

Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG
Form DEFA14A
April 17, 2015

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
 - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
 - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
 - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
 - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
 - (5) Total fee paid:
- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
 - (1) Amount Previously Paid:
 - (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
 - (3) Filing Party:
 - (4) Date Filed:

ALLIED WORLD ASSURANCE COMPANY HOLDINGS, AG

SUPPLEMENT TO PROXY STATEMENT FOR THE

ANNUAL SHAREHOLDER MEETING

TO BE HELD ON APRIL 30, 2015

This proxy statement supplement, dated April 17, 2015 (this Supplement), supplements the proxy statement dated March 13, 2015 (the Proxy Statement) in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the company's board of directors (the Board) to be voted at the 2015 Annual General Meeting of the company's shareholders to be held at 2:00 p.m., local time, on Thursday, April 30, 2015 at the company's corporate headquarters, Park Tower, 15th floor, Gubelstrasse 24, 6300 Zug, Switzerland (the Annual Shareholder Meeting).

The purpose of this Supplement is to provide supplemental information and revisions to the proposed amendments to the company's Articles of Association to be adopted by the shareholders under Proposals 3 and 4 of the Proxy Statement. Except as described in this Supplement, the information provided in the Proxy Statement continues to apply and should be considered in casting your vote. To the extent that information in this Supplement differs from or updates information contained in the Proxy Statement, the information in this Supplement is more current and supersedes the different or updated information contained in the Proxy Statement.

THIS SUPPLEMENT SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PROXY STATEMENT.

SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE AND AMENDMENT OF PROPOSAL 3

AMEND THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

TO DEFINE THE PRINCIPLES OF COMPENSATION

Pursuant to changes under Swiss law that became effective as of January 1, 2014 (the Ordinance), we are required to amend our Articles of Association to define the principles of compensation, including performance-based compensation and equity grants. As set forth in the Proxy Statement, the company is seeking shareholder approval of the adoption of a new Article 20b to the company's Articles of Association that (i) specifies the components of compensation that may be paid to directors and executives officers; and (ii) provides for the payment of retirement, health and welfare benefits, all consistent with the company's current pay practices.

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form DEFA14A

ISS Proxy Advisory Services, a proxy advisory firm (ISS), has recommended that its clients vote against Proposal 3, while our Board has recommended that shareholders vote for this proposal. According to ISS's proxy voting report, ISS's against recommendation relates to the language in paragraph b) of the proposed Article 20b that would allow for the provision of retirement benefits to members of the board of directors, including non-executive members.

As set forth in the Proxy Statement, the company does not currently have, and in the future does not plan to implement, a retirement benefit scheme for non-executive directors. Nonetheless, the company has determined to amend paragraph b) of proposed Article 20b to the company's Articles of Association and the accompanying explanations in the Proxy Statement to delete the reference to retirement benefits that may otherwise be payable as compensation to directors. Pursuant to Swiss law, we are required to submit to you for your approval both the English version and the (authoritative) German version of the amendment to paragraph b) of proposed Article 20b the Articles of Association (deleted text is struck through):

Revised paragraph b) of Article 20b, as set forth in Appendix B to the Proxy Statement:

**Artikel 20b
Erfolgsabhängige Vergütung, Beteiligungspläne und
Vorsorgepläne**

Vergütungsgrundsätze,

b) Die Gesellschaft kann den Mitgliedern des Verwaltungsrates eine Vergütung entrichten, die sich aus einem oder mehreren der folgenden Elemente zusammensetzt:
(i) Barvergütungen für die Tätigkeit als Mitglied des Verwaltungsrats, Lead Independent Director, Vorsitzender oder Mitglied der verschiedenen Ausschüsse des Verwaltungsrats oder einer anderen vom Verwaltungsrat angeordneten Funktion;
(ii) Sitzungsgelder; (iii) aktienbasierte und erfolgsabhängige Vergütungen; und (iv) ~~Renten~~, Krankheits- und Vorsorgeleistungen.

**Article 20b
Performance-based Compensation, Equity Plans and Benefit
Plans**

Principles of Compensation,

b) The Company may pay to the members of the Board of Directors compensation that shall consist of one or more of the following elements: (i) cash retainers for services as a director, lead independent director, chairperson or member of various committees of the Board of Directors or such other capacity as requested by the Board of Directors; (ii) meeting attendance fees; (iii) equity-based and/or performance based awards; and (iv) ~~retirement~~, health and welfare benefits.

