KLM ROYAL DUTCH AIRLINES Form 6-K May 06, 2004

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 6-K

Report of Foreign Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

of May 6, 2004

KLM ROYAL DUTCH AIRLINES

,	(translation of Registrant s trade name into English)					
	Amsterda	amseweg 55	5, 1182 GP Am	stelveen, The Ne	therlands	
•		(Address	of principal ex	ecutive offices)	_	
(Indicate by 40-F.)	check mark whether the	he registran	t files or will fi	le annual reports	under cover Form 20-F o	or Form
	Fo	orm 20-F;]	þ	Form 40-F	o	
•		_	•		contained in this Form is a the Securities Exchange A	•
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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines

Date: May 6, 2004 By /s/ L.M. van Wijk

Name: L.M. van Wijk Title: President & CEO

By /s/ R.A. Ruijter Name: R.A. Ruijter

Title: Managing Director & CFO

Royal Dutch Airlines ANNUAL RESULTS

KLM REPORTS OPERATING PROFIT OF EUR 120 MILLION AND NET PROFIT OF EUR 24 MILLION FOR ITS FISCAL YEAR 2003/04 Fourth quarter operating profit of EUR 26 million

AMSTELVEEN, THE NETHERLANDS, MAY 6, 2004 KLM Group today reported an **operating profit** of EUR 120 million for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2004. This compares to an operating loss of EUR 484 million¹ last year. **Net profit** for the year amounted to EUR 24 million, or EUR 0.50 per common share, whereas last year the Group reported a *net loss* including extraordinary items of EUR 416 million, or EUR 9.26 per common share.

Main drivers for the net profit of this fiscal year are a better than previously expected improvement in the Group's fourth quarter operating income, as well as a significantly improving financial performance of KLM's passenger business in the course of the fiscal year. This was not only reflected by both better than expected traffic volumes and yields, but also by the fact that the Group continued to deliver on its cost reduction program and met its EUR 200 million cost savings target for the fiscal year.

Leo van Wijk, President and CEO of KLM, said: The fiscal year 2003/04 has been a challenging and rewarding year for KLM. We successfully implemented the structural cost reductions targeted for this year and delivered a net profit for the fiscal year, which is a great achievement against the background of a continuous difficult operating environment. It deserves a great compliment to all staff within KLM, who have contributed to this success. We also announced our merger with Air France this fiscal year. In the new group a continued strong focus on costs is essential to further improve our own financial performance. We remain therefore committed to deliver on our structural cost reduction program, while at the same time we take up the opportunities and synergies that lie ahead of our company as part of the new airline group.

In the *fourth quarter*, KLM Group reported an **operating profit** of EUR 26 million. This achievement is mainly attributable to KLM s passenger business. Last year, the Group reported an *operating loss* of EUR 603 millioh². The Group s better financial performance compared to last year is also reflected in an improvement of the EBITDAR-margin to 13.5 percent. Fourth quarter **net loss** amounted to EUR 20 million, or EUR 0.47 per common share. Last year, the Group reported a net loss, including extraordinary items, of EUR 447 million, or EUR 9.96 per common share.

¹Prior-year operating income for the fiscal year as well as for the fourth quarter has been restated due to changes in external reporting requirements. Last year s extraordinary items, which in total had an impact of EUR 351 million pre tax, now are reported as a part of operating income. Operating loss for fiscal year 2002/03 before this adjustment amounted to EUR 133 million and operating loss in the fourth quarter before this adjustment amounted to EUR 252 million.

²Included in the fourth quarter operating loss of last year was an additional charge of EUR 69 million, following the decision to accelerate the retirement of KLM s Boeing 747-300 fleet.

Fourth quarter Group operating revenues of EUR 1,377 million were at the same level as last year, mainly driven by a favorable (passenger) traffic volume trend through the quarter. This is in contrast to the declines in revenue reported in the previous three quarters of the fiscal year. Yields continued to be under pressure, mainly due to negative currency effects. Manageable yields (excluding currency effects), however, increased by 1 percent year-on-year.

Group operating expenses of EUR 1,351 million were 32 percent below last year. Excluding last year s charges of EUR 69 million with respect to the accelerated retirement of the Boeing 747 fleet and the costs associated with last year s extraordinary items, operating expenses were still 13 percent below last year, reflecting effects of both structural cost reductions and the impact of a lower USD exchange rate. KLM Group s liquidity position as at March 31, 2004 was EUR 949 million.

