

# ING posts 2017 net result of EUR 4,905 million; 4Q17 net result of EUR 1,015 million

#### ING records continued commercial growth and further progress on Think Forward strategic priorities

• ING grew retail customer base in 4Q17 by 500,000 to 37.4 million, and primary relationships reached 10.8 million

• Net core lending in 4Q17 increased by EUR 6.8 billion; net customer deposit inflow amounted to EUR 2.7 billion

#### ING 4Q17 underlying pre-tax result of EUR 1,560 million; FY2017 underlying pre-tax result 2.4% up on 2016

- Solid result reflects business growth at resilient margins, growth in commission income and low risk costs
- ING's full-year underlying ROE at 10.2%; fully loaded CET1 ratio improved to 14.7%; FY2017 dividend of EUR 0.67 per share

#### **CEO statement**

"Our commitment to our customers and progress in accelerating our Think Forward strategy are evident in the good results and continued customer growth we posted for both the fourth quarter and full year 2017," said Ralph Hamers, CEO of ING.

"Our global customer base grew to 37.4 million over the year, including a 900,000 increase in the number of primary customers to 10.8 million. Our most recent net promoter scores among customers rank us first in 9 of our 13 retail markets, an achievement I am quite proud of."

"We continue to improve the experience of our customers through both our own innovations as well as through strategic partnerships. In the Netherlands, a new digital tool for small business customers links receipts and bills directly to transactions, giving customers one platform for their administration and banking. And just this week, we agreed to acquire a 75% stake in leading payments service provider Payvision, a partnership we think will strongly benefit our customers."

"Innovation is changing banking at lightning speed. One such change is blockchain, which has the potential to profoundly alter financial services by making banking better, safer, simpler, faster and cheaper for clients. Blockchain is a priority for us as we build the bank of the future, and our team had a couple of major achievements recently. These include creating blockchain code that's nearly 10 times more efficient in ensuring privacy, and using blockchain to create digital platforms for agricultural and energy commodity trades, the latter through a venture with other partners. These are milestones, and the collaboration required to achieve them symbolises the very spirit of cooperation inherent to blockchain's success."

"We strive to make a positive impact on the world through our financing and took important steps in the fourth quarter to contribute to a low-carbon and self-reliant society, which is the focus of our sustainability activities. For example, we announced that we will accelerate the reduction of our exposure to coal power generation to close to zero by 2025. This is part of our effort to support the energy transition that's needed to combat climate change."

"Wholesale Banking is an important contributor to the success of our Think Forward strategy. In November we announced that the Wholesale Banking business will be aligned even more around the needs and expectations of our clients, including initiatives to move to a stronger sector organisation and strengthen our international network. This will help us become a more efficient, client-focused business that offers a consistent experience across borders."

"Overall, there was strong commercial growth over 2017, with EUR 26.9 billion of net core lending growth at resilient margins and a EUR 19.0 billion net increase in customer deposits. ING's full-year underlying pre-tax result rose 2.4% to EUR 7,199 million, and the full-year underlying return on equity was 10.2%. Operating expenses rose in the fourth quarter as we stepped up our digital investments. We remain committed to the targets we communicated when we announced the acceleration of the Think Forward Strategy in October 2016. We are pleased to propose a full-year 2017 cash dividend of EUR 0.67 per share, comprising the August 2017 interim dividend of EUR 0.24 and a final dividend of EUR 0.43 per share."

"I'm proud of the steps we took in 2017 to prepare ING for the future while executing on our Customer Promise. The continued growth of new customers coming to ING shows that we are living up to this promise and empowering customers to stay a step ahead in life and in business."

Investor enquiries T: +31 (0)20 576 6396 E: investor.relations@ing.com

Press enquiries T: +31 (0)20 576 5000 E: media.relations@ing.com

#### Investor conference call

31 January 2018 at 9:00 am CET +31 (0)20 531 5821 (NL) +44 203 365 3209 (UK) +1 866 349 6092 (US) Live audio webcast at www.ing.com

#### Media conference call

31 January 2018 at 11:00 am CET +31 (0)20 531 5871 (NL) +44 203 365 3210 (UK) Live audio webcast at www.ing.com

### Share Information

#### Table of contents

Share Information	2
Highlights	3
Consolidated Results	4
Retail Banking	9
Wholesale Banking	13
Corporate Line	16
Geographical Split	17
Consolidated Balance Sheet	19
Risk & Capital Management	21
Economic Environment	25
Appendix	26

#### **Financial calendar**

Publication 2017 ING Group Annual Report:	Thursday, 8 March 2018
2018 Annual General Meeting:	Monday, 23 April 2018
Ex-date for final dividend 2017 (Euronext Amsterdam)*:	Wednesday, 25 April 2018
Record date for final dividend 2017 entitlement (NYSE)*:	Thursday, 26 April 2018
Record date for final dividend 2017 entitlement (Euronext Amsterdam)*:	Thursday, 26 April 2018
Payment date final dividend 2017 (Euronext Amsterdam)*:	Thursday, 3 May 2018
Publication results 1Q2018:	Wednesday, 9 May 2018
Payment date final dividend 2017 (NYSE)*:	Friday, 11 May 2018
Publication results 2Q2018:	Thursday, 2 August 2018
Ex-date for interim dividend 2018 (Euronext Amsterdam)*:	Monday, 6 August 2018
Record date for interim dividend 2018 entitlement (Euronext Amsterdam)*:	Tuesday, 7 August 2018
Record date for interim dividend 2018 entitlement (NYSE)*:	Monday, 13 August 2018
Payment date interim dividend 2018 (Euronext Amsterdam)*:	Tuesday, 14 August 2018
Payment date interim dividend 2018 (NYSE)*:	Tuesday, 21 August 2018
Publication results 3Q2018:	Thursday, 1 November 2018
* only if any dividend is paid	All dates are provisional
	2018 Annual General Meeting: Ex-date for final dividend 2017 (Euronext Amsterdam)*: Record date for final dividend 2017 entitlement (NYSE)*: Record date for final dividend 2017 entitlement (Euronext Amsterdam)*: Payment date final dividend 2017 (Euronext Amsterdam)*: Publication results 1Q2018: Payment date final dividend 2017 (NYSE)*: Publication results 2Q2018: Ex-date for interim dividend 2018 (Euronext Amsterdam)*: Record date for interim dividend 2018 entitlement (Euronext Amsterdam)*: Record date for interim dividend 2018 entitlement (NYSE)*: Payment date interim dividend 2018 (Euronext Amsterdam)*: Payment date interim dividend 2018 (Euronext Amsterdam)*: Payment date interim dividend 2018 (NYSE)*: Publication results 3Q2018:

#### Listing information

The ordinary shares of ING Group are listed on the exchanges of Amsterdam, Brussels and New York (NYSE).

Stock exchanges	Tickers (Bloomberg, Reuters)	Security codes (ISIN, SEDOL1)
Euronext Amsterdam and Brussels	INGA NA, INGA.AS	NL0011821202, BZ57390
New York Stock Exchange	ING US, ING.N	US4568371037, 2452643

#### **Relative share price performance**

#### 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017

Share information					
Share information	402016	102017	202017	3Q2017	4Q2017
Shares (in millions, end of perio		102017	202017	JQ2017	402017
		7 0 0 7 7	7 005 7	7 005 0	7 005 0
Total number of shares	3,878.5	3,883.3	3,885.3	3,885.6	3,885.8
- Treasury shares	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.6	0.9
- Shares outstanding	3,877.8	3,882.4	3,884.7	3,885.0	3,884.9
Average number of shares	3,877.6	3,878.6	3,884.0	3,884.5	3,884.6
Share price (in euros)					
End of period	13.37	14.17	15.10	15.60	15.33
High	13.72	14.62	15.75	15.90	15.98
Low	10.88	12.93	13.65	14.59	15.00
Net result per share (in euros)	0.19	0.29	0.35	0.35	0.26
Shareholders' equity per share (end of period in euros)	12.84	13.07	12.79	12.81	12.97
Dividend per share (in euros)	0.42	n.a.	0.24	n.a.	0.43
Price/earnings ratio <sup>1)</sup>	11.1	12.1	12.7	13.0	12.1
Price/book ratio	1.04	1.08	1.18	1.22	1.18
	1.01	1.00	1.10	1.22	1

<sup>1)</sup> Four-quarter rolling average

#### Market capitalisation (in EUR billion)



#### American Depositary Receipts (ADRs)

For questions related to the ING ADR program, please visit J.P. Morgan Depositary Receipts Services at www.adr.com, or contact:

#### Broker/Institutional Investors

please contact: J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. Depositary Receipts 4 New York Plaza, Floor 12 New York, NY 10004 In the US: (866) JPM-ADRS Outside the US: +1 866 576-2377 ADR Shareholders can contact J.P. Morgan Transfer Agent Service Center: J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. P.O. Box 64504 St. Paul, MN 55164-0504 In the US: +1 800 990 1135 Outside the US: +1 651 453 2128 Email: jpmorgan.adr@wellsfargo.com

Shareholders or holders of ADRs can request a hard copy of ING's audited financial statements, free of charge, at www.ing.com/publications.htm



# Highlights

ING retained good commercial momentum in the fourth quarter and full year 2017. At the end of 2017, we had a total of 37.4 million customers and our most recent net promoter score puts us at number one in customer satisfaction in 9 of our 13 retail markets. Here are some highlights that show how we are empowering customers to stay a step ahead in life and in business.

#### Innovation

Our innovations span all our businesses as we aim to create a differentiating experience for all customers.

ING in Australia took steps to help customers save money. Our research shows that more than half of adults there don't think twice about losing loose coins, even when it costs them a collective AUD 38.85 million a month. Now, ING's digital money jar 'Everyday Round Up' allows customers to round up every eligible card purchase to the nearest one or five dollars and puts the difference straight into their savings account. The feature hit 40,000 activations within the first two weeks.

In the Netherlands, we added a 'digital shoebox' to our mobile banking app for small business customers. Now, they can use their phone's camera to scan receipts and bills, then link them directly to transactions. This allows customers to track their income, expenses and tax payable in real time and gives them one platform for their administration and banking – making their lives easier and freeing up time to spend on running their business.

And in Wholesale Banking, we created a tool to harness the power of artificial intelligence. Called Katana, it uses data visualisation and predictive analytics to help bond traders decide what price to quote when buying from and selling to clients, enabling them to make faster and sharper pricing decisions.

#### Blockchain

Blockchain has the potential to profoundly alter financial services and is a priority for us as we build the bank of the future. Our blockchain team has achieved a couple of major milestones.

We helped overcome one of the biggest obstacles to using blockchain in financial services by creating a code, known as a 'zero-knowledge range proof' (ZKRP), that's 10 times more efficient in keeping information on a ledger private. ZKRP demonstrates the truth of a specific statement without revealing any additional information. For example, a mortgage applicant could prove that their salary sits within a certain range, without revealing the exact figure.

In November, we teamed up with other banks and some of the largest energy and trading houses to form a venture to modernise and transform energy commodities trading. The venture will create a real-time blockchain-based digital platform to manage physical energy transactions from trade entry to final settlement. In doing so, it digitalises the process and allows the sector to move away from traditional paper contracts and operations documentation.

In January we upgraded our Easy Trading Connect blockchain platform and conducted the first agricultural commodities trade – a milestone in a sector with complex and rigorous documentation chains. Featuring no paper contracts, certificates or manual checks, the time spent on processing documents and data has been reduced fivefold. Besides speed, there are significant improvements for all in the chain, including reduced fraud risk, lower costs, increased safety and the ability to monitor the trade's progress in real time.

#### Sustainability

We continue to strive to make a positive impact on the world with our financing and have sharpened our sustainability direction to focus on contributing to a low-carbon and selfreliant society. In the fourth quarter we announced we'll accelerate the reduction of our exposure to coal power generation to close to zero by 2025, an important step in our efforts to support the energy transition needed to combat climate change.

We also recently launched Sustainable Investments, committing EUR 100 million in capital to support sustainable 'scale-ups' with a proven concept and positive environmental impact - companies that don't yet fulfil all the criteria for an all-in senior financing solution.

Wholesale Banking again played key roles in sustainable projects. We acted as joint bookrunner in the EUR 600 million green bond for Toyota Motor Credit Corp, with proceeds being used to finance new retail loans and lease contracts for Toyota and Lexus low-carbon vehicles. We also supported the first floating solar park in the Netherlands and the largest in Europe (excluding the UK) with nearly EUR 1.7 million of financing. This grassroots community-based project will start producing energy for 600 homes this year. As this technology spreads, other ING clients will benefit from our experience in structuring the deal.

ING remains ranked as 'leader' in the Banks industry group by Sustainalytics, the global provider of environmental, social and governance (ESG) research and ratings. With a score of 85, only one point lower than last year, we were ranked seventh out of nearly 350 companies and first in our market capitalisation peer group.

#### **Basel 'IV'**

There was an agreement made on Basel 'IV' in December, after continued delays impacted strategic planning and business decisions for many banks. ING believes it is good that there is now more clarity. With a long implementation phase and the transposition into EU regulation still pending, some question marks remain on how this will shape up. We will meet the final requirements and continue executing our strategy for our clients and delivering growth at good returns. See page 24 for more details.

