# CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED

# 31 MARCH 2006



CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2006 (All amounts in Euro thousands unless otherwise stated)

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### CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2006 (All amounts in Euro thousands unless otherwise stated)

# I. Condensed Interim Balance Sheet (Unaudited)

		As	at
	Note	31 March 2006	31 December 2005
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	6	643.011	657.028
Intangible assets	7	25.808	26.602
Investments in affiliated companies		685.164	685.145
Deferred income tax assets		27.561	27.606
Available-for-sale financial assets		5	5
Loans, advances and other receivables	_	87	79
		1.381.636	1.396.465
Current assets			
Inventories	8	1.231.207	1.071.322
Trade and other receivables	9	740.679	726.743
Cash and cash equivalents	10	65.116	75.956
	_	2.037.002	1.874.021
Total assets	_	3.418.638	3.270.486
EQUITY			
Share capital	11	1.019.963	1.019.963
Reserves		543.643	543.643
Retained Earnings		445.302	384.709
Total equity	_	2.008.908	1.948.315
LIABILITIES			
Non- current liabilities			
Borrowings	12	327.662	335.187
Retirement benefit obligations		111.141	108.711
Provisions and other long term liabilities	13	46.902	46.435
	_	485.705	490.333
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	14	469.679	552.055
Current income tax liabilities		162.334	135.247
Borrowings	12	283.724	116.870
Dividends payable	_	8.288	27.666
	_	924.025	831.838
Total liabilities	_	1.409.730	1.322.171
Total equity and liabilities	_	3.418.638	3.270.486

The notes on pages 7 to 16 are an integral part of these interim financial statements

Chief Executive Officer	Chief Financial Officer	Finance Manager
Panagiotis Cavoulacos	Andreas Shiamishis	Athanasios Solomos

#### CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2006 (All amounts in Euro thousands unless otherwise stated)

# **II.** Condensed Interim Income Statement (Unaudited)

	Note	For the three month period end 31 March 2006 31 March	
Sales		1.963.436	1.365.563
Cost of sales		(1.835.264)	(1.238.338)
Gross profit	-	128.172	127.225
Selling, distribution and administrative expenses	4	(45.662)	(50.224)
Exploration and development expenses		(1.193)	(3.416)
Other operating (expenses) / income - net		(3.087)	931
Operating profit	-	78.230	74.516
Finance costs -net	5	(2.467)	(1.349)
Currency exchange gains /(losses)		11.104	(4.754)
Dividend income		-	4.710
Profit before income tax	-	86.867	73.123
Income tax expense		(26.274)	(21.900)
Profit for the period	-	60.593	51.223
Earnings per share attributable to the Company		0.00	<u></u>
Shareholders (expressed in Euro per share): Net income attributable to ordinary shares		0,20	0,17
(Euro in thousands)		60.593	51.223
Average number of ordinary shares outstanding		305.622.245	305.513.425

Diluted earnings per ordinary share are not materially different from basic earnings per share.

Basic earnings per share is calculated by dividing the net profit attributable to equity holders of the company by the weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue during the period.

The notes on pages 7 to 16 are an integral part of these interim financial statements.

#### CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2006 (All amounts in Euro thousands unless otherwise stated)

# **III.** Condensed Interim Statement of Changes in Equity (Unaudited)

	Share Capital	Reserves	Retained Earnings	Total Equity
Balance at 31 December 2004	1.019.157	510.360	200.807	1.730.324
Effect of adopting IFRS 3 (Negative Goodwill Restatement)			19.874	19.874
Balance at 1 January 2005	1.019.157	510.360	220.681	1.750.198
Profit for the period	-	-	51.223	51.223
Balance at 31 March 2005	1.019.157	510.360	271.904	1.801.421
<b>Balance at 1 April 2005</b> Profit for the period 1/4/05 to 31/12/05 Transfers to statutory and tax reserves Exercise of share options Dividends relating to 2004 Dividends relating to 2005	<b>1.019.157</b> - - 806 - -	<b>510.360</b> 33.283	<b>271.904</b> 271.350 (33.283) (79.435) (45.827)	<b>1.801.421</b> 271.350 806 (79.435) (45.827)
Balance at 31 December 2005	1.019.963	543.643	384.709	1.948.315
Balance at 1 January 2006	1.019.963	543.643	384.709	1.948.315
Profit for the period	-	-	60.593	60.593
Balance at 31 March 2006	1.019.963	543.643	445.302	2.008.908

The notes on pages 7 to 16 are an integral part of these interim financial statements.

#### CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2006 (All amounts in Euro thousands unless otherwise stated)

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# IV. Condensed Interim Cash Flow Statement (Unaudited)

		For the three month period ended			
	Note	31 March 2006	31 March 2005		
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash (used in) / generated from operations	15	(144.813)	61.487		
Net cash (used in) / generated from operating activities	_	(144.813)	61.487		
Cash flows from investing activities					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment & intangible					
assets	6,7	(9.301)	(6.655)		
Interest received	5	2.167	1.701		
(Increase) in share capital of subsidiaries	_	(19)	-		
Net cash used in investing activities	_	(7.153)	(4.954)		
Cash flows from financing activities					
Interest paid	5	(4.634)	(3.050)		
Dividends paid		(19.378)	-		
Net movement in long term borrowings		-	(4.465)		
Net movement in short term borrowings		166.854	(79.026)		
Net cash (used in) / generated from financing activities	_	142.842	(86.541)		
Net decrease in cash & cash equivalents	_	(9.124)	(30.008)		
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of the period	10	75.956	89.083		
Exchange gains on cash & cash equivalents		(1.716)	(1.349)		
Net decrease in cash & cash equivalents	_	(9.124)	(30.008)		
Cash & cash equivalents at end of the period	10	65.116	57.726		

The notes on pages 7 to 16 are an integral part of these interim financial statements.

CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2006 (All amounts in Euro thousands unless otherwise stated)

# V. Notes to the Condensed Interim Financial Statements (Unaudited)

## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Hellenic Petroleum S.A. operates in the energy sector in Greece. The Company's activities include exploration and production, refining and marketing of oil products and the production and marketing of petrochemical products.

The interim financial statements of Hellenic Petroleum S.A are prepared in accordance with International Accounting Standard 34 (IAS 34) – *Interim Financial Reporting*.

The accounting policies used in the preparation of the condensed interim financial statements for the three month period ended 31 March 2006 are consistent with those applied for the preparation of published accounts of the company for the year ended 31 December 2005. Where necessary comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with changes in the presentation of the current year.

These interim financial statements should be read in conjunction with the December 2005 financial statements. These can be found on the Company's website **www.hellenic-petroleum.gr**.

The interim financial statements of the Company for the three month period ended 31 March 2006 were authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 17 May 2006.

### 2. CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

The following standards, amendments and interpretations to existing standards have been applied from 1 January 2006:

The Company has adopted IFRS 6 (Amendment); Exploration for and Evaluation of Mineral Resources, as of 1 January 2006. This standard allows companies to retain existing practices in accounting for exploration and evaluation expenditures. Accordingly adoption of this amendment did not have any significant impact on the Company's condensed financial statements.

Finally the Company has adopted IFRIC 4, *Determining whether an Arrangement contains a Lease*. IFRIC 4 requires the determination of whether an arrangement is or contains a lease to be based on the substance of the arrangement. Following a review of the relevant contracts, the adoption of IFRIC 4 did not have any significant impact on the Company's condensed financial statements.

#### CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2006 (All amounts in Euro thousands unless otherwise stated)

# 3. ANALYSIS BY INDUSTRY SEGMENT

Three month period ended 31 March 2006	Refining	Petro- chemicals	E & P	Gas & Power	Total
Sales	1.879.264	77.673	282	6.217	1.963.436
Operating profit Foreign exchange gains / (losses)	82.839 11.104	(585)	(5.424)	1.400	78.230 11.104
<ul> <li>Profit before tax, dividend income &amp; finance costs</li> <li>Finance costs - net</li> <li>Dividend income</li> <li>Profit before income tax</li> <li>Income tax expense</li> <li>Profit for the period</li> </ul>	93.943	(585)	(5.424)	1.400 	<b>89.334</b> (2.467) <b>86.867</b> (26.274) <b>60.593</b>
Three month period ended 31 March 2005	Refining	Petro- chemicals	E & P	Gas & Power	Total
Sales	1.301.760	63.800	3	-	1.365.563
Operating profit Foreign exchange gains / (losses)	83.200 (4.900)	(2.300) 100	(6.384) 46	-	74.516 (4.754)
Profit before tax, dividend income & finance costs Finance costs - net Dividend income Profit before income tax Income tax expense	78.300	(2.200)	(6.338)	_	<b>69.762</b> (1.349) <u>4.710</u> <b>73.123</b>