FOURTH QUARTER FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF KLM S BUSINESSES

Passenger Business

Fourth quarter passenger operating revenues of EUR 968 million were flat year-on-year. Traffic revenues of EUR 905 million were also on last year s level, which is the combined effect of lower yields (down 2 percent) and higher passenger traffic (up 3 percent). As capacity was down 2 percent, passenger load factor improved significantly by 3.7 percentage points from 76.8 percent to 80.5 percent. Consequently, unit revenue improved by 2 percent year-on-year, whereas, excluding currency effects, unit revenue was up 9 percent on last year. Manageable yields (excluding currency effects) were up 4 percent on last year. As in the previous quarter, the positive trend in manageable yields was most pronounced on intercontinental routes. Yields on the European routes continued to be under pressure. In the fourth quarter, two additional Boeing 777-200s entered the KLM fleet, which now includes six aircraft of this type as per March 31, 2004.

Main driver for the improved financial performance of KLM s passenger business is a strong reduction in operating expenses. Operating expenses were EUR 922 million, down 19 percent on last year (operating expenses adjusted for last year s costs associated with the retirement of KLM s Boeing 747-300 fleet, down 15 percent). Despite the capacity decrease of 2 percent, manageable unit cost (excluding currency effects) was down 8 percent. Passenger business effectively managed its cost base down to reflect lower capacity levels, while at the same time it continued to implement the structural cost reductions. Part of the cost reductions reflects the expansion of the company s e-services. Self service check-in capacity at KLM s hub Schiphol airport has increased substantially, while at the same time close to 30 percent of KLM s tickets are e-tickets. Further expansion of e-services remains one of the focal points in the passenger business strategy and an important contributor to future structural cost reductions. Simultaneously, operational quality has improved, especially baggage handling quality at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

In the fourth quarter, passenger business operating income amounted to EUR 46 million, a strong improvement over last year when operating income was EUR 176 million negative, albeit that last year s operating income was impacted by the Iraq war.

For fiscal year 2003/04, passenger business reported an operating profit of EUR 187 million, compared to an operating loss of EUR 25 million last year.

Cargo Business

In the fourth quarter, cargo operating revenues amounted to EUR 256 million, a decrease of 6 percent compared to the same quarter last year. The revenue decrease is mainly driven by lower yields (down 11 percent; excluding currency effects down 2 percent), while higher traffic volumes in part levelled out the negative yield development. Traffic was up 8 percent on a 4 percent increase in capacity. The increase in capacity reflects the introduction of the third Boeing 747-400ER freighter, which entered the cargo fleet in February 2004. Traffic ex Asia remained robust, showing strong increases month-on-month. Also in the fourth quarter, traffic out of Europe remained under pressure, which is the primary driver behind the yield decline.

The decrease in revenues was more than compensated by a decrease of 13 percent in operating expenses (EUR 236 million). Operating expenses, adjusted for last year s costs associated with the retirement of KLM s Boeing 747-300 fleet, were down 7 percent. Ongoing implementation of the structural cost reductions in combination with tight cost control in general resulted in a strong decrease in cargo costs. As a consequence, manageable unit cost (excluding currency effects) decreased by 4 percent.

Cargo Business reported an operating profit of EUR 20 million in this quarter, which compares to an operating profit of EUR 2 million last year.

For fiscal year 2003/04, Cargo Business operating profit amounted to EUR 71 million, whereas last year it reported an operating profit of EUR 72 million.

Charter and Low Cost Business (Transavia)

Fourth quarter operating revenues of EUR 66 million were 3 percent higher than last year. This primarily results from higher revenues generated by the lease-out of aircraft. Traffic revenues were 4 percent lower than last year, reflecting continued pressure on yields both in the charter segment and the low cost segment (BASIQ AIR), as well as the effects following last year s transfer from scheduled services to low cost—low fare services. Traffic however was up 9 percent on last year, whereas capacity was 12 percent below last year s levels. Towards the end of the quarter, BASIQ AIR started operating out of its second base Rotterdam Airport to various destinations in Europe.

Fourth quarter operating expenses of EUR 79 million were 3 percent higher than last year. Transavia s fourth quarter operating loss amounted to EUR 13 million, which is at the same level of last year.

For fiscal year 2003/04, Transavia reported an operating profit of EUR 16 million compared to EUR 28 million last year.

Engineering & Maintenance Business

As in the previous quarters of the fiscal year, Engineering & Maintenance continued to suffer from weak trading conditions, albeit that the operating environment continued to show slight improvement due to capacity redeployment. Nevertheless, fourth quarter operating revenues of EUR 198 million were 20 percent lower than last year. This in particular reflects less work from KLM airline, while third party revenues remained stable.

