

Translation of the Auditor's independence declaration – for the original see the German version

[Letterhead of Grant Thornton Unitreu Wirtschaftsprüfungs- und Steuerberatungsgesellschaft]

To  
voestalpine AG  
For the attention of Dr. Joachim Lemppenau  
Chairman of the Supervisory Board

voestalpine Strasse 1  
4020 Linz

Vienna, May 15, 2012

Re: Audit of the annual financial statement and of the group's consolidated financial statement for the business year 2012/2013  
Statement on independence per § 270 para 1a of the Austrian Commercial Code ("UGB")

Dear Dr. Lemppenau,

in observance of the provisions of § 270 para 1a UGB we hereby state that the undersigned as well as the partners of our firm and the head auditor at site are professionally and financially independent of voestalpine AG and its affiliates. No grounds for exclusion due to bias or disqualification exist.

During the period April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012, Grant Thornton Unitreu GmbH Wirtschaftsprüfungs- und Steuerberatungsgesellschaft billed a total of € 1,107,300.00 (net of VAT) in connection with auditing services for voestalpine AG and its affiliated entities. In connection with a residual asset auditing ("Restvermögensprüfung") in accordance with § 3 para 4 Austrian law of segregation (vatron gmbh) and an opinion in accordance with § 15a fig 9 Austrian Railway Act (Cargo Service GmbH) Grant Thornton Unitreu GmbH Wirtschaftsprüfungs- und Steuerberatungsgesellschaft billed additional € 19,400.00 (net of VAT). Relative to the overall revenues of our firm, these amounts are below the statutory thresholds set forth in § 271 UGB and in § 271a UGB respectively. No contractual agreements with respect to the long-term performance of such services exist. Accordingly, no commercial business relationship exists which would be apt to put our independence at risk.

Also International Relationship Checks that have been conducted within the network of Grant Thornton International did not reveal any grounds for exclusion due to bias or disqualification pursuant to § 271b UGB within the network.

Full compliance with the rules prescribed in § 271a UGB with respect to internal rotation has been assured.

Thus, there are no substantive or legal grounds militating against our firm's appointment as auditors for the 2012/13 business year. In addition to the foregoing we would like to note that our firm is regularly subject to quality controls by auditors from the United States, the UK, Germany and Switzerland as a part of the International Grant Thornton Peer Review Program, in particular with respect to order related or order unrelated quality assurance measures and with respect to the auditing standards applied in practice. The task force for external quality inspection issued a certificate pursuant to §§ 14 and 15 of the A-QSG dated April 19, 2010.

Yours sincerely

[signature]

Grant Thornton Unitreu GmbH  
Wirtschaftsprüfungs- und Steuerberatungsgesellschaft