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Hellenic Exchanges (OI): Remains OI

Apr 12

Target price: E5.6; Share price: E4.2; Market Cap: E256m, Rating: OI

Valuation multiples (2023E): 14.6x EPS (10.3x x-cash); 6.8x EBITDA; 3.4% dividend yield

Attached: Company model (Forecasts & Valuation)

What's new? FY 2022 EBITDA came in E1.5m/-11% lower compared to our estimate for E14m, on E1.0m less revenue (post trading) and E0.5m higher opex (personnel). Weirdly enough, lower depreciation (E0.9m) and higher income from associates plus tax returns (total E0.6m) made sure pre-tax income came in line with our estimate for E10.5m. Helex announced DPS unchanged yoy at E0.15 or 3.4% yield at current prices.

Conclusion. We did not like higher payroll costs reflecting additional NoE (+8 yoy) and a +4% rise in the avg salary/emp. The carryover effect caused us to lower our 2023-2025 EBITDA by 5%, and our 2023-2025 net income estimates by 2.0%-2.5%, supported by lower depreciation charges. We reiterate our OI with our price target at E5.6 (from E5.9).

Bigger concerns. The recent banking crisis (primarily) and national elections called for May 21 weakened ADV to E113m in March (and even lower in April) from E135m in February, which was the time we made our previous assessment, upgrading Helex to OI (reattached).

Q1 2023 ADV of E113m, and April so far being below E100m, make our FY 2023 estimate for E125m look bad. We are not making any revisions, yet. Mitsotakis administration renewing its mandate and banks NIM peaking in H1 2023 should lift trading spirits.

Valuation. DCF @ 9.5% hurdle rate (= 4.5% + 5.0%); FCFF of E18m-E22m; ADV of E125m-E147m based on Greek market cap at E75bn-E80bn (Q1 2023 at E72bn), mkt cap/GDP at 35% (Q1 2023 annualized at 34%), velocity rate at 40%-45% (Q1 2023 annualized at 39%).

Best regards,

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