility of the Board of Directors. The Board is continuously analysing its' risk management strategy to ensure that risk is adequately identified and managed. The Audit Committee regularly reviews the risk profile adopted by the Board of Directors.

#### Operational Risks

The company's revenue is mainly derived from interest charges and rental income charged to related parties and hence the company is heavily dependent on the performance of the AX Group. The company regularly reviews the financial performance of the AX Group of companies to ensure that there is sufficient liquidity to sustain its' operations.

#### 3. Legislative risks

The company is governed by a number of laws and regulations. Failure to comply could have financial and reputational implications and could materially affect the company's ability to operate. The company has embedded operating policies and procedures to ensure compliance with existing legislation.

#### Financial risk management and exposures

Note 20 to the financial statements provides a detailed analysis of the financial risk to which the company is exposed.

#### Dividend and reserves

The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend and propose to transfer the profit for the year to reserves.

#### Directors

The directors, who served throughout the year, were:

Dr Patrick J. Galea Chev Philip A. Ransley Mr Michael Sciortino Mr Michael Warrington Mr Angelo Xuereb

In accordance with the company's articles of association, the present directors remain in office.

# **Directors' Report**

#### **Auditors**

The auditors, Nexia BT have intimated their willingness to remain in office and a resolution will be put before the members at the next annual general meeting.

Approved by the board of directors and signed on its behalf on 13th February 2020 by:

Mr Angelo Xuereb

Director

Mr Michael Warrington

Director

### Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The directors are required by the Companies Act (Chap. 386) to prepare financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company at the end of each financial year and of the profit or loss of the company for the year then ended. In preparing the financial statements, the directors should:

- adopt the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business;
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- account for income and charges relating to the accounting period on the accruals basis;
- value separately the components of asset and liability items; and
- report comparative figures corresponding to those of the preceding accounting period

The directors are responsible for ensuring that proper accounting records are kept which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and which enable the directors to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act (Chap. 386). This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The directors are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Corporate Governance – Statement of Compliance**

Pursuant to Listing Rule 5.97 issued by the Malta Financial Services Authority, AX Investments p.l.c. (the Company) is hereby reporting on the extent of its adoption of "the Code of Principles of Good Corporate Governance" (the Code) previously established by the Malta Stock Exchange. The Board has reviewed its Corporate Governance practices and an explanation of how the Principles of Good Governance have been applied is contained in this report.

The Company acts as a finance company to the AX Holdings Group of Companies and as such has minimal operations emanating from this task. Its primary function is the lending and monitoring of the proceeds of the Bonds issued to the public in 2014 by the Company and guaranteed by the parent company; AX Holdings Limited.

#### Compliance

Although the adoption of the Code is not mandatory, the Board has considered the principles embodied in the Code and has noted the Code's recommended practices aimed towards the fulfilment of these same principles. The Board has also taken into account the nature of the Company's structure, business activities and operations and in the light of such considerations it has formulated the view that the Company was generally in compliance with the Code throughout the period, with the following exception:

• The Company does not have a Remuneration Committee as recommended in Principle Eight, since the Company has no employees other than the Directors and the Company Secretary.

#### **Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors of AX Investments p.l.c. (the Board) is currently made up of five directors, three of whom are completely independent from the Company or any related Group company. Pursuant to generally accepted practices, as well as the Company's Articles of Association, the appointment of directors to the Board is reserved exclusively to the Company's shareholders.

The present directors are Mr Angelo Xuereb, Dr Patrick J. Galea LL.D., Chev Philip A. Ransley, Mr Michael Sciortino and Mr Michael Warrington. Messrs Galea, Ransley and Sciortino are independent directors in that they have no involvement or relationship with the company or with the majority shareholder.

Mr Angelo Xuereb chairs the Board which met three times during the year under review. The Board has a formal schedule of matters reserved to it for decision. Directors receive board and committee papers 10 days in advance of meetings and have access to the advice and services of the Company Secretary. Directors may, in the furtherance of their duties, take independent professional advice on any matter at the Company's expense.

### **Corporate Governance – Statement of Compliance**

#### **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee held four meetings during the year under review, besides having ongoing consultations with the Board of Directors, in the fulfilment of its task of monitoring and reviewing procedures and internal control systems.

The Committee is chaired by Chev. Philip A. Ransley, and its other members are Dr Patrick J. Galea LL.D. and Mr Michael Sciortino. The audit committee is in compliance with the Listing Rules. All three directors forming the audit committee are non-executive directors and are totally independent from the Company or the AX Group of Companies. Mr Sciortino is a Certified Public Accountant.

The Company Secretary acts as secretary to the committee which also receives the assistance of the Group Chief Executive Officer; Mr Michael Warrington, and the Group Financial Controller; Mr Albert Bonello.

