

St.Gallen, 4 May 2012

Media release

Successful Shareholders' Meeting for Helvetia Holding Ltd

At the 16th ordinary Shareholders' Meeting of Helvetia Holding Ltd, the shareholders were informed of the Group's solid performance in 2011. The Shareholders' Meeting approved all the proposals of the Board of Directors. The Board members Hans-Jürg Bernet, John Martin Manser and Pierin Vincenz were re-elected for another term of office.

Helvetia Group was once again able to announce a solid annual result to the 1497 shareholders with voting rights (representing 67.6 percent of the share capital) who were present at the Shareholders' Meeting.

With growth in original currency of 10.9%, Helvetia Group for the first time achieved a business volume of more than seven billion francs. The annual profit of CHF 288.7 million confirmed the Group's strong operating performance in a challenging market environment. The Shareholders' Meeting took note of this performance and approved the annual report, the annual financial statements and the consolidated financial statements for 2011. In view of the solid balance sheet, the Shareholders' Meeting again approved a dividend of CHF 16.00 per share. Of this dividend, CHF 8.00 per share will be paid from the capital contribution reserve, which is exempt from withholding tax for private individuals in Switzerland. The Shareholders' Meeting also approved the other proposals of the Board by an overwhelming majority.

Re-elections

In accordance with the terms of office, the Board members Hans-Jürg Bernet, John Martin Manser and Pierin Vincenz were re-elected for another three years.

You can also access this media release on our website at www.helvetia.com/media.

An info kit on the Shareholders' Meeting is available at www.helvetia.com/gvinfokit.

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About Helvetia Group

In over 150 years, Helvetia Group has grown 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 business, and almost 4,900 employees provide services to more than 2.5 million customers. With a business volume of CHF 7.2 billion, Helvetia posted a net profit of CHF 288.7 million in the 2011 financial year. The Helvetia Holding registered share 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 16th ordinary Shareholders' Meeting of Helvetia Holding Ltd. This document does not constitute an offer or a solicitation to exchange, buy or subscribe to securities, nor does it constitute an offering circular as defined by Art. 652a of the Swiss Code of Obligations or a listing prospectus as defined by the listing rules of the SIX Swiss Exchange. Should Helvetia Group in the future make one or more capital increases, investors should make their decision to buy or to subscribe for new shares or other securities solely based on the relevant offering circular. This document is also available in German, French and Italian. The German version is binding.