Consolidated results								
	4Q2017	4Q2016	Change	3Q2017	Change	FY2017	FY2016	Change
Profit or loss (in EUR million)								
Net interest income	3,512	3,341	5.1%	3,490	0.6%	13,714	13,241	3.6%
Net commission income	674	611	10.3%	643	4.8%	2,714	2,433	11.5%
Investment income	20	39	-48.7%	82	-75.6%	194	422	-54.0%
Other income	162	470	-65.5%	193	-16.1%	1,083	1,363	-20.5%
Total underlying income	4,368	4,461	-2.1%	4,408	-0.9%	17,704	17,458	1.4%
Staff expenses	1,336	1,264	5.7%	1,286	3.9%	5,202	5,039	3.2%
Regulatory costs <sup>1)</sup>	264	209	26.3%	94	180.9%	901	845	6.6%
Other expenses	1,018	895	13.7%	909	12.0%	3,726	3,572	4.3%
Underlying operating expenses	2,618	2,369	10.5%	2,289	14.4%	9,829	9,456	3.9%
Gross result	1,751	2,093	-16.3%	2,119	-17.4%	7,875	8,002	-1.6%
Addition to loan loss provisions <sup>2)</sup>	190	138	37.7%	124	53.2%	676	974	-30.6%
Underlying result before tax	1,560	1,955	-20.2%	1,995	-21.8%	7,199	7,028	2.4%
Taxation	543	557	-2.5%	595	-8.7%	2,160	1,977	9.3%
Non-controlling interests	17	17	0.0%	21	-19.0%	82	75	9.3%
Underlying net result	1,001	1,381	-27.5%	1,378	-27.4%	4,957	4,976	-0.4%
Special items after tax	0	-787		0		0	-799	
Net result Insurance Other	15	158	-90.5%	-3		-52	33	-257.6%
Net result from continuing operations	1,015	752	35.0%	1,376	-26.2%	4,905	4,210	16.5%
Net result from discontinued operations	0	-2		0		0	441	
Net result ING Group	1,015	750	35.3%	1,376	-26.2%	4,905	4,651	5.5%
Net result per share (in EUR)	0.26	0.19		0.35		1.26	1.20	
Capital ratios (end of period)								
ING Group shareholders' equity (in EUR billion)				50	1.3%	50	50	1.2%
ING Group common equity Tier 1 ratio fully loaded <sup>3)</sup>				14.5%		14.7%	14.2%	
ING Group common equity Tier 1 ratio phased in				14.5%		14.7%	14.1%	
Customer lending/deposits (end of period, in EUR billion)								
Residential mortgages				282.8	0.5%	284.1	282.5	0.6%
Other customer lending				285.5	1.5%	289.9	278.9	3.9%
Customer deposits				538.1	0.3%	539.8	522.9	3.2%
Profitability and efficiency								
Underlying interest margin	1.58%	1.52%		1.57%		1.54%	1.52%	
Underlying cost/income ratio	59.9%	53.1%		51.9%		55.5%	54.2%	
Underlying return on equity on IFRS-EU equity <sup>4)</sup>	8.3%	11.1%		11.5%		10.2%	10.1%	
Employees (internal FTEs, end of period)				51,550	0.5%	51,815	51,546	0.5%
Four-quarter rolling average key figures								
Underlying interest margin	1.54%	1.52%		1.53%				
Underlying cost/income ratio	55.5%	54.2%		53.8%				
Underlying return on equity on IFRS-EU equity <sup>4)</sup>	10.2%	10.1%		11.0%				
Risk								
Non-performing loans/total loans (end of period)				2.0%		1.9%	2.1%	
Stock of provisions/provisioned loans (end of period)				39.3%		38.0%	39.9%	
Underlying risk costs in bps of average RWA	25	18		16		22	31	
Risk-weighted assets (end of period, in EUR billion)				311.0	-0.4%	309.9	314.3	-1.4%

<sup>1)</sup> Regulatory costs represent bank taxes and contributions to the deposit guarantee schemes ('DGS') and the (European) single resolution fund ('SRF').
 <sup>2)</sup> The amount presented in 'Addition to loan loss provisions' (which is equivalent to risk costs) includes write-offs and recoveries on loans and receivables not included in the stock of provision for loan losses.
 <sup>3)</sup> Interim profit not included in CET1 capital in FY17, amounting to EUR 1,670 million (FY16: EUR 1,629 million, and 9M17: EUR 1,626 million).
 <sup>4)</sup> Annualised underlying net result divided by average IFRS-EU shareholders' equity excluding interim profit not included in CET1 capital as from 1Q2017. Note: Underlying figures are non-GAAP measures. These are derived from figures according to IFRS-EU by excluding the impact from divestments, special items, Insurance Other, and discontinued operations. See the Appendix for a reconciliation between GAAP and non-GAAP figures.

ING posted strong 2017 results, which were primarily driven by continued business growth at resilient interest margins, higher commission income and lower risk costs. The net result rose to EUR 4,905 million from EUR 4,651 million in 2016. Commercial performance was robust in 2017. At comparable FX rates and excluding Bank Treasury and the run-off portfolios, net growth in core lending amounted to EUR 26.9 billion, despite heightened competition in some of our markets. The net growth in customer deposits was EUR 19.0 billion. Risk costs declined to 22 basis points of average risk-weighted assets, which is well below our through-the-cycle average of 40-45 basis points. ING Group's fully loaded CET1 ratio strengthened to 14.7% at year-end 2017, as risk-weighted assets decreased slightly (mainly due to positive risk migration) and available CET1 capital increased by EUR 1.0 billion compared with year-end 2016. This excludes a reservation of EUR 1.7 billion for the final dividend over 2017.

The underlying net result, defined as net result excluding special items after tax, Insurance Other and discontinued operations, declined 0.4% to EUR 4,957 million in 2017, due to a higher effective tax rate. The underlying pre-tax result rose 2.4% compared to 2016. ING's underlying return on IFRS-EU equity was 10.2% in 2017, broadly in line with last year.

ING's fourth-quarter 2017 net result was EUR 1,015 million, up from EUR 750 million in the fourth quarter of 2016, which included a special item related to the digital transformation programmes. The underlying net result fell by EUR 380 million to EUR 1,001 million. This decline was primarily caused by lower income in Financial Markets, higher total expenses and a relatively high tax charge. Commercial momentum continued in the fourth quarter as ING welcomed 500,000 new retail customers and our core lending book recorded net growth of EUR 6.8 billion.

#### **Underlying results**

The solid fourth-quarter 2017 underlying result before tax of EUR 1,560 million was mainly attributable to continued loan growth at resilient margins, strong commission income and low risk costs (albeit higher than in the previous quarter due to lower releases). Financial Markets, however, experienced a difficult fourth quarter, which resulted in a pre-tax loss. Total

expenses were relatively high as the current quarter included the annual Dutch bank tax and a step-up in digital investment spend, but also higher IT expenses and some additions to restructuring and litigation provisions. Compared with the very strong year-ago quarter, the underlying result before tax fell 20.2%. Sequentially, the underlying result before tax declined 21.8%; this was partly caused by the Dutch bank tax, which was recorded in the fourth quarter.

#### Total underlying income

Total underlying income was slightly lower at EUR 4,368 million compared with EUR 4,461 million in the fourth quarter of 2016. The decline was mainly caused by lower revenues from Financial Markets and Bank Treasury activities due to lower client activity and low market volatility, as well as lower money-market results. The 2.1% decline year-on-year was also influenced by negative CVA/DVA impacts in Wholesale Banking and in the Corporate Line: EUR -45 million in the fourth quarter of 2017 versus EUR 14 million one year ago and only EUR -1 million in the third guarter of 2017. Net interest income rose 5.1% from a year ago, predominantly due to Financial Markets and Bank Treasury (with an offset in 'other income'), but also due to continued volume growth in customer lending. Net commission income was up 10.3%. These increases were offset by lower investment and other income. The sharp decline in other income was, in addition to the aforementioned offset with net interest income, mainly caused by lower client activity in Financial Markets.

Compared with the third quarter of 2017, which included the EUR 54 million annual dividend from Bank of Beijing, total underlying income decreased by EUR 40 million, or 0.9%.

Total customer lending rose by EUR 5.6 billion in the fourth quarter of 2017 to EUR 574.0 billion. Adjusted for currency impacts and excluding Bank Treasury and the run-off portfolios of WUB and Lease, net growth in the core lending book of Retail and Wholesale Banking was EUR 6.8 billion in the fourth quarter of 2017. This brought the total net growth in core lending in 2017 to EUR 26.9 billion (or +4.8%) versus EUR 34.8 billion of net growth in 2016.

Fourth-quarter net core lending growth was again well diversified across Retail and Wholesale Banking. Residential mortgages increased by EUR 2.6 billion, driven by continued mortgage growth in Belgium and in the Challengers & Growth Markets. In the Netherlands, the core mortgage book declined by EUR 0.4 billion. Other net core lending grew by EUR 4.2 billion, of which EUR 1.2 billion was in Retail Banking, despite a EUR 0.6 billion decline in the Netherlands. In Wholesale Banking, other net core lending grew by EUR 3.0 billion and was fully attributable to Industry Lending; this growth was partly offset by a EUR 1.4 billion decline in General Lending & Transaction Services.

Customer deposits increased by EUR 1.7 billion to EUR 539.8 billion in the fourth quarter of 2017. The net growth of customer deposits in Retail and Wholesale Banking (excluding

a decline in Bank Treasury and adjusted for currency impacts) was EUR 2.7 billion. Retail Banking generated a net inflow of EUR 1.2 billion, as a EUR 2.2 billion decline in the Benelux was more than offset by strong growth in the Challengers & Growth Markets. In Wholesale Banking, net customer deposit growth was EUR 1.5 billion in the quarter. On a full-year basis, total net customer deposit growth (excluding currency impacts and Bank Treasury) was EUR 19.0 billion in 2017 versus EUR 28.5 billion in 2016.

Underlying net interest income increased 5.1% to EUR 3,512 million from EUR 3,341 million in the fourth quarter of 2016. The increase was primarily caused by higher (volatile) interest results in Financial Markets, improved Bank Treasuryrelated interest results, and higher net interest income in the Corporate Line. The latter was due among others to the maturity of high-cost legacy bonds, which reduces ING's funding costs. Net interest income on customer lending increased, as the impact of higher volumes in mortgages and other customer lending was only partly offset by a lower overall lending margin compared with a year ago. The interest result on customer deposits was stable compared with a year ago as the margin pressure on savings and current accounts due to lower reinvestment yields was fully offset by higher volumes (especially in current accounts) and additional adjustments in the client savings rates in most countries.

Compared with the third quarter of 2017, which included EUR 91 million of net interest income caused by the decision to end some hedge relationships (with an equally sized opposite move in other income) versus only EUR 8 million in the fourth quarter of 2017, total net interest income rose by EUR 22 million, or 0.6%. Excluding the impact of ending some hedge relationships, net interest income rose by EUR 105 million, primarily due to a EUR 65 million higher interest result in Financial Markets and improved interest results on customer lending.

Interest result (in EUR million) and interest margin (in %)



The fourth-quarter 2017 underlying net interest margin was 1.58% compared with 1.57% in the third quarter of 2017. The higher interest result in Financial Markets led to an increase of three basis points, whereas the lower impact of ending some hedge relationships reduced the overall margin by four basis points. The remaining increase can largely be explained by a higher interest margin on lending activities. The interest margin on savings and current accounts stabilised,

supported by a further lowering of client savings rates in the Netherlands, Spain and Australia in the fourth quarter.

Net commission income rose by EUR 63 million, or 10.3%, to EUR 674 million from EUR 611 million in the fourth quarter of 2016. The increase was recorded in most segments and products, with the relatively strongest growth in Wholesale Banking, Retail Netherlands and Retail Germany. For the fullyear 2017, net commission income rose by EUR 281 million, or 11.5%, on 2016. Compared with the third quarter of 2017, net commission income increased 4.8%, predominantly on the back of commission income growth in Wholesale Banking and Retail Germany.

Investment income declined to EUR 20 million from EUR 39 million in the fourth quarter of 2016, which had been supported by EUR 36 million of realised gains on debt and equity securities compared with EUR 11 million of gains in the fourth quarter of 2017. Compared with the third quarter of 2017, investment income fell by EUR 62 million, as the third quarter included the EUR 54 million annual dividend from Bank of Beijing as well as a EUR 24 million gain on the sale of MasterCard shares in Turkey.

Other income fell to EUR 162 million from EUR 470 million in the fourth quarter of 2016, primarily due to a sharp decline in Financial Markets other income due to negative CVA/ DVA impacts, lower market volatility and client activity, as well as the offset with net interest income. Sequentially, other income fell by EUR 31 million, primarily in Financial Markets due to negative CVA/DVA impacts and lower client activity. This was partly offset by higher other income in Bank Treasury as the negative accounting impact of ending some hedge relationships was significantly lower (EUR -8 million versus EUR -91 million in the third quarter of 2017).

#### **Operating expenses**

Underlying operating expenses increased by EUR 249 million, or 10.5%, compared with the year-ago quarter. Regulatory expenses were EUR 264 million; this is EUR 55 million higher than in the fourth quarter of 2016, which included negative regulatory costs in Germany caused by a refund on deposit guarantee contributions in Germany for deposits over EUR 100,000. Expenses excluding regulatory costs rose by EUR 194 million, or 9.0%, to EUR 2,354 million, and were mainly visible in Retail Challengers & Growth Markets and Wholesale Banking. The increase was mainly caused by higher marketing and staff expenses to support business growth, higher investments in strategic projects and IT, additional restructuring costs, and additions to litigation provisions.

Compared with the third quarter of 2017, expenses rose by EUR 329 million, or 14.4%. Of that, EUR 170 million was caused by higher regulatory costs, primarily due to the recording of the annual Dutch bank tax in the fourth quarter. Expenses excluding regulatory costs increased by EUR 159 million, primarily due to the aforementioned reasons.

operu	ting expense	es (III EOK IIII		st/income ru	1110 (111 70)	
2,750						62.5
2,500		171			264	60.0
2,250	209	474	69	94	55.5%	57.5
2,000	54.2%	53.1%	53.6%	53.8%		55.0
1,750						52.5
1,500-	2,159	2,137	2,242	2,195	2,354	50.0
1,500-	4Q2016	1Q2017	2Q2017	3Q2017	4Q2017	50.0
R	egulatory c	osts				
E	xpenses exc	luding regu	latory costs			
<b>—</b> C	/I ratio (4-q	uarter rollin	g average)			

Operating expenses (in FUR million) and cost/income ratio (in %)

ING's fourth-quarter underlying cost/income ratio was 59.9% compared with 53.1% one year ago and 51.9% in the previous quarter. On a full-year basis, which reduces among other the seasonal impact of regulatory costs, the underlying cost/income ratio increased to 55.5% from 54.2% in 2016.

The total number of internal staff increased by 265 FTEs in the fourth quarter to 51,815 FTEs at the year-end 2017, due to FTE increases in the Netherlands (partly related to IT), as well as in some of the Challengers & Growth Markets and in the international network of Wholesale Banking in order to support commercial growth. These increases were partly offset by FTE declines in Belgium and Turkey.

#### Addition to loan loss provisions

ING recorded EUR 190 million of net additions to loan loss provisions in the fourth quarter of 2017, up from EUR 138 million a year ago and EUR 124 million in the previous quarter. Risk costs were well below historic averages owing to a benign credit environment in most markets where ING is active.



Addition to loan loss provisions (in EUR million)

Net additions to loan loss provisions in Wholesale Banking were EUR 68 million, or 18 basis points of average riskweighted assets (RWA), up from EUR 31 million recorded in the fourth quarter of 2016 and EUR 46 million in the previous quarter, but still well below the bank-wide through-the-cycle average of 40-45 basis points. The higher risk costs were the result of a limited number of larger additions, partially offset by some releases.

