

# **Declaration of Compliance by the Management Board and Supervisory Board with the German Corporate Governance Code for the year 2018 as required under sec. 161 of the German Stock Corporation Act (AktG)**

The German Corporate Governance Code in its current version as of 07 February 2017 (the ‘Code’) sets forth substantial legal requirements for the management and supervision of listed German companies. The rules are based to a large extent on internationally recognized standards for sound and responsible company management.

The general key principles of sound Corporate Governance are: observance of shareholder and employee interests, effective cooperation between the Management Board and the Supervisory Board and open and transparent communication.

With the following exceptions, Evotec complies with all recommendations of the Code and the majority of the Code’s suggestions. In December 2018, Evotec’s Management Board and Supervisory Board declared in accordance with Section 161 of the German Stock Corporation Act (AktG):

*“Evotec AG has complied in 2018 with the recommendations of the Governmental Commission on the German Corporate Governance Code (the “Code”) as published in the official section of the Federal Gazette and intends to comply in the future with the recommendations of the Code, with the following exceptions:*

- *Pursuant to Section 4.2.3 of the Code, the monetary remuneration of the Management Board members comprises fixed and variable components. Variable remuneration components consist of a one-year variable remuneration determined by a bonus scheme and a long-term so-called Share Performance Plan scheme approved by the Annual General Meetings 2012, 2015 and 2017. The Share Performance Plans have a multiple-year assessment basis that has essentially forward-looking characteristics, whereas the bonus scheme is based on the achievement of certain strategic targets set by the Supervisory Board for a certain financial year.*
- *The Share Performance Plans comply with the recommendations set forth in Section 4.2.3 of the Code. In particular, they refer to specific key performance indicators and define a “Maximum Target”. However, as the issuance of awards under the Share Performance Plans 2012 and 2015 after the four-year vesting period is effected in shares, there is a cap for the number of awards upon allocation, but no other cap for the value of the allocated shares. That value will only be determined by the share price at that time. The Share Performance Plan 2017 has introduced a cap with a maximum level of 350% of the contractual issue value and therefore complies in all respects with the Code.*
- *Stock options issued in existing stock option programmes before their replacement by the Share Performance Plans remain valid. While the exercise of options under these stock option programmes requires an increase of the share price, the exercise is not related to other relevant comparison parameters as recommended in Section 4.2.3 of the Code. This decision is based on the lack of relevant comparison benchmarks in the field of German Biotech at the time when the stock option programmes were created.*
- *The Company’s D&O insurance and the deductible for members of the Management Board contained therein are in line with Section 3.8 of the Code and with the regulations*

*of the Act on the Appropriateness of Management Board Compensation (VorstAG) that was enacted in 2009. However, for members of the Supervisory Board, the D&O insurance contains a “reasonable” deductible as foreseen by the version of the Code in force before its version published on 05 August 2009. The Company has decided to maintain this reasonable deductible. This decision was made in view of the Company’s interest to attract international expertise for its Supervisory Board and the fact that a deductible for non-executive directors is not very common in international practice. Whilst a lot of the German companies quoted on the TecDAX do not have a respective deductible at all, the Company believes that a reasonable deductible is a good compromise.”*

Hamburg, December 2018

Management Board

Supervisory Board