## 4. SELLING, DISTRIBUTION AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

	For the three month period ended		
	31 March 2006	31 March 2005	
Selling and distribution expenses	26.797	30.134	
Administrative expenses	18.865	20.090	
	45.662	50.224	

## 5. FINANCE COSTS - NET

	For the three month period ended			
	31 March 2006	31 March 2005		
Interest expense	(4.634)	(3.050)		
Interest income	2.167	1.701		
Finance costs -net	(2.467)	(1.349)		

#### CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2006 (All amounts in Euro thousands unless otherwise stated)

# 6. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

			Plant & Machi-	Motor	Furniture and	Assets Under Cons-	
	Land	Buildings	nery	vehicles	fixtures	truction	Total
Cost							
As at 1 January 2005	115.536	139.113	1.079.741	8.170	33.464	96.829	1.472.853
Additions	1	75	1.570	498	2.086	45.826	50.056
Capitalised projects	-	2.616	37.301	147	103	(40.167)	-
Disposals	-	-	(3.040)	-	(44)	-	(3.084)
Transfers & other movements	(8.500)	8.565	1.939	-	(455)	97	1.646
As at 31 December 2005	107.037	150.369	1.117.511	8.815	35.154	102.585	1.521.471
A commutated Depresention							
Accumulated Depreciation As at 1 January 2005		78.661	662.860	6.961	23.575		772.057
Charge for the year	-	7.589	83.193	476	<b>23.373</b> 3.240	-	94.498
Disposals	-		(2.911)	470	(44)	-	(2.955)
Transfers & other movements	_	_	1.069		(226)	_	843
As at 31 December 2005		86.250	744.211	7.437	26.545		864.443
As at 51 December 2005		00.200	/ 4,211	1.451	20.343		004.445
Net Book Value at							
31 December 2005	107.037	64.119	373.300	1.378	8.609	102.585	657.028
Cost							
As at 1 January 2006	107.037	150.369	1.117.511	8.815	35.154	102.585	1.521.471
Additions	-	20	340	47	279	7.772	8.458
Capitalised projects	-	151	270	-	804	(1.225)	-
Transfers & other movements	-	763	(949)	-	186	-	-
As at 31 March 2006	107.037	151.303	1.117.172	8.862	36.423	109.132	1.529.929
Accumulated Depreciation							
As at 1 January 2006	-	86.250	744.211	7.437	26.545	-	864.443
Charge for the period	-	1.797	19.758	126	794	-	22.475
Transfers & other movements	-	88	(121)	-	33	-	-
As at 31 March 2006	-	88.135	763.848	7.563	27.372	-	886.918
Net Book Value at							
31 March 2006	107.037	63.168	353.324	1.299	9.051	109.132	643.011
	107.037	03.108	333.344	1,479	7.031	107.132	043.011

#### CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2006 (All amounts in Euro thousands unless otherwise stated)

# 7. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Goodwill	Computer software	Licences & Rights	Total
<b>Cost</b> <b>As at 31 December 2004</b> Effect of adopting IFRS 3 (Negative Goodwill	(22.713)	31.858	31.582	40.727
Restatement)	22.713	-	-	22.713
As at 1 January 2005	-	31.858	31.582	63.440
Additions	-	1.813	-	1.813
Disposals		(225)	-	(225)
Transfers, acquisitions & other movements	-	(1.550)	-	(1.550)
As at 31 December 2005	-	31.896	31.582	63.478
Accumulated Amortisation As at 31 December 2004 Effect of adopting IFRS 3 (Negative Goodwill	(2.839)	24.953	3.607	25.721
Restatement)	2.839	-	-	2.839
As at 1 January 2005	-	24.953	3.607	28.560
Charge for the year	-	5.742	3.486	9.228
Disposals	-	(69)	-	(69)
Transfers, acquisitions & other movements	-	(843)	-	(843)
As at 31 December 2005	-	29.783	7.093	36.876
Net Book Value 31 December 2005	-	2.113	24.489	26.602
Cost				
As at 1 January 2006	-	31.896	31.582	63.478
Additions	_	843	-	843
As at 31 March 2006	-	32.739	31.582	64.321
Accumulated Amortisation				
As at 1 January 2006	-	29.783	7.093	36.876
Charge for the period	-	771	866	1.637
As at 31 March 2006	-	30.554	7.959	38.513
Net Book Value 31 March 2006	-	2.185	23.623	25.808

#### CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2006 (All amounts in Euro thousands unless otherwise stated)

#### 8. **INVENTORIES**

	As at		
	31 March 2006	31 December 2005	
Crude oil	387.146	359.821	
Refined products and semi-finished products	757.497	622.382	
Petrochemicals	29.677	30.983	
Consumable materials and other	56.887	58.136	
	1.231.207	1.071.322	

#### 9. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	As at		
	31 March 2006	31 December 2005	
Trade receivables	675.149	657.719	
Other receivables	55.603	60.378	
Deferred charges and prepayments	9.927	8.646	
Total	740.679	726.743	

#### 10. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	As at		
	31 March 2006	31 December 2005	
Cash at Bank and in Hand	65.006	59.850	
Short term bank deposits	110	16.106	
Total cash and cash equivalents	65.116	75.956	

Cash equivalents comprise of short-term deposits (made for varying periods, of less than three months). Such deposits depend on the immediate cash requirements of the company.

#### 11. SHARE CAPITAL

	Number of Shares (authorised and issued)	Share Capital	Share premium	Total
As at 1 January 2005	305.513.425	666.019	353.139	1.019.157
Exercise of employee share options	108.820	237	569	806
As at 31 December 2005	305.622.245	666.256	353.708	1.019.963
Exercise of employee share options		-	-	-
As at 31 March 2006	305.622.245	666.256	353.708	1.019.963

Hellenic Petroleum S.A. had up until the end of 2004 offered a share option scheme to management executives. The exercise price was determined based on the Company's share performance compared to the market and the options are exercisable within five years. Under that scheme, management had the option to acquire 47.660 shares at a price of € 9,68 each until 31 December 2006 and 3.440 shares at a price of € 6,97 each until 31 December 2007.

#### CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2006 (All amounts in Euro thousands unless otherwise stated)

During the AGM of Hellenic Petroleum S.A. held on 25 May 2005 a revised share option scheme was approved with the intention to link the number of share options granted to employees with the results and performance of the company and its management. No options have been granted under this scheme as of 31 March 2006.

### 12. BORROWINGS

	As at		
	31 March 2006	31 December 2005	
Non-current borrowings			
Bank borrowings	38.501	38.501	
Bond loan	289.161	296.686	
Total non-current borrowings	327.662	335.187	
Current borrowings			
Short term loans	274.802	107.948	
Current portion of long term debt	8.922	8.922	
Total current borrowings	283.724	116.870	
Total borrowings	611.386	452.057	

#### Bond Loan

In February 2005, the Company issued a five year US \$ 350 million Bond Loan with Mandated Lead Arrangers The Bank of Tokyo – Mitsubishi Ltd, Citigroup Global Markets Ltd., EFG Telesis Finance S.A. and National Bank of Greece S.A. The Loan was signed with the participation of sixteen financial institutions and is part of the Company's refinancing arrangement of existing credit lines. The outstanding balance of the bond loan as of 31 March 2006 was US \$ 350 million.

#### 13. PROVISIONS AND OTHER LONG TERM LIABILITIES

	As at		
	31 March 2006	31 December 2005	
Government advances	25.614	25.614	
Environmental provisions	5.192	5.192	
Other provisions and long term liabilities	16.096	15.629	
Total	46.902	46.435	

#### **Government advances**

Advances by the Government (Hellenic Republic) to the company for the purposes of research and exploration amounting to  $\notin$  25.614 have been recorded as a liability since such an amount may become payable if income is generated from upstream activity in the relevant areas. The terms of repayment will be determined by the Ministry of Development, if applicable.

