

voting rights are attributed to the resident and/or to one of more non-resident companies which are controlled by the resident and (ii) of the resident's non resident branch offices and permanent establishments.

There are no limitations imposed by German law or our articles of association (*Satzung*) on the right of a non-resident to hold the Preference shares or Ordinary shares or the ADSs evidencing Preference shares or Ordinary shares.

## **E. Taxation**

### **U.S. and German Tax Consequences of Holding ADSs**

The discussion below is not a complete analysis of all of the potential U.S. federal and German tax consequences of holding ADSs of FMC-AG & Co. KGaA. In addition, the U.S. federal and German tax consequences to particular U.S. holders, such as insurance companies, tax-exempt entities, investors holding ADSs through partnerships or other fiscally transparent entities, investors liable for the alternative minimum tax, investors that hold ADSs as part of a straddle or a hedge, investors whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar, financial institutions and dealers in securities, and to non-U.S. holders may be different from that discussed herein.

Germany and the United States of America have agreed on a Protocol amending the existing Income Tax Treaty. On December 28, 2007, the Protocol entered into force. The Protocol is effective in respect of withholding taxes for amounts paid on or after January 1, 2007. Changes related to other taxes on income became effective on January 1, 2008.

Investors should consult their tax advisors with respect to the particular United States federal and German tax consequences applicable to holding ADSs of FMC-AG & Co.KGaA.

### **Tax Treatment of Dividends**

German corporations are required to withhold tax on dividends paid to resident and non-resident shareholders. The German Business Tax Reform 2008 increased the withholding tax rate on dividends to 25% (plus solidarity surcharges) starting January 1, 2009. Also effective January 1, 2009 for corporate non-German holders, forty percent (40%) of the withheld and remitted withholding tax may be refunded upon application at the German Federal Tax Office (at the address noted below), which would generally result in a net withholding of 15% (plus solidarity surcharge). The entitlement of corporate non-German holders to further reductions of the withholding tax under an applicable income tax treaty remains unaffected. A partial refund of this withholding tax can be obtained by U.S. holders under the U.S.-German Tax Treaty ("Treaty"). For U.S. federal income tax purposes, U.S. holders are taxable on dividends paid by German corporations subject to a foreign tax credit for certain German income taxes paid. The amount of the refund of German withholding tax and the determination of the foreign tax credit allowable against U.S. federal income tax depend on whether the U.S. holder is a corporation owning at least 10% of the voting stock of the German corporation ("Holder 1").

In the case of any U.S. holder ("Holder 2") other than a Holder 1, the German withholding tax is partially refunded under the Treaty to reduce the withholding tax to 15% of the gross amount of the dividend. In this case, for each \$100 of gross dividend that we pay to a Holder 2, the dividend is subject to withholding tax of \$26.38, \$11.38 which is refunded, resulting in a net tax of \$15. For U.S. foreign tax credit purposes, the U.S. holder would report dividend income of \$100 (to the extent paid out of current and accumulated earnings and profits) and foreign taxes paid of \$15, for purposes of calculating the foreign tax credit or the deduction for taxes paid.

Subject to certain exceptions, dividends received by a non-corporate U.S. holder will be subject to a maximum U.S. federal income tax rate of 15%. The lower rate applies to dividends only if the ADSs in respect of which such dividend is paid have been held for at least 61 days during the 121 day period beginning 60 days before the ex-dividend date. Periods during which you hedge a position in our ADSs or related property may not count for purposes of the holding period test. The dividends would also not be eligible for the lower rate if you elect to take dividends into account as investment income for purposes of limitations on deductions for investment income. U.S. holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the availability of the reduced dividend rate in light of their own particular circumstances.

In the case of a Holder 1, the 26.375% German withholding tax is reduced under the Treaty to 5% of the gross amount of the dividend. Such a holder may, therefore, apply for a refund of German withholding tax in the amount of 21.375% of the gross amount of the dividends. A corporate U.S. holder will generally not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction generally allowed to U.S. corporations in respect of dividends received from other U.S. corporations.

Subject to certain complex limitations, a U.S. holder is generally entitled to a foreign tax credit equal to the portion of the withholding tax that cannot be refunded under the Treaty.

Dividends paid in Euros to a U.S. holder of ADSs will be included in income in a dollar amount calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the date the dividends, including the deemed refund of German withholding tax, are included in income by such a U.S. holder. If dividends paid in Euros are converted into dollars on the date included in income, U.S. holders generally should not be required to recognize foreign currency gain or loss in respect of the dividend income.

Under the Treaty the refund of German tax, including the withholding tax, Treaty payment and solidarity surcharge, will not be granted when the ADSs are part of the business property of a U.S. holder's permanent establishment located in Germany or are part of the assets of an individual U.S. holder's fixed base located in Germany and used for the performance of independent personal services. In this case, however, withholding tax and solidarity surcharge may be credited against German income tax liability.

#### **Refund Procedures**

To claim a refund under the Treaty, the U.S. holder must submit a claim for refund to the German tax authorities, with the original bank voucher, or certified copy thereof issued by the paying entity documenting the tax withheld within four years from the end of the calendar year in which the dividend is received. Claims for refund are made on a special German claim for refund form, which must be filed with the German Federal Tax Office: Bundeszentralamt für Steuern, An der Kuppe 1, D-53225 Bonn, Germany. The claim refund forms may be obtained from the German Federal Tax Office at the same address where the applications are filed, or from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, 4645 Reservoir Road, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007-1998, or from the Office of International Operations, Internal Revenue Service, 1325 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20225, Attention: Taxpayer Service Division, Room 900 or can be downloaded from the homepage of the Bundeszentralamt für Steuern ([www.bzst.bund.de](http://www.bzst.bund.de)).

