

# Annual Shareholders' Meeting of Evonik Industries AG at 10 a.m. on Tuesday May 20, 2014

# Information on shareholders' rights pursuant to Section 122 Paragraph 2, Section 126 Paragraph 1, Section 127 and Section 131 of the German Stock Corporation Act (AktG)

The notice convening the Annual Shareholders' Meeting contains information on the shareholders' rights pursuant to Section 122 Paragraph 2, Section 126 Paragraph 1, Section 127 and Section 131 Paragraph 1 of the German Stock Corporation Act (AktG), and especially on the deadlines for exercising such rights. This document provides further information on the shareholders' rights and the preconditions for exercising such rights.

## Request to add items to the agenda pursuant to Section 122 Paragraph 2 AktG

Pursuant to Section 122 Paragraph 2 AktG, shareholders whose shareholdings together comprise one twentieth of the capital stock or a proportionate interest of  $\in$ 500,000 (corresponding to 500,000 shares) may request that items should be added to the agenda and announced. Every new item must be accompanied by reasons or a proposal for a resolution. The request must be addressed in writing to the company's Executive Board and must be received by the company at least 30 days before the date of the Shareholders' Meeting; this does not include the date of the Shareholders' Meeting and the date of the receipt of the request. The final deadline for receipt, therefore, is 12.00 midnight (Central European Summer Time — CEST) on Saturday, April 19, 2014. The request must be addressed to:

Evonik Industries AG Executive Board Rellinghauser Straße 1 – 11 45128 Essen Germany

Section 142 Paragraph 2 Sentence 2 AktG, which specifies that shareholders requesting additions to the agenda must have held shares in the company at least three months prior to the Shareholders' Meeting and that they will

continue to hold such shares until a decision on the motion is made, shall apply accordingly pursuant to Section 122 Paragraph 2 Sentence 1 in conjunction with Section 122 Paragraph 1 Sentence 3 AktG, in other words, in modified form. Insofar, the company will be satisfied if evidence is provided that the shareholders putting forward requests have held shares in the company at least since the start of February 20, 2014 and will hold these shares on the start of the day on which the request to add items to the agenda is submitted. Specific shareholding periods of third parties will be taken into account pursuant to Section 70 AktG. The entry in the share register or an equivalent confirmation from the custodian bank shall suffice as evidence.

Additions to the agenda that have to be announced — insofar as they have not already been announced with the notice convening the Shareholders' Meeting — shall be published immediately upon receipt by the company in the Federal Gazette and transmitted for publication to such media as it can be assumed will disseminate the information throughout the European Union.

Further, any requests to add items to the agenda received by the company after it has issued the notice convening the Shareholders' Meeting will be published promptly upon receipt by the company at the following internet address

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and will be announced to the shareholders in accordance with Section 125 AktG.

These shareholder rights are based on the following provisions:

Section 122 Convening a Shareholders' Meeting at the request of a minority of shareholders (excerpt)

"(1) <sup>1</sup>A shareholders' meeting shall be convened if shareholders whose shares together constitute one twentieth of the capital stock submit a written request to convene a shareholders' meeting stating the purpose and reasons; the request must be directed to the executive board. <sup>2</sup>The articles of incorporation may link the right to request the convening of a shareholders' meeting to a different form and holding of a lower proportion of the capital stock. <sup>3</sup>Section 142 Paragraph 2 Sentence 2 shall apply analogously. (2) <sup>1</sup>In the same way, shareholders whose shareholdings together comprise one twentieth of the capital stock or a proportionate interest of €500,000 (corresponding to 500,000 shares) may request that items should be added to the agenda and announced. <sup>2</sup>Every new item must be accompanied by reasons or a proposal for a resolution. <sup>3</sup>The request pursuant to sentence 1 must reach the company at least 24 days, and in the case of publicly listed companies, at least 30 days prior to the shareholders' meeting; the date of receipt shall not be included in the calculation."