#### **Dealings by Directors and Senior Officers**

Conscious of its responsibility for monitoring dealings by directors and senior officers in the Company's securities, the Board approved a Code of Conduct for Securities Transactions by Directors, Executives and Employees in compliance with Listing Rules 5.102 to 5.116. The code provides guidance to the Company's officers and serves as a minimum standard of good practice when dealing in the Company's securities.

During the year under review, there were no transactions in the Company's securities involving directors or any of the Company's employees in possession of unpublished price-sensitive information.

#### **Internal Control**

The Board is ultimately responsible for the Company's system of internal control and for reviewing its effectiveness. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve objectives, and can provide only reasonable, and not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The Audit Committee continued to review the Company's system of internal controls which are monitored by the Group's Finance Department. The main internal controls compromise of the following:

- Regularly monitoring group business operations to ensure that the set objectives and targets are achieved
- Identify, evaluate and effectively manage significant risks satisfactorily
- Ensure compliance with company policy
- Comply with all statutory obligations

## **Corporate Governance – Statement of Compliance**

The Board and Audit Committee are satisfied with the effectiveness of the Company's system of internal controls.

A policy is in place, laying down the minimum required reports that should be made available to the Board in order to keep it informed in a structured and systematic manner on the operational and financial performance of the Company.

#### **General Meetings**

A general meeting is conducted in conformity with the Memorandum and Articles of Association and is called by giving at least fourteen days' notice in writing to all members. The ordinary business conducted at the general meeting consists of the declaration of dividend, the consideration of the annual financial statements, the election of directors, the appointment of external auditors and the determination of the remuneration of directors and the external auditors. All shareholders, auditors and directors have the right to attend and participate at general meetings. Voting rights are exclusively reserved to the ordinary shareholders. Preference shareholders are entitled to vote if a dividend in their favour is outstanding for more than 6 months. At the time of writing the share capital consisted only of ordinary shares. Every member is entitled to appoint a person to act as proxy. The proxy holder shall enjoy the same rights to speak, vote and ask questions at the general meeting as those the member represented would be entitled to.

#### **Risk Identification**

Management is responsible for the identification and evaluation of key risks applicable to their areas of business. Risks may be associated with a variety of internal or external sources including control breakdowns, disruption in information systems, competition, natural catastrophe and regulatory requirements.

The Board reviews its risk management policies and strategies and oversees their implementation to ensure that identified operational risks are properly assessed and managed.

#### **Directors' Remuneration**

The Board determines the remuneration of the Directors. The directors' annual remuneration for the financial year under review, as previously approved by the Board, was as follows:

	€
Mr Angelo Xuereb	25,000
Dr Patrick J. Galea	5,000 *
Chev. Philip A. Ransley	5,000 *
Mr Michael Sciortino	5,000 *
Mr Michael Warrington	3,000

<sup>\*</sup>includes the audit committee fee

### **Corporate Governance – Statement of Compliance**

Mr Angelo Xuereb indirectly, through AX Group p.l.c. and AX Holdings Limited, holds a controlling interest in the Company. Mr Michael Warrington holds the position of Group Chief Executive Officer with the majority corporate shareholder; AX Holdings Limited.

#### **Commitment to Maintain an Informed Market**

The Company recognises the importance of maintaining a dialogue with its stakeholders to ensure that its strategies and performance are understood. The Company communicates with bondholders by way of the Annual Report and Financial Statements and by publishing its results on a six-monthly basis during the year, and through company announcements to the market in general.

The Board has also implemented an Investor Relations Program, which aims at giving Bondholders rewards to be used within the Group to foster loyalty. This program, which is managed by AX Holdings Limited executives, includes the issue of the AX Investments Platinum Card and the periodic dissemination of the AX Investments Newsletter.

The information as provided above is a fair summary of the AX Investments p.l.c. adoption of the Code of Good Corporate Governance. Overall, the Company has broadly implemented the Code where the Board believes that it would add value to the stakeholders. In certain areas, it was felt that the Code was more suited to companies who held equity on the Malta Stock Exchange and therefore its implementation would not be useful for a limited operating company like AX Investments p.l.c.

The Board will continue to monitor the Code in future years and will decide on an annual basis if the position stated above will apply.

#### **Going Concern**

Under Corporate Governance requirements, the Directors confirm that, having reviewed the Group's budget and forecast for 2020, they consider that the Group has adequate resources to continue in operation and existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing these financial statements.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 13th February 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr Angelo Xuereb

Director

Mr Michael Warrington

Director

# **Independent Auditors' Report to AX Investments p.l.c. on Corporate Governance Matters**

Pursuant to the Listing Authority Rules issued by the Malta Financial Services Authority, the directors are required to include in their annual report a Statement of Compliance to the extent to which they have adopted the Code of Principles of Good Corporate Governance and the effective measures that they have taken to ensure compliance with these principles.

