# VII. SHAREHOLDER RIGHTS

Information about how the General Meeting of Shareholders operates and its main powers, a description of shareholder rights and how they are exercised

## **General Meeting**

<u>The General Meeting's modus operandi –</u> Powers

According to Article 12 of the Company's Articles of Association, the General Meeting of Shareholders is the Company's supreme body and is entitled to decide on all corporate affairs.

The General Meeting is the sole body competent to decide on:

- a) Amendments to the Articles of Association, other than those which are decided on by the Board of Directors pursuant to law (Article 11(5), Article 13(2) and (13), and Article 17b(4) of Codified Law 2190/1920).
- b) Increases or reductions in the share capital, with the exception of those cases where that power lies with the Board of Directors pursuant to Law or the Articles of Association, and increases or reductions required by the provisions of other laws
- c) The distribution of the annual profits, save for the case referred to in Article 34(2)(f) of Codified Law 2190/1920.
- d) The election of members and stand-in members of the Board of Directors, apart from the cases cited in Article 25 of the Articles of Association, relating to the election of members by the Board of Directors to replace members who have resigned, passed away or been removed from their post, for the remainder of the term in office of the members be-

ing replaced and provided that said members cannot be replaced by the stand-in members elected by the General Meeting.

- e) Approval of the annual accounts (annual financial statements).
- f) The issuing of corporate bonds, in parallel with the right of the Board of Directors to issue such bonds in accordance with Article 28 of the Articles of Association.
- g) The election of auditors.
- h) The extension of effective term, merger, split, conversion, revival, or winding up of the Company.
- i) The appointment of liquidators.
- j) The filing of actions against members of the Board of Directors for acting ultra vires or for infringing the law or the Articles of Association and
- k) All other issues relating to the Company for which the General Meeting is granted competence by the law or the Articles of Association.

The General Meeting meets at the seat of the Company or in another municipality within the prefecture where the seat is located or in another municipality bordering the place of its seat at least once every accounting period and within 6 months at the most from the end of that accounting period. It may also meet within the boundaries of the municipality where the Athens Exchange has its registered offices.

The invitation for the General Meeting must include at least the place and precise address, date and time of the meeting, the items on the agenda clearly stated, the shareholders entitled to take part, and precise instructions about how shareholders can take part in the meeting and exercise their rights in person or

via a representative. The minimum information which should be stated in the invitation also includes information about the time period in which minority rights can be exercised, the cut-off date with an indication that only shareholders on the cut-off date can attend and vote at the General Meeting, a notice of the place where the full text of documents and drafts of decisions proposed by the Board of Directors for all items on the agenda are available, and a reference to the Company's website where all the above information is available, and the forms which must be used when shareholders vote via a representative.

The invitation for the General Meeting must be published in full or in summary format (which must necessarily include an express reference to the website where the full text of the invitation and information required by Article 27(3) of Codified Law 2190/1920 is available) in the publications specified in Article 26(2) of Codified Law 2190/1920, in the Societes Anonyme and Limited Liability Companies Bulletin of the Government Gazette and on the ATHEX and Company websites at least 20 days before the date of the meeting.

The full text of the invitation must also be published in electronic news services with a national or European reach, in order to effectively disseminate information to investors and to ensure rapid, non-discriminatory access to such information.

# Right to attend General Meetings

All shareholders are entitled to take part in the General Meeting.

To take part, holders of shares must have been shareholders at the start of the fifth day before the date of the General Meeting (cutoff date).

Such persons can demonstrate that they are

shareholders by submitting a written certificate from Hellenic Exchanges S.A. or, in the alternative, by the Company connecting online to the files and records of that company.

The written or online certificate proving that they are shareholders must be presented to the Company no later than the third day before the date of the General Meeting.

Other than that requirement, exercise of the right to participate in the General Meeting does not require shareholders to block their shares or comply with any other formalities which limit the ability to sell or transfer their shares in the time period between the cut-off date and the date of the General Meeting.

Shareholders or their representatives who have not complied with these formalities may only take part in the General Meeting with its permission.

Shareholders may attend the General Meetings either in person or through one or more representatives, whether shareholders or not. Each shareholder may appoint up to 3 representatives. However, if a shareholder holds shares in the Company which appear in more than one securities account, this limitation does not prevent the shareholder from appointing different representatives for the shares which appear in each securities account. A representative who acts for more than one shareholder may vote differently on behalf of each shareholder.

Legal entities may participate in the General Meeting by appointing up to 3 natural persons as their representatives.

Shareholder representatives can be appointed and removed in writing, such notice being sent to the Company in the same way, at least 3 days before the date set for the General Meeting. The Company has made the forms,

# > Corporate Governance

>Shareholder Rights

which must be filled out and sent by shareholders in order to appoint a representative, available on its website.

The Company's Articles of Association does not allow shareholders to participate in the General Meeting and exercise voting rights remotely or by correspondence.