Operating expenses were down 18 percent on last year, and offset for the greater part the decline in operating revenues. The decline in operating expenses reflects both a reduction in direct costs as well as the effects of structural cost reductions.

Engineering & Maintenance reported an operating profit for the fourth quarter of EUR 8 million, compared to an operating profit of EUR 15 million last year.

For fiscal year 2003/04, Engineering & Maintenance operating profit amounted to EUR 16 million, whereas last year it reported an operating profit of EUR 41 million.

CASH FLOW AND FINANCING

Cash Flow and Liquidity Position

Fourth quarter s cash flow from operating activities was EUR 26 million positive. Cash flow from investing activities amounted to EUR 141 million and relates mainly to the final payment on the third Boeing 747-400ER freighter and prepayments on new fleet. Free cash flow in the fourth quarter was EUR 115 million negative. Financing cash flow was EUR 38 million positive, which reflects financing received for KLM s third freighter.

Cash flow from operating activities in fiscal year 2003/04 amounted to EUR 303 million. Cash flow from investing activities amounted to EUR 507 million. Free cash flow in the fiscal year was EUR 204 million negative. Financing cash flow was EUR 259 million. As of March 31, 2004, KLM Group had cash and cash equivalents totaling EUR 949 million (versus EUR 919 million at March 31, 2003), of which EUR 663 million is in cash and EUR 286 million is in Triple A bonds and long term deposits.

Financial Position

In fiscal year 2003/04, KLM s net-debt position increased by EUR 217 million to EUR 3,103 million on March 31, 2004. Group equity increased by EUR 11 million to EUR 1,488 million. KLM s gearing went up from 195 percent as at March 31, 2003 to 209 percent as at March 31, 2004.

STRUCTURAL COST REDUCTION PROGRAM: UPDATE

On March 31, 2004, KLM finalized the first year of its ambitious structural cost reduction program, aimed at EUR 650 million in cost reductions, including a reduction in FTEs of approximately 4,500. In this first year, cumulative cost savings of approximately EUR 200 million, including a reduction of close to 3,100 FTEs, have been realized. Of this approx. EUR 75 million and approx. 500 FTEs relates to the fourth quarter. KLM has thus achieved its objectives for fiscal year 2003/04, which was EUR 200 million in structural cost reductions, including a reduction of approx. 3,000 FTEs.

DIVIDEND TO SHAREHOLDERS

Former KLM shareholders are entitled to receive a dividend, if any is declared, related to fiscal year 2003/04 on their newly obtained Air France shares. As a consequence KLM proposes not to distribute a dividend to its shareholders for the fiscal year 2003/04.

OUTLOOK

In view of its merger with Air France, KLM does not provide an outlook for fiscal year 2004/05. KLM Group confirms that it remains committed to deliver on its structural cost reduction program.

Amstelveen, May 6, 2004

The Board of Managing Directors

UPCOMING EVENTS

Press Conference on Annual Results for fiscal year 2003/04

A press conference for financial media will be held on Thursday, May 6, 2004 at 9.30 hours am CET. Leo van Wijk, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Rob Ruijter, Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer will host the press conference. The press conference is also accessible via live audio webcast on the KLM Investor Relations website at http://investorrelations.klm.com, under Events and Presentations .

Analyst Call on Annual Results for fiscal year 2003/04

An analyst call will be held on Thursday, May 6, 2004 at 3:30 hours pm CET. Leo van Wijk, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Rob Ruijter, Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer, will host the call, which will be accessible via live audio webcast on the KLM Investor Relations web site at http://investorrelations.klm.com, under Events and Presentations .

Warning about Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains, and the Company and its representatives may make, forward-looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Act of 1995, either orally or in writing, about the Company and its business. Forward-looking statements generally can be identified by the use of terms such as ambition, may, will, expect, intend, estimate, anticipate, believe, plan, seek, continue or similar terms. These forward-looking are based on current expectations, estimates, forecasts, projections about the industries in which the Company operates, management s beliefs and assumptions made by management about future events. Any such statement is qualified by reference to the following cautionary statements. These forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, many of which are outside of the Company s control and are difficult to predict, that may cause actual results to differ materially from any future results expressed or implied from the forward-looking statements. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve risks and uncertainties including, among others, (1) the airline pricing environment; (2) competitive actions taken by other airlines; (3) general economic conditions; (4) changes in foreign exchange rates and jet fuel prices; (5) governmental and regulatory actions and political conditions; (6) developments affecting labor relations or the Company s airline partners; (7) the outcome of any material litigation; (8) the future level of air travel demand; (9) the Company s future load factors and yields; and (10) the many effects on the Company and the airline industry from terrorist attacks, the possibility or fear of such attacks and the threat or outbreak of epidemics, hostilities or war, including the adverse impact on general economic conditions, demand for travel, the costs for security, the cost and availability of aviation insurance coverage and war risk coverage and the price and availability of jet fuel. Developments in any of these areas, as well as other risks and uncertainties detailed from time to time in the documents the Company files with or furnishes to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, could cause actual outcomes and results to differ materially from those that have been or may be projected by or on behalf of the Company. The Company cautions that the foregoing list of important factors is not exhaustive. Additional information regarding the factors and events that could cause differences between forward-looking statements and actual results in the future is contained in the Company s Securities and Exchange Commission filings, including the Company s Annual Report on Form 20-F. The Company undertakes no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

