

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **„10 years are enough“ – Prof. Dr. Erwin W. Heri leaves the Valartis Group**

„We are well on track and strategically well positioned“. With these words Erwin W. Heri hands over the Chairman function of Valartis Group and the subsidiary banks in Switzerland, Liechtenstein, and Austria. He will focus on his academic activities and other mandates in the financial and pension funds industry.

Erwin W. Heri was appointed as the Chairman of OZ Group in 2003 and has, together with his colleagues, transformed the business of OZ Group from a pure broker of Swiss stocks towards a more diversified private banking group. In 2005 OZ Group merged with the Geneva based finance boutique MCG. After the merged Group was rebranded to “Valartis”, its focus was then continuously shifted towards “Private Banking Plus,” the current strategy of Valartis Group. Large acquisitions in Austria and Liechtenstein in the years 2008 and 2009 represented important mile stones of the implementation of this strategy. In an extremely difficult environment for the private banking business in general, Valartis Group has managed to significantly grow its balance sheet and to almost double its assets under management in the last years – results which clearly proof that the Group is well positioned also in a challenging environment.

As Erwin W. Heri will not stand for re-election at the Ordinary General Assembly on 14 May 2013, it is planned that the current Board Members Urs Maurer-Lambrou and Rolf Müller will become Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively. The Board of Directors extends its gratitude to Erwin W. Heri for his long-term commitment for the benefit of the Valartis Group.

#### **If you have any questions, please contact:**

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#### **Valartis Group – Private Banking Plus**

*Valartis Group is an internationally active banking and finance group with offices in Zurich, Geneva, Lugano, Vienna, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Moscow, and Singapore. The Group’s holding company, Valartis Group AG, is domiciled in Baar, canton of Zug, and is listed on the Swiss stock exchange SIX Swiss Exchange.*

*Valartis Group focuses on the wealth management business for wealthy private clients and institutional investors: “Private Banking Plus”. In addition to traditional wealth management and investment advisory, Valartis Group develops, manages and markets innovative niche investment products and provides specialised advisory and banking services within corporate and structured finance. The Group’s core markets include Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and selected countries in North and South America as well as Asia.*