Section 142 Appointment of special auditors (excerpt; of relevance is Section 2 of Paragraph 2, which is provided here in its context)

"(2) <sup>1</sup>If the shareholders' meeting rejects an application to appoint special auditors to investigate a matter relating to the formation of the company or a matter relating to the management of the company within the past five years, the court shall appoint special auditors at the request of shareholders whose shareholdings together amount to one hundredth of the capital stock or a proportionate amount of €100,000, if there are facts that give rise to suspicion of impropriety or flagrant violation of the law or articles of incorporation; this shall also apply for matters within the past ten years if the company was listed on a stock exchange when the matter occurred. <sup>2</sup>The applicants must provide evidence that they held shares for at least the three months prior to the date of the shareholders' meeting and that they will continue to hold the shares until the decision on the request. <sup>3</sup>For an agreement to avoid such a special audit of this type, Section 149 shall apply analogously."

Section 70 Calculation of the period of shareholding

"If the exercise of shareholders' rights is contingent upon the shareholder holding the shares for a certain period of time, a claim to the transfer of ownership against a credit institution, financial services institution or a company operating in accordance with Section 53 Paragraph 1 Sentence 1 or Section 53b Paragraph 1 Sentence 1 or Paragraph 7 of the German Banking Act (KWG) shall be deemed equivalent to ownership. <sup>2</sup>The period of ownership of a legal predecessor shall be attributed to the shareholder if the shareholder acquired the shares free of charge from his fiduciary, as a universal successor, upon dissolution of a co-ownership or due to a transfer of assets pursuant to Section 14 of the German Insurance Supervisory Act (VAG) or Section 14 of the German Building Society Act (BausparG)."

# Counter-motions and proposals for election pursuant to Section 126 Paragraph 1 and Section 127 AktG

Shareholders may submit motions and, where appropriate, proposals for election relating to items on the agenda or the rules of procedure for the Shareholders' Meeting at the Shareholders' Meeting without the need for announcement, publication or any other specific action prior to the Shareholders' Meeting. A vote may only be taken on counter-motions and proposals for election of shareholders if they are put forward at the Shareholders' Meeting; this also applies in the event that the respective counter-motion or election proposal is made available prior to the Shareholders' Meeting in accordance with Sections 126 and 127 AktG.

Counter-motions within the meaning of Section 126 AktG and proposals for election within the meaning of Section 127 AktG will be made available with the name of the shareholder, its reason — which, however, is not necessary in the case of proposals for elections — and any statement by the management at the following internet address

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provided that they are received by the company at least 14 days before the Shareholders' Meeting, not including the date of receipt and the date of the Shareholders' Meeting, i.e. by 12.00 midnight (Central European Summer Time — CEST) on Monday, May 5, 2014 at

Evonik Industries AG Legal & Compliance Rellinghauser Straße 1 – 11 45128 Essen Germany

or by fax at +49 (0)201 17 72 20 6

or email at hv-gegenantraege@evonik.com

and the other requirements regarding the company's duty to make them available pursuant to Sections 126 and 127 AktG are met. Corresponding with this obligation, the shareholders have a right to have their counter-motions and proposals for election made available. In addition to a timely submission of the counter-motion to the above address, as notified for this purpose in the notice convening the Shareholders' Meeting, the duty to make counter-motions available pursuant to Section 126 AktG, but not the duty to make proposals for election available pursuant to Section 127 AktG, further requires the receipt of the reasons for the counter-motion at the above address by the deadline set. There is no obligation to make available counter-motions and proposals for election, even if the above requirements are met, in case the circumstances set forth in Section 126 Paragraph 2 AktG and, in case of election proposals additionally the circumstances set forth in Section 127 Sentence 2 AktG, are fulfilled.

The respective provisions of the German Stock Corporation Act (AktG) which also outline the circumstances under which counter-motions and election proposals do not have to be made available are as follows:

Section 126 Motions submitted by shareholders

- "(1) <sup>1</sup>Shareholders motions, including the name of the shareholder, the reasons for the motion, and any statements by the management shall be made available to the eligible parties set forth in Section 125 Paragraphs 1 to 3 subject to the conditions set forth therein if the shareholder submits a counter-motion to a proposal made by the executive board and supervisory board on a specific item on the agenda, together with a reason, to the address notified in the notice convening the meeting at least 14 days prior to the shareholders' meeting. <sup>2</sup>The date of receipt shall not be included in this calculation. <sup>3</sup>Publicly listed companies must grant access via their website. <sup>4</sup>Section 125 Paragraph 3 shall apply analogously.
- (2) <sup>1</sup>A counter-motion and the reasons therefore do not have to be made available
  - 1. insofar as the granting of access would make the executive board liable to prosecution,
  - 2. if the counter-motion would lead to a resolution of the shareholders' meeting that is unlawful or violates the Articles of Incorporation,