Our responsibility as laid down by Listing Rule 5.98 requires us to include a report on the Statement of Compliance.

We read the Statement of Compliance and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. Our responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

We are not required to perform additional work necessary to, and we do not, express an opinion on the effectiveness of either the company's system of internal control or its corporate governance procedures.

In our opinion, the Statement of Compliance set out on pages 6 to 9 has been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Listing Rules.

Mr Darren Bugeja

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For and on behalf of **Nexia BT** 

**Certified Public Accountants** 

The Penthouse, Suite 2 Capital Business Centre, Entrance C Triq taz-Zwejt San Gwann SGN 3000 Malta

Date: 13 February 2020

# Independent Auditors' Report to the members of AX Investments p.l.c.

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of AX Investments p.l.c., which comprise the statements of financial position as at 31 October 2019, and the statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statements of changes in equity and statements of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of AX Investments p.l.c. as of 31 October 2019 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in accordance with the Accountancy Profession Act in Malta, and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code.

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

#### **Key Audit Matters**

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole and, in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

# Independent Auditors' Report to the members of AX Investments p.l.c.

#### 1. Loans and receivables

#### Key audit matter

The company acts as the main finance vehicle of the AX Group of companies. The loans and receivables are the largest asset category of the company.

How the key audit matter was addressed in our audit

Loans and receivables were checked and confirmed with the financial information of the respective related parties and related agreements. We also checked the financial situation of the related parties to ensure that there are no recoverability issues.

#### 2. Investment property

#### Key audit matter

The valuation of the investment property is inherently subjective.

How the key audit matter was addressed in our audit

The architect's valuation was reviewed and tested by accessing the reasonableness of the inputs, verifying the calculations and the appropriateness of the resulting fair value.

#### 3. Investment in associated undertaking

#### Key audit matter

The valuation of the investment in associated undertaking depends on the financial information of the associate, as it is accounted for using the equity method.

How the key audit matter was addressed in our audit

The financial report of the associated undertaking was audited by us, and there were no material issues that will affect the value of the investment in associated undertaking.

# Independent Auditors' Report to the members of AX Investments p.l.c.

#### Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Directors' report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

Based on the work we have performed, in our opinion, the information given in the Directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

In addition, in light of the knowledge and understanding of the entity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we are required to report if we have identified material misstatements in the Directors' report and other information. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Responsibilities of the directors

The directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance to International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU and for such internal controls as the directors determine are necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements the directors are responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### **Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' report that includes our opinion.

# Independent Auditors' Report to the members of AX Investments p.l.c.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.

Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.

Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.

Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

# Independent Auditors' Report to the members of AX Investments p.l.c.

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

Mr Darren Bugeja

For and on behalf of
Nexia BT
Certified Public Accountants

The Penthouse, Suite 2 Capital Business Centre, Entrance C Triq taz-Zwejt San Gwann SGN 3000 Malta

Date: 13 February 2020

# **Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income**

For the year ended 31 October 2019

	Note	2019 €	2018 €
Operating income Administrative expenses	4	238,360 (178,980)	238,360 (180,232)
Operating profit Interest income Share of results of associate Finance costs	5 6	59,380 2,872,747 442,767 (2,400,000)	58,128 2,902,778 864,142 (2,400,000)
Profit before taxation Income tax	7 8	974,894 (306,595)	1,425,048 (488,358)
Profit for the year		668,299	936,690
Total comprehensive income for the year		668,299	936,690
Earnings per share	9	0.13	0.19

The notes on pages 20 to 38 form an integral part of these financial statements.

### **Statement of Financial Position**

At 31 October 2019

ASSETS	Note	2019 €	2018 €
Non-current assets Property, plant and equipment Investment property Investment in associated undertaking Loans and receivables	10 11 12 12	10,286 9,025,157 14,373,047 42,473,668	8,048 9,025,157 13,930,280 42,313,923
		65,882,158	65,277,408
Current assets Cash and cash equivalents	13	3,920	52,941
		3,920	52,941
Total assets		65,886,078	65,330,349
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES Capital and reserves Called up issued share capital Retained earnings Revaluation reserve	14	5,000,000 13,415,313 848,080	5,000,000 12,814,716 848,080
Total equity		19,263,393	18,662,796
Non-current liabilities Trade and other payables Debt securities in issue Deferred taxation	17 15 16	39,726,948 5,022,162 44,749,110	185,063 39,664,789 4,890,793 44,740,645
Current liabilities Trade and other payables Current tax liability	17 18	1,698,349 175,226 1,873,575	1,740,952 185,956 1,926,908
Total liabilities		46,622,685	46,667,553
Total equity and liabilities		65,886,078	65,330,349

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors, authorised for issue on 13th February 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr Angelo Xuereb

Director

Mr Michael Warrington

Director

The notes on pages 20 to 38 form an integral part of these financial statement	ts.

