



## Additional explanations with respect to shareholder rights

Pursuant to §§ 122 (2), 126 (1), 127, 131 (1) of the German Stock Corporation Act (Aktiengesetz, „AktG“) in conjunction with § 1 of Article 2 of the German Act to Mitigate the Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic under Civil, Insolvency and Criminal Procedure Law (Gesetz zur Abmilderung der Folgen der COVID-19-Pandemie im Zivil-, Insolvenz- und Strafverfahrensrecht, „Covid 19 Act“)

The convocation of the Annual General Meeting of HELLA GmbH & Co. KGaA on September 30, 2021 contains information about shareholder rights in accordance with §§ 122 (2), 126 (1), 127, 131 (1) AktG in conjunction with § 1 of the Covid 19 Act.

These rights are based, in particular, on the following applicable provisions under stock corporation law and on the Articles of Association:

### **§ 70 German Stock Corporation Act**

#### **Computation of the Period of Shareholding**

If the exercise of rights arising from a share requires that the shareholder has been the holder of such share for a certain period of time, the right to demand transfer of title from a credit institution, a financial services institute, a securities institute or an enterprise operating under § 53 (1) sentence 1 or § 53b (1) sentence 1 or (7) of the German Banking Act (Kreditwesengesetz) shall be deemed equivalent to ownership. The period during which the share was owned by a predecessor shall be attributed to the shareholder, provided that he has acquired the share without consideration from his fiduciary, as a successor in legal interest by operation of law, in connection with the liquidation of a community of interest, or as a result of a transfer of assets pursuant to § 13 of the German Insurance Supervision Act (Versicherungsaufsichtsgesetzes) or § 14 of the German Building Loan Associations Act (Gesetzes über Bausparkassen).

### **§ 122 German Stock Corporation Act**

#### **Convening at the Request of a Minority**

- (1) The general meeting shall be called if shareholders, whose holding in aggregate equals or exceeds one-twentieth of the share capital, request such meeting in writing, stating the purpose and the reasons of such meeting; such request shall be addressed to the management board. The articles of association may provide that the right to convene a general meeting shall require another form or the holding of a lower proportion of the share capital. The applicants must provide proof that they have been the holders of the shares for at least 90 days prior to the date of receipt of the request and that they will continue to hold such shares until the decision by the management board on the request. § 121 (7) shall apply mutatis mutandis.
- (2) In the same manner, shareholders whose shares amount in aggregate to not less than one-twentieth of the share capital or represent an amount of the share capital corresponding to € 500,000, may request that items are put on the agenda and published. Each new item shall be accompanied by a statement of reasons or a proposed resolution. The request in the sense of sentence 1 shall be provided to the company at least 24 days, in case of listed companies at least 30 days, prior to the meeting; the day of receipt shall not be included in this calculation.
- (3) If any such request is not complied with, the court may authorize the shareholders, who have made the request, to convene a general meeting or publish such items. At the same time, the court may appoint the chairman of the meeting. The convening of the meeting or the publication shall refer to such authorization. An appeal may be made against such decision. The applicants must provide proof that they hold the shares until the decision by the court.
- (4) The company shall bear the costs of the general meeting and, in the case of para. 3, also the court costs if the court has granted such motion.



## **§ 126 AktG**

### **German Stock Corporation Act**

#### Motions by Shareholders

- (1) Motions by shareholders together with the shareholder's name, the grounds and any position taken by the management board shall be made available to the persons entitled pursuant to § 125 (1) – (3) under the conditions stated therein if at least 14 days before the meeting the shareholder sends to the address indicated in the convening of the meeting a countermotion to a proposal of the management board and supervisory board as to an item on the agenda. The date of receipt shall not be taken into account. In the case of listed companies, access shall be provided via the company's Internet page. § 125 (3) shall apply mutatis mutandis.
- (2) A countermotion and the grounds for this need not be made available, if:
  1. the management board would by reason of such communication become criminally liable;
  2. the countermotion would result in a resolution of the general meeting which would be illegal or would violate the articles of association;
  3. the grounds contain statements which are manifestly false or misleading in material respects or which are libelous;
  4. a countermotion of such shareholder based on the same facts has already been communicated with respect to a general meeting of the company pursuant to § 125;
  5. the same countermotion of such shareholder on essentially identical grounds has already been communicated pursuant to § 125 to at least two general meetings of the company within the past five years and at such general meetings less than one-twentieth of the share capital represented has voted in favor of such countermotion;
  6. the shareholder indicates that he will neither attend nor be represented at the general meeting; or
  7. within the past two years at two general meeting the shareholder has failed to make or cause to be made on his behalf a countermotion communicated by him.The statement of the grounds need not be communicated if it exceeds more than 5,000 characters.
- (3) If several shareholders make countermotions for resolution in respect to the same subject matter, the management board may combine such countermotions and the respective statements of the grounds.