- 3. if the reason contains material statements that are evidently incorrect or misleading or if it is offensive,
- 4. if a counter-motion submitted by the shareholder based on the same facts has already been made available at a shareholders' meeting of the company pursuant to Section 125,
- 5. if the same counter-motion with substantially the same reasons has already been made available at at least two shareholders' meetings of the company within the past five years and less than one twentieth of the capital stock represented at the shareholders' meeting voted in favor of it,
- 6. if the shareholder indicates that he will not be present at the shareholders' meeting and will not be represented by a proxy, or
- 7. if the shareholder has not put forward, or has not caused to be brought forward on his/her behalf, a counter-motion announced by him/her at two shareholders' meetings in the past two years

<sup>2</sup>The reason does not have to be made available if it comprises more than 5,000 characters.

(3) If several shareholders submit counter-motions on the same motion, the executive board may combine the counter-motions and their reasons."

Section 127 Proposals for the election of shareholders

"<sup>1</sup>Section 126 shall apply analogously for proposals submitted by a shareholder on the election of members of the supervisory board or the appointment of auditors. <sup>2</sup>Proposals for election do not require any reason. <sup>3</sup>The executive board does not need to make the proposal for election available if it does not contain the details required by Section 124 Paragraph 3 Sentence [4]<sup>a</sup> and Section 125 Paragraph 1 Sentence 5."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> The wording of the currently applicable version of Section 127 Sentence 3 AktG refers to Section 124 Paragraph 3 Sentence 3 AktG. However, this is evidently an editorial error by the legislator; the correct reference is to Section 124 Paragraph 3 Sentence 4 AktG.

Section 124 Publication of requests to add items to the agenda, proposals for resolutions (excerpt)

"(3) .... <sup>4</sup>Proposals for the election of members of the supervisory board or the appointment of auditors must contain their name, profession and place of residence. ..."

Section 125 Notifications for shareholders and members of the supervisory board (excerpt)

"(1) ... <sup>5</sup>In case of publicly listed companies, a proposal for the election of members of the supervisory board must include information on the nominees' membership in other statutory supervisory boards; information on their membership in comparable supervisory bodies of companies in Germany and abroad shall also be attached."

## Shareholders' rights to information pursuant to Section 131 Paragraph 1 AktG

Pursuant to Section 131 Paragraph 1 AktG, every shareholder is entitled to request and receive information from the Executive Board at the Shareholders' Meeting on matters affecting the company, including the company's legal and business relationships with affiliated companies, the situation of the Group and companies included in the consolidated financial statements, insofar as this is necessary for an objective assessment of items on the agenda and there is no right to refuse to disclose the information. The rights to refuse to disclose information are set forth in Section 131 Paragraph 3 AktG.

The provisions of the German Stock Corporation Act (AktG) relating to this shareholder right, which define the conditions on which disclosure of information may be refused, are as follows:

Section 131 Shareholders' right to information

"(1) <sup>1</sup>At the shareholders' meeting, the executive board shall comply with any request from a shareholder for information regarding the affairs of the company insofar as such information is necessary for an objective assessment of the items on the agenda. <sup>2</sup>The obligation to provide information also includes the company's legal and business relationships with an affiliated company. <sup>3</sup>If the company utilizes the exemptions set forth in Section 266 Paragraph 1 Sentence [3]<sup>b</sup>, Section 276 or Section 288 of the German Commercial Code (HGB), every shareholder may request that, at the shareholders' meeting dealing with the annual financial statements, these financial statements are made available in the form that they would have been available without application of these provisions. <sup>4</sup>The obligation of the executive board of a parent company (Section 290 Paragraphs 1 and 2 HGB) to provide information at the shareholders' meeting at which the consolidated financial statements and consolidated management report are presented includes the situation of the group and of the companies included in the consolidated financial statements.

