QUESTIONS FROM DWS INVESTMENT GMBH Comcast Corporation ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024 INTENDED FOR ONLINE PUBLICATION



Comcast Corporation
ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS
10<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024
QUESTIONS FROM DWS INVESTMENT GMBH

Dear Mr. Brian Roberts, Dear Mr. Edward Breen, Dear Members of the Board,

DWS Investment GmbH, also acting on behalf of funds of DWS Investment S.A. (incl. SICAVs and PLCs) and certain institutional mandates of DWS International GmbH, all according to delegation agreements (hereafter DWS), is one of the largest asset managers in Europe. As a responsible investor in Comcast Corporation, it is part of our fiduciary duty to express our expectations in the best interest of our clients. Our commitment to environmental, social and governance practices (ESG) is a crucial element of our responsibilities and forms an integral part of our investment process.

Ahead of your 2024 annual general meeting of shareholders (AGM), we would like to share our questions with you. We would greatly appreciate your answers in written form. Please note that we will also share our questions on our website (www.dws.com) on the day of your AGM. Thank you for your consideration.

# Independence and Composition of the Key Committees of the Board

Qualified, experienced and independent directors are essential for competent and efficient decision-making processes at board and committee level. Having a majority of independent members serving on the board as well as an independent chairperson is important for us to ensure challenging board discussions.

Our expectation on independence also extends to the board's committees. Having at least 50% independent members serving on the board's committees is important for us to ensure challenging discussions and decision making.

We appreciate the work of Mr. Kenneth Bacon and Mr. Jeffrey Honickman. However, as their tenure with the company has exceeded ten years as on the ensuing AGM, it contradicts our DWS Corporate Governance and Proxy Voting Policy with respect to director independence.

We observe that independence of the Governance and Corporate Responsibility Committee has reduced to 33%, due to the reasons stated above. Additionally, the Audit committee has non-independent chairperson. This falls short of the expectation of the DWS Corporate Governance and Proxy Voting Policy, which requires an independent chairperson on the Audit committee.

QUESTION 1: Do you have any plans to reconstitute the Governance and Corporate Responsibility Committee to ensure majority independence in the near future?

QUESTION 2: Would you consider appointing an independent chairperson on the Audit committee before the next AGM?

#### **Overboarding**

Directors should not hold excessive number of mandates. Directors must ensure that they have sufficient time and capacity to fulfil their board commitments. DWS considers directors overboarded in case they hold more than five external non-executive mandates. For directors who hold executive positions on any board, our limit

Limited liability Company domiciled in Frankfurt am Main, Germany HRB No. 9135, Frankfurt am Main Local Court Chairman of the Supervisory Board: Dr. Stefan Hoops Management Board: Dr. Matthias Liermann (Speaker), Nicole Behrens, Petra Pflaum, Gero Schomann, Vincenzo Vedda, Christian Wolff VAT Identification Number: DE 811 248 2899



is two additional non-executive mandates. Further, due to their extended responsibilities, DWS attributes an additional mandate to members assuming the role of CEO, chair position of the board or the chair position of the audit committee.

In this regard, we note that Mr. Thomas J. Baltimore, Jr. is currently overboarded according to our DWS Corporate Governance and Proxy Voting Policy.

QUESTION 3: Are there any plans for Mr. Thomas J. Baltimore, Jr. to reduce his overall mandates by the next AGM?

### **Rotation of External Auditors**

We place high value on the quality and independence of auditors. A strong degree of transparency regarding the audit fees, the proportionality and limitations on audit and non-audit fees, the tenure of the audit firm and the lead audit partner is key for DWS to assess whether ratifications for audit firms are deemed responsibly.

We regard regular rotation of both the audit firm (after ten years at the latest) and the lead audit partner (after five years at the latest) as a reasonable measure to ensure reliable, independent and critical evaluation of a firm's accounts.

We note that Deloitte & Touche LLP have been associated with the company since 1963.

QUESTION 4: Can we expect a rotation of the audit firm before the next AGM?

# **Executive Remuneration**

Executive pay is one of the most important aspects of good corporate governance as it is one of the signals for a well-operated and supervised business. Our expectation is that the board ensures full transparency, clear and plausible key performance indicators for investors, the structure of the incentives encourages the achievement of corporate financial, social and environmental objectives and the amount ultimately granted is in line with performance.

While the company has an existing recoupment/clawback policy for the incentive arrangements of executive directors, its applicability does not expand beyond cases of accounting restatements and is therefore not considered robust.

We regard relevant and adequate bonus-malus mechanisms (including clawbacks) and reasonable deferral periods for executives as key elements of a sustainable, long-term oriented compensation structure. A robust clawback mechanism sets out the scope of and defines the conditions under which parts of the remuneration are to be reclaimed by the board. This should include cash and equity-based elements and should cover not only restatements, compliance breaches or misconduct but also performance-related restatements that may also extend to sustainability aspects.

QUESTION 5: Would you consider expanding the applicability of the company's recoupment policy to events such as gross misconduct; fraud; malpractice and reputational damage to the business?



## **Capital Structure**

As prerogative for us, we strongly support the "one-share, one-vote" principle, and regard the existence or creation of different share classes as a measure that denies the equal treatment of shareholders. The adequate treatment of (minority) shareholders' interests and proposals must be ensured.

We note that Comcast Corporation maintains a multi-class capital structure. Such capital structures with unequal voting rights create a misalignment between economic interest and voting rights, which can disenfranchise shareholders holding stock with inferior voting rights.

In addition, the company's multi-class structure is not subject to a reasonable time-based sunset provision, which goes against our support for the "one-share, one-vote" principle.

QUESTION 6: When can we expect the company to introduce a reasonable time-based sunset provision regarding its dual-class capital structure?

To conclude, we would like to thank all members of the Board and all the employees of Comcast Corporation on their commitment and dedication.

Thank you in advance for your answers.