

# **PRESS RELEASE**

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# Annual General Meeting 2008 Billerud Aktiebolag (publ)

Shareholders of Billerud AB (publ) are hereby invited to attend the Annual General Meeting at 4 p.m. on Tuesday 29 April 2008 at Aula Magna, Stockholm University, Frescati, Stockholm, Sweden.

Travel directions from the centre of Stockholm: **By underground** – take the red line towards Mörby Centrum and get off at Universitetet. **By bus** – Buses numbered 40, 540 and 670 all stop at Universitetet. **By car** – there is parking at Södra husen. **Taxi rank** – at the entrance to Aula Magna on level 2. The address is Frescativägen 6.

The premises where the meeting will be held will be open from 2.30 p.m.

As a service to shareholders who cannot attend the meeting, the CEO's speech will be published in Swedish on the company's website, www.billerud.com, after the end of the meeting.

#### **Participation**

Shareholders wishing to take part in the AGM must:

- Be registered in the Shareholders' Register held by VPC AB (the Swedish Central Securities Depository) by Wednesday 23 April 2008,
- Notify the company of their intention to attend the AGM not later than 4 p.m. on Wednesday 23 April 2008. Notification shall be made in writing by post to Billerud AB, Investor Relations, Box 703, SE-169 27 Solna, Sweden, by telephone to +46 8 553 335 40 or by telefax to +46 8 553 335 65. Notification can also be made via the company's website www.billerud.se/anmalan or by e-mail to bolagsstamma@billerud.com. In their notification shareholders should state their name, personal-/corporate identity number, address, daytime telephone number, number of shares held and, where applicable, number of representatives and assistants (maximum of two).

Representatives and representatives of legal entities are requested to submit in good time before the Meeting the original document of their authorisation, registration certificate and other relevant authorisation documents. A power of attorney can be downloaded from the company's website, www.billerud.se

To be able to participate at the Meeting, shareholders whose shares are registered in the name

Billerud is a packaging paper company. The company's business concept is to offer demanding customers packaging materials and solutions that promote and protect their products – packaging that is attractive, strong, sustainable and based on renewable materials. Billerud has a world-leading position within several product segment; within paper for consumer and industrial packaging. Production takes place at three integrated pulp and paper mills in Sweden and at one paper mill in the UK.

of a nominee must request that their own names be temporarily registered in the share register kept by VPC AB. This procedure, so-called voting right registration, must be effected not later than on Wednesday 23 April 2008, which means that the shareholder must inform the nominee in good time before this date.

An entry card entitling participation in the meeting will be sent out before the Meeting. If the entry card has not arrived on time, shareholders providing proof of their identity can obtain a new card at the information desk.

There are 53,343,043 shares in the company worth one vote each. Thus the total number of votes is 53,343,043. The company owns 1,851,473 of its own shares.

## **Proposed Agenda**

- 1. Opening of the Meeting.
- 2. Election of chairman for the Meeting.
- 3. Drawing up and approval of voting list.
- 4. Election of one or two persons to verify the minutes.
- 5. Determination as to whether the Meeting has been duly convened.
- 6. Approval of the Agenda.
- 7. Presentation of the Annual Report and the Auditors' Report as well as the Consolidated Accounts and Consolidated Auditors' Report for the 2007 financial year.
- 8. Report on the work of the Board and Board committees over the past year.
- 9. Presentation by the Chief Executive Officer.
- 10. Resolution on:
- a) the adoption of the income statement and the balance sheet as well as the consolidated income statement and consolidated balance sheet for 2007
- b) the appropriation of the company's profit according to the adopted balance sheet for 2007 and the adoption of the record date for the dividend
- c) discharge from personal liability for Board Members and the CEO for their administration for the year 2007.
- 11. Report from the Nominations Committee and proposals for:
  - number of Board Members elected by the Meeting
  - nominations for Board Members, Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Board
  - fees for Board members
  - remuneration for committee work
  - fees to auditors
  - procedures for appointing the Nominations Committee
- 12. Resolution on number of Board members and deputy Board members to be chosen by the Meeting.
- 13. Resolution on fees for Board members and remuneration for committee work and resolution on fees for Auditors.
- 14. Election of Board members and, if applicable, deputy Board members, Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Board.
- 15. Resolution on procedures for appointment of the Nominations Committee for 2009 Annual General Meeting.
- 16. The Board's proposal for guidelines for remuneration to senior executives.
- 17. The Board's proposal for a decision regarding transfer of shares under the Long Term Incentive Programme decided at the 2007 AGM.
- 18. The Board's proposal for a decision regarding authorisation for the Board to transfer the company's own shares.

- 19. The Board's proposal for a decision regarding commission-free share trading.
- 20. Closing of the Meeting.