#### **Environmental costs**

A provision of  $\in$  1.092 was established in prior years for the estimated cost of rectifying environmental damage, as required by regulatory authorities, at various Company facilities.

Additionally, the Company has made a provision of  $\notin$ 4.100 in 2005 for obligations in respect of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions which is charged to the cost of sales line.

#### CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2006 (All amounts in Euro thousands unless otherwise stated)

# 14. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	As at		
	31 March 2006	31 December 2005	
Trade payables	390.140	468.395	
Accrued Expenses & Deferred Income	35.800	41.818	
Other payables	43.739	41.842	
Total	469.679	552.055	

### 15. CASH GENERATED FROM OPERATIONS

	For the three month period ended		
Ν	lote	31 March 2006	31 March 2005
fit before tax		86.867	73.123
reciation and amortisation of tangible and intangible			
	6,7	22.644	24.064
ncial (income)/ expenses	5	2.467	1.349
visions		4.044	12.421
eign exchange (gains) / losses		(11.104)	4.754
	_	104.918	115.711
nges in working capital			
rease) / decrease in inventories		(159.885)	(161.772)
rease) / decrease in trade and other receivables		(15.660)	(32.341)
ease / (decrease) in payables		(74.186)	139.889
	_	(249.731)	(54.224)
cash (used in) / generated from operating activities	-	(144 813)	61.487
cash (used in) / generated from operating activities	-	(144.813)	

#### CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2006 (All amounts in Euro thousands unless otherwise stated)

#### 16. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Included in the Income Statement are proceeds, costs and expenses, which arise from transactions between the company and related parties. Such transactions mainly comprise of sales and purchases of goods and services in the ordinary course of business.

i) Sales of goods and services	For the three month period ended		
	31 March 2006	31 March 2005	
Sales of goods			
Affiliated Companies	609.684	403.256	
Non affiliated	202.565	135.844	
Sales of services			
Affiliated Companies	2.866	2.531	
	815.115	541.631	
ii) Purchases of goods and services			
Purchases of goods			
Affiliated Companies	1.076	1.307	
Non affiliated	5.558	6.059	
Purchases of services			
Affiliated Companies	8.635	9.535	
	15.269	16.901	
	15.269		

iii) Balances arising from sales / purchases of goods / services	As at	
	31 March 2006	31 December 2005
Receivables from related parties		
<u>Affiliated Companies</u>		
- Receivables	177.775	163.789
Non affiliated (outside the Group)		
- Receivables	109.084	97.735
	286.859	261.524
Payables to related parties		
Affiliated Companies		
- Payables	10.295	8.622
Non affiliated (outside the Group)		
- Payables	4.076	4.602
_	14.371	13.224
Net balances from related parties	272.488	248.300

The Company has loans amounting to  $\notin$ 183.725 as at 31 March 2006 (31 December 2005:  $\notin$ 111.052) which represent loan balances due to related financial institutions.

All transactions with related parties are done under normal trading and commercial terms

#### CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2006 (All amounts in Euro thousands unless otherwise stated)

Non affiliated or Governmental organisations include the Hellenic Armed Forces and the Public Power Corporation (Hellas). They are considered related parties due to the shareholding in the Company by the Hellenic State.

Transactions and balances with related parties are in respect of the following:

- Hellenic Petroleum Group companies.
- Parties which are under common control with the Company due to the shareholding and control rights of the Hellenic State:
  - Public Power Corporation Hellas
  - Hellenic Armed Forces
  - Olympic Airways/Airlines
- Financial institutions (including subsidiaries) which are under common control with the Company due to the shareholding and control rights of the Hellenic State:
  - National Bank of Greece
  - o Agricultural Bank of Greece
  - Commercial Bank of Greece
- Joint ventures with other third parties:
  - o OMV Aktiengesellschaft
  - o Sipetrol
  - Woodside Repsol Helpe
- Associates of the Company:
  - Athens Airport Fuel Pipeline Company S.A. (EAKAA)
  - o Public Gas Corporation of Greece S.A. (DEPA)
  - Volos Pet Industries A.E.
  - Spata Aviation Fuel Company S.A. (SAFCO)
- Financial institutions (including subsidiaries) in which substantial interest is owned by parties which hold significant participation in the share capital of the Company.
  - EFG Eurobank Ergasias S.A.
- Enterprises in which substantial interest is owned by parties which hold significant participation in the share capital of the Company.
  - o Lamda Shipyards

### **17. COMMITMENTS**

Significant contractual commitments of the Company are as follows:

- Capital investment in upgrading Hellenic Petroleum refinery installations of €29 million. (2005: €22 million)
- Upstream exploration and development costs of €17 million (2005: €19 million) have been committed as part of the Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) in place. These commitments will depend on the progress of exploration activities.