Retail Netherlands recorded risk costs of just EUR 5 million, due to the improved macroeconomic conditions and the strong Dutch housing market, compared with a net addition

of EUR 29 million in the fourth quarter of 2016 and a release of EUR 22 million in the previous quarter. In Retail Belgium, risk costs were EUR 27 million, down from EUR 36 million one year ago and EUR 28 million in the previous quarter. Risk costs in the Retail Challengers & Growth Markets were EUR 90 million, somewhat above the level recorded in previous quarters. The increase was affected by an LGD model update in Turkey and an add-on in Spain, despite a net release in Germany for the consumer lending portfolio.

The non-performing loan (NPL) ratio of ING improved to 1.9% compared with 2.0% at the end of September 2017 and 2.1% at the end of December 2016.

Total fourth-quarter risk costs were 25 basis points of average risk-weighted assets (RWA) versus 18 basis points in the fourth guarter of 2016 and 16 basis points in the third guarter of 2017. For the full-year 2017, risk costs were 22 basis points of average risk-weighted assets, which is well below ING's through-the-cycle average of 40-45 basis points.

#### Underlying result before tax

ING's fourth-quarter 2017 underlying result before tax was EUR 1,560 million, down from EUR 1,955 million one year ago and EUR 1,995 million in the third quarter of 2017. The decrease was mainly caused by higher expenses, whereas income was slightly lower, primarily due to the weak Financial Markets results. Risk costs were higher on both comparable quarters, but still well below the through-thecycle average.

#### Underlying result before tax (in EUR million)



#### Underlying net result

ING's underlying net result was EUR 1,001 million. This is 27.5% lower than the EUR 1,381 million recorded in the fourth guarter of 2016, and down 27.4% from EUR 1,378 million in the third guarter of 2017. The effective underlying tax rate was 34.8% compared with 28.5% a year ago and 29.8% in the previous quarter. The relatively high tax charge in the fourth quarter of 2017 was mainly driven by the impact of the tax reforms in the US and Belgium, which resulted in a tax charge to record a reduction in deferred tax assets.

In the fourth quarter of 2017, ING's underlying return on IFRS-EU equity was 8.3%, down from 11.1% reported over the fourth quarter of 2016 and 11.5% in the previous quarter. On a full-year basis, the underlying return on ING's average IFRS-EU equity improved to 10.2% in 2017 from 10.1% one year ago. As per the end of the first quarter of 2017,

ING's underlying return on equity is calculated using IFRS-EU shareholders' equity after excluding 'interim profit not included in CET1 capital'. As of 31 December 2017, interim profit not included in CET1 capital amounted to EUR 1,670 million, which is equal to the proposed final dividend over 2017.

#### Return on equity (in %)



— Underlying return on IFRS-EU equity (4-quarter rolling average)

#### Net result

ING's fourth-quarter net result increased to EUR 1,015 million from EUR 750 million in the fourth quarter of 2016, but declined from EUR 1,376 million in the third quarter of 2017. The net result of ING also includes the net result from Insurance Other (included under continuing operations) and – when applicable – divestments, special items and the net result from discontinued operations.

In the fourth quarter of 2017, ING recorded a net result from Insurance Other of EUR 15 million. This profit reflects the result from the sale of 13 million warrants on Voya shares in the fourth quarter of 2017 and the change in valuation of the remaining warrants on Voya and NN Group shares compared with the end of September. In the year-ago quarter, the valuation of warrants on NN Group and Voya shares resulted in a profit of EUR 158 million versus a loss of EUR 3 million in the third quarter of 2017. At year-end 2017, ING held warrants for approximately 35 million shares in NN Group at an exercise price of EUR 40.00 per share, and warrants for approximately 6.5 million shares in Voya at an exercise price of USD 48.75 per share. The combined fair value of these warrants was EUR 54 million at year-end 2017.

In 2017, there was one special item in the third quarter of the year and related to a tax charge at ING Australia Holdings Ltd, for which a full reimbursement will be received from NN Group. Although the bottom-line impact for ING was nil, it affected both the tax and 'other income' lines in the consolidated statement of profit or loss. In 2016, special items after tax were recorded in the first quarter (EUR -13 million, related to older restructuring programmes in Retail Netherlands) and in the fourth quarter (EUR -787 million for restructuring provisions related to the digital transformation programmes as announced at ING's Investor Day in October 2016).

In 2017, there were no discontinued operations. In 2016, ING recorded a net result of EUR 441 million on the discontinued

operations of NN Group, of which EUR -2 million was recorded in the fourth quarter.

ING's net result per share was EUR 0.26 in the fourth quarter of 2017, based on an average number of shares outstanding of 3,884.6 million during the quarter. ING's full-year 2017 net result was EUR 4,905 million, or EUR 1.26 per share.

#### Dividend

ING is committed to maintaining a CET1 ratio above the prevailing fully loaded requirement, currently estimated to be 11.8% by 2019, plus a comfortable management buffer (to include Pillar 2 Guidance). ING aims to pay a progressive dividend.

The Board proposes to pay a total 2017 dividend of EUR 2.6 billion, or EUR 0.67 per ordinary share, subject to the approval of shareholders at the Annual General Meeting in April 2018. Taking into account the interim dividend of EUR 0.24 per ordinary share that was paid in August 2017, the final 2017 dividend will amount to EUR 0.43 per ordinary share and will be paid in cash, shortly after the Annual General Meeting.

#### IFRS 9

The Group's IFRS 9 implementation is largely finalised in line with its anticipated time schedule. It is currently expected that the IFRS 9 impact at transition on ING Group's CET1 ratio, taking into account the existing regulatory provision shortfall, will be a reduction of approximately 20 basis points. This is in line with earlier communicated levels.

The impact on CET1 capital is mainly caused by the change in the classification and measurement of a part of the liquidity portfolio.

	Retail Benel		Netherland	de la	Belgium		
In EUR million	4Q2017	402016	4Q2017 4Q201		4Q2017	4Q2016	
Profit or loss	402017	402010	402017	402010	402017	402010	
	1 750	1 700	000	910	151	1.00	
Net interest income	1,359	1,390	908		451	480	
Net commission income	238	223	152	138	86	86	
Investment income	2	0	0	2	2	-2	
Other income	124	163	76	95	48	68	
Total underlying income	1,723	1,776	1,136	1,145	587	631	
Expenses excl. regulatory costs	900	874	550	539	350	335	
Regulatory costs	75	83	65	75	10	8	
Operating expenses	975	957	615	614	360	343	
Gross result	748	819	521	531	227	288	
Addition to loan loss provisions	32	65	5	29	27	36	
Underlying result before tax	716	754	516	502	200	252	
Customer lending/deposits (end of period, in EUR billion) <sup>1)</sup>							
Residential mortgages	153.5	156.6	114.6	120.9	38.9	35.7	
Other customer lending	77.8	75.5	35.3	34.4	42.6	41.1	
Customer deposits	221.8	215.9	139.3	134.7	82.5	81.1	
Profitability and efficiency <sup>1)</sup>							
Cost/income ratio	56.6%	53.9%	54.1%	53.6%	61.3%	54.4%	
Return on equity based on 12.0% common equity Tier 1 <sup>2)</sup>	19.2%	21.3%	26.2%	24.8%	9.6%	16.2%	
Employees (internal FTEs, end of period)	17,255	17,636	9,050	9,048	8,205	8,588	
Risk <sup>1)</sup>							
Risk costs in bps of average RWA	15	31	4	23	30	43	
Risk-weighted assets (end of period, in EUR billion)	83.4	83.3	48.2	49.1	35.1	34.2	

<sup>1)</sup> Key figures based on underlying figures.
 <sup>2)</sup> Underlying after-tax return divided by average equity based on 12.0% CET1 ratio (annualised).

#### **Retail Benelux**

"In the Netherlands, fourth-quarter results were solid as stable margins, low risk costs and our cost-savings initiatives helped compensate for the impact from the 2017 Dutch bank tax and slightly lower lending volumes.

In Belgium, results decreased year-on-year, due to continued margin pressure on savings and current accounts as a result of the low interest rate environment. Expenses were up, mainly related to our transformation programmes, whereas risk costs declined.

In the fourth quarter, we made significant progress in further digitalising and centralising our services in order to support and advise our clients on their daily banking needs. I am proud to see that in times of organisational change we keep the focus on our customers and have regained the number one NPS score in Belgium.

Roland Boekhout, Member Management Board Banking, Head of Market Leaders

#### **Retail Netherlands**

Retail Netherlands posted an underlying fourth-quarter result before tax of EUR 516 million, up 2.8% from the fourth quarter of 2016, due to lower risk costs reflecting the continued positive economic development in the Netherlands. Income was slightly lower as resilient interest margins and higher fee income largely offset the impact of lower lending volumes and the loss on the sale of an equity stake. Sequentially, the underlying result before tax declined 24.7% from EUR 685 million in the third quarter of 2017. Income remained resilient, but underlying expenses were EUR 140 million higher, mainly due to higher regulatory costs, a restructuring provision related to the rationalisation of the joint ATM network in the Netherlands, and an addition to legal provisions. By contrast, the third guarter of 2017 included a release of provisions, mainly related to the new collective labour agreement. Risk costs increased to EUR 5 million from a release of EUR 22 million in the previous quarter. The return on equity, based on a 12% common equity Tier 1 ratio, was a strong 26.2% for the quarter and 28.6% for the full-year 2017.

#### Underlying result before tax - Retail Netherlands (in EUR million)



Total underlying income decreased 0.8% year-on-year, mainly reflecting lower income on mortgages due to negative volume growth and the loss on the sale of an equity stake. This was largely compensated by higher commission income, an improved interest margin on savings and deposits (largely due to client savings-rate adjustments), and higher income from Bank Treasury-related products. The interest result was relatively stable year-on-year at EUR 908 million. Sequentially, total underlying income remained resilient, due to a slightly higher interest margin on lending and savings, partly offset by a lower margin on current accounts and the loss on the sale of an equity stake.

Customer lending decreased by EUR 1.0 billion in the fourth quarter to EUR 149.9 billion. Excluding the EUR -0.7 billion decline in the WUB run-off portfolio and the EUR 0.8 billion growth in Bank Treasury-related items, net core lending declined by EUR 1.0 billion, of which EUR -0.4 billion was in mortgages and EUR -0.6 billion in other lending. Net customer deposits (excluding Bank Treasury) decreased by EUR 1.2 billion, as higher current accounts could not compensate for the outflow in savings and deposits.

Underlying operating expenses slightly increased by EUR 1 million, or 0.2%, from a year ago to EUR 615 million. On a sequential basis, expenses increased by EUR 140 million, or 29.5%, of which EUR 44 million was caused by higher regulatory costs due to the booking of the Dutch bank tax in the fourth quarter. Expenses excluding regulatory costs rose by EUR 96 million on the third quarter of 2017. This was mainly due to higher staff costs, additional restructuring costs related to the joint ATM network in the Netherlands, and an addition to legal provisions, whereas the third quarter included a release of provisions related mainly to the new collective labour agreement.

Fourth-quarter 2017 risk costs were EUR 5 million, compared with EUR 29 million a year ago and EUR -22 million in the previous quarter. Risk costs remained at a low level due to releases in business lending and a small net addition in mortgages, reflecting the continued positive economic conditions in the Netherlands.

Risk-weighted assets decreased by EUR 1.0 billion in the fourth quarter of 2017 to EUR 48.2 billion, mainly reflecting positive risk migration in both mortgages and the business lending portfolio.

#### Retail Belgium

Retail Belgium, including Luxembourg, posted a fourthquarter 2017 underlying result before tax of EUR 200 million, down 20.6% from a year ago, and 3.8% lower than in the previous quarter. The underlying result before tax was EUR 52 million lower than in the fourth quarter of 2016. This decline mainly reflects lower interest results (despite continued growth in customer lending) and higher expenses, partly compensated by lower risk costs. On a sequential basis, the underlying result before tax decreased by EUR 8 million, predominantly due to higher regulatory costs in the fourth quarter of 2017. The return on equity, based on a 12% common equity Tier 1 ratio, was 9.6% for the quarter and 11.7% for the full-year 2017.





Total underlying income was EUR 587 million, down EUR 44 million, or 7.0% year-on-year, mainly due to continued margin pressure on savings and current accounts as a result of the low interest rate environment; a EUR 17 million shift of payments-related income from Retail to Wholesale Banking during this quarter; and a one-time release from hedged items at Record Bank in the fourth quarter of 2016. Sequentially, income remained flat, as a decline in commission income and a lower margin on customer deposits were offset by higher interest results on lending products.

Customer lending increased by EUR 1.8 billion in the fourth quarter of 2017 to EUR 81.4 billion. Net core lending, which excludes Bank Treasury products, also grew by EUR 1.8 billion, of which EUR 1.0 billion was in mortgages and EUR 0.8 billion in other customer lending (mainly business lending). Customer deposits recorded an outflow of EUR 1.0 billion to EUR 82.5 billion, primarily in current accounts.

Underlying operating expenses were EUR 360 million, up 5.0% from a year ago. This increase was mainly due to higher external staff expenses related to the transformation programmes. On a sequential basis, expenses increased by EUR 9 million, or 2.6%, as the fourth quarter of 2017 included higher regulatory costs. Expenses excluding regulatory costs fell 0.6%.

Fourth-quarter 2017 risk costs were EUR 27 million, or 30 basis points of average risk-weighted assets, compared with EUR 36 million in the fourth quarter of 2016 and EUR 28 million in the previous quarter.

Risk-weighted assets remained relatively stable in the fourth quarter of 2017 at EUR 35.1 billion compared with EUR 35.3 billion in the third quarter. The difference mainly reflects positive risk migration, a model update and lower operational risk-weighted assets, which offset lending growth.

	Retail Challen & Growth Mar	gers kets	Germanu		Other		
In EUR million	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	
Profit or loss							
Net interest income	1,065	956	444	410	620	546	
Net commission income	157	152	63	53	94	99	
Investment income	14	30	11	-1	3	31	
Other income	19	51	-15	-2	35	53	
Total underlying income	1,255	1,190	503	461	752	729	
Expenses excl. regulatory costs	730	625	242	208	488	417	
Regulatory costs	76	27	28	-23	48	50	
Operating expenses	806	652	270	185	536	467	
Gross result	449	538	233	276	216	262	
Addition to loan loss provisions	90	42	-18	-46	108	87	
Underlying result before tax	359	496	251	321	108	175	
Customer lending/deposits (end of period, in EUR billion) <sup>1)</sup>							
Residential mortgages	129.6	124.7	70.0	68.7	59.7	56.0	
Other customer lending	37.9	32.7	12.1	9.8	25.9	22.9	
Customer deposits	253.1	242.4	132.7	129.0	120.4	113.5	
Profitability and efficiency <sup>1)</sup>							
Cost/income ratio	64.2%	54.8%	53.7%	40.2%	71.3%	64.1%	
Return on equity based on 12.0% common equity Tier $1^{2}$	12.4%	17.8%	26.1%	31.6%	5.5%	10.4%	
Employees (internal FTEs, end of period)	22,753	22,424	4,715	4,540	18,038	17,884	
Risk <sup>1)</sup>							
Risk costs in bps of average RWA	48	23	-29	-72	87	73	
Risk-weighted assets (end of period, in EUR billion)	74.3	72.7	24.9	25.4	49.4	47.4	

<sup>1)</sup> Key figures based on underlying figures.
 <sup>2)</sup> Underlying after-tax return divided by average equity based on 12.0% CET1 ratio (annualised).

