

**PRESS RELEASE****Aareal: When Shareholder Value Destruction Becomes a Habit**

**London, 10 November 2021:** Petrus Advisers is the largest shareholder of Aareal Bank AG ("Aareal") and has submitted the following agenda items for the Extraordinary General Meeting on 9 December 2021: Dismissal of the Supervisory Board members Marija Korsch, Christof von Dryander and Dietrich Voigtländer and their replacement by Heinz Laber, Marion Khüny and Joachim Sonne.

Since the Aareal Annual General Meeting on 18 May 2021, the current management under the leadership of Marija Korsch has changed next to nothing, yet, it has further destroyed shareholder value. Korsch and her acolytes are acting like Michael Myers in the movie series Halloween, who has been wreaking havoc for 12 episodes by now. Following the departure of CEO Hermann Merkens, just before the disastrous profit warning for 2020, the Supervisory Board failed to improve Aareal's long lasting lack of leadership and strategy - despite clear guidance provided by Petrus Advisers. The unsubstantiated and untransparent insistence on Merkens' comeback and the time-consuming dithering up until the appointment of Jochen Klösger as Chairman of the Management Board only a little less than a year after Merkens' departure has caused lasting economic damage to the bank and continues to have an impact to this day. Following the approach by the investor Apollo at the beginning of 2020, Aareal has once again become the cheap jack of takeover candidates within a very short period of time.

**No Tangible Progress Yet**

There is still no clear strategy for Aareal's software subsidiary Aareon and the bank now appears to be headed towards an unorganised and uncompetitive M&A sale, potentially to the detriment of the business and its shareholders. Furthermore, after the clear vote at the Annual General Meeting in May, the Supervisory Board still owes an acceptable proposal for a sustainable remuneration system. Shockingly elevated bonifications even in years of negative earnings and a depletion of the bank's capital have not yet been clawed back. To date we witness stubborn insistence on not changing anything. While the clock ticks, fat cat pay continues every month. A sustainable, ethical and market standard compensation system is out of sight. Modern governance practices under the consideration of Environmental, Social and good Governance (ESG) principles remain under-developed. At the behest of the incompetent Chairwoman, shareholders are to be ignored for as long as one can feel unnoticed and unpunished.

**Vote Out Korsch**

Petrus Advisers call on all shareholders to punish and terminate Marija Korsch and her disciples for obvious and continued failure. We do not believe that the current Supervisory Board is a guarantor for transparent and competitive M&A negotiations. They will also not set the right trajectory for the sustainable development of Aareal and Aareon. A partial replacement of the Supervisory Board is therefore inevitable to ensure the company's economic success. As the main shareholder, Petrus Advisers has therefore proposed a team of independent and highly professional experts: Heinz Laber, Marion Khüny and Joachim Sonne will constructively use their expertise to contribute to the successful development of both Aareal and Aareon.

For more information, please visit [www.reviveaareal.de](http://www.reviveaareal.de).