## **§ 127 German Stock Corporation Act**

### **Nominations by Shareholders**

§ 126 shall apply analogously to a nomination by a shareholder for the election of a member of the supervisory board or external auditors. Such nomination needs not be supported by a statement of the grounds for this. The management board also need not communicate such nomination if it fails to contain the particulars required by § 124 (3) sentence 4 and § 125 (1) sentence 5. The management board shall provide a nomination by a shareholder for the election of members of the supervisory board of listed companies to which the German Codetermination Act (Mitbestimmungsgesetz), the German Act on Co-Determination in the Coal, Iron and Steel Industry (Montan-Mitbestimmungsgesetz) or the German Supplementary Co-Determination Act (Mitbestimmungsergänzungsgesetz) applies, with the following contents:

1. reference to the requirements of § 96 (2),
2. indication whether the complete fulfillment pursuant to § 96 (2) Sentence 3 has been objected and
3. indication how many of the seats on the supervisory board shall be at least filled with women and men respectively, in order to fulfill the minimum proportion requirement pursuant to § 96 (2) Sentence 1.



### **§ 131 German Stock Corporation Act**

#### **Right of shareholders to information**

(1) Each shareholder shall upon request be provided with information at the shareholders' meeting by the management board regarding the company's affairs, to the extent that such information is necessary to permit a proper evaluation of the relevant item on the agenda. The duty to provide information shall also extend to the company's legal and business relations with any with any affiliated enterprise. If a company makes use of the simplified procedure pursuant to § 266 (1) sentence 3, § 276 or § 288 of the German Commercial Code (Handelsgesetzbuch), each shareholder may request that the annual financial statements be presented to him at the shareholders meeting on such annual financial statements in the form in which they would be without such simplified procedure.

The duty of the management board of a parent company (§ 290 (1) and (2) of the German Commercial Code (Handelsgesetzbuch)) to provide information at the shareholders meeting at which the consolidated financial statements and management's discussion and analysis of these statements are presented also extends to the consolidated groups position and the enterprises included in the consolidated financial statements.

(2) The information provided shall comply with the principles of conscientious and accurate accounting. The articles or the rules of procedure pursuant to § 129 may authorize the chairman of the meeting to reasonably limit a shareholders time to speak and ask questions and may provide relevant details in this connection.

(3) The managing board may refuse to provide information:

1. to the extent that providing such information is, according to sound business judgment, likely to cause not immaterial damage to the company or an affiliated enterprise;
2. to the extent that such information relates to tax valuations or the amount of certain taxes;
3. with regard to the difference between the value at which items are shown in the annual balance sheet and the higher market value of such items, unless the shareholders' meeting is to approve the annual financial statements;
4. with regard to the methods of accounting and valuation, if disclosure of such methods in the notes is sufficient to provide a clear view of the actual condition of the company's assets, financial position and profitability within the meaning of § 264 (2) of the German Commercial Code (Handelsgesetzbuch); the foregoing shall not apply if the shareholders' meeting is to approve the annual financial statements;
5. if the managing board would by providing such information become criminally liable;
6. if in the case of a credit institution, financial services institution or securities institute information about the applied balance sheet and methods of accounting and valuation made in the annual financial statement or the group's management report need not be given;
7. if the information is continuously available on the company's internet page seven or more days prior to the beginning and during the shareholders' meeting.

The provision of information may not be denied for other reasons.