Your Board unanimously recommends a vote FOR the adoption of Article 20b of the Articles of Association and FOR the related amendments to Articles 18(b) and Article 19(6) as described in this proposal and set forth in Appendix B of the Proxy Statement, with the revisions to paragraph b) of Article 20b set forth in this Supplement.

SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE AND AMENDMENT OF PROPOSAL 4

AMEND THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION TO LIMIT THE NOTICE PERIOD IN

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS WITH EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND AGREEMENTS

WITH DIRECTORS, AND TO PROHIBIT LOANS AND

CREDIT TO EXECUTIVES AND DIRECTORS

Pursuant to the Ordinance, we are required to amend our Articles of Association to: (i) limit the notice period (as discussed in the Proxy Statement) in any compensation-related agreements we enter into with our directors and executive officers; (ii) prohibit any loans or credit to our directors and executive officers; and (iii) limit pension payments that may be paid to our directors and executive officers in excess of mandatory pension schemes. As set forth in the Proxy Statement, the company is seeking shareholder approval of the adoption of a new Article 20c to the Articles of Association to comply with the Ordinance.

As originally proposed, paragraph c) of Article 20c provided that our directors and executive officers could be paid retirement benefits in accordance with mandatory retirement benefit laws and pension systems and that such retirement benefits would not constitute compensation subject to shareholder approval under Swiss law. ISS has recommended that its clients vote against Proposal 4, while our Board has recommended that shareholders vote for this proposal. According to ISS's proxy voting report, ISS's against recommendation relates to the language in paragraph c) of proposed Article 20c that would allow for the provision of retirement benefits to members of the board of directors, including non-executive members.

Edgar Filing: Allied World Assurance Co Holdings, AG - Form DEFA14A

As set forth in the Proxy Statement, the company does not currently have, and in the future does not plan to implement, a retirement benefit scheme for non-executive directors. Nonetheless, the company has determined to amend paragraph c) of proposed Article 20c to the Articles of Association and the accompanying explanations in the Proxy Statement to delete the reference to members of the Board of Directors receiving retirement benefits in accordance with mandatory retirement benefit laws and pension schemes. Pursuant to Swiss law, we are required to submit to you for your approval both the English version and the (authoritative) German version of the amendment to paragraph c) of proposed Article 20c the Articles of Association, as follows (deleted text is struck through):

Revised paragraph c) of Article 20c, as set forth in Appendix B to the Proxy Statement:

**Artikel 20c Arbeitsverträge, Darlehen, Kredite
und Vorsorgeleistungen ausserhalb der beruflichen Vorsorge**

c) Die Mitglieder ~~des Verwaltungsrats und~~ der
Geschäftsleitung können Rentenleistungen in Übereinstimmung mit
zwingenden Rentengesetzen und Pensionssystemen erhalten. Solche
Rentenleistungen stellen keine Vergütung dar, die der Genehmigung
durch die Aktionäre bedürfte.

**Article 20c Employment Agreements,
Loans, Credits and Pension Payments outside the
Occupational Pension Scheme**

c) The members of ~~the Board of
Directors and the~~ Executive Management may receive
retirement benefits in accordance with mandatory
retirement benefit laws and pension systems. Such
retirement benefits do not constitute compensation that
would require shareholder approval.

Your Board unanimously recommends a vote FOR the adoption of Article 20c of the Articles of Association as described in this Proposal and set forth in *Appendix B* of the Proxy Statement, with the revisions to paragraph c) of Article 20c set forth in this Supplement.

VOTING MATTERS

There are no changes to the previous proxy card. *If you have already voted, you do not need to take any action unless you wish to change your vote.* Proxies and voting instructions already returned by shareholders will remain valid and will be voted at the Annual Shareholder Meeting in the manner indicated unless you revoke your proxy or change your voting instructions before your shares are voted at the Annual Shareholder Meeting. If no instructions are provided in an executed proxy card, the common shares represented by the proxy will be voted at the Annual Shareholder Meeting in accordance with the Board's recommendation for each proposal as set forth in the Proxy Statement and in this Supplement. Please see "General Meeting Information" in the Proxy Statement for important information regarding how to vote your shares, revoke your proxy or change voting instructions.

Wayne H. Datz
Corporate Secretary
