exclusive

PKE Energy Pension Fund

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Christophe Grandjean
President of the Foundation Board

Dear Reader

Each new phase of life brings with it new decisions. Whether pension provision, home ownership or retirement – PKE is by your side with the goal of providing long-term security.

This year at PKE sees a change in leadership: after 17 years, Ronald Schnurrenberger has handed over the post of CEO to Patrick Nasciuti. In conversation, they each share their personal perspectives and what responsibility and pension provision mean to them.

On behalf of the Foundation Board, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ronald for his extraordinary dedication. Under his stewardship, challenges were mastered with forward-thinking flair.

Thanks to Patrick Nasciuti's many years of experience in occupational pension provision and his leadership skills, he is well equipped to successfully further develop PKE. We wish him a warm welcome and every success.

We also demonstrate how you can bolster your retirement benefits, what to bear in mind if you are considering a mortgage and how PKE can support you in real estate purchases, mortgage renewal or electrical renovation.

I hope you enjoy an interesting read.

Yours faithfully

Christophe Grandjean

New energy. Proven values.

The change in leadership at the helm of PKE is complete. After 17 years, Ronald Schnurrenberger has handed over the reins to Patrick Nasciuti. The two gentlemen take this opportunity to look back on their handover period, voicing their thoughts on continuity, responsibility and PKE's future.

Patrick Nasciuti (left) in conversation with his predecessor, Ronald Schnurrenberger.

Ronald, if you had to hand over PKE to me in one sentence – what would you say?
It depends how many words the sentence is allowed to have! (laughs) But seriously: I hope you enjoy the work as much as I have over the past 17 years.

What made it so enjoyable?
PKE is an excellently positioned pension fund with a clear footing in the energy sector. The fund is well financed, the employers offer very generous pension plans, and interest rates are above average thanks to the investment results and sustainable financing. We also have a team at our headquarters that gives their all for our insured members every day.

In September, an important time in your life is coming to an end: how do you feel about your last day?
It's a strange feeling, as ever when something long-standing and familiar comes to an end. I am looking forward to three weeks' holiday without any e-mails or phone calls, though!

What are you the proudest of about your time at PKE?
That we successfully navigated through transformation at a time when interest was low, even negative at times. This holds true for the whole of the second pillar, by the way. Today, as ever, PKE provides its members and pensioners with sustainably financed benefits. Without burdening the young generation with billions in coverage deficits. This proves that the second pillar is Swiss pension provision's strong pillar.

> "At PKE, our responsibility towards our insured members is our guiding light.
> Ronald Schnurrenberger

Is there anything you would do differently today?
As a representative of the second pillar, I would demonstrate its advantages even more clearly to all insured parties in Switzerland. Because, as I say, it's pension provision's strong pillar. There's no redistribution here, just fair and sustainable saving.

What have you learnt from your interactions with our insured members?
That we shoulder a great responsibility for our insured members and pensioners. They are counting on us to ensure no pensioner ever has to worry about their monthly pension payment coming in. Punctually, securely and reliably for the rest of their lives. In the event of death, those left

Patrick Nasciuti
Chief Executive Officer

"One-to-one interactions and clear communication are important to me. I want to further develop PKE with good judgement and complement what has stood the test of time with new sources of impetus."

Professional background
Lawyer specialising in pension law. Long-term posts (most recently at GastroSocial – as a member of management responsible for pension fund administration).

Leadership experience
Over ten years' experience in leadership roles.

Values when interacting with others
Clarity, reliability and empathy.

Personal note
Patrick Nasciuti was born in Ticino and has a multilingual background. His work is shaped by his perspective on Switzerland as a whole.

behind should be able to live an orderly life, at least from a financial perspective, thanks to a PKE pension.

> "Trust is created through proximity, clarity and reliability.
> Patrick Nasciuti

What advice would you give me?
This tacks straight onto your last question: Whatever you're thinking about, whatever you're doing, the responsibility for our insured members and pensioners should always be your guiding light. That's PKE's most precious asset.