#### **Retail Challengers & Growth Markets**

"In 4Q17, we continued the strong inflow of primary customers and added 281,000 primary clients, whereby particularly Germany, Poland, and Australia showed exemplary growth.

Investment products and the core lending balances experienced strong net growth this quarter and grew by respectively 19% and 8% year-on-year. There has been a cost increase in comparison with the prior-year quarter, but this is largely explained by higher regulatory levies, several non-recurring items, as well as higher costs related to strategic projects and to support the strong business growth.

As 2018 presents itself with new opportunities, the C&G markets will continue to deliver on their Think Forward priorities."

Aris Bogdaneris, Member Management Board Banking, Head of Challengers & Growth Markets

#### Retail Germany

Retail Germany, including Austria, recorded a fourth-quarter 2017 underlying result before tax of EUR 251 million, down from EUR 321 million in the fourth quarter of 2016. This decrease can be largely explained by EUR 51 million higher regulatory costs and higher net releases of risk costs in the fourth quarter of 2016. Compared with the third quarter of 2017, the result before tax improved by EUR 31 million. The increase was driven by higher income and a net release in risk costs, partly offset by higher regulatory expenses, as well as higher costs related to the acquisition of primary customers and investments in Project Welcome. Retail Germany continued its sound business momentum, adding 62,000 primary customers in the guarter and growing net core customer lending by EUR 0.5 billion. The return on equity, based on a 12% common equity Tier 1 ratio, was 26.1% for the guarter and 21.2% for full-year 2017.





Total underlying income was EUR 503 million, up 9.1% from the fourth quarter of 2016. The increase was mainly attributable to higher net interest income, supported by higher lending volumes, client savings-rate adjustments

and higher commission income, with investment products as one of the key drivers. Compared with the third quarter of 2017, total income increased 7.0%, mainly due to higher commission income and improved hedge ineffectiveness results. Net interest income, which benefited from continued lending growth and the adjustment of the client savings rate in mid-August, rose 1.4%.

Total customer lending rose by EUR 0.5 billion in the fourth quarter of 2017 to EUR 82.0 billion. Net core lending, which excludes Bank Treasury products, also increased by EUR 0.5 billion, of which EUR 0.3 billion was attributable to residential mortgages and EUR 0.2 billion to consumer lending. Customer deposits, excluding Bank Treasury, recorded net growth of EUR 0.5 billion in the quarter. EUR 0.9 billion of this growth was attributable to current accounts, partly offset by a EUR -0.4 billion decrease in savings and deposits.

Operating expenses rose to EUR 270 million from EUR 185 million in the fourth quarter of 2016. Regulatory expenses increased by EUR 51 million, as the year-ago quarter benefited from a refund of costs for the 2016 deposit guarantee scheme for deposits over EUR 100,000. Excluding regulatory costs, operating expenses rose 16.3% from a year ago to EUR 242 million. The increase was mainly attributable to higher headcount to support business growth, higher costs related to the acquisition of primary customers, and investments in Project Welcome. Compared with the third quarter, expenses excluding regulatory costs increased 5.7%, also due to the aforementioned factors.

Risk costs were EUR -18 million compared with EUR -46 million in the fourth quarter of 2016 and EUR 2 million in the third quarter of 2017. Fourth-quarter 2017 risk costs included a release of EUR 22 million, reflecting model updates for consumer lending and overdrafts. The fourth quarter of 2016 included a release of EUR 44 million, reflecting model updates for mortgages.

Risk-weighted assets remained relatively stable in the fourth quarter of 2017: EUR 24.9 billion compared with EUR 25.0 billion in the third quarter.

#### **Retail Other Challengers & Growth Markets**

Retail Other Challengers & Growth Markets posted an underlying result before tax of EUR 108 million, down from EUR 175 million in the fourth quarter of 2016. Strong net interest income growth in most markets, which was supported by continued volume growth in customer lending and deposits, was offset by lower realised gains on bond sales; higher expenses for staff, marketing and strategic projects; and higher risk costs. Compared with the third quarter of 2017, the underlying result before tax dropped by EUR 128 million, as the previous quarter included a one-time gain of EUR 24 million from the sale of MasterCard shares in Turkey and the EUR 54 million annual dividend from Bank of Beijing. Excluding these two items, the underlying result before tax decreased by EUR 50 million, as revenue growth in most businesses was offset by a seasonal increase in regulatory expenses; higher expenses for staff, marketing and strategic projects; and higher risk costs. The return on equity, based on a 12% common equity Tier 1 ratio, declined to 5.5% for the quarter. For the full-year 2017, the return on equity was 10.8% versus 11.7% in 2016.

#### Underlying result before tax - Retail Other Challengers & Growth Markets (in EUR million)



Total underlying income rose to EUR 752 million from EUR 729 million in the year-ago quarter. This increase was driven by strong commercial results across most countries, reflecting continued customer and volume growth. Income was furthermore supported by the lowering of core savings rates in Spain and Australia in the fourth quarter of 2017. These positive developments were only partly offset by lower realised gains from bond sales. Compared with the third quarter of 2017, underlying income decreased by EUR 47 million, as the previous quarter included the dividend from Bank of Beijing and the one-time gain on the sale of MasterCard shares in Turkey.

Customer lending grew by EUR 1.7 billion in the third quarter to EUR 85.6 billion. Excluding currency impacts and Bank Treasury, net core lending grew by EUR 2.4 billion (of which EUR 1.5 billion was in mortgages and EUR 0.9 billion in other lending), with a large part generated in Australia, Spain and Poland. Net customer deposits, excluding currency impacts and Bank Treasury, increased by EUR 2.8 billion, primarily reflecting net inflows from customers in Poland and Spain.

Operating expenses rose by EUR 69 million from a year ago to EUR 536 million. This was mainly due to increased staff and marketing expenses in most countries to support business growth, as well as to higher investments for strategic projects. Compared with the previous quarter, operating expenses increased by EUR 42 million due to the aforementioned impacts and higher regulatory costs.

Risk costs were EUR 108 million versus EUR 87 million in the fourth quarter of 2016 and EUR 69 million in the previous quarter. The fourth quarter included a EUR 20 million increase in Turkey to reflect model updates for cards and an add-on for personal finance products, as well as a EUR 10 million portfolio add-on for mortgages in Spain. Risk costs in basis points over average risk-weighted assets increased to 87 basis points in the fourth quarter of 2017 from 55 basis points in the previous quarter.

Risk-weighted assets decreased by EUR 0.9 billion in the fourth quarter of 2017 to EUR 49.4 billion, as the impact from lending growth was more than offset by lower operational risk-weighted assets and currency impacts.

# Segment Reporting: Wholesale Banking

	Tote Wholesale		Industry l	ending	General Lending & Transaction Services		Financial	Markets	Bank Treasu	ry & Othe
In EUR million	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016
Profit or loss										
Net interest income	1,031	959	550	560	288	273	172	106	21	19
Net commission income	279	235	145	123	104	95	34	18	-3	-1
Investment income	5	8	4	0	0	0	-1	1	1	7
Other income excl. CVA/DVA	125	263	19	10	31	25	21	154	54	75
Underlying income excl. CVA/DVA	1,441	1,465	719	693	423	393	227	279	73	100
CVA/DVA	-34	6					-34	6		
Total underlying income	1,406	1,471	719	693	423	393	192	285	73	100
Expenses excl. regulatory costs	670	592	177	168	207	187	242	222	44	15
Regulatory costs	112	99	32	27	23	22	50	43	7	8
Operating expenses	781	691	208	195	231	209	292	265	51	22
Gross result	625	779	511	498	192	184	-100	19	22	78
Addition to loan loss provisions	68	31	36	2	4	9	-1	-8	29	28
Underlying result before tax	557	748	474	496	188	175	-99	27	-7	50
Customer lending/deposits (end of period, in EUR billion) <sup>1)</sup>										
Residential mortgages	0.9	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	1.1
Other customer lending	173.8	169.9	113.2	114.6	53.1	48.1	0.9	1.3	6.6	5.9
Customer deposits	65.1	64.8	1.6	1.7	50.5	50.4	5.0	4.6	7.9	8.2
Profitability and efficiency <sup>1)</sup>										
Cost/income ratio	55.6%	47.0%	29.0%	28.1%	54.6%	53.2%	152.0%	93.2%	69.8%	22.2%
Return on equity based on 12.0% common equity Tier 1 <sup>2)</sup>	7.9%	12.2%	15.7%	18.6%	9.6%	9.8%	-6.2%	1.9%	-22.4%	10.4%
Employees (internal FTEs, end of period)	11,804	11,483								
Risk <sup>1)</sup>										
Risk costs in bps of average RWA	18	8	21	1	3	8	-1	-11	128	109
Risk-weighted assets (end of period, in EUR billion)	149.4	153.8	69.3	69.9	48.0	45.6	23.2	28.0	9.0	10.3

<sup>1)</sup> Key figures based on underlying figures.
<sup>2)</sup> Underlying after-tax return divided by average equity based on 12.0% CET1 ratio (annualised).

#### Wholesale Banking

"Wholesale Banking recorded a solid fourth-quarter 2017 result, driven by income growth in Industry Lending and General Lending & Transaction Services and despite low market volatility which resulted in lower income for Financial Markets. Commission income rose 19% compared to 4Q16 and 11% sequentially. Expenses were up due to higher regulatory costs and increased headcount to support business growth.

On the innovation front we achieved breakthroughs among others in blockchain. We collaborated with banks, commodity traders and the energy sector to create a blockchain-based digital platform for the energy commodity trading industry. We also upgraded our Easy Trading Connect platform and completed the agricultural sector's first blockchain commodity transaction, simplifying complex transaction structures.

On the sustainability front, we supported the EUR 600 million green bond for Toyota Motor Credit Corp."

Isabel Fernandez, Member Management Board Banking, Head of Wholesale Banking Wholesale Banking posted a good set of full-year 2017 results on the back of continued strong Industry Lending performance, steady volume growth across industries and products, and a low level of risk costs. The full-year 2017 underlying result before tax was EUR 2,846 million, up 6.7% from 2016.

In the fourth quarter of 2017, the underlying result before tax was EUR 557 million, or EUR 191 million lower than in the yearago quarter. The decrease reflects lower Financial Markets results (including negative CVA/DVA impacts), cost growth mainly related to increased headcount to support business growth, and higher risk costs (as the fourth quarter of 2016 included some significant releases). The decline compared with the previous quarter was caused by lower Financial Markets results, the inclusion of the annual Dutch Bank tax in this quarter, and higher risk costs. Wholesale Banking overall maintained positive business momentum, with EUR 3.0 billion of net core lending growth (excluding currency effects) in the fourth quarter. The return on equity, based on a 12% common equity Tier 1 ratio, was 7.9% in the quarter and 10.9% for full-year 2017.

### Underlying result before tax - Wholesale Banking (in EUR million)



## Segment Reporting: Wholesale Banking

Total underlying income was 4.4% lower than in the fourth quarter of 2016 and 1.7% higher than in the previous quarter. CVA/DVA impacts were EUR -34 million this quarter compared with EUR 6 million in the same quarter of 2016 and EUR 2 million in the third quarter of 2017. Excluding CVA/DVA impacts, income was down 1.6% year-on-year, but rose 4.4% compared with the third quarter of 2017. The year-on-year decrease was mainly attributable to lower revenues in Financial Markets and Bank Treasury & Other, which could not be fully compensated by the stronger performance of Industry Lending and General Lending & Transactions Services. Sequentially, the weak quarter for Financial Markets was more than offset by robust results in the other business lines.

Net interest income increased 7.5% year-on-year, as stronger interest results in Financial Markets (with an offset in other income) and General Lending & Transaction Services were only partly offset by slightly lower interest results in Industry Lending. On a sequential basis, the interest result was up 6.6% due to the higher interest results in Financial Markets as well as in Industry Lending.

Commission income rose 18.7% from the year-ago quarter and 10.7% from the previous quarter. Compared with the fourth quarter of 2016, commission income increased mainly due to higher transaction-related fees in Structured Finance and Financial Markets (notably in Corporate Finance). On a sequential basis, commission income was up 10.7%, mainly in Financial Markets and General Lending & Transaction Services .

Total other income amounted to EUR 91 million, down from EUR 269 million in the year-ago quarter and EUR 166 million in the previous quarter. Both decreases can be explained by the change in CVA/DVA impacts combined with a sharp decline in Financial Markets, mainly due to significantly lower other income in the fixed income, credit trading and equity businesses in the current quarter.

Operating expenses increased to EUR 781 million from EUR 691 million in the fourth quarter of 2016 and EUR 638 million in the previous quarter. Year-on-year, the cost growth was mainly due to higher headcount to support business growth, a one-off legal provision in the current quarter against a release of provisions in the year-ago quarter, and a EUR 13 million increase in regulatory costs. Compared with the third quarter of 2017, operating expenses were 22.4% higher, mainly due to the inclusion of the annual Dutch Bank tax in the fourth quarter. Excluding regulatory costs, expenses were up 7.2% as this quarter includes a one-off legal provision as well as increased staff costs to support business growth.

Risk costs for Wholesale Banking amounted to EUR 68 million, (or 18 basis points of average RWA) compared to a very low EUR 31 million in the fourth quarter of 2016, and EUR 46 million in the previous quarter. The relatively low risk costs in the current quarter were supported by net releases for clients in the UK and Ukraine and only a few larger additions. Risk-weighted assets increased by EUR 1.3 billion in the fourth quarter to EUR 149.4 billion, mainly reflecting volume growth and partly offset by positive risk migration, lower operational and market risk-weighted assets, and currency impacts.

#### **Industry Lending**

#### Underlying result before tax -Industry Lending (in EUR million)



Industry Lending posted an underlying result before tax of EUR 474 million, down 4.4% year-on-year and 10.9% lower than the third quarter of 2017, because higher revenues could not fully offset the increase in risk costs and expenses.