U.S. holders must also submit to the German tax authorities certification of their last filed U.S. federal income tax return. Certification is obtained from the office of the Director of the Internal Revenue Service Center by filing a request for certification with the Internal Revenue Service Center, Foreign Certificate Request, P.O. Box 16347, Philadelphia, PA 19114-0447. Requests for certification are to be made in writing and must include the U.S. holder's name, address, phone number, social security number or employer identification number, tax return form number and tax period for which certification is requested. The Internal Revenue Service will send the certification back to the U.S. holder for filing with the German tax authorities.

U.S. holders of ADSs who receive a refund attributable to reduced withholding taxes under the Treaty may be required to recognize foreign currency gain or loss, which will be treated as ordinary income or loss, to the extent that the dollar value of the refund received by the U.S. holders differs from the dollar equivalent of the refund on the date the dividend on which such withholding taxes were imposed was received by the depository or the U.S. holder, as the case may be.

#### **Taxation of Capital Gains**

Under the Treaty, a U.S. holder who is not a resident of Germany for German tax purposes will not be liable for German tax on capital gains realized or accrued on the sale or other disposition of ADSs unless the ADSs are part of the business property of a permanent establishment located in Germany or are part of the assets of a fixed base of an individual located in Germany and used for the performance of independent personal services.

Upon a sale or other disposition of the ADSs, a U.S. holder will recognize gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized and the U.S. holder's tax basis in the ADSs. Such gain or loss will generally be capital gain or loss if the ADSs are held by the U.S. holder as a capital asset, and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. holder's holding period for the ADSs exceeds one year. Individual U.S. holders are generally taxed at a maximum 15% rate on net long-term capital gains.

#### **Gift and Inheritance Taxes**

The U.S.-Germany estate, inheritance and gift tax treaty provides that an individual whose domicile is determined to be in the U.S. for purposes of such treaty will not be subject to German inheritance and gift tax, the equivalent of the U.S. federal estate and gift tax, on the individual's death or making of a gift unless the ADSs are part of the business property of a permanent establishment located in Germany or are part of the assets of a fixed base of an individual located in Germany and used for the performance of independent personal services. An individual's

domicile in the U.S., however, does not prevent imposition of German inheritance and gift tax with respect to an heir, donee, or other beneficiary who is domiciled in Germany at the time the individual died or the gift was made.

Such treaty also provides a credit against U.S. federal estate and gift tax liability for the amount of inheritance and gift tax paid in Germany, subject to certain limitations, in a case where ADSs are subject to German inheritance or gift tax and U.S. federal estate or gift tax.

#### **Other German Taxes**

There are no German transfer, stamp or other similar taxes that would apply to U.S. holders who purchase or sell ADSs.

#### **United States Information Reporting and Backup Withholding**

Dividends and payments of the proceeds on a sale of ADSs, paid within the United States or through U.S.-related financial intermediaries are subject to information reporting and may be subject to backup withholding unless you (1) are a corporation or other exempt recipient or (2) provide a taxpayer identification number and certify (on Internal Revenue Service Form W-9) that no loss of exemption from backup withholding has occurred.

Non-U.S. shareholders are not U.S. persons generally subject to information reporting or backup withholding. However, a non-U.S. holder may be required to provide a certification (generally on Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN) of its non-U.S. status in connection with payments received in the United States or through a U.S.-related financial intermediary.

#### **H. Documents on display**

We file periodic reports and information with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the New York Stock Exchange. You may inspect a copy of these reports without charge at the Public Reference Room of the Securities and Exchange Commission at 100 F Street N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549 or at the Securities and Exchange Commission's regional offices 233 Broadway, New York, New York 10279 and 500 West Madison Street, Suite 1400, Chicago, Illinois 60661. The public may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the Securities and Exchange Commission at 1-800-SEC-0330. The Securities and Exchange Commission also maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding registrants that file electronically with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Securities and Exchange Commission's World Wide Web address is <http://www.sec.gov>.

The New York Stock Exchange currently lists American Depositary Shares representing our Preference shares and American Depositary Shares representing our Ordinary shares. As a result, we are subject to the periodic reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and we file reports and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These reports, proxy statements and other information and the registration statement and exhibits and schedules thereto may be inspected without charge at, and copies thereof may be obtained at prescribed rates from, the public reference facilities of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the electronic sources listed in the preceding paragraph. In addition, these materials are available for inspection and copying at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005, USA.

We prepare annual and quarterly reports. Our annual reports contain financial statements examined and reported upon, with opinions expressed by our independent auditors. Our consolidated financial statements included in these annual reports are prepared in conformity with U.S. GAAP. Our annual and quarterly reports to our shareholders are posted under "Publications" on the "Investor Relations" page of our website at <http://www.fmc-ag.com>. In furnishing our web site address in this report, however, we do not intend to incorporate any information on our web site into this report, and any information on our web site should not be considered to be part of this report.

We will also furnish the depositary with all notices of shareholder meetings and other reports and communications that are made generally available to our shareholders. The depositary, to the extent permitted by law, shall arrange for the transmittal to the registered holders of American Depositary Receipts of all notices, reports and communications, together with the governing instruments affecting our shares and any amendments thereto. Such documents are also available for inspection by registered holders of American Depositary Receipts at the principal office of the depositary.

Documents referred to in this report which relate to us as well as future annual and interim reports prepared by us may also be inspected at our offices, Else-Kröner-Strasse 1, 61352 Bad Homburg.