

ING GROEP NV
Form 6-K
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549

FORM 6-K

Report of Foreign Private Issuer
Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16
under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
For the period ended 30 June 2017
Commission File Number 1-14642

ING Groep N.V.

Bijlmerplein 888
1102 MG Amsterdam
The Netherlands

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Interim report

Introduction

ING is a global financial institution with a strong European base, offering a wide range of retail and wholesale banking services to customers in over 40 countries. The Group consists of ING Groep N.V., ING Bank N.V. and other group entities.

ING Group evaluates the results of its Banking segments using a financial performance measure called underlying result. Underlying result is used to monitor the performance of ING Group at a consolidated level and by segment. The Executive Board of ING Group and Management Board of ING Bank consider this measure to be relevant to an understanding of the Group's financial performance because it gives better insight into the commercial developments of the company.

Underlying result is defined as result under IFRS-EU, excluding the impact of divestments, special items and Legacy Insurance. Special Items include items of income and expense that are significant and arise from events or transactions that are clearly distinct from the ordinary operating activities. Legacy Insurance consists of the results from discontinued operations and the results from Insurance Other. Insurance Other reflects (former) insurance related activities that are not part of the discontinued operations.

The breakdown of underlying net result by segment and the reconciliation between IFRS-EU and the underlying net result is included in Note 20 Segments .

ING Group consolidated results**ING Group: Consolidated profit or loss account**

	Total ING Group		of which: Divestments / Special items		of which: Insurance Other		of which: underlying Banking	
	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
6 month period (1 January to 30 June)								
Net interest income	6,711	6,515					6,711	6,515
Net commission income	1,395	1,217			1		1,396	1,217
Total investment and other income	758	766			62	136	820	902
Total income	8,864	8,498			64	136	8,928	8,634
Expenses excl. regulatory costs	4,379	4,314		17			4,379	4,297
Regulatory costs	543	571					543	571
Operating expenses	4,922	4,884		17			4,922	4,868
Gross result	3,942	3,613		17	64	136	4,005	3,766
Addition to loan loss provisions	362	571					362	571
Underlying result before tax	3,580	3,042		17	64	136	3,644	3,195

Taxation	1,022	893	4		1,022	898
Non-controlling interests	44	39			44	39
net result from continuing operations	2,514	2,110	13	64	136	2,578
Net result from discontinued operations		442				
Net result ING Group	2,514	2,552				

ING Group: reconciliation from IFRS-EU to underlying result

6 month period (1 January to 30 June)					2017	2016
Net result ING Group					2,514	2,552
-/- Result from discontinued operations						442
-/- Insurance Other					64	136
Net result Banking					2,578	2,246
-/- Divestments/special items						13
Underlying net result Banking					2,578	2,259

ING recorded strong results in the first half of 2017, driven by continued business growth and lower risk costs. The net result was EUR 2,514 million, down 1.5% compared with EUR 2,552 million in the same period of 2016, but this decline was fully explained by the EUR 442 million net result from discontinued operations as ING sold the remaining equity stakes in NN Group in the first half of 2016. In the first half of 2017, there were no discontinued operations. The net result from continuing operations rose 19.1% to EUR 2,514 million from EUR 2,110 million in the first half of 2016.

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Interim report - continued

In the first half of 2017, ING Group's net result from continuing operations included EUR -64 million from Insurance Other, reflecting a lower valuation of warrants on Voya and NN Group shares compared with year-end 2016, as well as the result on the sale of 6.5 million of warrants on Voya shares. There were no special items in the first six months of 2017. ING Group's net result from continuing operations in the first six months of 2016 included EUR 13 million of special items after tax, which were fully related to restructuring programmes in Retail Netherlands that had been announced before 2013, and EUR 136 million from Insurance Other, reflecting a lower valuation of warrants on NN Group and Voya shares compared with year-end 2016.

ING's underlying net result Banking, which is the net result from continuing operations excluding special items and Insurance Other, increased 14.1% to EUR 2,578 million from EUR 2,259 million in the first six months of 2016.

Banking operations**Consolidated results of operations**

ING's banking operations posted a strong set of results in the first half of 2017. Net result rose to EUR 2,578 million from EUR 2,246 million in the first six months of 2016. There were no divestments and special items in the first half of 2017, whereas the first half of 2016 included the abovementioned EUR -13 million of special items after tax.

