

**Esteemed shareholders,**

Kesko's result in 2023 was a good one considering the challenges in our operating environment. The result is strong proof that the systematic execution of Kesko's strategy is yielding results also in a changing market.

Profitable growth in three selected divisions – grocery trade, building and technical trade, and car trade – is at the core of Kesko's strategy. Constant improvement of customer experiences, further development of digital services, and sustainability are strategic themes shared by all Kesko businesses.

2023 was another exceptional year. Russia's offensive war in Ukraine continued to impact the energy and raw material markets. Food prices increased especially in the first half of the year, and interest rates rose. This had an impact on consumer purchasing power and willingness among companies to invest. Towards the end of the year, inflation settled, interest rates stopped rising, and wage increases supported purchasing power, while on the other hand, weakening economy posed a threat on employment rates.

Our ability to respond fast and be agile has been tested many times in recent years. Kesko is an exceptional trading sector operator that is able to navigate also rapidly changing circumstances.

Kesko has a strong balance sheet that enables investments in growth also under current economic circumstances. One of the highlights of the year was Kesko expanding its operations to Denmark by acquiring Davidsen, one of the leading building and home improvement trade operators in the country. Our objective is to continue to participate in the consolidation of Northern European building and technical trade for B2B customers also going forward.

Kesko engages extensively in sustainability work in its business operations, with recognised results. Kesko is the only company in the world to have made the 'Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations in the World' list every year since the list was established in 2005, and once again, Kesko ranked highest among grocery trade companies on the list. Kesko is also among top sector companies in the assessment made for the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices.

Customer trust towards Kesko and K Group is high, and Kesko ranks among the most reputable companies in Finland. Interest towards Kesko has also risen significantly among Finnish private investors in recent years: in 2023, the number of registered shareholders grew by over 27% and rose above 105 000. Indeed we can say that Kesko today a share for all Finnish investors.

Kesko's new President and CEO Jorma Rauhala will be heading a strong, modern and international trading sector group. I want to express my thanks to our previous President and CEO Mikko Helander for his contributions to Kesko's transformation and growth. Kesko's established strategy is an effective one, and there is no need to make notable changes to it, although some fine-tuning can be expected during the annual strategy review process this spring. Kesko has good potential to continue its profitable growth also going forward.

Dear shareholders,

Kesko's good ability to generate profit and its financial position enable both investments and a good dividend capacity. The Board of Directors of Kesko Corporation proposes to this General Meeting that a dividend of €1.02 per share be distributed on the basis of the 2023 adopted balance sheet, totalling some 406 million euros. The Board proposes that the dividend be paid in four instalments.



On behalf of the whole Board of Directors, I want to thank Kesko's shareholders, management, retailers, K Group personnel, and all our partners for the valuable work done towards our success. I express my gratitude also to all our customers.

I welcome you all to this Annual General Meeting of Kesko Corporation, and declare this meeting open.