### **Motions**

#### Point 2

The Nominations Committee proposes that Chairman of the Board, Ingvar Petersson, be elected chairman of the Meeting.

#### Point 10 b

The Board of Directors proposes a dividend of SEK 3:50 per share and Monday 5 May 2008 as record day for the dividend. If the Meeting approves the Board's proposal, payment via VPC AB is expected to be sent on Thursday 8 May 2008.

#### Point 12

The Nominations Committee proposes that the Board shall consist of seven ordinary members, including the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

#### Point 13

The Nominations Committee proposes the following:

- that the annual fee to ordinary Board members not employed by the Billerud Group amount to SEK 225,000 per member (increase of SEK 25,000), SEK 450,000 to the Chairman (increase of SEK 50,000) and SEK 350,000 to the Deputy Chairman (increase of SEK 50,000),
- that remuneration for work on Board committees be paid to members appointed by the Board and amount to SEK 70,000 per year to the chairman of the audit committee and to SEK 35,000 per year to each of the other members of the committee, and SEK 45,000 per year to the chairman of the compensations committee and SEK 22,500 per year to each of the other members of the committee; and
- that fees to the auditors during the mandate period be paid by current account.

#### Point 14

The Nominations Committee proposes that Ingvar Petersson, Gunilla Jönsson, Michael M.F. Kaufmann, Per Lundberg Ewald Nageler, Yngve Stade and Meg Tivéus are re-elected Board members.

The Nominations Committee further proposes that the AGM re-elects Invar Petersson as Chairman of the Board and elects Michael M.F. Kaufmann as Vice-Chairman.

#### Point 15

The Nominations Committee proposes that procedures for the appointment of the Nominations Committee for the 2009 AGM be unchanged as follows:

The Nominations Committee shall comprise three members. The Chairman of the Board shall be the secretary of the Nominations Committee. During the autumn of 2008 the Chairman shall contact the major shareholders (judged by size of shareholding) regarding the formation of a Nominations Committee. The names of the members of the Nominations Committee, and the names of the shareholders they represent, shall be published six months at the latest prior to the 2009 Annual General Meeting and be based upon the known shareholding immediately prior to the announcement.

Unless Committee members decide otherwise, the chairman of the Nominations Committee shall be the member representing the largest shareholder (judged by size of shareholding). The Committee forms a quorum when more than half of its members are present.

If during the Committee's mandate period one or more shareholders represented on the Nominations Committee are no longer among the largest shareholders, then their representatives shall resign their positions and the shareholder or shareholders who have become among the largest shareholders shall have the right to appoint their representatives. Unless there is special cause, no changes shall be made to the composition of the Nominations Committee if only minor changes in shareholding have been made, or the changes take place later than two months prior to the AGM that will decide on proposals made by the Committee.

Shareholders who appoint members to the Nominations Committee have the right to dismiss their representative and appoint a new one. Equally, the shareholder whose representative requests to leave the Committee before its work is completed has the right to replace such a representative. Changes to the composition of the Nominations Committee shall be published as soon as they take place.

The Nominations Committee shall produce proposals for the following items to be decided by the 2009 Annual General Meeting:

- (a) proposal for chairman of the Meeting,
- (b) proposals for Board members,
- (c) proposal for Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Board,
- (d) proposals for Board fees and distribution between Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Board and other members, and possible remuneration for committee work,
- (e) proposal for fees to auditors,
- (f) proposal for procedures for appointing the Nominations Committee.

The Nominations Committee shall make available the requisite information to the company so that Billerud can meet the information requirements of the Swedish code of corporate governance.

Furthermore, the Nominations Committee shall in performing its duties meet the requirements set by the Swedish code of corporate governance for nominations committees, and Billerud shall at the request of the Nominations Committee provide staff resources, such as secretary of the Committee, in order to facilitate the Committee's work. If so required, Billerud shall also pay reasonable costs for external consultants and similar which are considered necessary by the Committee for it to perform its duties.

#### Point 16

The Board proposes that the Meeting approve the following guidelines for remuneration to the executive officers. Executive officers are the CEO and other members of the senior management team.

Billerud shall set the remuneration levels and employment terms that are appropriate in order to recruit and keep a management team with a high level of competence and the capability to achieve established goals. Remuneration shall motivate executives to do their utmost to secure shareholders' interests. Remuneration may be in the form of fixed salary, variable salary, long-term incentive programme and other benefits such as pension or company car.

Fixed and variable salary shall be set in relation to competence, area of responsibility and performance. Variable remuneration will be based on outcomes in relation to established targets and shall be a maximum of a fixed percentage of annual fixed salary and vary between 30% and 45%.

