

## Media release

St. Gallen, 25 April 2014

### **Shareholders' Meeting a success at Helvetia Holding AG**

**At the 18th Ordinary Shareholders' Meeting of Helvetia Holding AG, the shareholders were informed of a very solid year-end result for 2013. The Shareholders' Meeting was conducted in line with the requirements of the new Ordinance Against Excessive Pay in Stock Exchange Listed Companies (VegüV) for the first time.**

The Helvetia Group once again presented a solid year-end result to the 1630 shareholders who were present with voting rights (representing 68.28 per cent of the share capital). The Group increased its profit by 9.2 per cent to CHF 363.8 million in 2013. The business volume of CHF 7,476.8 million increased by 6.3 per cent. Both segments – life and non-life – rose strongly. Besides the robust Swiss home market, profit growth in the foreign markets was also impressive. The Shareholders' Meeting acknowledged these results and approved the Director's Report, the Financial Statements and the Consolidated Financial Statements 2013.

As a result of the strong balance sheet and favourable business development, the Shareholders' Meeting adopted a 2.9 per cent higher dividend of CHF 17.50 per share. The Group is maintaining its attractive dividend policy with a payout ratio of 44.3 per cent.

The Shareholders' Meeting approved the amendments to the Articles of Incorporation for compliance with the Ordinance Against Excessive Pay in Stock Exchange Listed Companies (VegüV). All current members of the Board of Directors were re-elected for a further one-year period in office. The auditors, KPMG AG, Zurich, were also re-elected for the same period. For the first time, the shareholders elected the President and the members of the Remuneration Committee for one year respectively and voted on the fixed and variable remuneration of the Board of Directors and the Executive Management. All the proposals were approved. Helvetia has thus already complied with the new requirements under the Minder Initiative one year before the end of the implementation period.

This media release is also available on the home page [www.helvetia.com/media](http://www.helvetia.com/media).  
An infokit on the Shareholders' Meeting is available at [www.helvetia.com/gvinfokit](http://www.helvetia.com/gvinfokit).

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**About the Helvetia Group**

Over the past 150 years, the Helvetia Group has developed out of various Swiss and foreign insurance companies into a successful insurance group with a presence throughout Europe. Helvetia now has branches in Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Spain, Italy and France. It also conducts some of its investment and financing operations via subsidiary and fund companies in Luxembourg and Jersey. The Group's head office is located in the Swiss town of St. Gallen. Helvetia offers life policies, insurance against loss and reinsurance. With around 5,200 employees, it provides services for more than 2.7 million customers. In the 2013 financial year, Helvetia generated net income of CHF 363.8 million on a business volume of CHF 7.5 billion. The registered shares of Helvetia Holding are traded on the SIX Swiss Exchange under the code HELN.

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(6) risks associated with implementing our business strategies; (7) the frequency, magnitude and general development of insured events; (8) mortality and morbidity rates; (9) policy renewal and lapse rates. We caution you that the foregoing list of important factors is not exhaustive; when evaluating forward-looking statements, you should carefully consider the foregoing factors and other uncertainties. All forward-looking statements are based on information available to Helvetia Group on the date of its publication and Helvetia Group assumes no obligation to update such statements unless otherwise required by applicable law.

The purpose of this document is to inform the shareholders of Helvetia Group and the public about the resolutions adopted by the 18th Ordinary Shareholders' Meeting of Helvetia Holding AG. 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.