

EARNINGS GROWTH

CURRENT OPERATING INCOME: €85M, +7.2%

NET INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO PARENT: €35M, +10.1%

2018 REVENUE TARGET > €1BN

GL EVENTS (ISIN: FR0000066672 - TICKER: GLO), THE INTEGRATED EVENT INDUSTRY GROUP,
ANNOUNCES ITS 2017 RESULTS..

GL events' Board of Directors, meeting on 20 March 2018, approved the annual financial statements for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2017. Audit procedures have been completed and the auditors' report is in the process of being issued.

€M	2017	2016	CHANGE 17/16
REVENUE	953.8	953.0	+0.1%
EBITDA¹	135.3	129.9	+4.2%
CURRENT OPERATING INCOME	85.0	79.3	+7.2%
<i>Current operating margin (%)</i>	<i>8.9%</i>	<i>8.3%</i>	-
OPERATING PROFIT	84.4	77.1	+9.5%
EARNINGS BEFORE TAX	67.5	59.9	+12.7%
NET INCOME	45.7	36.3	+25.9%
Non-controlling interests	10.6	4.5	-
Net income attributable to the equity holders of the parent	35.1	31.9	+10.1%

¹: EBITDA: earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation or "gross operating profit"

²: ROCE: Return on capital employed defined as current income net of tax (or EBIT) divided by capital employed – In 2017, adjusted for acquisitions on a full-year basis.

³: COI: Current operating income

Olivier Ginon, GL events Group's Chairman commented: *"In a year without Jumbo events (€130 million in 2016) and an unfavourable foreign exchange effect of €12 million, the Group registered a strong business performance with revenue for 2017 remaining in line with the previous year. GL events' market positions were strengthened both geographically (Chile, United Kingdom, Dubai) and for business lines through target acquisitions. In accordance with commitments made, we continued to closely monitor costs and our profitability has improved. EBITDA rose +4.2%, current operating income +7.2%, net income +25.9%, net income attributable to the parent +10.1% and ROCE² increased from 6.3% to 6.7%.*

2018 is GL events' 20th year as a publicly traded company and 40th year of existence. On the occasion of this dual anniversary, I wish to thank all staff who through their engagement have allowed the Group to develop. GL events aims to pursue its growth in France and international markets and to achieve revenue of more than €1 billion at the end of 2018."

OPERATING PROFITABILITY BY DIVISION

GL EVENTS LIVE (€M)	2017	2016	CHANGE
REVENUE	471.9	500.5	-5.7%
CURRENT OPERATING INCOME	25.6	32.9	-22.2%
Current operating margin (%)	5.4%	6.6%	-

GL EVENTS LIVE registered a 5.7% decline in revenue relation to 2016, reflecting an unfavourable comparison base linked to the absence of large events (€130 million in 2016). The current operating margin was 5.4%.

GL EVENTS EXHIBITIONS (€M)	2017	2016	CHANGE
REVENUE	165.2	145.0	+13.9%
CURRENT OPERATING INCOME	20.2	13.5	+49.6%
Current operating margin (%)	12.2%	9.3%	-

GL EVENTS EXHIBITIONS had revenue reaching 165.2 million, up 13.9% in relation to 2016. The current operating margin was 12.2%. This growth reflects the impact of rationalisation measures in addition to performances of different exhibitions, notably SIRHA, the Industrie Lyon trade fair in April, CFIA and Première Vision.

GL EVENTS VENUES (€M)	2017	2016	CHANGE
REVENUE	316.7	307.6	+3.0%
CURRENT OPERATING INCOME	39.2	32.9	+19.1%
Current operating margin (%)	12.4%	10.7%	

GL EVENTS VENUES had revenue of 316.7 million, up 3% in relation to 2016. The current operating margin of 12.4% was up in relation to 2017 (10.7%). This result was driven by Sao Paulo Expo's accelerating business momentum (Brazil) as well as solid performances from the venues in Paris, Lyon, Brussels and Budapest. The Group also has benefited from the strategy of divesting unprofitable assets carried out in prior periods.

FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

GL events' net capital expenditures in 2017 amounted to €60 million (€134.9 million in 2016). This included renovation work for Matmut Stadium of Gerland plus €38 million linked to acquisitions. This renovation work had a temporary impact on the financial structure, pending the value that is expected to be recuperated from the development rights.

In this context of growth capital spending by the Group, net financial debt amounted to €444.8 million (€391.7 million in 2016).

EXTERNAL GROWTH AND GEOGRAPHICAL DEVELOPMENT

GL events completed several targeted acquisitions in 2017. The Group increased its presence in the medical convention segment with the acquisition of CCC. It strengthened its businesses as a provider of supplies and equipment in international markets with Tarpulin (Chile), Aganto (UK)

and Wicked & Flow (Dubai). Finally, with the acquisition of Midest and Tolexpo, two exhibitions devoted to industry, GL events reinforced its position in the B2B event sector. The rapid and successful integration of these exhibitions will have a positive impact starting in 2018 with the organisation of the 1st edition of Global industrie from the 27nd to the 30th of March in Paris-Nord Villepinte.

In December 2017, the Group was awarded preferred bidder status for the concession to manage the future Aichi International Exhibition Centre in Japan. This operation, if confirmed in April 2018 at the end of the bidding process, would give GL events a strategic foothold in Japan to support the Group's business dynamic with respect to the upcoming Rugby World Cup in 2019 and the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2020.

PROPOSAL FOR THE PAYMENT OF A STOCK DIVIDEND (€0.65 PER SHARE)

At the upcoming annual general meeting to be held on 24 May 2018, the Board of Directors will submit a proposal to distribute a dividend of €0.65 per share for 2017 representing a payout ratio of 43%.

The Board will also propose an option for payment of this dividend in the form of shares, with the main shareholders having already indicated their intention to choose this form of payment. This payment method contributes to strengthening the Group's financial structure and reduces cash outflow.

Subject to approval by the general meeting, the new shares will be issued at a price equal to 90% the average opening price over 20 trading days preceding 24 May 2018, minus the amount of the dividend.

OUTLOOK

In 2018, GL events will pursue its development in France and international markets through all its business lines and divisions.

- GL events Live should benefit from a favourable calendar, including namely the following large events: The Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in Oceania, the Football World Cup in Russia, Asian Games in Djakarta, Longines FEI World Cup™ Final and Ryder Cup in Paris.
- In addition to the recurrent shows, Global Industrie, a new broad-based B2B event, is expected to positively contribute to the Exhibitions division. The Group is currently exploring opportunities to further strengthen this division's geographical and business line market positions.
- Finally, GL events Venues' network should experience continued growth momentum in the different countries where GL events is present.

For 2018, the Group thus confirms its target for annual revenue of more than €1 billion. It is moreover in the process of studying development opportunities for its three business lines in France and international markets.

NEXT PRESS RELEASE:

2018 FIRST-QUARTER REVENUE– 24 APRIL 2018 (AFTER THE CLOSE OF TRADING)

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT GL-EVENTS.COM



About GL events: The Group is a world-class provider of integrated solutions and services for events operating across the three main market segments: conventions, conferences, congresses; cultural, sports and political events; trade shows / B2B and B2C exhibitions and consumer fairs. GL events' activities are organised into three major business divisions. **GL events Live** offers expertise covering all business line specialisations and services for corporate, institutional and sports events to provide turnkey solutions from consulting and design to staging the event itself. **GL events Exhibitions** manages and coordinates the Group's portfolio of more than 300 proprietary trade fairs covering a wide range of sectors: food industry, culture, textiles/fashion, manufacturing... **GL events Venues** manages a network of 40 venues (convention and exhibition centres, concert halls and multi-purpose facilities) in France and international destinations. Present on five continents with operations in more than 20 countries, GL events has 4,300 employees. GL events is listed on Euronext Paris, Compartment B (mid caps).



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