# **Statement of Changes in Equity** For the year ended 31 October 2019

	Called up issued share capital €	Retained earnings €	Revaluatior reserve €	
At 1 November 2017	5,000,000	11,878,026	848,080	17,726,106
Profit for the year Other comprehensive income	-	936,690	-	936,690
Total Comprehensive Income	-	936,690	-	936,690
At 31 October 2018	5,000,000	12,814,716	848,080	18,662,796
Adjustment from the adoption new IFRSs retrospectively	of	(67,702)	-	(67,702)
Adjusted balance at 1 November 2018	5,000,000	12,747,014	848,080	18,595,094
Profit for the year Other comprehensive income	-	668,299	-	668,299
Total Comprehensive Income		668,299		668,299
At 31 October 2019	5,000,000	13,415,313	848,080	19,263,393

## **Statement of Cash Flows**

For the year ended 31 October 2019

	2019	2018
Note	€	€
	974,894	1,425,048
	860	-
	•	4,337
		62,329
		2,400,000
		(2,902,778)
	(442,767)	(864,142)
	124,409	124,794
	28,206	(1,452)
	152,615	123,342
	(2,400,000)	(2,400,000)
	2,872,747	2,902,778
	(185,956)	-
	439,406	626,120
	(4,248) (228,307)	(831,238)
	(232,555)	(831,238)
	(255,872)	-
	(255,872)	-
	(49,021)	(205,118)
	52,941	258,059
13	3,920	52,941
		974,894  860 2,010 62,159 2,400,000 (2,872,747) (442,767)  124,409 28,206  152,615 (2,400,000) 2,872,747 (185,956)  439,406  (4,248) (228,307)  (232,555)  (255,872)  (49,021) 52,941

#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 October 2019

#### 1. General information

AX Investments p.l.c is a limited liability company incorporated in Malta. The company was principally formed for the financing or re-financing of the funding requirements of related companies.

#### 2. Significant accounting policies

Accounting convention and basis of preparation

These financial statements are presented using the Euro, being the currency that reflects the economic substance of the underlying events and circumstances relevant to the company. They are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the fair valuation convention where required by International Financial Reporting Standards, in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1995 enacted in Malta, and the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU. The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with International Financial Reporting Standards requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the company's accounting policies (see Note 3 - Critical accounting estimates and judgements).

Fair value measurements are categorized into Level 1, 2 or 3 based on the degree to which the inputs to the fair value measurements are observable and the significance of the inputs to the fair value measurement in its entirety, which are described as follows:

- Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date;
- Level 2 inputs are inputs, other than quoted prices, that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly; and
- Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability

New and revised standards that are effective for the current period

In the current year, the entity has applied IFRS 9 Financial Instruments and the related consequential amendments to other International Financial Reporting Standards that are effective for periods that begin on or after 1 January 2018. IFRS 9 introduced new requirements for the classification and measurement of financial assets and introduced an 'expected credit loss' model for the impairment of financial assets.

#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 October 2019

#### 2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

In adopting IFRS 9, the entity has applied transitional relief and opted not to restate prior periods. Any differences between previous carrying amounts and those determined under IFRS 9 at the date of initial application, under this option, is included in opening retained earnings or equivalent component of equity.

The adoption of IFRS 9 has impacted the following areas:

a) Classification and measurement

There has been no changes to the classification or measurement of financial liabilities as a result of the application of IFRS 9.

#### b) Impairment

In adopting the expected credit loss model as opposed to an incurred credit loss model under IAS 39, on the date of initial application a loss allowance amounting to €67,702, was recognised in opening retained earnings. The cumulative additional loss allowance recognised on 1 November 2019 on items that are subject to the impairment provisions of IFRS 9 and that existed on that date is explained below.

01.11.2018 €

Loans to related company

67,702

In the current year, the entity has applied IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers which is effective for periods that begin on or after 1 January 2018. IFRS 15 introduced a 5-step approach to revenue recognition.

The application of IFRS 15 has not had an impact on the financial position and financial performance of the entity.

New and revised standards that are issued but not yet effective

IFRS 16, 'Leases' introduces a comprehensive model for the identification of lease arrangements and accounting treatments for both lessors and lessees. Under the new standard, an asset (the right to use the leased item) and a financial liability to pay rentals are recognised, with the exception of short-term and low-value leases. IFRS 16 will supersede the current lease guidance of IAS 17 and the related interpretations. The standard is mandatory for periods commencing on or after 1 January 2019.