Patrick, let's talk about you. What was it about PKE that convinced you to take on this role?
After having worked in occupational pension provision for more than fifteen years – most recently at GastroSocial, where I was responsible for the pension fund – the lure of taking on overall responsibility for a collective foundation was strong. PKE, as the pension fund for the energy sector, has a clear identity, and it is sizeable enough to make a difference.

What has stood out to you in your first few weeks at PKE?
In the first few weeks, I've held several conversations, taken the time to listen and get to know the organisation. Over the course of these conversations, I noticed one thing in particular: just how conscious our staff are of our insured members' satisfaction!

PKE accompanies people through important phases in their lives. How do you plan to do this justice?
For many people, pension provision only becomes a topic when it takes on real shape in their lives – when they retire, if they are unable to work or a loved one passes away, for example. In those moments especially, clarity, empathy and reliable support matter. That's what I want to embody in my one-to-one interactions and carry through into our processes.

Where do you think PKE has the most potential for development?
I see potential in further developing our processes and structures without losing the organisation's down-to-earth atmosphere. Demographic change, changes among specialist personnel at pension funds and developments in artificial intelligence are realities that we have to actively tackle.

Could you explain in a little more detail, please?
We can consider artificial intelligence an opportunity rather than a challenge. It can help us to simplify processes and optimise structures. At the end of the day, our insured members will benefit from that. The use of AI must always be carefully weighed up to ensure we remain true to PKE's values, though.

Ronald Schnurrenberger is handing over PKE as an excellently positioned pension fund.

What defining factors of PKE do you want to safeguard?
The proximity to our members. You can feel it throughout, whether face to face or on the phone. This proximity is no coincidence. It's the result of a mindset that is anchored into PKE. I definitely want to maintain this mindset as part of our identity.

How would you describe your CEO persona?
Open, authentic and approachable. I believe in clear communication, uncomplicated processes and actively drawing upon different personalities and perspectives.

How do you reply when insured members ask: "Why should I continue to trust PKE after this change in leadership?"
Because continuity and change are not mutually exclusive. PKE continues to be the pension fund it always has been. I will be considerately further developing it on that basis.

17 years of dedication to PKE

Dear Ronald

Your retirement marks the beginning of a new phase in your life. You don't need any advice from me – you're well versed on the topic of retirement, after all. On behalf of the Foundation Board, I bid you farewell on this note: You can head off relaxed and with peace of mind.

You have helped make PKE an attractive, robust, modern pension fund. You were able to motivate the members of the Foundation Board to tread your path with you.

Many successful projects attest to your broad strategic skill set and forward thinking. You should be extraordinarily proud of what you have accomplished. You leave PKE in very good financial stead, well equipped for the future.

Dear Ronald, I wish you all the very best for your much deserved retirement. A heartfelt thank you for your extraordinary dedication!

Christophe Grandjean
President of the Foundation Board

Introducing: Elio, the digital assistant

We want to make it even easier for you to get in touch with PKE. This is why our chatbot Elio is at your disposal for questions about the pension fund effective immediately.

Elio can help you quickly and simply, around the clock, seven days a week, with topics such as your pension certificate, pension fund buy-ins, home ownership, retirement or contact information.

How secure is my data?
Data protection is paramount at PKE. Elio does not access your insurance file. We ask you to please refrain from entering any sensitive personal data into the chat.

Give our new service a try!
You can find the chat window at the bottom-right of our website. Simply click on the symbol, ask your question and test out our new service.

Of course, Elio will not be replacing our personal customer service. For more complex issues or personal questions, you can always turn to our advisors – digital support and personal service in harmony.

Feeling energised to purchase property?

Owning your own home, renovating, considering energy efficiency, getting a mortgage: purchasing property involves important financial decisions. It is worth taking a closer look at the details.