NOTE TO THE EDITORS: Financial and Statistical Data can be found at http://investorrelations.klm.com For more information, contact Investor Relations at 31 20 **649 3099**, or Media Relations at 31 20 **649 4545**

For photography: www.presslink.nl/klm

KEY FINANCIAL DATA*

	Three mor		Twelve months ended March 31	
(in millions of euros)	2004	2003	2004	2003
Operating revenues Operating expenses before depreciation and	1,377	1,377	5,877	6,485
long term rentals	1,191	1,759	5,119	6,230
EBITDAR**	186	(382)	758	255
Depreciation and long term rentals	160	221	638	739
Operating income	26	(603)	120	(484)
EBITDAR** as a % of operating revenues	13.5	(27.7)	12.9	3.9
Operating income as a % of operating revenues	1.9	(43.8)	2.0	(7.5)
Pretax income	(25)	(669)	31	(622)
Net income	(20)	(447)	24	(416)
Per common share (EPS)***	(0.47)	(9.96)	0.50	(9.26)
Cash flow from operating activities	26	(274)	303	295
Cash flow from investing activities	(141)	75	(507)	(436)
Free cash flow	(115)	(199)	(204)	(141)
Interest coverage ratio Average number of Staff KLM Group (fte)	0.3	(36.8)	1.3	(5.3)
- permanent	29,132	31,474	29,849	31,583
- temporary	816	1,487	1,333	1,455
Employed by KLM	29,948	32,961	31,182	33,038
- agency staff	1,076	1,536	1,100	1,628
	31,024	34,497	32,282	34,666

^{*} Pages six through ten contain financial information under generally accepted accounting principles in the Netherlands (Netherlands GAAP)

^{**} EBITDAR has been adjusted for fiscal year 2002/03 to reflect the changed accounting rules effective for KLM as of April 2003, with respect to the presentation of extraordinary items

^{***} After taking other rights to a share in net income and equity into account; exclusive of any shares held by

KLM

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF EARNINGS

	Three mor Marc	Twelve months ended March 31			
(in millions of euros)	2004	2003	2004	6,485 6,969	
Operating revenues Operating expenses	1,377 1,351	1,377 1,980	5,877 5,757		
Operating income* Financial income and expense Results on sale of assets Results of holdings Results on sale of holdings	26 (36) (6) (10) 1	(603) (18) (39) (10) 1	120 (101) (1) 0 13	(484) (98) (42) (4) 6	
Pretax income Taxes	(25)	(669) 222	(7)	(622) 206	
Net income	(20)	(447)	24	(416)	
Attributable to holders of preferred stock Attributable to holders of common stock	1 (21)	1 (448)	2 22	2 (418)	

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Three mor		Twelve months ended March 31		
(in millions of euros)	2004	2003	2004	2003	
Net income	20	(447)	24	(416)	
Depreciation	115	170	440	535	
Changes in provisions	27	(142)	36	(114)	
Changes in operating working capital	(126)	101	(141)	280	
Results of holdings	10	10	(0)	4	
Results on sale of holdings	1	(1)	(13)	(6)	
Other changes	(21)	35	(43)	12	
Cash flow from operating activities	26	(274)	303	295	
Net capital expenditures on intangible fixed assets	0	(8)	(4)	(28)	

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Net capital expenditures on tangible fixed assets Net capital changes in holdings Changes in the group of consolidated holdings	(142) 1 0	75 8	(516) 10 3	(382) (26)
Cash flow from investing activities Free cash flow Cash flow from financing activities	(141) (115) 38	75 (199) (144)	(507) (204) 259	(436) (141) (280)
Changes in cash and marketable securities	(77)	(343)	55	(421)

^{*} Operating income has been adjusted for fiscal year 2002/03 to reflect the changed accounting rules effective for KLM as of April, 2003 with respect to the presentation of extraordinary items. Operating revenues previous fiscal year for the fourth quarter and the twelve months period ending March 31, 2003 include revenues of buzz of EUR 18 million and EUR 118 million respectively. Operating expenses for buzz for the same periods were EUR 33 million and EUR 148 million respectively.