Excluding special items, banking operations posted an underlying net profit of EUR 2,578 million in the first six months of 2017, up 14.1% from EUR 2,259 million in the same period last year. The underlying effective tax rate was 28.0% compared with 28.1% in the first six months of 2016.

The underlying result before tax increased 14.1% to EUR 3,644 million from EUR 3,195 million in the first six months of last year. Income benefitted from robust commercial performance and was furthermore supported by a EUR 97 million one-time gain on the sale of an equity stake in the real estate run-off portfolio, while the first six months of 2016 included a EUR 200 million one-time gain on the sale of Visa shares. Underlying expenses rose 1.1% on the first six months of last year, while risk costs declined by EUR 209 million, or 36.6%.

Total underlying income rose 3.4% to EUR 8,928 million from EUR 8,634 million in the first six months of 2016, with negligible impacts from credit and debt valuation adjustments in both periods. Excluding the abovementioned one-time gains, income was 4.7% higher, Net interest income rose by EUR 196 million, or 3.0%, mainly driven by volume growth, in both customer lending and customer deposits. Net interest income on customer lending rose, mainly driven by higher volumes in non-mortgage lending, partly offset by a slightly lower overall lending margin. The interest result on customer deposits declined, as the impact of volume growth was more than offset by margin pressure on both savings and current accounts due to lower reinvestment yields. Net interest income was furthermore supported by improved interest results on Bank Treasury activities and in the Corporate Line, while Financial Markets interest results were lower. The underlying interest margin improved by one basis points to 1.51% in the first six months of 2017 compared with 1.50% in the same period of last year. Commission income rose 14.7% to EUR 1,396 million from EUR 1,217 million last year. The increase was recorded in most segments and products. Investment income declined to EUR 91 million, from EUR 243 million in the first half of 2016, which included EUR 163 million of gains on the sale of Visa shares related to ING's direct memberships in Visa Europe. Other income rose to EUR 729 million from EUR 659 million last year. The first six months of 2017 included a EUR 97 million one-time gain on the sale of an equity stake from the real estate run-off portfolio, while last year included EUR

38 million of gains on the sale of Visa shares related to ING's indirect membership in Visa Europe. Excluding these items, other income increased by 1.8%.

Underlying operating expenses increased by EUR 54 million, or 1.1%, to EUR 4,922 million. Expenses in the first six months of 2017 included EUR 543 million of regulatory costs, while the same period of 2016 included EUR 571 million of regulatory costs. Expenses excluding regulatory costs rose by EUR 82 million, or 1.9%, to EUR 4,379 million. The increase was mainly visible in the Retail Challengers & Growth Markets and Wholesale Banking & Industry Lending to support business growth. Cost savings and favourable currency impacts compensated for the impact of one-offs in both periods. The underlying cost/income ratio improved to 55.1% from 56.4% in the first half of 2016.

Net additions to loan loss provisions declined to EUR 362 million from EUR 571 million in the first half of 2016, reflecting improved macroeconomic conditions in most of our segments. The decline was mainly visible in Retail Netherlands and Wholesale Banking. Risk costs were annualised 23 basis points of average risk-weighted assets (RWA) compared with 36 basis points in the first half of 2016, which is well below ING's through-the-cycle guidance range for risk costs of 40-45 basis points of average RWA.

Retail Netherlands

Underlying result before tax of Retail Netherlands increased to EUR 1,043 million from EUR 661 million in the first six months of 2016, due to lower operating expenses and risk costs, combined with higher income.

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Interim report - continued

Total underlying income increased by EUR 34 million, or 1.6%, to EUR 2,193 million, compared with EUR 2,159 million in the first six months in 2016. Net interest income declined 2.9%, mainly reflecting lower lending volumes (largely related to the WUB legacy portfolio) and margin pressure on current accounts due to the low interest rate environment, which could only partly be compensated by improved margins on savings accounts and higher volumes in current accounts. Customer lending declined by EUR 1.2 billion in the first half of 2017, of which EUR 1.5 billion was caused by the continued transfer of WestlandUtrecht Bank (WUB) mortgages to NN Group and the run-off in the WUB portfolio, whereas Bank Treasury related items increased by EUR 1.4 billion. Excluding these items, net core lending decreased by EUR 1.1 billion, as a EUR 1.7 billion decline in mortgages was only partly offset by EUR 0.6 billion growth in other lending. Net customer deposits (excluding Bank Treasury) grew by EUR 5.2 billion in the first half year of 2017. Investment and other income rose by EUR 56 million, mainly due to higher allocated Bank Treasury revenues, while last year included a EUR 18 million gain on the sale of Visa shares.