Anna Meier and Marco Favre dreamed of owning their own home, but it caused them many a sleepless night. Despite this, they never regretted purchasing their apartment. Ten years down the line, they would like to replace their existing mortgage. Coinciding with this, the community of condominium owners has decided to renovate the electricity system. The oil heating is to be replaced with a heat pump, additional insulation to be added to the building shell and the windows to be replaced.

Anna and Marco are sure: this is the right time to make some changes to their financing. They would like to reduce their housing costs in the long term while maintaining the value of their property.

> “Our financing should suit our lives.
>
> Anna and Marco, insured by PKE

To this end, they consider the most important factors early on: the right financing, interest rate developments, energy efficiency and financial reserves. This gives them planning security – and the freedom to continue to work on their home and realise further dreams.

Good for your home. Good for the future.
One of the options for their new financing is PKE’s Green Mortgage. It is based on a fixed-rate mortgage and offers attractive interest rates if ecological criteria are met. Anna and Marco finance their apartment with a mortgage loan of CHF 800,000. Once the renovations are complete, the building receives a B-energy-rating cantonal energy certificate for buildings (CECB).

This means that Anna and Marco meet the criteria to qualify for a Green Mortgage (fossil-fuel-free heating system and/or

Three questions for Patrik Heeb

Head of Mortgages

1

What should I bear in mind if I am buying my first property?
Make sure you plan your financing early on. Besides having enough equity, long-term affordability and financial reserves matter.

2

When is a fixed-rate mortgage a good choice?
A fixed-rate mortgage is a good option for anyone planning their housing costs over the long term. If you want flexibility, check whether a variable-rate mortgage might be a better fit.

3

What common mistakes do people make?
People often underestimate how high maintenance and ancillary costs will be. Renovation work or an electrical system overhaul may become necessary.

sustainability certificate) and they benefit from an interest rate advantage of a total of 0.30% per year. Their benefit is twofold: they are investing in the energy efficiency of their home and reducing their financing costs by CHF 2,400 per year.

Anna and Marco's story, along with the respective numbers, are just an example. The valid PKE conditions and qualification criteria apply.

What really matters when it comes to your mortgage
When Anna and Marco bought their apartment, they quickly realised: good financing starts with an understanding of the most important fundamentals. **Equity** is the portion of the purchase price that buyers finance themselves. **Affordability** tells us whether the ongoing housing costs are in line with income in the long term. **Amortisation** sees to it that part of the mortgage is incrementally paid back.

> “Each financing solution is as unique as the housing project behind it.
>
> Patrik Heeb, Head of Mortgages

Your circumstances matter
When Anna and Marco replace their existing mortgage, they already know: Finding the right mortgage is about more than the interest rate. It is about choosing financing that suits their current circumstances – and will continue to be suitable in the future.

They want to be able to plan for their housing costs over the long term, so they choose a **fixed-rate mortgage.** The interest rate will remain unchanged over the agreed term, giving them planning security. Others deliberately opt for more flexibility. A **variable-rate mortgage** is suitable for people who wish to be able to adjust their financing more easily later on or to react to change.

A mortage that suits your life
As insured members of PKE, Anna and Marco decided to arrange their mortgage through their pension provider. They now have one point of contact for their long-term financial questions. Opting for the **Green Mortgage** aligns with their plans: it combines the planning security of a fixed-rate mortgage with the attractive interest rates that apply to sustainable investments.

Which mortgage is right for you always depends on your personal circumstances, though. This is why a chat with the experts at PKE is worthwhile.

Your energy. Our mortgage.
To Anna and Marco, it is not just about financing. It is about their home – and a mortgage that suits them today and will remain affordable in the future. This is where PKE ties things into their role as a pension provider for the energy sector. We accompany our members not only through pension provision but also through important decisions relating to home ownership.

Realise your home-ownership dream
You can find further information on PKE mortgages at pke.ch/hypotheken or via the QR code.