Income remained robust, increasing 3.8% on the same quarter of 2016. This was aided by the sale of an equity stake within Structured Finance, while overall lower lending margins in Structured Finance were compensated by higher commissions and volume growth. Real Estate Finance also contributed to the revenue increase: higher prepayments benefited the overall margin and the loan book continued to grow. On a sequential basis, income rose 3.3%, supported by volume growth, the aforementioned sale of an equity stake, and higher prepayments in Real Estate Finance, while margins in Structured Finance held firm at around the same level as in the previous quarter.

In the fourth quarter of 2017, net core lending (which excludes currency impacts) grew by EUR 4.4 billion compared with the previous quarter. This was mainly visible in Structured Finance, but there was also moderate growth in the Real Estate Finance. The year-on-year core lending growth, excluding currency impacts, totalled EUR 6.5 billion, of which EUR 4.2 billion was in Structured Finance and EUR 2.3 billion in Real Estate Finance.

Expenses were 6.7% higher than in the fourth quarter of 2016, mainly due to higher headcount to support business growth. On a sequential basis, expenses increased by EUR 40 million, largely due to the EUR 31 million increase in regulatory costs.

Risk costs were EUR 36 million, up from EUR 2 million in the fourth quarter of 2016 and EUR -4 million in the previous quarter. Risk costs in the current quarter included some larger files in Real Estate Finance in the Netherlands and Structured Finance in BeLux. The third quarter of 2017 included some large releases for Structured Finance clients in Asia and the UK, while the same quarter of last year included some releases for Ukrainian and Spanish clients.

## Segment Reporting: Wholesale Banking

#### **General Lending & Transaction Services**

Underlying result before tax -General Lending & Transaction Services (in EUR million)



The underlying result before tax recorded by General Lending & Transaction Services was EUR 188 million, up 7.4% yearon-year and 6.4% higher than in the previous guarter, mainly due to higher income and lower risk costs.

Income rose 7.6% year-on-year, mainly attributable to Payments & Cash Management (PCM) and Working Capital Solutions. Higher income in PCM was primarily driven by a EUR 17 million transfer of international payment income from Retail to Wholesale Banking in Belgium. Bank Mendes Gans reported higher income levels due to volume growth and higher US dollar interest rates. Sequentially, income increased 9.9%, due to higher Trade Finance Services income, the transfer of income to PCM, and higher commission income in General Lending.

Year-on-year, net customer lending (excl. currency impacts) grew by EUR 6.6 billion, due to portfolio growth in Working Capital Solutions and General Lending. In the fourth quarter of 2017, net customer lending decreased by EUR 1.4 billion.

Expenses rose 10.5% year-on-year, mainly reflecting higher staff-related costs to support business growth. Compared with the previous quarter, expenses were up EUR 43 million, of which EUR 23 million was due to higher regulatory costs. Expenses excluding regulatory costs rose 10.1% and was largely attributable to higher staff costs to support business growth and year-end expenditures in commercial activities.

Risk costs amounted to EUR 4 million for the guarter versus EUR 9 million in the fourth guarter of 2016 and EUR 21 million in the previous quarter.

#### **Financial Markets**



Financial Markets posted an underlying result before tax of EUR -99 million, down from EUR 27 million in the fourth quarter of 2016 and EUR 20 million in the previous quarter. The result in the current quarter includes EUR -34 million of CVA/DVA impacts compared with EUR 6 million of CVA/DVA impacts in the fourth quarter of 2016 and EUR 2 million in the previous quarter.

Income excluding CVA/DVA impacts fell 18.6% year-on-year and was 9.6% lower than in the previous quarter. Financial Markets revenues excluding CVA/DVA amounted to EUR 227 million; this is EUR 52 million lower than in the fourth quarter of 2016, which had more favourable market conditions. The decline was mainly caused by significantly lower net revenues in the fixed income, credit trading and equity businesses, which suffered during the fourth quarter of 2017, from low levels of volatility, low interest rates in Europe and tight credit spreads. This environment give little incentive for institutional clients to actively manage their portfolios. In addition, the equity derivatives business was shrunk significantly in 2017. Corporate Finance recorded a stronger quarter on the back of higher deal activity, which is visible in the net commission income line.

Operating expenses increased 10.2% year-on-year and 25.9% sequentially, partially due to higher regulatory expenses. Excluding regulatory costs, expenses increased 9.0% and 7.1% respectively. This was largely attributable to temporarily elevated cost levels related to the consolidation of most of the trading activities in London.

#### Bank Treasury & Other

Underlying result before tax -

Bank Treasury & Other (in EUR million)



Bank Treasury & Other recorded an underlying result before tax of EUR -7 million, down from EUR 50 million in the same guarter of 2016, but up from EUR -31 million in the previous guarter. Income decreased 27.0% compared with the yearago guarter, as Bank Treasury had a strong performance in money markets in the fourth quarter of 2016. Sequentially, income rose 49.0%, as the previous guarter included negative revaluations on derivatives used for hedging purposes.

Operating expenses rose by EUR 29 million year-on-year as the fourth quarter of 2017 included a one-off legal provision versus a release in the year-ago quarter. Sequentially, operating expenses remained flat at EUR 51 million.

Risk costs, predominantly related to the Italian Lease run-off portfolio, were EUR 29 million versus EUR 28 million in the same quarter of last year, which also included EUR 13 million for Corporate Investments. Risk costs for the third quarter of 2017 were EUR 28 million.

# Segment Reporting: Corporate Line Banking

Corporate Line: Consolidated profit or lo	ss account	
In EUR million	4Q2017	4Q2016
Profit or loss		
Net interest income	58	37
Net commission income	0	0
Investment income	0	1
Other income	-73	-12
Total underlying income	-16	25
Expenses excl. regulatory costs	55	68
Regulatory costs	0	0
Operating expenses	55	68
Gross result	-71	-43
Addition to loan loss provisions	0	0
Underlying result before tax	-71	-43
of which:		
Income on capital surplus	22	51
Financing charges	-18	-18
Other Capital Management	62	79
Capital Management excl. DVA	66	112
Bank Treasury excl. DVA	-86	-112
DVA	-10	9
Other excl. DVA	-41	-51

Corporate Line Banking posted an underlying result before tax of EUR -71 million in the fourth quarter of 2017 compared with EUR -43 million in the same quarter of 2016. Underlying income decreased from EUR 25 million to EUR -16 million, primarily due to lower income on capital surplus, negative DVA, and negative revaluation results. This decrease was partly offset by matured high-cost legacy bonds and lower costs on net investment hedging. Expenses decreased by EUR 13 million compared with the year-ago quarter, mainly due to lower shareholder expenses and a higher value-added tax (VAT) refund. The underlying result before tax in the third quarter of 2017, which benefited from positive hedge ineffectiveness and less negative DVA, was EUR -52 million.

The Capital Management-related result, excluding DVA, was EUR 66 million in the fourth quarter of 2017 compared with EUR 112 million in the same quarter of last year. Income on capital surplus was EUR 22 million compared with EUR 51 million in the fourth quarter of 2016; the decrease was due to lower income on capital investments. Financing charges remained stable. The result of Other Capital Management amounted to EUR 62 million versus EUR 79 million in the same quarter of last year. The main reasons for this decrease were the negative revaluation result on the prepayment swap for externally sold securitised mortgages and a positive revaluation result on the USD call options in the fourth quarter of 2016. These negative effects were largely offset by lower costs of net investment hedging and share-based payments.

Bank Treasury-related results primarily include the isolated legacy costs (mainly negative interest results) caused by the replacement of short-term funding with long-term funding during 2012 and 2013. The fourth-quarter 2017 result improved to EUR -86 million from EUR -112 million one year

ago. The improvement was mainly due to the positive impact of matured high-cost legacy bonds, partly offset by negative hedge ineffectiveness.

DVA on own-issued debt was EUR -10 million compared with EUR 9 million in the fourth quarter of 2016. The negative quarterly result was due to a tightening of ING credit spreads in the fourth quarter of 2017 versus a widening in the same quarter of 2016.

The 'Other' result, which comprises items such as overhead costs and unallocated other expenses, improved by EUR 10 million. This was mainly driven by lower shareholder expenses and a higher VAT refund in the Netherlands, partly offset by increased expenses for supervision by regulators.

## Segment Reporting: Geographical Split

#### Geographical Split: Consolidated profit or loss account

					_		Oth				Whol Ban	king		
	Nethe		Belg		Germ	5	Challe	5		Markets	Rest of			ier <sup>1)</sup>
In EUR million	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	402016
Profit or loss	1 4 2 0	4 405	500		566	500	70/	770	705	7/4		700	50	7.0
Net interest income	1,128	1,195	508	533	566	506	394	332	385	341	475	398	58	36
Net commission income	217	188	118	99	79	60	61	58	76	87	123	117	0	0
Investment income	-2	2	1	-2	11	-1	2	45	3	-2	5	-2	0	-1
Other income excl. CVA/DVA	120	126	110	184	-14	5	13	12	49	80	-11	64	-60	-16
Underlying income excl. CVA/DVA	1,463	1,511	738	814	641	571	470	448	513	506	591	577	-3	20
CVA/DVA <sup>2)</sup>	-3	-16	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	-33	18	-10	9
Underlying income	1,460	1,495	739	817	641	571	470	448	514	506	559	595	-13	29
Expenses excl. regulatory costs	723	712	457	403	273	236	307	242	261	252	273	243	59	71
Regulatory costs	86	90	41	34	33	-18	26	25	38	42	39	36	0	0
Operating expenses	809	802	498	437	306	218	334	267	299	295	312	279	59	71
Gross result	650	693	240	380	335	353	136	180	215	211	247	316	-72	-42
Addition to loan loss provisions	13	51	46	33	-15	-41	61	24	76	84	9	-13	0	0
Underlying result before tax	637	642	194	348	350	394	75	156	138	127	238	330	-72	-42
Retail Banking	516	502	200	252	251	321	6	84	102	90	0	0	0	0
Wholesale Banking	122	140	-6	96	99	73	69	71	37	37	238	330	-1	0
Corporate Line	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-71	-43
Underlying result before tax	637	642	194	348	350	394	75	156	138	127	238	330	-72	-42
Customer lending/deposits (end of period, in EUR billion) <sup>3)</sup>														
Residential mortgages	115.4	121.9	38.9	35.8	70.0	68.8	50.8	48.3	8.9	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other lending	74.4	73.3	58.6	57.2	38.4	32.7	29.8	25.9	27.5	26.0	60.7	63.0	0.3	0.8
Customer deposits	167.4	165.2	98.8	94.9	133.7	129.9	90.5	86.4	36.6	32.8	13.0	14.0	-0.2	-0.2
Profitability and efficiency <sup>3)</sup>														
Cost/income ratio	55.5%	53.6%	67.5%	53.5%	47.7%	38.1%	71.0%	59.7%	58.2%	58.3%	55.8%	46.8%	n.a.	247.4%
Return on equity based on 12.0% common equity Tier 14	19.9%	18.9%	5.9%	16.1%	21.7%	25.7%	5.3%	15.2%	7.8%	7.4%	7.4%	13.1%	-96.9%	-60.9%
Employees (internal FTEs, end of period)	12,614	12,416	9,655	10,190	5,042	4,833	4,219	4,038	15,786	15,870	4,492	4,191	8	8
Risk <sup>3)</sup>														
Risk costs in bps of average RWA	6	24	36	26	-15	-45	80	36	70	76	5	-8	3	1
Risk-weighted assets (end of period, in EUR billion)	78.3	83.9	50.8	51.3	39.4	37.8	30.8	28.3	42.9	43.2	64.6	65.1	3.0	4.7

<sup>1)</sup> Region Other consists of Corporate Line and Real Estate run-off portfolio. <sup>2)</sup> CVA/DVA reported within Wholesale Banking and Corporate Line.

<sup>3)</sup> Key figures based on underlying figures.
 <sup>4)</sup> Underlying after-tax return divided by average equity based on 12.0% CET1 ratio (annualised).

### Risk-weighted assets - 4Q2017 Geographical split (in percentages) excluding Other



#### **The Netherlands**

The Netherlands posted an underlying result before tax of EUR 637 million, down slightly from EUR 642 million in the fourth guarter of 2016. Income fell by EUR 35 million, or 2.3%, mainly due to lower mortgage volumes, lower income from Financial Markets and a loss on the sale of an equitu stake, partly offset by a higher savings margin and higher commission income. Expenses rose by EUR 7 million, or 0.9%, due to a restructuring provision related to the joint ATM network in the Netherlands and some additions to legal provisions. These were largely offset by the benefits from the cost-saving initiatives. Risk costs fell to 6 basis points of average RWA, driven by the improved economic conditions.

Underlying result before tax - Netherlands (in EUR million)



# Segment Reporting: Geographical Split

#### **Belgium**

Belgium, including ING Luxembourg, recorded an underlying result before tax of EUR 194 million versus EUR 348 million in the fourth quarter of 2016. Total income fell by EUR 78 million, or 9.5%, due to margin pressure and lower Financial Markets revenues, partly offset by higher lending volumes. Expenses rose by EUR 61 million, mainly due to higher external staff expenses related to the transformation programmes, increased regulatory costs and a legal provision in Luxembourg. Risk costs increased to EUR 46 million (36 basis points of average RWA) from EUR 33 million one year ago. The increase in risk costs was entirely in Wholesale Banking after a small release in the fourth quarter of 2016.

Underlying result before tax - Belgium (in EUR million)



#### Germany

Germany's fourth-quarter 2017 underlying result before tax, including ING Austria, fell by EUR 44 million, or 11.2%, from a year ago to EUR 350 million, of which EUR 51 million was caused by higher regulatory costs. Total income rose 12.3%, driven by strong interest and commission income growth in both Retail and Wholesale Banking. Expenses excluding regulatory costs increased 15.7%, mainly due to higher headcount to support business growth, higher costs related to the acquisition of primary customers, and investments in Project Welcome. Risk costs were EUR -15 million in the quarter, while in the year-ago quarter a net release of EUR -41 million was recorded.





#### **Other Challengers**

Other Challengers includes ING's activities in Australia, France, Italy, Spain & Portugal and the Czech Republic. The fourthquarter 2017 underlying result before tax of this segment fell to EUR 75 million from EUR 156 million in the fourth quarter of 2016. Income rose by EUR 22 million due to improved commercial results in most countries. This positive impact was offset by EUR 67 million of higher expenses stemming from higher staff costs to support business growth and higher costs related to strategic projects. Risk costs increased by EUR 37 million to EUR 61 million, mainly due to a portfolio add-on for mortgages in Spain, whereas the fourth quarter of 2016 included releases in Wholesale Banking in Spain.