Operating expenses fell 19.9% compared with the first half year of 2016, to EUR 1,121 million. Expenses were higher in the first six months of 2016, mainly due to a EUR 126 million addition to the provision for compensation for SME clients with interest rate derivatives and some additional redundancy costs, but were also supported by benefits coming through from the ongoing cost-saving initiatives.

The net addition to loan loss provisions decreased to EUR 29 million, or 12 basis points of average risk-weighted assets, compared with EUR 99 million, or 35 basis points, in the first half year of 2016. Risk costs are low, reflecting the positive macroeconomic conditions in the Netherlands.

Retail Belgium

Retail Belgium's underlying result before tax decreased to EUR 377 million from EUR 507 million in the first six months of 2016, mainly due to higher expenses and slightly lower income, partly offset by lower risk costs.

The underlying income fell by EUR 27 million, or 2.0%, to EUR 1,298 million compared with EUR 1,325 million last year, mainly due to the EUR 30 million one-time gain related to the sale of Visa shares last year. Net interest income declined by EUR 24 million, or 2.5%, reflecting lower prepayment and renegotiation fees on mortgages and lower margins on savings and current accounts. This was partly offset by volume growth. The lending portfolio increased by EUR 2.1 billion in the first half of 2017, of which EUR 1.2 billion was in residential mortgages and EUR 0.9 billion in other lending. Net customer deposits (excluding Bank Treasury) increased by EUR 1.6 billion, entirely in current accounts, while savings recorded an outflow. Commission income was up EUR 21 million, or 10.1%, mainly because of higher fee income on investment products. Investment and other income decreased to EUR 125 million from EUR 148 million in the first half of 2016, which included a EUR 30 million one-time gain related to the sale of Visa shares.

Operating expenses increased by EUR 142 million, or 19.5%, to EUR 872 million compared with the first half of 2016, which included a EUR 95 million one-off expense adjustment in procured cost. Excluding the expense adjustment, operating expenses rose by EUR 47 million, or 5.7%, partly caused by higher regulatory costs and accelerated depreciation for the branch network.

The net addition to the provision for loan losses declined to EUR 49 million from EUR 89 million a year ago, mainly due to lower risk costs in business lending.

Retail Germany

Retail Germany's underlying result before tax declined to EUR 398 million from EUR 452 million in the first six months of 2016, mainly due to lower income, partly offset by lower risk costs.

The underlying income decreased to EUR 918 million in the first half of 2017 compared with EUR 985 million a year ago, which was supported by a EUR 44 million one-time gain related to the sale of Visa shares. Net interest income declined 2.1% to EUR 821 million, due to lower margins on both customer lending and customer deposits, largely offset by volume growth and higher interest results from Bank Treasury. Despite the reduction of client savings rates, customer deposits increased by EUR 3.8 billion in the first half of 2017. Net core lending, which excludes Bank Treasury products, increased by EUR 1.5 billion, of which EUR 0.9 billion was attributable to residential mortgages and EUR 0.6 billion to consumer lending. Commission income rose 19.3% to EUR 99 million. Investment and other income declined to EUR 2 million due to negative hedge ineffectiveness results from EUR 63 million in the first half of 2016, which included a EUR 44 million one-time gain on the sale of Visa shares.

Operating expenses increased by EUR 4 million, or 0.8%, to EUR 514 million compared with the first half of 2016, supported by a EUR 48 million decline in regulatory costs. Expenses excluding regulatory costs were EUR 447 million, or 13.2% higher than a year ago. The increase was mainly due to higher headcount to support business growth, higher costs related to primary customer acquisition and investments in Project Welcome which aims to digitise ING Germany's platform further.

The net addition to the provision for loan losses decreased to EUR 6 million from EUR 22 million a year ago, reflecting the benign credit environment in Germany.

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Interim report - continued

Retail Other

Retail Other's underlying result before tax increased to EUR 481 million from EUR 422 million in the first six months of last year, which included in total a EUR 109 million one-time gain on the sale of Visa shares recorded in a number of countries. Excluding the Visa gain, result before tax rose by 53.7%, reflecting business and revenue growth in most countries, partly offset by higher expenses to support business growth.