- (2) <sup>1</sup>The information must meet the principles of faithful and conscientious reporting. <sup>2</sup>The articles of incorporation or rules of procedure pursuant to Section 129 may authorize the chairperson of the shareholders' meeting to set a time limit for shareholders' right to ask questions and to hold speeches, and to define further details.
- (3) <sup>1</sup>The executive board may refuse to disclose information
  - insofar as providing such information would, on the basis of a prudent commercial assessment, result in a not insignificant disadvantage to the company or an affiliated company;
  - insofar as it refers to tax valuations or the amount of individual taxes;
  - regarding the difference between the value at which items are shown in the annual balance sheet and a higher value of such items, unless the annual financial statements are to be adopted by the shareholders' meeting;
  - 4. regarding the accounting and valuation principles, insofar as the information on such principles in the notes to the financial statements is sufficient to provide a fair overview of the assets, financial position and results of operations of the company within the meaning of Section 264 Paragraph 2 German Commercial Code

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> The current wording of Section 131 Paragraph 1 Sentence 3 AktG refers here to Section 266 Paragraph 1 Sentence 3 of the German Commercial Code (HGB). However, this is evidently an editorial error by the legislator; the correct reference is Section 266 Paragraph 1 Sentence 2 HGB.

(HGB); this shall not apply if the annual financial statements are to be adopted by the shareholders' meeting;

- 5. insofar as the executive board would be liable to prosecution if it were to disclose the information;
- 6. insofar as, in the case of a credit institution or financial services institution, information on the accounting and valuation principles applied and any offsetting undertaken does not have to be disclosed in the annual financial statements, management report, consolidated financial statements or consolidated management report,
- 7. insofar as the information is made continuously available on the company's website for at least seven days prior to the start of the shareholders' meeting and during the shareholders' meeting.

<sup>2</sup>Information may not be withheld for other reasons.

- (4) <sup>1</sup>If a shareholder has been given information in his/her capacity as a shareholder outside the shareholders' meeting, this information must be disclosed to any other shareholder on request at the shareholders' meeting, even if it is not necessary for an objective assessment of the items on the agenda. <sup>2</sup>The executive board may not refuse to disclose this information in application of Paragraph 3 Sentence 1 Nos. 1 to 4. <sup>3</sup>Sentences 1 and 2 shall not apply if a subsidiary (Section 290 Paragraphs 1 and 2 German Commercial Code), a joint venture (Section 310 Paragraph 1 German Commercial Code) or an associated company (Section 311 Paragraph 1 German Commercial Code) provides information for the parent company (Section 290 Paragraphs 1 and 2 German Commercial Code) provides information for the parent company (Section 290 Paragraphs 1 and 2 German Commercial Code) necessary (Section 311 Paragraph 1 German Commercial Code) provides information for the parent company (Section 290 Paragraphs 1 and 2 German Commercial Code) and 2 German Commercial Code) and 2 German Commercial Code) necessary (Section 311 Paragraph 1 German Commercial Code) provides information for the parent company (Section 290 Paragraphs 1 and 2 German Commercial Code) for the purpose of the inclusion of the company in the consolidated financial statements of the parent company and the information is required for this purpose.
- (5) In the event of refusal to disclose information to a shareholder, the shareholder may request that the question and the reason for the refusal to provide information are recorded in the minutes of the shareholders' meeting."

Further, the chairperson of the meeting is authorized to utilize various measures relating to chairing and ensuring orderly conduct of the Shareholders' Meeting. These include placing appropriate time limits on the rights of the shareholders to ask questions and to speak. The relevant provisions of Section 19 Paragraph 3 of the company's Articles of Incorporation, which make use of the authorization pursuant to Section 131 Paragraph 2 Sentence 2 AktG as outlined above, states:

"(3) The chairperson of the shareholders' meeting may reasonably restrict the time allocated for questions and speeches by shareholders; in particular, at the start of the shareholders' meeting or during the meeting the chairperson may reasonably stipulate the time for the entire duration of the shareholders' meeting, for discussion of individual items on the agenda and individual questions, and speaking time."