#### **Growth Markets**

Growth Markets consists of ING's activities in Poland, Romania and Turkey, as well as the Asian bank stakes. The fourthquarter underlying result before tax of this segment rose by EUR 11 million to EUR 138 million compared with the fourth quarter of 2016. The increase was driven by higher income due to strong commercial results in Poland and Romania as well as lower risk costs. Operating expenses for the segment increased slightly compared with the fourth quarter of 2016.

#### Underlying result before tax - Growth Markets (in EUR million)



#### Wholesale Banking Rest of World

Wholesale Banking Rest of World encompasses ING's activities in the UK, Americas, Asia and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe. This segment recorded an underlying result before tax of EUR 238 million, down from EUR 330 million one year ago. The result in the current quarter included EUR -33 million of CVA/DVA impacts versus EUR 18 million in the yearago quarter. Income excluding CVA/DVA impacts was up 2.4%, largely explained by higher General Lending & Transaction Services income driven by business growth. Expenses excluding regulatory costs rose 12.3%, mainly due to higher staff costs. Risk costs were low, but they increased to EUR 9 million from EUR -13 million in the fourth quarter of 2016.

#### Underlying result before tax - WB Rest of World (in EUR million)



### **Consolidated Balance Sheet**

#### olidated balance sheet

consolidated balance sheet			
in EUR million	31 Dec. 17	30 Sep. 17	31 Dec. 16
Assets			
Cash and balances with central banks	21,989	20,667	18,144
Loans and advances to banks	28,811	30,559	28,858
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	123,221	141,034	122,093
- trading assets	116,748	133,720	114,504
- non-trading derivatives	2,231	2,299	2,490
- designated as at fair value through profit or loss	4,242	5,015	5,099
Investments	79,073	79,245	91,663
- debt securities available-for-sale	65,747	66,493	78,888
- debt securities held-to-maturity	9,343	8,898	8,751
- equity securities available-for-sale	3,983	3,854	4,024
Loans and advances to customers	574,535	568,508	563,660
- customer lending	573,951	568,339	561,367
- securities at amortised cost	5,099	5,021	7,471
- provision for loan losses	-4,515	-4,852	-5,178
Investments in associates and joint ventures	1,088	1,066	1,141
Property and equipment	1,801	1,885	2,002
Intangible assets	1,469	1,495	1,484
Other assets	14,229	17,242	16,036
Total assets	846,216	861,701	845,081

ING's total assets decreased by EUR 15.5 billion in the fourth quarter to EUR 846.2 billion, including EUR 2.3 billion of negative currency impacts. Lower financial assets at fair value were partly offset by higher loans and advances to customers and higher cash and balances with central banks. On the liability side, the main decrease was in financial liabilities at fair value, partly offset by higher debt securities in issue and higher customer deposits. Adjusted for currency impacts and excluding Bank Treasury, net growth in customer core lending was EUR 6.8 billion, whereas net growth in customer deposits was EUR 2.7 billion. ING 's loan-to-deposit ratio remained stable at 1.05 compared with the end of September 2017.

#### Cash and balances with central banks

Cash and balances with central banks increased by EUR 1.3 billion to EUR 22.0 billion.

#### Loans and advances to and deposits from banks

Loans and advances to banks decreased by EUR 1.7 billion to EUR 28.8 billion. Deposits from banks decreased by EUR 2.2 billion to EUR 36.8 billion.

#### Financial assets/liabilities at fair value

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss decreased by EUR 17.8 billion to EUR 123.2 billion, due to lower reverse repos. Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss also decreased by EUR 17.8 billion, mirroring the development on the asset side of the balance sheet, with EUR 15.2 billion lower repo activity. Financial assets and liabilities at fair value

	31 Dec. 17	30 Sep. 17	31 Dec. 16
Liabilities			
Deposits from banks	36,821	39,023	31,964
Customer deposits	539,799	538,098	522,942
- savings accounts	319,659	321,596	315,697
- credit balances on customer accounts	186,316	181,820	173,230
- corporate deposits	32,602	33,333	32,687
- other	1,222	1,349	1,328
Financial liabilities at fair value through			
profit or loss	87,142	104,974	98,974
- trading liabilities	73,596	91,450	83,167
- non-trading derivatives	2,331	2,440	3,541
<ul> <li>designated as at fair value through profit or loss</li> </ul>	11,215	11,084	12,266
Other liabilities	19,279	21,050	20,345
Debt securities in issue	96,086	91,451	103,234
Subordinated loans	15,968	16,653	17,223
Total liabilities	795,095	811,249	794,682
Equity			
Shareholders' equity	50,406	49,770	49,793
Non-controlling interests	715	682	606
Total equity	51,121	50,452	50,399
Total liabilities and equity	846,216	861,701	845,081

consist predominantly of derivatives, securities and (reverse) repos, and are mainly used to facilitate client needs.

#### Loans and advances to customers

Loans and advances to customers increased by EUR 6.0 billion to EUR 574.5 billion, mainly due to a EUR 5.6 billion increase in customer lending. Adjusted for EUR 1.8 billion of negative currency impacts, customer lending increased by EUR 7.4 billion. This was mainly due to EUR 6.8 billion of net core lending growth and a EUR 1.2 billion increase in short-term Bank Treasury lending, partly offset by a EUR 0.9 billion decline in the run-off portfolios of WUB and Lease. In Retail Banking, net core lending assets grew by EUR 3.8 billion, due to increases in both residential mortgages and other customer lending. Wholesale Banking grew its net core lending assets by EUR 3.0 billion, mainly in Industry Lending.

#### Other assets/liabilities

Other assets decreased by EUR 3.0 billion, mainly due to a lower amount of financial transactions pending settlement. Other liabilities decreased by EUR 1.8 billion, partly mirroring the development in unsettled balances of financial transactions on the asset side.

#### **Customer deposits**

Customer deposits increased by EUR 1.7 billion to EUR 539.8 billion. Adjusted for EUR 0.3 billion of negative currency impacts and a EUR 0.6 billion decrease in Bank Treasury deposits, the net production of customer deposits was EUR 2.7 billion. Retail Banking recorded a net production of EUR 1.2 billion, of which EUR 4.1 billion was in current accounts. Savings/deposits declined by EUR 2.9 billion, primarily in the Netherlands. In Wholesale Banking, customer deposits showed a net growth of EUR 1.5 billion.

## **Consolidated Balance Sheet**

#### Debt securities in issue

Debt securities in issue increased by EUR 4.6 billion to EUR 96.1 billion. The increase was caused by EUR 5.6 billion of higher CD/CPs. Other debt securities (mainly long-term debt) declined by EUR 1.0 billion, mainly due to maturities (including USD 500 million in Perpetual Debt Securities, which were redeemed in October) that were partly offset by new issuances (among others for TLAC purposes).

#### Shareholders' equity

Shareholders' equity increased by EUR 0.6 billion to EUR 50.4 billion in the fourth quarter. The net result for the quarter of EUR 1.0 billion was partly offset by decreases in the currency translation reserve and the cashflow hedge reserve.

Shareholders' equity per share increased to EUR 12.97 as per 31 December 2017 from EUR 12.81 as per 30 September 2017.

#### Annual development consolidated balance sheet

In 2017, ING's balance sheet increased by EUR 1 billion, including EUR 17 billion of negative currency impacts. Loans and advances to customers increased by EUR 11 billion (of which EUR 27 billion was net core lending growth excluding currency impacts, Bank Treasury and the decline in the WUB and Lease run-off portfolios). Cash and balances with central banks increased by EUR 4 billion. These increases were largely offset by a EUR 13 billion decline in investments.

Customer deposits increased by EUR 17 billion (excluding currency impacts and Bank Treasury, net growth in customer deposits was EUR 19 billion). Deposits from banks increased by EUR 5 billion. These increases were largely offset by a EUR 12 billion decline in financial liabilities at fair value and a EUR 7 billion decline in debt securities in issue.

Shareholders' equity increased by EUR 0.6 billion on year-end 2016. The EUR 4.9 billion net result over 2017 was largely offset by EUR 2.6 billion of dividends paid in 2017 (of which EUR 1.6 billion as 2016 closing dividend), negative exchange rate differences of EUR -0.9 billion, and a decrease of the cashflow hedge reserve of EUR -0.5 billion. Shareholders' equity per share increased from EUR 12.84 on 31 December 2016 to EUR 12.97 on 31 December 2017.

Change in shareholders' equity		
in EUR million	4Q2017	3Q2017
Shareholders' equity beginning of period	49,770	49,685
Net result for the period	1,015	1,376
Unrealised revaluations of equity securities	-78	-81
Unrealised revaluations of debt securities	-26	-1
Realised gains/losses equity securities transferred to profit or loss	-11	-3
Realised gains/losses debt securities transferred to profit or loss	0	-6
Change in cashflow hedge reserve	-116	-3
Realised and unrealised other revaluations	36	-5
Defined benefit remeasurement	-16	-24
Exchange rate differences	-176	-265
Changes in treasury shares	-5	0
Employee stock options and share plans	13	30
Dividend	0	-933
Total changes	636	85
Shareholders' equity end of period	50,406	49,770

Shareholders' equity		
in EUR million	31 Dec. 17	30 Sep. 17
Share premium/capital	17,045	17,044
Revaluation reserve equity securities	2,474	2,562
Revaluation reserve debt securities	973	999
Revaluation reserve cashflow hedge	263	379
Other revaluation reserves	203	193
Defined benefit remeasurement reserve	-400	-384
Currency translation reserve	-1,662	-1,486
Treasury shares	-15	-10
Retained earnings and other reserves	26,620	26,583
Net result year to date	4,905	3,890
Total	50,406	49,770

Loan book <sup>1)</sup>						
	Credit outs	tandings	Non-perform	ning loans	NPL%	6
in EUR million	31 Dec. 2017	30 Sep. 2017	31 Dec. 2017	30 Sep. 2017	31 Dec. 2017	30 Sep. 2017
Residential mortgages Netherlands	117,778	118,889	1,176	1,239	1.0%	1.0%
Other lending Netherlands	32,919	32,028	1,723	1,831	5.2%	5.7%
of which business lending Netherlands	23,810	24,011	1,501	1,601	6.3%	6.7%
Residential mortgages Belgium	37,508	36,899	972	982	2.6%	2.7%
Other lending Belgium	51,115	48,513	1,305	1,322	2.6%	2.7%
of which business lending Belgium	39,294	37,904	1,037	1,055	2.6%	2.8%
Retail Benelux	239,320	236,329	5,176	5,374	2.2%	2.3%
Residential mortgages Germany	69,264	68,964	429	452	0.6%	0.7%
Other lending Germany	14,364	15,938	210	206	1.5%	1.3%
Residential mortgages Other C&G Markets	60,834	59,765	498	415	0.8%	0.7%
Other lending Other C&G Markets	27,425	26,530	975	957	3.6%	3.6%
Retail Challengers & Growth Markets	171,887	171,197	2,112	2,030	1.2%	1.2%
Industry Lending	132,425	127,232	3,169	3,257	2.4%	2.6%
of which: Structured Finance	101,265	96,285	2,560	2,755	2.5%	2.9%
of which: Real Estate Finance	31,161	30,943	609	502	2.0%	1.6%
General Lending & Transaction Services	88,364	87,770	898	1,125	1.0%	1.3%
FM, Bank Treasury, Real Estate & Other	11,732	12,712	820	864	7.0%	6.8%
of which General Lease run-off	2,521	2,626	756	768	30.0%	29.2%
Wholesale Banking	232,521	227,714	4,887	5,246	2.1%	2.3%
Total loan book	643,728	635,240	12,175	12,650	1.9%	2.0%

<sup>1)</sup> Lending and money market credit outstandings, including guarantees and letters of credit but excluding undrawn committed exposures (off-balance positions).

ING's non-performing loans (NPL) ratio improved to 1.9% in the fourth quarter of 2017 as a result of lending growth and a decline in NPL amounts. ING Group's fully loaded common equity Tier 1 ratio increased to 14.7% in the fourth quarter.

#### Credit risk management

ING's non-performing loans ratio improved to 1.9% compared with the previous quarter, driven by a decrease in NPL amounts (especially in General Lending & Transaction Services, Structured Finance and business lending in the Netherlands) and an increase in total credit outstandings.

Within Retail Netherlands, the NPL ratio for residential mortgages remained flat at 1.0% compared with the previous quarter. The NPL ratio for business lending in the Netherlands continued its improving trend, decreasing to 6.3% from 6.7% in the third quarter of 2017, mainly caused by lower NPLs.

For Retail Belgium, the NPL ratio for the residential mortgages portfolio fell to 2.6% from 2.7% in the third quarter, mainly due to an increase in portfolio size. The same applies to the NPL ratio of the business lending portfolio, where the NPL ratio declined to 2.6% from 2.8% in the previous quarter. For Retail Challengers & Growth Markets, the NPL ratio remained flat at 1.2%. In Wholesale Banking, the NPL ratio improved to 2.1% from 2.3% in the previous quarter, mainly due to General Lending & Transaction Services and Structured Finance; here the NPL ratios dropped to 1.0% and 2.5% respectively.

ING's stock of provisions decreased by EUR 0.3 billion to EUR 4.6 billion, as net additions were more than offset by amounts written off. The provisions coverage ratio at the consolidated level decreased to 38.0% from 39.3% in the third quarter. ING's loan portfolio consists predominantly of asset-based and/or well-secured loans, including residential mortgages, Structured Finance and Real Estate Finance.

F Retail Benelux	Retail Challengers & Growth Markets	Wholesale Banking	Total ING Bank 4Q 2017	Total ING Bank 3Q 2017
1,628	1,323	2,015	4,967	5,159
			0	0
-121	-92	-301	-514	-289
10	1		11	16
137	137	123	397	349
-105	-47	-55	-207	-225
32	90	68	190	124
-16	-4	-6	-26	-43
1,533	1,318	1,776	4,628	4,967
29.6%	62.4%	36.3%	38.0%	
30.3%	65.2%	38.4%	39.3%	
	Retail Benelux 1,628 -121 10 137 -105 32 -16 1,533 29.6%	1,628         1,323           -121         -92           10         1           137         137           -105         -47           32         90           -16         -4           1,533         1,318           29.6%         62.4%	Retail Benelux         Growth Markets         Wholesale Banking           1,628         1,323         2,015           -121         -92         -301           100         1         -           137         137         123           -105         -47         -55           32         90         68           -16         -44         -6           1,533         1,318         1,776           29.6%         62.4%         36.3%	Retail Benelux         Growth Markets         Wholesale Banking         4Q 2017           1,628         1,323         2,015         4,967           -121         -92         -301         -514           10         1         111           137         137         123         397           -105         -47         -555         -207           32         90         68         190           -16         -4         -6         -266           1,533         1,318         1,776         4,628           29.6%         62.4%         36.3%         38.0%

<sup>1)</sup> At the end of December 2017, the stock of provisions included provisions for amounts due from banks (EUR 8 million) and provisions for contingent liabilities recorded under Other Provisions (EUR 104 million).