Total underlying income increased by EUR 106 million, or 7.7%, to EUR 1,477 million from EUR 1,371 million in the first half year of 2016. When adjusting for the one-time Visa gain, total income was up EUR 215 million, or 17.0%. This increase was driven by improved commercial results across most of the countries reflecting continued client and volume growth. Net interest income increased 17.2% on last year, stemming from higher volumes in most countries and supported by increased margins on lending products, while margins on savings and current accounts and deposits declined. The net production in customer lending (adjusted for currency effects and Bank Treasury) was EUR 4.7 billion in the first half of 2017, with growth mainly in Australia and Poland. The net inflow in customer deposits, also adjusted for currency impacts and Bank Treasury, was EUR 3.8 billion, with largest increases in Australia and Spain.

Operating expenses increased by EUR 62 million, or 7.5%, to EUR 890 million compared with the first half of 2016, of which EUR 12 million was due to higher regulatory costs. Excluding regulator costs, operating expenses rose by EUR 50 million, or 6.7%. This was due to higher marketing and staff expenses, as well as higher investments related to strategic projects.

The net addition to loan loss provisions decreased by EUR 15 million to EUR 107 million compared with EUR 122 million a year ago, supported by a release in Italy reflecting a model update for mortgages.

Wholesale Banking

In the first six months of 2017, the underlying result before tax rose 24.1% to EUR 1,591 million from EUR 1,282 million in the same period last year. The increase was mainly due to higher income and lower risk costs, while expenses increased.

Underlying income rose by EUR 347 million, or 12.5%, to EUR 3,134 million in the first half of 2017, supported by a EUR 97 million one-time gain on the sale of an equity stake in the real estate run-off portfolio and EUR 31 million less negative CVA/DVA impacts (EUR 3 million in the first half of 2017 versus EUR 34 million in the same period last year). Excluding CVA/DVA impacts and the one-time gain, total underlying income was 7.8% higher, mainly due to higher revenues in Industry Lending and General Lending & Transaction Services, while income in Financial Markets was resilient.

Net interest income increased by EUR 69 million, or 3.8%, on the first six months of 2016, driven by continued volume growth in Industry Lending and General Lending & Transaction Services, albeit at lower margins. This was partly offset by lower interest results in Financial Markets and Bank Treasury. Net core lending (excluding currency impacts, Bank Treasury and the Lease run-off portfolio) grew by EUR 5.0 billion in the first half of 2017. Net customer deposits (excluding currency impacts and Bank Treasury) declined by EUR 2.5 billion.

Commission income increased by EUR 53 million, or 10.1%, on last year, mainly due to higher fee income in Industry Lending and General Lending & Transaction Services. Investment and other income amounted to EUR 661 million, up from EUR 436 million in the first half of 2016. This increase was for the larger part attributable to Financial Markets, which included the less negative CVA/DVA impacts, and the aforementioned gain on the sale of an equity stake in the real estate run-off portfolio.

Operating expenses were EUR 1,373 million, or 8.5% higher than in the first half of 2016. Excluding the impact from regulatory costs (EUR 98 million in the first half of 2017 versus EUR 104 million a year ago), operating expenses increased by EUR 114 million, or 9.8%, on the first half of 2016. A large part of the increase was explained by a provision for a litigation linked to a business that was discontinued in Luxembourg around the year 2000. The remaining costs growth was due to higher headcount to support business growth, wage inflation and IT investments. The underlying cost/income ratio in the first half of 2017 was 43.8%, compared with 45.4% a year ago.

Net addition to loan loss provisions declined to EUR 170 million, or 22 basis points of average risk-weighted assets, from EUR 240 million, or 32 basis points, in the first half of 2016. The decline reflects lower risk costs in General Lending & Transaction Services and Industry Lending, whereas risk costs for the Italian lease run-off portfolio increased.

Corporate Line

The Corporate Line reported an underlying result before tax of EUR 246 million compared with EUR 128 million in the first half of 2016. Total income declined to EUR 93 million from EUR 7 million a year ago, mainly due to the higher cost of net investment hedging and negative results on equity participations, while last year benefitted from the release of the TLTRO hedge reserve. DVA on own-issued debt was EUR 9 million in the first half of 2017 versus EUR 15 million a year ago. Operating expenses increased to EUR 152 million from EUR 135 million in the first half of 2016, due to higher financing charges and share-base payments expenses.