The application of IFRS 16 will have no impact on the entity's financial statements.

#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 October 2019

#### 2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are initially recorded at cost. They are subsequently stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Property, plant and equipment are derecognised on disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected from their use or disposal. Gains or losses arising from derecognition represent the difference between the net disposal proceeds, if any, and the carrying amount, and are included in profit or loss in the period of derecognition.

Depreciation is provided at rates intended to write down the cost of the assets on their expected useful lives. The annual rates used, which are consistent with those applied in the previous year, are as follows:

Improvements-10% per annumFurniture and fittings-10% per annumComputer equipment-20% per annumPlant and machinery-20% per annum

#### *Investment property*

Investment property is property held to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both. Investment property is recognised as an asset when it is probable that the future economic benefits that are associated with the investment property will flow to the entity and the cost can be measured reliably. Investment property is initially measured at cost, including transaction costs, less impairment losses. Subsequent to initial recognition, investment property is stated at fair value.

#### Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and financial liabilities are initially recognised at their fair value plus directly attributable transaction costs for all financial assets or financial liabilities not classified at fair value through profit or loss.

#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 October 2019

#### 2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments (continued)

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset and the net amount presented in the statement of financial position when the company has a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and intends either to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when they are extinguished. This occurs when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

#### (i) Investments

The investment in group company relates to a 19.91% participating interest in a company whose other (majority) shareholder is AX Holdings Limited which is AX Investments p.l.c.'s parent company. This participating interest is being accounted for as an investment in associated undertaking, since the company has significant influence over the running of the entity.

Significant influence is the power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions of the investee, but is not control over those policies.

Investments in associated undertakings are accounted for under the equity method. Under the equity method, investments in associates are initially recognized at cost and adjusted thereafter for the post-acquisition change in the company's share of net assets of the associates, less any impairment in the value of the investments. The company's share of the post-acquisition reserves is recognized directly in equity. The company's share of losses in excess of its interest in that associate is not recognized, unless the company has incurred obligations or made payments on behalf of the associated undertakings.

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market other than those that are held for trading or are designated upon initial recognition as at fair value through profit or loss or as available-for-sale financial assets or those for which the company may not recover substantially all of its initial investment other than because of credit deterioration.

After initial recognition, loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss when the financial asset is derecognised or impaired and through the amortisation process.

#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 October 2019

#### 2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

Financial instruments (continued)

#### (ii) Other borrowings

Subsequent to initial recognition, other borrowings are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the effect of discounting is immaterial.

#### (iii) Trade payables

Trade payables are classified with current liabilities and are stated at their nominal value.

#### (iv) Shares issued by the company

Ordinary shares issued by the company are classified as equity instruments.

#### (v) Debt securities in issue

Debt securities in issue are stated at amortised cost. The amortisation is calculated using the effective yield method and is recognised in profit or loss over the period of the debt security.

#### Offsetting financial instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the statement of financial position when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

#### *Impairment*

Impairment testing for intangible assets and property, plant and equipment

For impairment assessment purposes, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are largely independent cash inflows (cash-generating units). As a result, some assets are tested individually for impairment and some are tested at cash-generating unit level. These assets are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable.

#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 October 2019

#### 2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

Impairment (continued)

An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which asset's (or cash generating unit's) carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, which is higher of fair value less costs of disposal and value-in-use. These assets are subsequently reassessed for indications that an impairment loss previously recognised may no longer exist.

An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in the estimate used to determine the recoverable amount.

#### Impairment of financial assets

Impairment calculations for financial assets use forward-looking information to recognise expected credit losses - the 'expected credit loss (ECL) model'. Instruments within the scope of this impairment model include loans and other debt-type financial assets measured at amortised cost and FVOCI, trade receivables, contract assets recognised and measured under IFRS 15 and loan commitments and some financial guarantee contracts that are not measured at fair value through profit or loss. In applying this forward-looking approach, a distinction is made between: financial instruments that have not deteriorated significantly in credit quality since initial recognition or that have low credit risk (stage 1), financial instruments that have deteriorated significantly in credit quality since initial recognition and whose credit risk is not low (stage 2) and financial assets that have objective evidence of impairment at the reporting date (stage 3).

'12-month expected credit losses' are recognised for the first category and whole 'lifetime expected credit losses' are recognised for the second and third category. Measurement of the expected credit losses is determined by a probability-weighted estimate of credit losses over the expected life of the financial instrument.

#### Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the company and these can be measured reliably. The following specific recognition criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised:

#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 October 2019

#### 2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

#### Interest income

Interest income is accrued on a time basis, by reference to the principal outstanding and at the effective interest rate applicable, which is the rate that exactly discounts the estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to the asset's net carrying amount.

#### Rental income

Rental income is accounted for on an accrual basis.

#### Operating leases

A lease is an agreement whereby the lessor conveys to the lessee in return for a payment or services of payments the right to use an asset for an agreed period of time. A finance lease is that transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset. An operating lease is a lease other than a finance lease.

Assets leased out under operating leases are included in investment property in the statement of financial position. Lease income from operating leases shall be recognized in income on a straight line basis over the lease term.

#### Taxation

Current tax is charged or credited to profit or loss, except when it relates to items charged or credited directly to equity, in which case the deferred tax is also dealt with in equity.

The charge for current tax is based on the taxable result for the period. The taxable result for the period differs from the result as reported in profit or loss because it excludes items which are non assessable or disallowed and it further excludes items that are taxable or deductible in other periods. It is calculated using tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the statement of financial position date.

Deferred tax is accounted for using the balance sheet liability method in respect of temporary differences arising from differences between the carrying amount of assets and liabilities in the financial statements and the corresponding tax bases used in the computation of taxable profit.

#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 October 2019

#### 2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

Taxation (continued)

Deferred tax liabilities are recognised for all taxable temporary differences and deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that taxable profits will be available against which deductible temporary differences can be utilised.

Deferred tax is calculated at the tax rates that are expected to apply to the period when the asset is realised or the liability is settled, based on tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the statement of financial position date.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset when the company has a legally enforceable right to settle its current tax assets and liabilities on a net basis.

Employee benefits

The company contributes towards the state pension in accordance with local legislation. The only obligation of the company is to make the required contributions. Costs are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand and deposits repayable on demand.

# 3. Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the process of applying the company's accounting policies, management has made no judgements which can significantly affect the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

At the statement of financial position date, there were no key assumptions concerning the future, or any other key sources of estimation uncertainty, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 October 2019

4.	Operating income		
•		2019	2018
		€	€
	Rental income from investment property	163,360	163,360
	Rental income from moveable property	75,000	75,000
		238,360	238,360
	There are no direct operating costs associated term is not covered by a non-cancellable lease		erty. The lease
_			
5.	Interest income		
5.	Interest income	2019	2018
5.	Interest income	2019 €	2018 €
5.	Interest income  Interest income from group companies		
5.		€	€
<ol> <li>6.</li> </ol>		€	€
	Interest income from group companies	€	€
	Interest income from group companies	2,872,747	2,902,778

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 October 2019

7.	Profit before taxation	2019 €	2018 €
	Profit before taxation is stated after charging: Auditors' remuneration Directors' remuneration Depreciation charge	2,978 43,000 2,010	3,000 43,000 4,337
	Staff costs	2019	2018
	The average number of employees (based pro-rata on a 40-hour week) during the year were: Administration	2	2
8.	Income tax	2019	2018
	Malta Income Tax:	€	€
	Current taxation Deferred taxation	(175,226) (131,369)	(185,956) (302,402)
		(306,595)	(488,358)

#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 October 2019

#### 8. Income tax (continued)

The accounting profit and the tax charge for the year are reconciled as follows:

	2019 €	2018 €
Profit before tax	974,894	1,425,048
Tax thereon at 35%	(341,213)	(498,767)
Tax effect of: Tax effect of permanent differences	34,618	10,409
Income tax charge for the year	(306,595)	(488,358)

#### 9. Earnings per share

The earnings per share has been calculated on the profit for the year of €668,299 (2018: €936,690) divided by the weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue during the year.

Weighted average number of shares	2019	2018
in issue	5,000,000	5,000,000
	€	€
Earnings per share	0.13	0.19

### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 October 2019

### 10. Property, plant and equipment

	Improvements €	Furniture and Fittings €	Computer equipment €	Plant and machinery €	Total €
Cost At 1 November 2017 Additions	29,333 -	221,403 -	3,991 -	46,581 -	301,308
At 31 October 2018	29,333	221,403	3,991	46,581	301,308
At 1 November 2018 Additions	29,333	221,403 -	3,991 4,248	46,581 -	301,308 4,248
At 31 October 2019	29,333	221,403	8,239	46,581	305,556
Depreciation At 1 November 2017 Charge for the year At 31 October 2018 At 1 November 2018 Charge for the year At 31 October 2019	20,531 2,934 23,465 23,465 1,465 24,930	220,279 376 220,655 220,655 187 220,842	2,559 2,559 358 2,917	46,270 311 46,581 46,581 46,581	288,923 4,337 293,260 293,260 2,010 295,270
Net book value					
At 31 October 2019	4,403	561	5,322	-	10,286
At 31 October 2018	5,868	748	1,432	-	8,048
At 31 October 2017	8,802	1,124	2,148	311	12,385

#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 October 2019

#### 11. Investment property

€

Fair value
At 31 October 2018/ At 31 October 2019

9,025,157

The fair value of the investment property as at 31 October 2019 is based on the valuations carried out by independent architect, on 11 November 2016. The architect is qualified and has experience in the valuation of properties.