Energy for your housing project

	Fixed-rate mortgage	Green Mortgage	Variable-rate mortgage
Ideal for	planning security	sustainable investments	flexibility
Suitable for	purchase, renewal or renovation	sustainable real estate purchase, renewal, electrical renovation	short-term or flexible financing
Term	2 to 15 years	like a fixed-rate mortgage	no fixed term
Interest rate	fixed for the duration of the term	fixed interest rate, more attractive if criteria are met	variable interest rate
Advantage	housing costs easy to plan	lower financing costs by investing sustainably	easier to adjust financing later on
Especially suitable for	people who wish to plan for the long term	people who want to invest in the energy efficiency of their home	people whose circumstances might change

Two ways to bolster your retirement savings assets

Insured members can increase their pension benefits and close any pension provision gaps by buying into the pension fund or making voluntary contributions. Which solution is the most appropriate depends on the specific circumstances.

Even if you pay into the pension fund regularly, pension provision gaps can emerge. For instance, if you receive a pay rise, get divorced, had a suboptimal pension plan with a previous employer or if you worked at a lower rate of employment for a while.

Our tip

Check now whether you have a pension provision gap and how you can best close it. On the “PKE online” members’ portal, you can easily simulate how different options would affect your retirement saving assets. online.pke.ch

Get the most out of PKE’s generous pension benefits
PKE’s pension plans provide for above-average pension benefits. To ensure you receive these despite any pension provision gaps, you can make a buy-in into the pension fund. You can see your maximum buy-in amount on the back of your pension certificate under “Potential buy-ins”.

> “Even if you pay in regularly, pension provision gaps can emerge.

Buy-ins into the pension fund are deducted from your taxable income. This means you pay fewer taxes for the year in which you buy in. Clarify whether it makes sense from a tax perspective to stagger the buy-in over several years or whether you’d prefer to complete it at once.

Should you pass away prior to retirement age, PKE buy-ins are refunded to your loved ones. This provides security and

Buy-in

+
- Higher retirement benefits
- Buy-ins are deducted from taxable income
- You benefit from interest effects
- In the event of death, buy-ins are refunded to loved ones

–
- Buy-ins cannot be withdrawn as capital for three years

Voluntary savings contributions

+
- Higher retirement benefits
- Net salary is reduced, saving on taxes
- Also possible if you have already made your maximum buy-in
- No waiting period for capital withdrawals

–
- In the event of death, voluntary contributions are only refunded to loved ones under certain circumstances

peace of mind not just for you but for your family members, too.

It is important to bear in mind that you cannot withdraw the money for three years after your buy-in. With this in mind, if you are planning to withdraw capital early in the near future for the purpose of buying property or if you would like to withdraw a lump sum upon imminent retirement, it is not the right time for a buy-in.

Voluntarily increasing your monthly contributions
The second way to increase your pension benefits is to make voluntary contributions. This is only possible if it is provided for as part of your employer’s pension plan. You can find your pension plan once you have logged into the “PKE online” portal on the welcome page under “reports/basic pension plan” (“Berichte/Vorsorgeplan Basis” in German).

Voluntary contributions are deducted directly from your monthly salary like your regular contributions. Your salary statement will list a lower net salary. This reduces your taxable income.

Voluntary savings contributions are also possible if you have already made your maximum buy-in into the pension fund. A significant advantage versus a buy-in is also that there is no waiting period for subsequent capital withdrawals.

If you wish to make voluntary savings contributions or change or stop your current savings contributions, please enter this on “PKE online” by 10 December of the previous year at the latest.

For more information, please see the information sheets “Buy-ins into the pension fund” and “Voluntary savings contributions” on our website.

We are here for you
Do you have questions, need further information or would you simply like to know who you are dealing with? Do not hesitate to give us a call or send us a message.

+41 44 287 92 88
contact@pke.ch

PKE Energy Pension Fund
Freigutstrasse 16 | P.O. Box | 8027 Zurich | +41 44 287 92 88 | contact@pke.ch | pke.ch