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Interim report - continued

ING Group statement of financial position (balance sheet)

ING Group's balance sheet increased by EUR 17 billion to EUR 862 billion at 30 June 2017 from EUR 845 billion at the end of 2016.

Cash and balances with central banks

Cash and balances with central banks remained flat at EUR 18 billion.

Loans and advances to banks and Deposits from banks

Loans and advances to banks decreased by EUR 1 billion to EUR 28 billion. Deposits from banks increased by EUR 7 billion to EUR 39 billion due to ING Group's participation in the TLTRO.

Financial assets/liabilities at fair value

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss increased by EUR 21 billion to EUR 143 billion, due to increased reverse repo activity, partly offset by lower trading derivatives. On the liability side Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss increased by EUR 4 billion to EUR 103 billion, also caused by higher repo activity partly offset by lower trading derivatives.

Investments

Investments decreased by EUR 8 billion to EUR 83 billion at the end of June 2017. The decrease mainly concerned debt securities available-for-sale.

Loans and advances to customers

Loans and advances to customers increased by EUR 5 billion to EUR 568 billion. This increase was due to EUR 6 billion higher customer lending, partly offset by EUR 2 billion lower securities at amortised cost. Adjusted for EUR 6 billion of negative currency impacts, customer lending increased by EUR 12 billion. This was mainly caused by EUR 12 billion of net core lending growth and a EUR 4 billion increase in Bank Treasury lending, partly offset by the repayment of subordinated debt by NN Group in the first quarter of 2017, the continued transfer of WUB residential mortgages to NN Group and a decline of the run-off portfolios of WUB and Lease.

Debt securities in issue

The decrease of EUR 4 billion to EUR 99 billion in Debt securities in issue was mainly caused by a EUR 5 billion decrease of long-term debt as maturities and redemptions outpaced new issuance of RMBS, senior debt and Tier 2 instruments. This was slightly offset by EUR 1 billion higher CD/CPs.

Customer deposits

Customer deposits increased by EUR 10 billion to EUR 533 billion. Adjusted for currency impacts and Bank Treasury, net customer deposits grew by EUR 12 billion in the first half of 2017, due to higher customer deposits at Retail Banking.

Shareholders equity

Shareholders equity remained flat at EUR 50 billion. The EUR 2.5 billion net result for the first half of 2017 was offset by the EUR 1.6 billion payment of the final dividend for the year 2016 and declines in the following reserves: currency translation reserve EUR -0.5 billion due to appreciation of the euro; cash flow hedge reserve EUR -0.4 billion; and the available-for-sale reserve EUR -0.2 billion.

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Interim report - continued

Conformity statement

The Executive Board is required to prepare the Interim Accounts and the Interim Report of ING Groep N.V. for each financial period in accordance with applicable Dutch law and those International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) that were endorsed by the European Union.

Conformity statement pursuant to section 5:25d paragraph 2(c) of the Dutch Financial Supervision Act (Wet op het financieel toezicht)

The Executive Board is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records, for safeguarding assets and for taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities. It is responsible for selecting suitable accounting policies and applying them on a consistent basis, making judgements and estimates that are prudent and reasonable. It is also responsible for establishing and maintaining internal procedures which ensure that all major financial information is known to the Executive Board, so that the timeliness, completeness and correctness of the external financial reporting are assured.

As required by section 5:25d paragraph 2(c) of the Dutch Financial Supervision Act, each of the signatories hereby confirms that to the best of his knowledge:

the ING Groep N.V. interim accounts for the period ended 30 June 2017 give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of ING Groep N.V. and the entities included in the consolidation taken as a whole; and

the ING Groep N.V. interim report for the period ended 30 June 2017 includes a fair review of the information required pursuant to article 5:25d, paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Dutch Financial Supervision Act regarding ING Groep N.V. and the entities included in the consolidation taken as a whole.

Amsterdam, 1 August 2017

R.A.J.G. (Ralph) Hamers

CEO, chairman of the Executive Board

J.V. (Koos) Timmermans

CFO, member of the Executive Board

S.J.A. (Steven) van Rijswijk

CRO, member of the Executive Board

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Condensed consolidated statement of
financial position

as at	30 June	31 December
in EUR million	2017	2016
Assets		
Cash and balances with central banks	17,894	18,144
Loans and advances to banks	27,987	28,858
Financial assets at fair value t		