(4) If information has been provided to a shareholder outside a shareholders' meeting to a shareholder by reason of his status as a shareholder, such information shall upon request be provided to any another shareholder at the shareholders' meeting, even if such information is not necessary to permit a proper evaluation of an item on the agenda. The management board may not refuse to provide such information on the grounds of Subsection (3) sentence 1, no. 1 through 4. Sentences 1 and 2 shall not apply if a subsidiary (§ 290 (1) and (2) of the German Commercial Code (Handelsgesetzbuch)), a cooperative enterprise (§ 310 (1) of the German Commercial Code (Handelsgesetzbuch)) or an associated company (§ 311 (1) of the German Commercial Code (Handelsgesetzbuch)) provides information to a parent company (§ 290 (1) and (2) of the German Commercial Code (Handelsgesetzbuch)) for the purpose of inclusion in the consolidated annual financial statement of the parent company and the information is required for this purpose.

(5) A shareholder who has been denied information may request that his question and the reason for which the information was denied be recorded in the minutes of meeting.



## § 1 Covid-19 Act

### **Stock corporations; public partly limited partnerships; European companies (SEs); mutual insurance companies**

- (1) Decisions concerning the right of shareholders to participate in the general meeting by means of electronic communication in accordance with § 118 (1) sentence 2 of the Stock Corporation Act (Aktiengesetz) (electronic participation), to exercise the right to cast their vote by means of electronic communication in accordance with § 118 (2) of the Stock Corporation Act (Aktiengesetz) (postal vote), the participation of members of the supervisory board by means of audio and video transmission in accordance with § 118 (3) sentence 2 of the Stock Corporation Act (Aktiengesetz) and provision for the general meeting to be broadcast by means of audio and video transmission in accordance with § 118 (4) of the Stock Corporation Act (Aktiengesetz) may be taken by the company's management board even without authority being granted therefor under the by-laws or rules of procedure.
- (2) The management board may decide that the general meeting is to be held in the form of a virtual general meeting without the need for shareholders or their authorized representatives to be physically present, provided that
  1. the broadcast by means of audio and video transmission encompasses the entire general meeting,
  2. provision is made for shareholders to exercise their voting right by means of electronic communication (postal vote or electronic participation) and to grant a power of attorney,
  3. shareholders are given the right to ask questions by means of electronic communication,
  4. shareholders who exercise their voting right in accordance with no. 2 are afforded the possibility of objecting to a resolution adopted by the general meeting by way of derogation from § 245 no. 1 of the Stock Corporation Act (Aktiengesetz), the need to be physically present at the general meeting thus being waived.

The management board decides at its duty-bound, free discretion how it responds to questions; it may also stipulate that questions must be submitted by means of electronic communication no later than one day prior to the meeting. Motions or nominations of shareholders to be made accessible pursuant to §§ 126 or 127 of the Stock Corporation Act (Aktiengesetz) are considered to have been submitted at the meeting if the shareholder submitting the motion or nomination is duly legitimized and has registered to attend the general meeting.

- (3) By way of derogation from § 123 (1) sentence 1 and (2) sentence 5 of the Stock Corporation Act (Aktiengesetz), the management board may decide to convene the general meeting no later than the 21st day prior to the day of the general meeting. By way of derogation from § 123 (4) sentence 2 of the Stock Corporation Act (Aktiengesetz), proof of shares held in companies listed on the stock exchange must refer to the start of the 12th day prior to the general meeting and must, in the case of bearer shares of the company, be sent to the address stated in the invitation convening the general meeting to arrive there no later than four days prior to the general meeting, unless the management board makes provision in its invitation convening the general meeting for a shorter period within which the company must be in receipt of that proof; deviating determinations made in the by-laws are irrelevant. Where an invitation convening a general meeting stipulates a shorter period than that set out in sentence 1, the notification referred to in § 125 (1) sentence 1 of the Stock Corporation Act must be made no later than 12 days prior to the general meeting and the notification referred to in § 125 (2) of the Stock Corporation Act (Aktiengesetz) must be made to the entity entered in the share register before the start of the 12th day prior to the general meeting. By way of derogation from § 122 (2) of the Stock Corporation Act (Aktiengesetz), the company must, in the aforementioned case, be in receipt of any demands for amendments no later than 14 days prior to the general meeting.
- (4) By way of derogation from § 59 (1) of the Stock Corporation Act (Aktiengesetz), the management board may decide, even without being granted authority therefor under the by-laws, to make an interim payment towards the net income to shareholders pursuant to § 59 (2) of the Stock Corporation Act (Aktiengesetz). Sentence 1 applies accordingly to an interim payment towards the payment of compensation (§ 304 of the Stock Corporation Act (Aktiengesetz)) made to external shareholders under an inter-company agreement.



