

Corporate governance

The RTL Group Board of Directors recognises the importance of, and is committed to, high standards of corporate governance. The principles of good governance adopted by RTL Group have been applied in the following way. They are in line with the ten principles of corporate governance issued by the Luxembourg stock exchange. A section on the company's website (www.rtlgroup.com) is fully dedicated to this topic and can be found in the 'Investors' section. Shareholders have access to the 'RTL Group Charter on Corporate Governance', which contains all the rules of good governance applied for years by the company.

Shareholders

The share capital of the Company is set at €191,900,551 divided into 154,787,554 shares with no par value, each fully paid up.

Shareholding structure

31 December 2007*

RTL Group	Bertelsmann	90.3%
	Public	9.7%

*Excluding 0.76% which is held collectively as treasury stock by RTL Group and one of its subsidiaries

Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer

On 31 December 2007 the Board of RTL Group had nine members: one executive director, and eight non-executive directors. The non-executive directors elected at the General Meeting of Shareholders on 19 April 2006 were appointed for a period of three years. The executive director elected at the General Meeting of Shareholders on 19 April 2006 was appointed for a period of five years. The biographical details of the directors are set out on pages 78 to 81. Three of the non-executive directors, Onno Ruding, Jacques Santer and Martin Taylor, are independent of management and other outside interests that might interfere with the exercise of their independent judgement.

The Board of Directors has to review, if requested with the assistance of an expert, that any transaction between RTL Group or any of its subsidiaries and any of the shareholders is at arm's length terms. The responsibility for day-to-day management of the Company is delegated to the CEO but the Board, which meets at least four times a year, has a formal schedule of matters reserved to it including approval of the annual overall Group budget, significant acquisitions and disposals, and the Group's financial statements. The Board of Directors met four times in 2007, with an average attendance rate of 78 per cent, and adopted some decisions by circular resolution on matters presented and discussed at a previous Board meeting.

An evaluation of the Board of Directors' activities, as well as the activities of its committees, was performed early in 2008. A report on the results was presented at the Board of Directors meeting in March 2008.

The following Board committees are established:

Nomination and Compensation Committee

The Nomination and Compensation Committee is made up of four non-executive directors, one of them being an independent director, and meets at least twice a year. The Nomination and Compensation Committee met twice in 2007, with an average attendance rate of 75 per cent.

The Nomination and Compensation Committee consults with the CEO on the appointment and removal of executive directors and senior management and determines the Group's compensation policy.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is made up of four non-executive directors, two of whom are independent, and meets at least three times a year.

The Committee's plenary meetings are attended by the CEO, the CFO and the Head of Internal Audit with or without the external auditors. The Audit Committee met three times in 2007, with an average attendance rate of 100 per cent.

The Committee reviews the overall risk management and control environment, financial reporting and standards of business conduct.

The Head of Internal Audit and the external auditors have direct access to the Chairman of the Audit Committee.

Directors' fees

In 2007 a total of €0.6 million (2006: €0.7 million) was allocated in the form of fees to the non-executive members of the Board of Directors and the Committees that emanate from it (see note 8.4. to the consolidated financial statements).

Neither options nor loans have been granted to Directors.

Market abuse

The Company has taken appropriate measures in order to ensure compliance with the provisions of the law dated 9 May 2006 on market abuse, as well as with the Circulars of the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF) dated 17 August 2006 and 5 February 2007 concerning the application of this legislation.

How we manage risks

By their nature, media businesses are exposed to risk. Television and radio channels can lose audiences rapidly as new competitive threats emerge, with consequent loss of revenue. Broadcasters and producers are also exposed to legal risks, such as litigation by aggrieved individuals or organisations. Moreover, media businesses are more exposed than most to economic cycles – advertising is usually one of the first casualties in an economic downturn. RTL Group’s international presence exposes it to further risks, such as adverse currency movements.

RTL Group has robust risk management processes in place, designed to ensure that risks are identified, monitored and controlled. Risk management is an essential part of our Group’s system of internal controls and is founded on a specific policy and clearly defined set of procedures.

Definition of risk

RTL Group defines a risk as the danger of a negative development arising that could endanger the solvency or existence of a profit centre, or impact negatively on the income statement of the Group.

Risk reporting framework

We have developed a framework for the reporting of risks and related controls, in line with good corporate practice. This framework is based on a number of key principles:

- Comprehensive scope of risk assessment: risks are assessed within a framework of defined key risk categories. Regular risk assessments are undertaken to include a description of the risk, an indication of the potential financial impact, and the approach taken to mitigate the risk.
- Regular reporting: RTL Group’s system of internal controls ensures that risks will be addressed, reported and mitigated when they arise. Within the specific risk reporting framework all significant risks are comprehensively assessed and reported to RTL Group management on a bi-annual basis. This ensures that the necessary actions are undertaken to manage, mitigate or offset the risks within the Group.
- Bottom-up approach: we assess risks at the level where they arise, i.e. in our operations.
- Harmonised reporting tool: our operations report on their risk assessment using a common reporting tool thus ensuring consistency in scope and approach.

