

# CEO STATEMENT

## Dear Readers,

RWE has undergone a large number of changes. However, the establishment of the subsidiary company innogy SE in spring of 2016 and its initial public offering on the stock exchange were a watershed. They represented the biggest changes ever experienced in the history of our company. The operations of RWE are now based on two stable pillars. Firstly, our Conventional Power Generation Division has the biggest flexible power plant portfolio in Germany and highly efficient power plants in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Secondly, RWE Supply & Trading is one of the leading energy trading companies in Europe. RWE also continues to remain committed to the market segments of Renewables, Grid & Infrastructure and Retail through innogy.

RWE has made a commitment to a new claim which reflects the self-image of the company, its role in the energy system and its role within society: Powering. Reliable. Future. Energy supply must be secure at all times: RWE is committed to that claim. And this is how RWE is contributing to the success of the energy transition as a reliable partner.

Our conventional generating plants mean that we are indispensable for providing a secure electricity supply in Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. A major task is presented by decommissioning our nuclear power stations and financing the nuclear energy fund that German lawmakers have adopted for intermediate storage and final disposal in a repository. In trading business, we want to be even more proactive in global commodity markets than has been the case in the past. This will enable us to generate a robust result for RWE AG. We also intend to drive forward the expansion of our business with major industrial and corporate customers.

Ethical business conduct is the foundation for building our future perspectives. RWE is strongly committed to its responsibility towards the environment, its employees and the community. Over the past twenty years, we have continuously modernised our power plant portfolio and increased the efficiency of our plants. Our policy has been to drive forward a programme for expanding renewable energies. We have prioritised nature conservation when restoring natural habitats in opencast mines and in the context of grid expansion, while always providing our workforce with healthy workplaces that are hazard-free to the greatest possible extent. RWE is dedicated to these objectives. The Group also remains committed to creating transparency for our entrepreneurial operations. We were delighted that our CR Report 2015 was positioned in 14th place among 150 selected reports in a ranking of German sustainability reports.

The CR Report 2016 has been produced on the basis of this objective while at the same time also serving as our progress report for the Global Compact of the United Nations. Signing this compact represents our commitment to actively promoting human rights, creating good working conditions, and environmental protection within our sphere of influence. It also provides a strong signal that we are taking a decisive stand in combatting corruption and bribery. The report provides a detailed insight into how we achieve these objectives.

The fact is that we continue to place great emphasis on providing evidence-based high-quality and informative communications for our stakeholders – in particular policymakers, investors, customers, local authorities and the general public. This tells them all about what we are doing and our future plans. And we will be delighted if this leads to ongoing dialogue.

Yours,



Rolf Martin Schmitz  
Chief Executive Officer