#### Securities portfolio

ING's overall exposure to debt securities decreased to EUR 80.5 billion in the fourth quarter from EUR 80.7 billion in the previous quarter, mainly due to bond sales and redemptions. The main decreases were in SSA and covered bonds, which were down by EUR 0.4 billion and EUR 0.2 billion respectively, and partly offset by an increase in financial institutions (mainly central bank bills). The revaluation reserve of debt securities remained stable at EUR 1.0 billion after tax.

Debt securities <sup>1)</sup>		
in EUR billion	31 Dec. 17	30 Sep. 17
Government bonds	43.1	43.0
Sub-sovereign, supranationals and agencies (SSA)	18.7	19.1
Covered bonds	9.4	9.6
Financial institutions <sup>2)</sup>	2.6	2.2
Corporate bonds	2.3	2.2
ABS	4.4	4.6
Total	80.5	80.7

<sup>1)</sup> Excluding positions at fair value through the profit or loss but including securities classified as Loans & Receivables.
 <sup>2)</sup> Including Central Bank bills.

Breakdown government bonds		
in EUR billion	31 Dec. 17	30 Sep. 17
The Netherlands	8.1	8.2
United States	6.5	6.3
Poland	5.8	5.6
Belgium	5.5	5.5
Germany	4.5	4.5
Austria	3.2	3.2
Spain	2.3	2.0
France	2.2	2.2
Finland	2.2	2.2
Romania	0.5	0.6
Turkey	0.4	0.5
Other	1.9	2.0
Total	43.1	43.0

#### Funding and liquidity

In the fourth guarter, ING issued EUR 1.3 billion of long-term debt with a remaining tenor of one year or more, of which EUR 1.0 billion of Group TLAC. These issuances were more than offset by maturities, early repayments and redemptions which resulted in a net decrease of EUR 1.1 billion in longterm debt securities. ING's loan-to-deposit ratio, excluding securities recognised at amortised cost, remained unchanged at 1.05 compared with the end of September 2017. The liquidity position comfortably exceeds the minimum requirements.

#### **Market risk**

In the fourth quarter, the average Value-at-Risk (VaR) remained stable at EUR 6 million. The minimum of the total overnight VaR for ING's trading portfolio increased to EUR 5 million from EUR 4 million in the previous quarter, while the maximum remained stable at EUR 7 million.

Consolidated VaR trad	ing books			
in EUR million	Minimum	Maximum	Average	Quarter-end
Foreign exchange	1	4	2	1
Equities	1	2	2	2
Interest rate	3	5	4	4
Credit spread	3	4	3	4
Diversification			-5	-6
Total VaR <sup>1)</sup>	5	7	6	5

<sup>1)</sup> The total VaR for the columns Minimum and Maximum cannot be calculated by taking the sum of the individual components since the observations for both the individual markets as well as for total VaR may occur on different dates

#### Other matters

As disclosed in the annual report 2016, ING Bank is the subject of criminal investigation by Dutch authorities regarding various requirements related to on-boarding of clients, money laundering and corrupt practices. ING Group has also received related information request from US authorities. ING Group and ING Bank are cooperating with such ongoing investigations and requests. It is currently not feasible to determine how the ongoing investigations and requests may be resolved or the timing of any such resolution, nor to estimate reliably the possibly timing, scope or amounts of any fines, penalties and/or other outcome, which could be significant.

We expect to receive more information on the findings of the Dutch authorities in the first half of 2018.

ING Group: Capital position					
	2019 rules (fully lo	aded)	2017 rules (phased in)		
in EUR million	31 Dec. 2017	30 Sep. 2017	31 Dec. 2017	30 Sep. 2017	
Shareholders' equity (parent)	50,406	49,770	50,406	49,770	
- Interim profit not included in CET1 capital <sup>1)</sup>	-1,670	-1,626	-1,670	-1,626	
- Other regulatory adjustments	-3,186	-3,142	-3,154	-3,082	
Regulatory adjustments	-4,856	-4,769	-4,825	-4,709	
Available common equity Tier 1 capital	45,550	45,002	45,581	45,062	
Additional Tier 1 securities <sup>2)</sup>	5,137	5,198	5,137	5,198	
Regulatory adjustments additional Tier 1	42	11	-393	-428	
Available Tier 1 capital	50,729	50,212	50,326	49,832	
Supplementary capital - Tier 2 bonds 3)	11,086	11,152	11,086	11,152	
Regulatory adjustments Tier 2	-2,517	115	-4,001	19	
Available BIS capital 4)	59,298	61,478	57,410	61,002	
Risk-weighted assets	309,887	311,036	309,887	311,036	
Common equity Tier 1 ratio	14.7%	14.5%	14.7%	14.5%	
Tier 1 ratio	16.4%	16.1%	16.2%	16.0%	
Total capital ratio	19.1%	19.8%	18.5%	19.6%	
Leverage Ratio	4.7%	4.5%	4.7%	4.4%	

<sup>10</sup> The interim profit not included in CET1 capital as per 31 December 2017 (EUR 1,670 million) includes EUR 44 million for 4Q2017 (YTD 4Q2017: EUR 2,603 million) minus a ING Group interim dividend payment of EUR 933 million, which was paid out in 3Q2017.
 <sup>21</sup> Including EUR 2,691 million which is CRR/CRD IV-compliant (3Q2017: EUR 2,731 million) and EUR 2,446 million to be replaced as capital recognition is subject to CRR/CRD IV grandfathering rules (3Q2017: EUR 2,053 million), and EUR 2,091 million to be replaced (by Group instruments) as capital recognition is subject to CRR/CRD IV grandfathering rules (3Q2017: EUR 2,098 million).
 <sup>40</sup> Regulatory adjustments include the interpretation of the EBA Q&A published on 3 November 2017.

#### **Capital ratios**

ING Group's fully loaded common equity Tier 1 ratio increased to 14.7% in the fourth quarter of 2017, which is an increase of 0.2 percentage point compared to the end of September 2017. Common equity Tier 1 capital increased by EUR 0.5 billion to EUR 45.5 billion, driven by the net result of EUR 1.0 billion, partly offset by the final dividend reservation. In addition, FX effects had a negative impact of EUR 0.2 billion, primarily reflecting the depreciation of the US dollar, and the equity revaluation reserve decreased slightly by EUR 0.1 billion. The increase in the common equity Tier 1 capital ratio was further driven by EUR 1.1 billion lower risk-weighted assets (RWA).

ING Group's fully loaded Tier 1 ratio (including grandfathered securities) rose to 16.4% on 31 December 2017 compared with 16.1% in the previous guarter. The increase reflects changes in the fully loaded common equity Tier 1 ratio. The fully loaded total capital ratio (including grandfathered securities) decreased to 19.1% compared with 19.8% in the previous quarter. This decrease was primarily driven by a change in interpretation of the Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR), triggered by a newly published Q&A of the European Banking Authority (EBA). The Q&A was published on 3 November 2017 and relates to externally placed own funds from a subsidiary in conjunction with the availability to absorb losses at the consolidated level. This recalibration will largely disappear over time as we will issue capital instruments solely from the Group in the future.

ING Group's phased-in common equity Tier 1 ratio rose from 14.5% at the end of September 2017 to 14.7% at the end of December 2017. The phased-in Tier 1 ratio increased to

16.2%, while the phased-in total capital ratio decreased to 18.5%. The developments in the phased-in capital ratios largely mirror trends in the fully loaded capital ratios.

The leverage ratio of ING Group according to the Delegated Act (including grandfathered securities) takes into account the impact of grossing up the notional cash-pooling activities. The leverage ratio on 31 December 2017 was 4.7%, an increase of 0.2 percentage point, which reflects the increase in Tier 1 capital and a seasonal decrease of the total exposure measure during the fourth quarter of 2017.

#### **Risk-weighted assets (RWA)**

At the end of December 2017, ING Group's total RWA were EUR 309.9 billion, down EUR 1.1 billion compared with the last guarter. The decrease includes EUR -1.2 billion stemming from currency impacts mainly caused by the depreciation of the US dollar versus the euro. At comparable FX rates, credit RWA increased by EUR 2.3 billion as volume growth was only partly compensated by positive risk migration, reflecting better economic conditions as well as model updates. Market RWA decreased by EUR 0.4 billion to EUR 4.7 billion. Operational RWA decreased by EUR 1.9 billion to EUR 40.1 billion, reflecting regular external database updates.

ING Group: Composition of RWA		
in EUR billion	31 Dec. 2017	30 Sep. 2017
Credit RWA	265.1	263.9
Operational RWA	40.1	42.0
Market RWA	4.7	5.1
Total RWA	309.9	311.0

#### **Basel 'IV'**

An agreement was reached on Basel 'IV' in December 2017.

While some elements still require even more clarity, we believe the fully loaded Basel 'IV' impact may lie in the range of 15–18% of risk-weighted assets (RWA) by 2027. This does not take into account possible management actions. TRIM (targeted review of internal models) may result in earlier impact on RWA via Pillar II.

The implied impact on capital ratios does not take into account any potential changes to the systemic risk buffer or Pillar 2 requirements. Note this also assumes current portfolio to be the same in 2027, as well as RWA based on the current economic environment.

With a long implementation phase and the transposition into EU regulation still pending, some question marks remain on how this will shape up. We will meet the final requirements and as before we will continue executing our strategy for our clients and delivering growth at good returns.

#### Dividend

ING aims to pay a progressive dividend which will reflect considerations including expected future capital requirements, growth opportunities available to the Group, net earnings, and regulatory developments. The Executive Board proposes to pay a total cash dividend of EUR 2.6 billion, or EUR 0.67 per ordinary share, over the financial year 2017. This is subject to shareholder approval at the Annual General Meeting in April 2018.

Taking into account the interim dividend of EUR 0.24 per ordinary share paid in August 2017, the final dividend will amount to EUR 0.43 per ordinary share and will be paid in cash. The total amount of EUR 1,670 million is completely covered by the balance of 'interim profits not included in CET1 capital' at year-end 2017.

In December 2017, ING was notified of the European Central Bank's (ECB) decision on the 2017 Supervisory Review and Evaluation Process (SREP), which will set the capital requirements for 2018. The common equity Tier 1 requirement for ING Group will be 10.4% in 2018. ING is committed to maintaining a CET1 ratio above the prevailing fully loaded requirement, currently estimated to be 11.8% by 2019, plus a comfortable management buffer (to include Pillar 2 Guidance), and a Group leverage ratio above 4%.

#### Ratings

During the fourth quarter of 2017, the ratings and outlooks from S&P, Moody's and Fitch remained unchanged.

Main credit ratings of ING on 31 January 2018								
Standard & Poor's Moody's						ch		
	Rating	Outlook	Rating	Outlook	Rating	Outlook		
ING Groep N.V.	A-	Stable	Baa1	Stable	A+	Stable		
ING Bank N.V.	A+	Stable	Aa3	Stable	A+	Stable		

### **Economic Environment**

#### **Credit markets**

In both the US and Europe, credit spreads continued to tighten in the fourth quarter. The continued search for yield is resulting in very low credit spreads, further boosted by a strong economic outlook and low market volatility.

#### Basis points



#### **Economic activity**

The eurozone PMI has gone from strength to strength as the economy continues to surprise on the upside. We expect 2017 growth to come in at 2.4%, much stronger than initially expected. US growth has been improving after a weak first quarter of 2017. However, GDP growth in the fourth quarter of 2017 might be slightly weaker than the 3% annualised growth rate recorded in the previous quarter.



#### **Interest rates**

The US yield curve has significantly flattened as a higher Fed funds rate has been driving up the 3-month Libor. Furthermore, the tax reform in the US is expected to boost growth in the short-run. The ECB has continued its bondbuying programme (QE) at a slower pace and maintained the forward guidance for now, which indicates that rates will not be increased until well after the end of QE. The 3-month Euribor remains negative.



#### **Consumer confidence**

Eurozone consumer confidence continues to reach new highs as the economy keeps up its strong momentum. With employment growth maintaining its strong pace and inflation below target, consumers remain exceptionally confident.



#### **Stock markets**

With economic growth higher than expected and the tax reform in the US, the S&P 500 continued to break new records over the fourth quarter. The Euro Area FTSE 300 Index ended the fourth quarter of 2017 slightly below the closing level of the prior quarter, despite economic growth outperforming expectations and a continued accommodative stance from the ECB for 2018.



#### **Currency markets**

Despite expectations of more rate hikes in the US and no expected change in the ECB rates for 2018, the euro's strength prevailed in the fourth quarter.



#### Consolidated profit or loss account: ING Group

In EUR million		Total ING Group		of which: Divestments/Special Items		of which: Insurance Other		of which: Underlying Banking	
	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	
Net interest income	3,512	3,341			-	-	3,512	3,341	
Net commission income	671	611			-3	-	674	611	
Investment income	20	39			-	-	20	39	
Other income	178	627			16	158	162	470	
Total income	4,382	4,619	-	-	14	158	4,368	4,461	
Expenses excl. regulatory costs	2,354	3,300		1,141	-		2,354	2,159	
Regulatory costs	264	209		-	-		264	209	
Operating expenses	2,618	3,509	-	1,141	-	-	2,618	2,369	
Gross result	1,764	1,110	-	-1,141	14	158	1,751	2,093	
Addition to loan loss provisions	190	138			0	-	190	138	
Result before tax	1,574	972	-	-1,141	14	158	1,560	1,955	
Taxation	542	203		-354	-1		543	557	
Non-controlling interests	17	17			-		17	17	
Net result from continuing operations	1,015	752	-	-787	15	158	1,001	1,381	
Net result from discontinued operations	-	-2							
Net result ING Group	1,015	750							

#### ING Group: Underlying profit or loss account

	Tota ING Gro		of whic Retail Bar		of whi Wholesale I		of whic Corporate Line	
In EUR million	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016
Net interest income	3,512	3,341	2,423	2,346	1,031	959	58	37
Net commission income	674	611	395	376	279	235	-0	-C
Investment income	20	39	16	30	5	8	-0	1
Other income	162	470	144	213	91	269	-73	-12
Total underlying income	4,368	4,461	2,978	2,965	1,406	1,471	-16	25
Expenses excl. regulatory costs	2,354	2,159	1,629	1,499	670	592	55	68
Regulatory costs	264	209	152	110	112	99	0	C
Operating expenses	2,618	2,369	1,781	1,609	781	691	55	68
Gross result	1,751	2,093	1,197	1,356	625	779	-71	-43
Addition to loan loss provisions	190	138	122	107	68	31	0	C
Underlying result before tax	1,560	1,955	1,075	1,249	557	748	-71	-43
Taxation	543	557	313	319	202	193	28	45
Non-controlling interests	17	17	13	15	4	2	-	-
Underlying net result	1,001	1,381	749 916		351	553	-99	-87
Special items after tax	-	-787	610		14	-149	-	-27
Net result Banking	1,001	595	749	306	351	404	-99	-115
Net result Insurance Other	15	158						
Net result from continuing operations	1,015	752						
Net result from discontinued operations	-	-2						
Net result ING Group	1,015	750						

ING Group: Profitability and efficiency								
	ING Gro	oup	Retail Bo	anking	Wholesale	Banking	Corporate Li	ine Banking
In EUR million	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016
Cost/income ratio (continuing operations)	59.7%	76.0%						
Underlying cost/income ratio	59.9%	53.1%	59.8%	54.3%	55.6%	47.0%	n.a.	n.a.
ING Group's total return on IFRS-EU equity <sup>1)</sup>	8.4%	6.0%						
ING Group's underlying return on IFRS-EU equity $^{\mbox{\tiny 1}}$	8.3%	11.1%						

<sup>1)</sup> Annualised (underlying) net result divided by average IFRS-EU shareholders' equity excluding interim profit not included in CET1 capital as from 1Q2017.