Details of the investment property and the information about the fair value hierarchy as at the end of the year is as follows:

Type of	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Property			
	€	€	€
Commercial property	-	9,025,157	9,025,157
Total	-	9,025,157	9,025,157

There were no transfers between the hierarchy levels during the year.

For investment property categorized under Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy, the following approaches and inputs were used:

Type of Property	Valuation Technique	Inputs	Sensitivity
C	D1	This words of tales into	TT1 1-1-1
Commercial	Replacement	This method takes into	The higher the
property	cost	account the actual physical	rates for
	approach	building fabric constituting	construction,
		the facility, together with an	finishings,
		estimated land value. The	services and
		valuation relies on estimated	fittings, the
		going rates of the various	higher the fair
		components of the existing	value.
		building. The main inputs	
		used were €250/sqm for shell	
		construction, €200/sqm for	
		building services, €200/sqm	
		to €250/sqm for finishings	
		depending on the area.	

During the year the company used the same valuation technique used in the previous year.

#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 October 2019

#### 12. Financial assets

Non Current Financial Assets	Investment in associated undertaking
Carrying amount	€
At 1 November 2017 Share of results of associate re prior year	13,066,138 37,304
Share of results of associate	826,838
At 31 October 2018	13,930,280
Share of results of associate re prior year Share of results of associate	(100,563) 543,330
At 31 October 2019	14,373,047

Investment in group company

Company	Registered address	Shares held	
		Class	Percentage
Suncrest Hotels p.l.c.	AX House, Mosta Road, Lija LJA 9010, Malta	Ord	19.91%

AX Investments p.l.c. invested in Suncrest Hotels p.l.c. as part of the Bond Issue Series II which was raised to acquire the minority shareholding held by third parties. The company receives interest on its loans from Suncrest Hotels p.lc. AX Investments p.l.c. and Suncrest Hotels p.l.c. have the following common director on the board of directors: Mr Angelo Xuereb.

At 31 October 2019, Suncrest Hotels p.l.c. had total assets of €90,020,562 and total liabilities of €17,830,472. During the year its revenue amounted to €3,797,100 and its profit after taxation amounted to €2,731,274 and its total comprehensive income amounted to €2,731,274.

#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 October 2019

#### 12. Financial assets (continued)

Loans and receivables

	Loan to parent €	Loans to related parties €	Total €
Cost	C	Č	C
At 1 November 2018	13,098,414	29,215,509	42,313,923
Movement	7,131,791	(6,903,484)	228,307
At 31 October 2019	20,230,205	22,312,025	42,542,230
Expected credit loss allow	wance		
At 1 November 2018	20,957	46,745	67,702
Movement	11,411	(10,551)	860
At 31 October 2019	32,368	36,194	68,562
Net book value			
At 31 October 2019	20,197,837	22,275,831	42,473,668

Loans to parent and related parties are unsecured, have an average interest rate of 6.7% (2018: 7.4%) per annum and have no fixed date of repayment. The entity determines the expected credit loss allowance on the parent and related party loans based on a probability of default of 0.16% and a loss given default of 100%.

#### 13. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents included in the cash flow statement comprise the following:

iono ming.	2019 €	2018 €
Cash at bank and in hand	3,920	52,941

#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 October 2019

14.	Called up issued share capital		
		2019 €	2018 €
	Authorised 5,000,000 ordinary shares of €1 each	5,000,000	5,000,000
	Called up issued and fully paid up 5,000,000 ordinary shares of €1 each	5,000,000	5,000,000

Each ordinary share gives the right to one vote, participates equally in profits distributed by the company and carries equal rights upon the distribution of assets by the company in the event of a winding up.

#### 15. Debt securities in issue

	2019 €	2018 €
At beginning of year Bond issue costs amortisation for the year	39,664,789 62,159	39,602,460 62,329
At end of year	39,726,948	39,664,789
Falling due between two and five years	39,726,948	-
Falling due after more than five years		39,664,789

As at year end, the company had a balance of €39,726,948 from the bond issue of €40 million 6% bonds of €100 nominal value each, redeemable at par in 2024. The amount is made up of the bond issue of €40 million net of the bond issue costs which are being amortised over the lifetime of the bonds. Interest on the bonds is due and payable annually in arrears on 6 March of each year at the above mentioned rate.