Shareholder representatives are obliged to inform the Company before the General Meeting starts about any information which shareholders should be aware of so that they can determine whether there is a risk of the representative serving interests other than their own interests. Conflicts of interest may arise in cases where the representative:

a. is a shareholder who controls the Company or is another legal entity or person controlled by that shareholder;

b. is a member of the Board of Directors or of the management team of the Company or a shareholder who controls the Company, or another legal person or entity controlled by a shareholder who controls the Company;

c. is an employee or certified public accountant of the Company or a shareholder who controls the Company, or another legal person or entity controlled by a shareholder who controls the Company;

d. is the spouse or a relative to the first degree of one of the natural persons referred to above.

## Quorum - Majority

According to the law and the Articles of Association, the General Meeting has a quorum and is validly met on the items of the agenda when shareholders representing at least 1/5 of the paid up share capital are present or represented at the meeting. If that quorum is not achieved at the first meeting, the Meeting must reconvene within 20 days from the date on which it was not possible to hold the

meeting, and that meeting has a quorum and is validly met on the items on the initial agenda, irrespective of the percentage of the paid up share capital represented at that meeting. In all the above cases, decisions of the General Meeting are taken by absolute majority of the votes represented at it.

By way of exception, in the case of decisions relating to a change in the Company's nationality; a change in the business object; an increase in shareholders' obligations; an increase in share capital not provided for by the Articles of Association in line with Article 13(1) and (2) of Codified Law 2190/1920 unless required by law or done by capitalising reserves; a reduction in share capital unless done in accordance with Article 16(6) of Codified Law 2190/1920; a change in the profit distribution method; the merger, split, conversion, revival, extension of effective term or winding up of the Company; the granting or renewal of powers to the Board of Directors to increase the share capital in accordance with Article 13(1) hereof, and all other cases specified by law, the General Meeting has a quorum and is validly met on the items of the agenda when shareholders representing at least 2/3 of the paid up share capital are present or represented at the meeting. In all the above cases, decisions of the General Meeting are taken by 2/3 majority of the votes represented at it.

If that qualified quorum is not achieved, the General Meeting will be invited to convene and will reconvene within 20 days from the date on which the meeting could not take place, and will have a quorum and be validly met on the items on the initial agenda if at least ½ of the paid-up share capital is represented at it. If that quorum is not achieved, the General Meeting will be called and will convene again within 20 days and will have a quorum and be validly met on the items on the initial agenda when at least 1/5 of the paid-up share capital is represented at it.

In all the above cases, decisions of the General Meeting are taken by 2/3 majority of the votes represented at it.

No other invitation is required if the initial invitation specifies the place and time of any repeat meetings that might be held if a quorum is not achieved at the first meeting, provided that at least 10 days (meaning 10 full days) elapse between the meeting which was cancelled and the repeat meeting.

# **Shareholder Rights**

## Right to attend General Meetings

As explained in detail above, shareholders are entitled to attend General Meetings in person or via representatives who may or may not be shareholders.

## Right to vote at General Meetings

Every share, apart from preferred shares to which no voting rights are attached, comes with a voting right.

# Rights of preferred shareholders

According to the decision of the Company's Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders of 27.6.1990, which decided to increase the Company's share capital by issuing preferred shares without voting rights, the preferences granted to preferred shares without voting rights were as follows:

A. The right to receive the first dividend from the profits of each year before ordinary shareholders, and in the case where no dividend is distributed or a dividend lower than the first dividend is distributed in one or more years, to receive payment on that first divided on a preferential and cumulative basis for those years from the profits generated in subsequent years. Holders of non-voting preferred shares are also entitled, on the same terms as holders of ordinary shares, to receive any additional dividend paid in any form. It should be noted that following amendments to the

provisions of Article 45(2) of Codified Law 2190/1920 on the profits of societes anonyme to be distributed, in accordance with Article 79(8) of Law 3604/2007, the obligation to distribute 6% of the paid-up share capital as the minimum mandatory first dividend was abolished, and it is now mandatory to distribute 35% of the net profits.

B. Preferential return of capital paid up by holders of non-voting preferred shares from the product of the liquidation of corporate assets in the event of the Company being wound up. Holders of non-voting preferred shares are entitled, on equal terms with the holders of ordinary shares, to a proportionally greater share in the product of liquidation of assets, if this product is greater than the total paid-up share capital.

#### Priority rights

In any event of share capital increase, when that increase does not result from a contribution in kind or the issue of bonds with the right of conversion into shares, priority rights are granted on the entire new capital or bond issue to the Shareholders of the Company at the time of issue, proportionate to their holding in the existing share capital.

Where the Company's share capital is increased with shares from only one of the classes of shares the Company has issued, the priority right is granted to shareholders in the other class only after it is not exercised by shareholders in the class to which the new shares belong.

Pursuant to article 13(10) of Law 2190/1920, priority rights may be limited or abolished by decision of the General Meeting of Shareholders, requiring a special increased quorum and majority, pursuant to the provisions of Article 29(3) and (4) and Article 31(2) of Law 2190/1920.