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(in millions of euros)	March 31, 200	4 March	March 31, 2003	
Fixed assets Intangible fixed assets Tangible fixed assets Financial fixed assets	52 5,080 1,124	66 4,982 1,289		
Current assets Operating supplies Accounts receivable Cash and marketable securities	6,25 211 907 663	222 998 608	6,337	
Current liabilities	1,781 1,856	1,828 2,190		
Current assets less current liabilities		75) —	(362)	
Assets less current liabilities	6,18	81	5,975	
Long-term debt				
Subordinated perpetual debt Other long-term debt	507 3,721	544 3,427		
Provisions Deferred credits Group equity		79 86	3,971 271 256 1,477	
	6,18	81	5,975	

The increase in long-term debt reflects the impact of newly attracted aircraft funding.

Movements with respect to exchange rate differences/other relate to exchange rate differences arising on the translation of KLM s share in equity and results of foreign holdings and the valuation of derivatives under SFAS 133/138.

NOTES TO THE OPERATING EXPENSES

	Three m	onths end 31	ed March	Twelve months ended March 31		
Operating expenses (in millions of euros)	2004	2003	%Change	2004	2003	% Change
Salaries and benefits	459	489	(6)	1,903	1,907	(0)
Hired personnel		27	(41)	67	108	(38)
Labour costs	475	516	(8)	1,970	2,015	(2)
Materials and consumables	93	98	(5)	358	448	(20)
Commercial costs	107	107	0	383	499	(23)
Landing fees and navigation charges	114	125	(9)	503	541	(7)
Third-party handling costs	53	40	33	218	208	5
Work by third parties	59	95	(38)	384	489	(21)
Housing, vehicles and Inventories	33	40	(17)	134	153	(12)
Commercial cooperation	29	27	7	66	117	(44)
Ad hoc aircraft -/ truck rentals	20	22	(9)	87	99	(12)
Reorganization costs Costs arising from arbitration in legal Dispute		75	n.m.		75	n.m.
between KLM and Alitalia		276	n.m.		276	n.m.
Other operating expenses		127	(77)	260	424	(39)
	1,012	1,548	(35)	4,363	5,344	(18)
Aircraft fuel	179	211	(15)	756	886	(15)
Operating expenses before depreciation and						
long term rentals	1,191	1,759	(32)	5,119	6,230	(18)
Depreciation	115	110	5	440	457	(4)
Write down / impairment loss		60	n.m.		78	n.m.
Operational aircraft lease expenses	36	42	(14)	164	171	(4)
Long term property rentals	9	9	(0)	34	33	3
Depreciation and long term rentals	160	221	(28)	638	739	(14)
Total operating expenses	1,351	1,980	(32)	5,757	6,969	(17)

Salaries and benefits in the fourth quarter showed a year-on-year decrease of 6%, which is the combined effect of a reduction in staff numbers, wage increases and higher pension costs.

Fuel costs decreased by 15% compared to prior-year, reflecting the mixed impact of a lower US-dollar exchange rate, lower volumes and higher prices for jet fuel.

Other operating expenses showed a year-on-year decrease mainly due to the effects of structural cost savings measures and the sale of KLM uk s low cost operation buzz.

	Three months ended March 31			Twelve months ended March 31		
AIRLINE OPERATING DATA KLM*	2004	2003	% Change	2004	2003	% Change
Traffic (in millions of RTKs)	2,581	2,452	5	10,167	10,132	0
Capacity (in millions of ATKs)	3,239	3,203	1	12,836	12,952	(1)
Load factor (%)	79.7	76.6		79.2	78.2	
Break-even load factor (%)	77.1	90.5		78.1	80.2	
Yield per RTK (in cents)	44.4	46.9	(5)	47.4	51.5	(8)
Excluding currency effects			1			(1)
Unit revenues per ATK (in cents)	35.4	35.9	(1)	37.5	40.3	(7)
Excluding currency effects			5			0
Unit costs per ATK (in cents)**	34.2	40.7	(16)	37.0	40.8	(9)
Excluding currency effects**			(10)			(3)
Excluding fuel price and currency effects**			(11)			(4)