The incentive programme within the company shall primarily be based on the share price and shall ensure long-term commitment to the development of the company and be implemented on market terms. For more information about the existing incentive programme adopted by the 2007 AGM, see the company's annual report and website. Pension benefits shall either be defined-benefit or defined-contribution and normally give an entitlement to pension from age 65. In some cases the retirement age may be lower, although 62 is the lowest retirement age Six to twelve months is the normal notification period for termination of employment, and severance pay shall be a maximum of 12 months' salary in the event of dismissal by the company.

Remuneration and employment terms for the CEO are prepared by the Compensation Committee and decided by the Board. Remuneration and employment terms for members of the senior management team are decided by the CEO, after approval from the Compensation Committee. The Board of Billerud has the right to deviate from these guidelines in individual cases if there is good reason.

#### Point 17

The 2007 AGM decided to introduce (i) an incentive programme for all employees featuring so-called share matching (the "Share Match Programme"), and (ii) a long-term incentive programme with so-called performance shares (the "Performance Share Programme"), comprising a maximum of 69 managers and key employees of the Billerud Group (the Share Match Programme and Performance Share Programme together are referred to as "LTIP 2007"). Participants in the LTIP 2007 are offered the opportunity to become shareholders by investing in Billerud shares. More information about LTIP 2007 is available on the company's website.

In order to implement the LTIP 2007, the Board proposes that the Meeting take a decision to authorize the Board to take a decision concerning the transfer of shares under the following principal terms. The Board proposes it be authorized to take a decision, prior to the next Annual General Meeting of Shareholders, to convey a maximum of 125,000 shares of the total possession of 1,851,473 shares, in order to cover certain costs, mainly social security costs. Transfer of the shares shall be effected on OMX Nordic Exchange Stockholm at a price within the price interval registered at each time for the share. The reasons for the deviation from shareholders' preferential rights are that it is an advantage for Billerud to transfer shares in accordance with the above proposal in order to meet the requirements of the approved incentive programmes.

#### Point 18

The Board proposes that, in addition to the transfers of own shares as follows from point 17 on the agenda, the Meeting authorise the Board during the period up to the next Annual General Meeting, on one or more occasions and with deviation from preferential rights for shareholders, to reach a decision regarding the transfer of Billerud shares that the company holds at the time of the Board's decision, either to a third party as payment in connection with acquisition of companies, and/or as a transfer on the stock exchange in order to raise liquid funds for payment in connection with such acquisitions. Payment for transferred shares may

be made in cash, and for a transaction other than via the stock exchange, through contribution of property or set-off of a receivable against the company. A transfer on OMX Nordic Exchange Stockholm may only be carried out at a price per share within the range of share prices registered for the company at any given time. Any other transfer may take place at the market value, as a minimum, determined by the Board. The reason for enabling the Board to deviate from the principle of preferential rights for existing shareholders is to give the Board the required capacity to carry out the acquisition of all or parts of other companies and businesses

#### Point 19

In order to achieve a suitable ownership structure and improve liquidity in the trading of Billerud's shares, the Board proposes that the AGM approve the Board's proposal to take a decision to offer Billerud's shareholders holding fewer than 100 shares the opportunity to sell their Billerud shares free of commission. The Board proposes that it be authorized to take a decision concerning the period when the offer shall be valid (although before the 2009 AGM) and other terms.

#### Other

To be valid, the meeting's decision concerning point 17 must gain the support of shareholders representing at least nine-tenths of both the votes and shares held by shareholders attending the meeting. The Meeting's decision concerning point 18 must gain the support of shareholders representing at least two-thirds of both the votes and shares held by shareholders attending the meeting.

#### **Documentation**

The Nominations Committee's complete proposals for decisions for points 2 and 12-15 and the Board's complete proposals for decisions for point 10b are as above. The company's Annual Report and the Auditors' Report for the 2007 financial year, the complete proposals for decisions concerning points 11 and 16-19, the Board's statement concerning its proposal for the dividend, and the auditors' statements concerning chapter 8 § 54 of the companies act will be made available from the company at its office on Gustav III:s boulevard 18, Solna, Sweden April 10 at the latest, and will be sent by post to shareholders who have notified their wish to receive the documents and have stated their postal address. The documents are also available via the company's website, www.billerud.com.

### Non-Swedish speaking shareholders

For the convenience of non-Swedish speaking shareholders the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting will be simultaneously interpreted to English. This service may be requested when attendance to the Annual General Meeting is notified.

Solna, March 2008 The Board of Directors

For further information, please contact: Ingvar Petersson, Chairman, Billerud AB, +46 70 595 76 05

The information is such that under the Securities and Clearing Operations Act, Billerud AB is obligated to publish it