- Consolidated Group matrix: we gain a comprehensive view of significant risks for the Group through the consolidation of the local risk assessments. A Risk Management Committee, chaired by the CFO and comprising senior Group management, prepares and reviews this consolidated Group risk matrix which is then submitted to RTL Group’s Audit Committee.
- Audit approach: both the processes of local risk assessments as well as the consolidated Group risk matrix are regularly reviewed by the external auditors.

Going forward

RTL Group’s risk management framework is constantly challenged, both at the level of our operations as well as at Group level through the Risk Management Committee, in order to ensure it reflects the risk profile of the Group at any given moment.

Risk management framework	
1	Goals and objectives based on company mission.
2	Risk assessment at operations and headquarters.
3	Mitigation measures and action plans to control risks.
4	Risk management reporting.
5	Consolidation of risk management report and review by risk management committee. Reporting to Audit Committee.
6	Actions at Group/local level.

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Type of risks	Description and areas of impact
External and market risks	
Legal	The local and European media regulations are subject to change. Some changes could alter businesses and revenue streams (for example, a ban of certain types of advertisements, opening of markets, deregulation of markets, cancellation of restrictions, limitation of advertising minutes).
Audience and market share	A decrease in audience and/or market share may have a negative impact on RTL Group's revenue.
Strategic direction	Wrong strategic decisions could lead to potential losses of revenue. Also, wrong strategic investment decisions and overpricing could imply the risk of an impairment of goodwill (apart from the cash cost of an overly expensive investment).
Cyclical development of economy	Economic development directly impacts the advertising market and therefore RTL Group revenue.
Market risks	
New entrants and market fragmentation	As countries move towards digital switchover, market entry barriers are reduced. New entrants will also provide further choice to the viewer. Higher competition in programme acquisition, fragmentation due to thematic channels, and expansion of platform operators may impact RTL Group's position.
Technological challenges/ innovation	New broadcasting technologies becoming more and more important over the coming years (for instance digital broadcasting, internet, video on demand) are a threat for RTL Group.
Risks in key business	
Customers	Bad debts or loss of customers may negatively impact RTL Group's financial statements.
Suppliers	The supply of certain types of content is limited and may lead to a rise in costs. Over reliance on one supplier may also cause costs to rise in the long term.
Inventories	There is a risk of over-accumulation of stock which would be unused or could become obsolete. This may imply that write offs/impairments are necessary.
Financial risks	
Foreign exchange exposure	Effective management of foreign exchange risk is an important factor. The operating margin and broadcasting costs are impacted by foreign exchange volatility, especially if there is a strong increase of the USD versus EUR (feature films or sport/distribution rights purchases).

Mitigation activities

RTL Group tries to anticipate any changes in legislation and to act accordingly by developing and exploiting new revenue sources.

New talent and formats are developed or acquired. Performance of existing shows is under constant review with the aim of driving audience share performance and hence future revenue. Moreover, RTL Group remains constantly proactive in the monitoring of international market trends.

Prudent investment policies are followed, underpinned by realistic and conservative business plans, approval levels being followed ensuring the relevant degree of management 'sign-off', solid valuation models and regular strategic planning sessions. A regular review of strategic options is undertaken ensuring that the strategic course of the Group is well understood and consistent over time.

RTL Group tries to diversify the revenue base through regional expansion as well as new products and services generating non-advertising revenue.

RTL Group's strategy is to embrace new digital opportunities by ensuring its channels and stations are platform neutral (available on the widest possible choice) and that we develop strong families of channels for the digital age based around our leading brands.

RTL Group remains proactive on new technological and broadcasting trends and develops digitalisation activities to offset the removal/loss of analogue activities.

Credit analysis of all new advertisers is systematically undertaken to prevent such a risk. Depending on the customer's credit worthiness credit insurances may be used. This risk is also mitigated by broadening the advertiser base.

The Group tries wherever possible to diversify its sources of supply. RTL Group benchmarks purchasing terms and conditions to identify best practices with the aim of reducing costs via, for example, joint purchasing. RTL Group makes a selection of high quality and solid suppliers for key services or equipment to reduce the risk of bankruptcy of business partners.

RTL Group has strict commercial policies, very close follow-up of existing inventories and strict criteria for approval of investment proposals for rights.

RTL Group has in place a strict policy regarding foreign exchange management, which is monitored and followed up by Group Treasury, using plain vanilla hedge instruments to mitigate volatility on the income statement.