The bonds are listed on the Official Companies List of the Malta Stock Exchange and are guaranteed by AX Holdings Limited.

#### 16. Deferred taxation

Arising on:	2019 €	2018 €
Revaluation of investment property  Movement in value of financial assets  On other temporary differences	902,516 4,142,831 (23,185)	902,516 3,987,862 415
	5,022,162	4,890,793

#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 October 2019

17.	Trade and other payables		
		2019	2018
	Current	€	€
	Trade payables Amounts owed to related party Indirect taxes	2,806 - 17,877	2,806 70,809 7,151
	Accruals	1,589,317	1,589,531
	Other payables	88,349	70,655
		1,698,349	1,740,952
	Non-current Amounts owed to related party	-	185,063
		-	185,063
		1,698,349	1,926,015
18.	Current tax payable	2019 €	2018 €
	Balance at beginning of year Provision for the year Settlement tax paid	185,956 175,226 (185,956)	- 185,956 -
		175,226	185,956

#### 19. Related parties

The parent and ultimate parent companies of AX Investments p.l.c. are AX Holdings Limited and AX Group p.l.c. respectively, which are both incorporated in Malta. The individual financial statements of the company are incorporated in the group financial statements of AX Holdings Limited and AX Group p.l.c., the registered address of which is AX House, Mosta Road, Lija LJA 9010, Malta. The ultimate controlling party is Mr Angelo Xuereb, who holds a controlling interest in the equity of the ultimate parent company.

#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 October 2019

#### 19. Related parties (continued)

The company entered into transactions with related parties, as follows:

	2019	2018
Interest receivable	€	€
Related party transactions with: Parent company Other related parties	1,672,395 1,200,352	968,424 1,934,354
	2,872,747	2,902,778
Rent receivable		
Related party transactions with: Other related parties	238,360	238,360
Interest payable		
Related party transactions with: Other related parties	12,518	15,228

Outstanding balances with related parties at year-end are disclosed in note 12 and 17 to these financial statements.

#### 20. Risk management objectives and policies

The company is exposed to credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk through its use of financial instruments which result from its operating and investing activities. The company's risk management is coordinated by the directors and focuses on actively securing the company's short term to medium term cash flows by minimising the exposure to financial risks.

The most significant financial risks to which the company is exposed to are described below.

#### Credit risk

The company's credit risk is limited to the carrying amount of financial assets recognised at the date of the Statement of Financial Position, which are disclosed in Notes 12 and 13.

The company continuously monitors defaults of customers and other counterparts, and incorporates this information into its credit risk controls. The company's policy is to deal only with creditworthy counterparties.

None of the company's financial assets is secured by collateral or other credit enhancements.

#### **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the year ended 31 October 2019

#### 20. Risk management objectives and policies (continued)

#### Credit risk (continued)

The credit risk for liquid funds is considered to be negligible, since the counterparties are reputable institutions with high quality external credit ratings.

#### Liquidity risk

The company's exposure to liquidity risk arises from its obligations to meet financial liabilities, which comprise debt securities, trade and other payables and other financial liabilities. Prudent liquidity risk management includes maintaining sufficient cash and committed credit facilities to ensure the availability of an adequate amount of funding to meet the company's obligations when they become due.

At 31 October 2019 and 31 October 2018, the contractual maturities on the financial liabilities of the company were as summarized below. Contractual maturities reflect gross cash flows, which may differ from the carrying values of financial liabilities at the date of the Statement of Financial Position.

	2019 €	2018 €
Non-bank borrowings	•	Č
Less than 6 months	1,200,000	1,200,000
From 6 to 12 months	1,200,000	1,200,000
From 1 to 5 years	48,028,493	9,600,000
More than 5 years	, , <u>-</u>	40,828,493

#### Foreign currency risk

Most of the company's transactions are carried out in Euro. Exposure to currency exchange rates arise from the company's transactions in foreign currencies.

The company's financial assets face minimal foreign currency risk since all sales are made receivable in Euro.

#### Interest rate risk

The company's exposure to interest rate risk is limited to the variable interest rates on borrowings. Based on observations of current market conditions, the directors consider an upward or downward movement in interest of 1% to be reasonably possible. However, the potential impact of such a movement is considered immaterial.

#### 21. Capital management policies and procedures

The company's capital management objectives are to ensure its ability to continue as a going concern and to provide an adequate return to shareholders by pricing commensurately with the level of risk, and maintaining an optimal capital structure to reduce the cost of capital. The company monitors the level of debt, which includes debt securities, trade and other payables and other financial liabilities less cash and cash equivalents, against total capital on an ongoing basis.