

Media release

Successful shareholders' meeting for Helvetia Holding AG

At the 13th Shareholders' Meeting of the Europe-wide Helvetia Group, the shareholders took note of the results for the 2008 financial year. With a profit of CHF 230.5 million, a solvency margin of 207.7 percent, and a mostly stable equity base, Helvetia's result was satisfactory in view of the current challenging conditions on the market. The Shareholders' Meeting approved the motions of the Board of Directors regarding amendments to the articles of incorporation and re-elected current members of the Board.

St.Gallen, 17 April 2009 / At their 13th Shareholders' Meeting, the shareholders of the Europe-wide Helvetia Group learnt of the outstanding Group result for 2008: even in the current turbulent financial market environment, Helvetia Group posted an annual profit of CHF 230.5 million. With an excellent technical result, a solvency margin of 207.7 percent and a mostly stable equity base, Helvetia maintained its strong capital position and boasts a very solid risk profile. The shareholders approved the annual report, annual financial statement and consolidated financial statement for 2008 and granted discharge to the governing bodies of the company. The Shareholders' Meeting also approved the payment of a dividend of CHF 13.50 per share.

Elections

In accordance with the terms of office, the proposed candidates Dr. Hans-Jürg Bernet, John Martin Manser and Dr. Pierin Vincenz were re-elected for a further period of three years as Board members by the Shareholders' Meeting.

Amendments to the articles of incorporation

The Shareholders' Meeting also approved two motions of the Board of Directors to amend the articles of incorporation. The Shareholders' Meeting decided to amend the articles of incorporations to comply with the partial revision of the Swiss Code of Obligations that entered into force on 1 January 2008, and approved an amendment to the threshold for requesting items to be added to the agenda for the Shareholders' Meeting to take account of the par value reduction carried out last year. The 13th Shareholders' Meeting of Helvetia Holding was attended by 1 135 shareholders with voting rights, who represented 69.47 percent of the share capital.

You can also access this media release on our website at www.helvetia.com/en/media. An info kit is available on <http://www.helvetia.com/en/gruppe/governance/gvinfokit.htm>.

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About Helvetia Group

In the past 150 years, Helvetia Group grew from a number of Swiss and foreign insurance companies into a successful insurance group that does business everywhere in Europe. Today, Helvetia has branch offices in Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Spain, Italy and France, and routes some of its investment and financing activities through subsidiaries and fund companies in Luxembourg and Jersey. The Group is headquartered in St.Gallen in Switzerland. Helvetia is active in the life, property and casualty and reinsurance segments, and almost 4,600 employees provide services to more than two million customers. With a business volume of CHF 5.7 billion, Helvetia posted a net profit of CHF 230.5 million in the 2008 financial year. The Helvetia Holding registered share is part of the Swiss Performance Index (SPI) and is traded on the SIX Swiss Exchange under the symbol HELN.

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The purpose of this document is to inform Helvetia Group's shareholders and the public of the resolutions of the 13th Ordinary Shareholders' Meeting of Helvetia Holding AG. This document does not constitute an offer or a solicitation to exchange, buy or subscribe for securities, nor does it constitute an offering circular within the meaning of Art. 652 a of the Swiss Code of Obligations or a listing prospectus within the meaning of the listing rules of SWX Swiss Exchange. Should the Helvetia Group make one or more capital increases in the future, investors should make their decision to buy or subscribe for new shares or other securities solely on the basis of the relevant offering circular. This document is also available in German, French and Italian. The German version is binding.