



## Media Information

### **Share capital reduction successfully completed. Portion of own shares falls below 5 per cent. Changes in the shareholder pool.**

St.Gallen, September 2, 2002 – The Helvetia Patria Holding announces the following change in the voting rights in compliance with Article 20 of the Federal Act on Stock Exchanges and Securities Trading (SESTA/BEHG):

- a) The Helvetia Patria Holding bought back 4.61 per cent of its own registered shares (304'192 shares) for the purpose of carrying out the share capital reduction and destroyed them by August 30, 2002.
- b) In addition to that, the Helvetia Patria Holding retained 323'264 own voting rights on account of securities lending contracts, which were terminated by August 30, 2002.
- c) The Helvetia Beteiligungen AG, Dufourstrasse 40, St. Gallen/Switzerland currently owns about 4.6 per cent registered shares of the Helvetia Patria Holding (291'136 shares), which are essentially reserved to exercise a convertible bond. As a result of the above action, the threshold for the voting rights, as defined by Article 20 of the SESTA/BEHG, fell again below the five per cent mark by August 30, 2002.

In accordance with Article 15, Paragraph 5, of the Securities Ordinance of the Swiss Federal Banking Commission, and referring to the recommendation made by the Swiss Takeover Board on April 2, 2001, the Helvetia Patria Holding furthermore announces the following changes in its shareholder structure:

- a) The "Alte Leipziger Lebensversicherungsgesellschaft auf Gegenseitigkeit", Alte Leipziger-Platz 1, Oberursel/Germany, which owned 10 per cent of the Helvetia Patria Holding shares, left the contractually bound shareholders' pool by August 30, 2002, whose remaining two participants are Patria Genossenschaft, St. Alban-Anlage 26, Basel/Switzerland and Vontobel Beteiligungen AG, Bahnhofstrasse 3, Zurich/Switzerland. More than 80 per cent of those shares, formerly owned by the Alte Leipziger, have been privately placed thus increasing the free float.

b) At the same point in time, the Swiss Union of Raiffeisenbanks, Wassergasse 24, St.Gallen/Switzerland, joint the pool agreement of that shareholders' group with its 2 per cent ownership of the Helvetia Patria Holding shares.

The new share capital of the Helvetia Patria Holding amounts to CHF 62 930 000.00 and is divided into 6 293 000 registered shares with a nominal value of CHF 10.00 per share. After completing this shareholder friendly measure the Helvetia Patria Holding is still provided with a sufficient equity capital base allowing it to be successfully active at the international financial markets, even under the currently difficult circumstances.

**You are very welcome to contact us for more information:**

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#### The Helvetia Patria Group

The Helvetia Patria is a Europe-wide active insurance services Group with core competencies in risk management (life and non-life insurance business, reinsurance) as well as in private pensions. The Group is active in Central – and Southern Europe through its regional offices, subsidiaries and associated companies. Over 4 700 employees are providing services to more than two million customers in six European countries. The Group generated a premium volume of CHF 4.6 billion and an operating profit of CHF 100.6 million in 2001.