### **18.** CONTINGENCIES AND LITIGATION

The Company has contingent liabilities in respect of bank and other guarantees and other matters arising in the ordinary course of business. They are as follows:

(i) The Government has advanced Hellenic Petroleum S.A. an amount of  $\notin$  43.434 to undertake research and exploration projects, as determined by Law 367/1976. A portion of the amount received,  $\notin$  25.614, may become repayable once the Company generates income from the discoveries resulting from its expenditure and therefore is included as part of long-term liabilities (see note 13). (The terms of repayment will be

#### CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2006 (All amounts in Euro thousands unless otherwise stated)

determined by the Ministry of Development, if applicable) The remaining  $\notin$  17.902 has been written off as it is considered highly unlikely it will ever become repayable due to the nature of the expenditure.

- (ii) The Company is involved in a number of legal proceedings and has various unresolved claims pending arising in the ordinary course of business. Based on currently available information, management believes the outcome will not have a significant effect on the company's operating results or financial position.
- (iii) The Company has entered into a contract with the Hellenic State for the construction of sports facilities at the Thessaloniki refinery premises for the use by the general public and the employees of the Company until the year 2017. Management is not in a position to determine whether the terms of the contract will be extended indefinitely or whether the land will be repossessed by the Hellenic State.
- (iv) During 2004, Hellenic Petroleum S.A. was audited by the Greek tax authorities for the years ended 31 December 1997 to 2001. An amount of €11,9 million of additional taxes, plus fines was assessed by tax authorities for prior year tax audits and was recorded in the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2004. The Company has not undergone a tax audit for the years ended 31 December 2002 to 31 December 2005. Management believes that no additional material liability will arise as a result of open tax years over and above the tax liabilities and provisions recognised in the financial statements.
- (v) Following an accident involving the motor tanker KRITI-GOLD on November 1998, at the Group's mooring installation in Thessaloniki, four seamen died. Claims have been lodged in connection with this accident against the ship owner and the Company. Of the four claims, three have already been settled with the involvement of the insurers. The last one is still pending but its outcome is not likely to have a material effect on the Company's operating results or financial position.
- (vi) The Company has given letters of comfort and guarantees of €346 million to banks for loans undertaken by subsidiaries and associates of the Company, the outstanding amount of which was €272 million as of 31 March 2006. The Company has also issued letters of credit and guarantees in favour of third parties amounting to € 495 million mainly for the completion of crude purchase contracts.
- (vii) In October 2002 the Company guaranteed its commitment to the Investment Programme under the share purchase agreement for the acquisition of Jugopetrol AD Kotor, through a performance bond issued by the National Bank of Greece for €45 million. As at 31 March 2006, the Performance Bond had decreased to €17 million (31 December, 2005: €24 million).
- (i) The Company has recorded an amount of € 81 million as tax free reserves under L.3220/2004. The EU is presently investigating the applicability of this law and its compliance with EU policies. No adjustment has been made to the financial statements as this issue is being investigated by the EU and the Greek state.

## **19. DIVIDENDS PAID**

A dividend in respect of 2004 of  $\notin 0.26$  per share (amounting to a total of  $\notin 79.433$ ) was approved by the Annual Shareholders Meeting held on 25 May 2005 to all shares issued. At it's meeting held on 12 December 2005, the Board agreed that an interim dividend distribution of  $\notin 0,15$  per share (amounting to a total of  $\notin 45.843$ ) be proposed at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the shareholder's for the 2005 period. The Board of Directors will propose a final dividend of  $\notin 0,28$  per share to the Annual General Meeting (amounting to a total of  $\notin 85.574$ ).