#### Consolidated profit or loss account: ING Group

	Toto ING Gr		of wh Divestments/S		of whic Insurance		of whic Underlying I	
In EUR million	FY2017	FY2016	FY2017	FY2016	FY2017	FY2016	FY2017	FY2016
Net interest income	13,714	13,241			-	-	13,714	13,241
Net commission income	2,710	2,433			-4	-	2,714	2,433
Investment income	194	422			-	-	194	422
Other income	1,156	1,396	121		-49	33	1,083	1,363
Total income	17,773	17,491	121	-	-53	33	17,704	17,458
Expenses excl. regulatory costs	8,928	9,769		1,157	-		8,928	8,612
Regulatory costs	901	845		-	-		901	845
Operating expenses	9,829	10,614	-	1,157	-	-	9,829	9,456
Gross result	7,944	6,877	121	-1,157	-53	33	7,875	8,002
Addition to loan loss provisions	676	974			-		676	974
Result before tax	7,268	5,903	121	-1,157	-53	33	7,199	7,028
Taxation	2,280	1,619	121	-358	-1		2,160	1,977
Non-controlling interests	82	75			-		82	75
Net result from continuing operations	4,905	4,210	0	-799	-52	33	4,957	4,976
Net result from discontinued operations	-	441						
Net result ING Group	4,905	4,651						

#### ING Group: Underlying profit or loss account

	Tota ING Gro		of whi Retail Ba		of whic Wholesale B		of whic Corporate Line	
In EUR million	FY2017	FY2016	FY2017	FY2016	FY2017	FY2016	FY2017	FY2016
Net interest income	13,714	13,241	9,593	9,385	3,895	3,750	226	106
Net commission income	2,714	2,433	1,609	1,433	1,108	1,003	-3	-3
Investment income	194	422	169	340	36	53	-12	29
Other income	1,083	1,363	489	633	883	802	-289	-72
Total underlying income	17,704	17,458	11,860	11,791	5,922	5,608	-78	59
Expenses excl. regulatory costs	8,928	8,612	6,070	5,963	2,569	2,371	288	277
Regulatory costs	901	845	676	643	222	201	2	1
Operating expenses	9,829	9,456	6,747	6,606	2,792	2,572	290	278
Gross result	7,875	8,002	5,113	5,185	3,130	3,036	-368	-219
Addition to loan loss provisions	676	974	391	606	284	368	1	C
Underlying result before tax	7,199	7,028	4,722 4,579		2,846	2,668	-369	-219
Taxation	2,160	1,977	1,291	1,222	881	753	-13	2
Non-controlling interests	82	75	68 63		15	11	-	
Underlying net result	4,957	4,976	3,363 3,294		1,950	1,903	-356	-221
Special items after tax	-	-799	-	623		-149	0	-27
Net result Banking	4,957	4,177	3,363	2,671	1,950	1,754	-356	-248
Net result Insurance Other	-52	33						
Net result from continuing operations	4,905	4,210						
Net result from discontinued operations	-	441						
Net result ING Group	4,905	4,651						

ING Group: Profitability and efficiency								
	ING Gro	up	Retail Bo	anking	Wholesale	Banking	Corporate Li	ne Banking
In EUR million	FY2017	FY2016	FY2017	FY2016	FY2017	FY2016	FY2017	FY2016
Cost/income ratio (continuing operations)	55.3%	60.7%						
Underlying cost/income ratio	55.5%	54.2%	56.9%	56.0%	47.1%	45.9%	n.a.	n.a.
ING Group's total return on IFRS-EU equity <sup>1)</sup>	10.1%	9.5%						
ING Group's underlying return on IFRS-EU equity $^{\mbox{\tiny 1)}}$	10.2%	10.1%						

<sup>1)</sup> Annualised (underlying) net result divided by average IFRS-EU shareholders' equity excluding interim profit not included in CET1 capital as from 1Q2017.

### Consolidated profit or loss account: Geographical split

Geographical split: Consolidated profit or loss account	count															
	Total ING Group	i Group	Netherlands	lands	Belgium	En	Germany	any	Other Challengers	engers	Growth Markets		Wholesale Banking Rest of World	Banking Vorld	Other	-
In EUR million	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016	4Q2017	4Q2016
Net interest income	3,512	3,341	1,128	1,195	508	533	566	506	394	332	385	341	475	398	58	36
Net commission income	674	611	217	188	118	66	79	60	61	58	76	87	123	117	0-	0
Investment income	20	39	-2	2	1	-2	11	Ļ	2	45	3	-2	5	-2	0-	Ļ
Other income	162	470	117	110	111	187	-14	5	13	12	50	80	-44	82	-70	L-
Total underlying income	4,368	4,461	1,460	1,495	739	817	641	571	470	448	514	506	559	595	-13	29
Expenses excl. regulatory costs	2,354	2,159	723	712	457	403	273	236	307	242	261	252	273	243	59	71
Regulatory costs	264	209	86	06	41	34	33	-18	26	25	38	42	39	36	0	0
Operating expenses	2,618	2,369	808	802	498	437	306	218	334	267	299	295	312	279	59	71
Gross result	1,751	2,093	650	693	240	380	335	353	136	180	215	211	247	316	-72	-42
Addition to loan loss provisions	190	138	13	51	46	33	-15	-41	61	24	76	84	6	-13	0	0
Underlying result before tax Banking	1,560	1,955	637	642	194	348	350	394	75	156	138	127	238	330	-72	-42
Retail Banking	1,075	1,249	516	502	200	252	251	321	9	84	102	06	1	1	T	T
Wholesale Banking	557	748	122	140	9-	96	66	73	69	71	37	37	238	330	Ļ	0
Corporate Line	-71	-43	1	I	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	I	1	-71	-43
Underlying result before tax	1,560	1,955	637	642	194	348	350	394	75	156	138	127	238	330	-72	-42
Taxation	543	557	164	161	103	101	98	110	27	30	36	29	95	77	18	48
Non-controlling interests	17	17	1	I	-2	2	1	1	I		21	14	I	1	T	ı
Underlying net result Banking	1,001	1,381	473	481	96	245	251	283	48	126	81	83	143	253	-91	-90
Special items after tax	1	-787	1	-255	1	-491	I	1	1	-13	1	1	1	1	1	-27
Net result Banking	1,001	595	473	225	96	-246	251	283	48	113	81	83	143	253	-91	-117
Net result Insurance Other	15	158														
Net result from continuing operations	1,015	752														
Net result from discontinued operations	1	-2														
Net result ING Group	1,015	750														

### Consolidated profit or loss account: Geographical split

Geographical split: Consolidated profit or loss account	count															
	Total ING Group	Group	Netherlands	ands	Belgium	Ē	Germany		Other Challengers	engers	Growth Markets		Wholesale Banking Rest of World	tanking /orld	Other	~
In EUR million	FY2017	FY2017 FY2016	FY2017	FY2016	FY2017	FY2016	FY2017	FY2016	FY2017	FY2016	FY2017	FY2016	FY2017	FY2016	FY2017	FY2016
Net interest income	13,714	13,241	4,537	4,699	2,099	2,183	2,172	2,025	1,527	1,373	1,515	1,274	1,636	1,579	227	107
Net commission income	2,714	2,433	871	779	519	482	269	241	232	171	316	309	509	452	۲ <u>-</u> ۲	-2
Investment income	194	422	42	79	33	48	25	48	9	65	106	170	<u>-</u> 2	-13	-12	24
Other income	1,083	1,363	402	288	447	511	-41	27	16	68	190	290	249	215	-181	-36
Total underlying income	17,704	17,458	5,853	5,845	3,098	3,225	2,424	2,340	1,781	1,677	2,127	2,043	2,390	2,233	31	94
Expenses excl. regulatory costs	8,928	8,612	2,699	3,076	1,810	1,544	1,034	896	1,062	874	984	972	1,040	959	298	290
Regulatory costs	901	845	231	225	253	252	120	91	80	77	141	131	73	70	2	1
Operating expenses	9,829	9,456	2,930	3,301	2,063	1,796	1,154	987	1,142	951	1,126	1,103	1,113	1,029	301	290
Gross result	7,875	8,002	2,923	2,545	1,036	1,429	1,270	1,354	638	726	1,001	940	1,276	1,204	-269	-197
Addition to loan loss provisions	676	974	3	310	160	215	-15	-13	201	120	241	240	85	103	1	0
Underlying result before tax Banking	7,199	7,028	2,920	2,235	876	1,215	1,285	1,367	437	607	760	700	1,192	1,101	-270	-197
Retail Banking	4,722	4,579	2,243	1,705	785	961	869	1,055	213	325	612	533	1	1	1	ı
Wholesale Banking	2,846	2,668	677	530	90	254	416	312	224	281	148	168	1,192	1,101	98	22
Corporate Line	-369	-219	I	1	I	1	I	I.	I	1	I	1	I	1	-369	-219
Underlying result before tax	7,199	7,028	2,920	2,235	876	1,215	1,285	1,367	437	607	760	700	1,192	1,101	-270	-197
Taxation	2,160	1,977	708	555	369	353	407	426	145	173	151	125	379	335	Ļ	10
Non-controlling interests	82	75	I	1	-2	1	2	2	I	1	82	71	I	1	I	
Underlying net result Banking	4,957	4,976	2,212	1,680	508	860	875	939	292	433	527	504	813	766	-269	-207
Special items after tax	0	-799	I.	-268	I	-491	I.	T.	I.	-13	I.	1	I.	-t	0	-27
Net result Banking	4,957	4,177	2,212	1,412	508	369	875	939	292	420	527	504	813	766	-269	-234
Net result Insurance Other	-52	33														
Net result from continuing operations	4,905	4,210														
Net result from discontinued operations	1	441														
Net result ING Group	4,905	4,651														

#### **ING profile**

ING is a global financial institution with a strong European base, offering banking services through its operating company ING Bank. The purpose of ING Bank is empowering people to stay a step ahead in life and in business. ING Bank's more than 51,000 employees offer retail and wholesale banking services to customers in over 40 countries.

ING Group shares are listed on the exchanges of Amsterdam (INGA NA, INGA.AS), Brussels and on the New York Stock Exchange (ADRs: ING US, ING.N).

Sustainability forms an integral part of ING's strategy, evidenced by ING's ranking as a leader in the banks industry group by Sustainalytics. ING Group shares are included in the FTSE4Good index and in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (Europe and World), where ING is also among the leaders in the banks industry group.

#### Important legal information

Elements of this press release contain or may contain information about ING Groep N.V. and/ or ING Bank N.V. within the meaning of Article 7(1) to (4) of EU Regulation No 596/ 2014.

Projects may be subject to regulatory approvals.

ING Group's annual accounts are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union ('IFRS-EU'). In preparing the financial information in this document, except as described otherwise, the same accounting principles are applied as in the 2016 ING Group consolidated annual accounts. The Financial statements for 2017 are in progress and may be subject to adjustments from subsequent events. All figures in this document are unaudited. Small differences are possible in the tables due to rounding.

Certain of the statements contained herein are not historical facts, including, without limitation, certain statements made of future expectations and other forward-looking statements that are based on management's current views and assumptions and involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results. performance or events to differ materially from those expressed or implied in such statements. Actual results, performance or events may differ materially from those in such statements due to a number of factors, including, without limitation: (1) changes in general economic conditions, in particular economic conditions in ING's core markets, (2) changes in performance of financial markets, including developing markets, (3) potential consequences of European Union countries leaving the European Union or a break-up of the euro, (4) changes in the availability of, and costs associated with, sources of liquidity such as interbank funding, as well as conditions in the credit and capital markets

#### **Further information**

All publications related to ING's 4Q17 results can be found at www.ing.com/4q17, including a video with Ralph Hamers. The video is also available on YouTube.

Additional financial information is available at www.ing.com/qr:

- ING Group historical trend data
- ING Group analyst presentation (also available via SlideShare)

For further information on ING, please visit www.ing.com. Frequent news updates can be found in the Newsroom or via the @ING\_news Twitter feed. Photos of ING operations, buildings and its executives are available for download at Flickr. Footage (B-roll) of ING is available via ing.yourmediakit.com or can be requested by emailing info@yourmediakit.com. ING presentations are available at SlideShare.

generally, including changes in borrower and counterparty creditworthiness, (5) changes affecting interest rate levels, (6) changes affecting currency exchange rates, (7) changes in investor and customer behaviour, (8) changes in general competitive factors, (9) changes in laws and regulations and the interpretation and application thereof, (10) geopolitical risks and policies and actions of governmental and regulatory authorities, (11) changes in standards and interpretations under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and the application thereof, (12) conclusions with regard to purchase accounting assumptions and methodologies, and other changes in accounting assumptions and methodologies including changes in valuation of issued securities and credit market exposure, (13) changes in ownership that could affect the future availability to us of net operating loss, net capital and built-in loss carry forwards, (14) changes in credit ratings, (15) the outcome of current and future legal and regulatory proceedings, (16) ING's ability to achieve its strategy, including projected operational synergies and cost-saving programmes and (17) the other risks and uncertainties detailed in the most recent annual report of ING Groep N.V. (including the Risk Factors contained therein) and ING's more recent disclosures, including press releases, which are available on www.ING.com. Many of those factors are beyond ING's control.

Any forward looking statements made by or on behalf of ING speak only as of the date they are made, and ING assumes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information or for any other reason.

This document does not constitute an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to purchase, any securities in the United States or any other jurisdiction.