Market maker Optiver reported a solid performance in its financial results of 2019. The global trading firm realised a net profit attributable to equity holders of €397 million in 2019, compared to €515 million in 2018. The 2019 result from operating activities was €525 million versus €673 million in 2018. Net trading income in 2019 amounted to €1,133 million, 13% less than in 2018.

Optiver exhibited a robust financial position at the end of 2019, with total equity of €1,532 million (compared to €1,321 million at end-2018). We maintain a conservative capital structure, to meet business and regulatory requirements. Total assets were €22.5 billion as at 31 December 2019, an increase of 10% compared to 2018.

Geopolitical developments were the main driver of movements in the financial markets in 2019. Factors such as the US-China trade negotiations, Brexit and central bank monetary policy increased the demand for liquidity, which market makers like Optiver provide.

"The continuous efforts of our people around the globe made 2019 a successful year for Optiver. We remain firm in our commitment to improving the market by providing liquidity and tightening the bid-ask spread in all market circumstances."

said Optiver CEO Jan Boomaars.

Commenting on the current market turbulence, Boomaars said: "The current global health crisis has significantly increased global economic uncertainty and that has had a dramatic effect on volatility levels of markets across the world. The role of liquidity providers like Optiver is now more important than ever to ensure that financial markets remain stable and continue to function orderly."

ABOUT OPTIVER

Optiver is a leading global electronic market maker with over one thousand employees working from offices in Amsterdam, Chicago, Sydney, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taipei and London.

Through pricing, execution and risk management, the firm provides liquidity to financial markets using its own capital, at its own risk, trading a wide range of products: listed derivatives, cash equities, ETFs, bonds and foreign currencies. Its independence allows it to objectively improve the markets by pioneering its own trading strategies and systems using sophisticated technology.