7.3. SHARE BUYBACK PROGRAMME

7.3.1. CURRENT SHARE BUYBACK PROGRAMME

The Ordinary General Meeting of 10 May 2023 authorised the Board of Directors to buy back, or to order the buyback of, Company shares as provided in Articles L. 22-10-62 et seq. of the French Commercial Code (Code de commerce), Articles 241-1 to 241-7 of the General Regulations of France's securities regulator (Autorité des marchés financiers – AMF) and European Union regulations on market abuse (particularly Regulation (EU) No. 596/2014 of 16 April 2014), notably in order:

- to ensure the liquidity of and make a market for the Company's shares through an investment services provider acting independently in the name and on behalf of the Company, under the terms of a liquidity agreement that complies with a Code of Conduct recognised by the AMF;
- to implement any Company stock option plan under Articles L. 22-10-56 et seq. of the French Commercial Code, any savings plan pursuant to Articles L. 3332-1 et seq. of the French Labour Code (Code du travail), or any grant of free shares made under Articles L. 22-10-59, L. 22-10-60 and L. 225-197-1 of the French Commercial Code, or any other share-based compensation mechanism;
- to deliver shares in connection with the exercise of rights attached to securities giving access to Company shares by way of redemption, conversion, exchange or on presentation of a warrant or a debt security convertible or exchangeable for shares, or otherwise;
- to hold shares for later use as payment or consideration in the context of or following any external growth transactions;
- to cancel all or some of these shares in order to optimise earnings per share through a share capital reduction under the conditions provided for by law;
- to implement any future market practice authorised by the AMF and, generally, carry out any transaction that complies with the applicable regulations.

These shares may be acquired, sold, transferred, or exchanged by any method and, in particular, on regulated markets or over the counter, including via block trades. These methods include the use of any derivative financial instrument traded on a regulated or OTC market and the implementation of option-based strategies under the conditions authorised by the relevant financial markets regulator, provided said methods do not cause a significant increase in the price volatility of the shares. The shares may also be loaned, pursuant to Articles L. 211-22 et seq. of the French Monetary and Financial Code (Code monétaire et financier).

The share buyback price may not exceed \in 50 (excluding transaction costs) for each share with a par value of \in 1.53.

This authorisation may only be used in respect of a number of shares no greater than 10% of the Company's share capital as of the date of the Annual General Meeting of 10 May 2023, it being specified that, whenever the Company's shares are purchased in connection with a liquidity agreement, the number of shares used to calculate the aforementioned 10% limit will correspond to the number of shares purchased less the number of shares sold during the authorisation period under the terms of the liquidity agreement. However, the number of shares purchased by the Company and intended to be held and subsequently used as payment or consideration in the context of an external growth transaction may not exceed 5% of the share capital. The acquisitions made by the Company shall not at any time or under any circumstance result in the Company holding more than 10% of the shares constituting its share capital.

In the event of a public tender offer for the shares or other securities issued by the Company, the Company may only use this authorisation for the purpose of meeting securities delivery commitments, notably in the context of free share plans, or strategic transactions, initiated and announced prior to the launch of said public tender offer.

In 2023, the authorisation was used exclusively in connection with the Company's liquidity agreement (see below).

Transactions completed in 2023 and until 31 January 2024

Liquidity agreement

In February 2005, Casino mandated Rothschild & Cie Banque to implement a liquidity agreement to ensure a wide market and regular quotations for its shares. The agreement complies with the Code of Conduct of the French financial markets association (Association Française des Marchés Financiers – AMAFI) approved by the AMF on 1 October 2008.

Casino allocated 700,000 ordinary shares and the sum of €40 million to the liquidity account.

Additional allocations were made on 25 September 2015 (\leqslant 30 million) and 28 December 2015 (\leqslant 50 million), bringing the total allocated to the liquidity account to \leqslant 120 million.

The Company withdrew 580,000 shares from the liquidity account on 16 May 2016 and 120,000 shares on 23 May 2016. The 700,000 shares were subsequently cancelled by decision of the Board of Directors on 14 June 2016.

In January 2019, the Company signed a new liquidity agreement with the company Rothschild Martin Maurel, effective 1 January of that year, to take account of the changes in regulations governing these agreements, in accordance with AMF decision 2018-01 dated 2 July 2018. The new agreement replaced the previous agreement signed on 11 February 2005. As of the January 2019 contract signature date, the liquidity account held zero shares and €30 million.

In accordance with AMF decision 2021-01 dated 22 June 2021, the Company has, by an amendment dated 6 July 2022, reduced the funds in the liquidity account by $\[\in \]$ 13,209,160.25. Following this reduction, at 6 July 2022, the liquidity account held 105,250 shares and $\[\in \]$ 14,734,815.90.

In 2023, a total of 5,736,007 shares were purchased under the liquidity agreement at an average price of \leqslant 3.94 per share and 5,296,007 shares were sold at an average price of \leqslant 3.92 per share (including 4,314,860 shares purchased and 4,254,860 shares sold using the shareholder authorisation given on 10 May 2023). At 31 December 2023, the liquidity account held 440,000 shares and \leqslant 14.5 million.

From 1 January 2024 to 31 January 2024, a total of 1,355,568 shares were purchased at an average price of €0.61 per share and 991,868 shares were sold at an average price of €0.60 per share. At 31 January 2024, the liquidity account held: 803,700 shares and €14.2 million.

Other stock transactions

In 2023, the Company purchased 28,000 shares at an average price of €0.66 per share through a service provider acting on behalf of the Company at an arm's length basis.

No shares were bought back between 1 January 2024 and 31 January 2024.

The Annual General Meeting of 10 May 2022 authorised the Board of Directors to reduce the share capital by cancelling shares bought back by the Company, by 24-month periods. The Board of Directors did not cancel any shares in 2023.

Over the 24-month period beginning 31 January 2022 and ending 31 January 2024, the Board of Directors did not cancel any shares.

Summary of stock transactions

The table below shows details of treasury shares bought and sold between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023 and between 1 January 2024 and 31 January 2024, together with the number of treasury shares held by the Company:

	Number of shares	% of share capital represented by the total number of shares
Number of shares held at 31 December 2022	67,492	0.06
Shares purchased under the liquidity agreement	5,736,007	
Shares sold under the liquidity agreement	5,296,007	
Shares purchased	28,000	
Shares sold	0	
Shares cancelled	0	
Free shares granted	(90,970)	
Number of shares held at 31 December 2023	444,522	0.41
Shares purchased under the liquidity agreement	1,355,568	
Shares sold under the liquidity agreement	(991,868)	
Shares purchased	0	
Shares sold	0	
Shares cancelled	0	
Free shares granted	0	
Number of shares held at 31 January 2024	808,222	0.75

At 31 December 2023, the Company owned 444,522 shares (purchase cost: €0.339 million) with a par value of €1.53. Based on the closing price at 29 December 2023 (€0.7835), their market value totalled €0.348 million.

Treasury shares are allocated for the following purposes:

- 803,700 shares to the liquidity agreement;
- 4,522 shares to cover stock option plans, employee share ownership plans or share grant plans for Group employees.

On 31 December 2023, Germinal SNC, an indirectly controlled wholly owned company, held 928 ordinary shares.