- (5) The management board may decide, by way of derogation from § 175 (1) sentence 2 of the Stock Corporation Act (Aktiengesetz), that the general meeting is to be held in the course of the financial year.
- (6) The decisions of the management board as referred to in subsections (1) to (5) require the consent of the supervisory board. By way of derogation from § 108 (4) of the Stock Corporation Act (Aktiengesetz), the supervisory board may pass resolutions pertaining to its consent in writing, by telephone or by other comparable forms, regardless of the rules set out in the bylaws or rules of procedure and without the need for its members to be physically present.
- (7) Notwithstanding the rule set out in § 243 (3) no. 1 of the Stock Corporation Act (Aktiengesetz), an action for avoidance of a resolution adopted by the general meeting may also not rely on breaches of § 118 (1) sentences 3 to 5, (2) sentence 2 or (4) of the Stock Corporation Act (Aktiengesetz), on a breach of formal requirements in respect of notifications in accordance with § 125 of the Stock Corporation Act (Aktiengesetz) nor on a breach of subsection (2), unless the company can be proven to have acted with intent.
- (8) Subsections (1) to (7) apply accordingly to companies established in the form of a public partly limited partnership (Kommanditgesellschaft auf Aktien). Subsections (1) to (7), with the exception of subsection (5), apply accordingly to European companies within the meaning of Council Regulation (EC) No 2157/2001 of 8 October 2001 on the Statute for a European company (SE) (OJ L 294, 10.11.2001, p. 1), as last amended by Regulation (EU) No 517/2013 (OJ L 158, 10.6.2013, p. 1). The decisions referred to in subsections (1) to (4) are taken by the administrative board in the case of a company established in accordance with § 20 of the Act Implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 2157/2001 of 8 October 2001 on the Statute for a European Company (SE) (SE-Ausführungsgesetz) of 22 December 2004 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 3675), as last amended by Article 9 of the Act of 12 December 2019 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 2637), (company with a one-tier system); subsection (6) does not apply to such companies.
- (9) Subsections (1) and (2), subsection (3) sentences 1 and 3, and subsections (4) to (7) apply accordingly to mutual insurance companies within the meaning of § 171 of the Insurance Supervision Act (Versicherungsaufsichtsgesetz).

## **§ 19 of the Articles of Association of HELLA GmbH & Co. KGaA**

### **Chair and course of the General Meeting**

- (1) The General Meeting shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Shareholders' Committee or by another member of the Shareholders' Committee whom he has designated. If neither the Chairman of the Shareholders' Committee nor the member of the Shareholders' Committee whom he has designated chairs the meeting, the chairman of the meeting shall be elected by the Shareholders' Committee.
- (2) The chairman of the meeting presides over the General Meeting. He or she shall determine the order in which the items on the agenda are dealt with as well as the type and the order of the votes. In the case of elections to the Supervisory Board and the Shareholders' Committee the chairman of the meeting shall be entitled to put the election of several members of the Supervisory Board or the Shareholders' Committee jointly to the vote. The Chairman may determine appropriate time limits for the question and speaking rights of shareholders. In particular, he or she is entitled to stipulate already at the beginning of the General Meeting or during its course an appropriate time limit for the course of the General Meeting, for the discussion of the individual items on the agenda as well as for the question and speaking time in general or for individual speakers.
- (3) The General Meeting may be broadcast and recorded in video and audio format in full or in part. The broadcast may also be made through a medium to which the public has unlimited access. Further details are determined by the General Partners as well as, during the Annual General Meeting, the chairman of the meeting.
- (4) The General Partners may provide that the shareholders may also participate in the General Meeting without the need to be present at the venue and without a proxy and exercise all or some of their rights wholly or partially by means of electronic communication. The General Partner may further provide that shareholders may vote in writing or by means of electronic communication (postal vote) even without participating in the General Meeting. The details shall be announced in the convocation of the General Meeting.