

### European Commission approval of State support

In August 2010 the European Commission approved the capital support obtained from the Dutch State at the height of the global financial crisis. The Commission gave its approval for the state support, but imposed a number of conditions on the company, which will remain in place until the support is fully repaid. These conditions include both structural measures and temporary behavioral constraints.

The behavioral constraints expired with the full repurchase of the core capital securities and repayment of the Dutch State on June 15, 2011. The structural measures that remained in force throughout 2012 include a reduction of the total U.S. general account assets, full delta hedging of the U.S. variable annuity guaranteed minimum income benefit back book, improvement of the ratio of consolidated shareholders' equity to total equity base to at least 75% by December 2012 and acceleration of the run-off of certain portfolios, and selling or putting into run-off Aegon's U.K. bulk purchase annuity business.

### Exchange controls

There are no legislative or other legal provisions currently in force in the Netherlands or arising under Aegon's Articles of Association restricting remittances to holders of Aegon's securities that are not resident in the Netherlands. Cash dividends payable in euros on Aegon's common shares may be officially transferred from the Netherlands and converted into any other convertible currency.

### Taxation

#### I Certain Netherlands tax consequences for holders of shares

The following section outlines certain material Netherlands tax consequences of the acquisition, holding, redemption and disposal of Aegon common shares, but does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all Netherlands tax considerations that may be relevant. This section is intended as general information only and each prospective investor should consult a professional tax adviser with respect to the tax consequences of an investment in Aegon common shares.

This section is based on tax legislation, published case law, treaties, regulations and published policy, in each case as in force as of the date hereof, and it does not take into account any developments or amendments thereof after that date whether or not such developments or amendments have retroactive effect.

This section does not address the Netherlands tax consequences for:

- i. investment institutions (*fiscale beleggingsinstellingen*);
- ii. pension funds, exempt investment institutions (*vrijgestelde beleggingsinstellingen*) or other entities that are exempt from Netherlands corporate income tax;
- iii. corporate holders of Aegon common shares, the shareholding of which qualifies for the participation exemption (*deelnemingsvrijstelling*) of the Netherlands corporate income tax act 1969 (*Wet op de vennootschapsbelasting 1969*). Generally speaking, a shareholding is considered to qualify as a participation for the participation exemption if it represents an interest of 5% or more of the nominal paid-up share capital;
- i. holders of Aegon common shares holding a substantial interest (*aanmerkelijk belang*) or deemed substantial interest (*fictief aanmerkelijk belang*) in Aegon and holders of Aegon common shares of whom a certain related person holds a substantial interest in Aegon. Generally speaking, a substantial interest in Aegon arises if a person, alone or, where such person is an individual, together with his or her partner (statutory defined term), directly or indirectly, holds or is deemed to hold (i) an interest of 5% or more of the total of capital issued by Aegon or of 5% or more of the issued capital of a certain class of Aegon shares, (ii) rights to acquire, directly or indirectly, such interest or (iii) certain profit sharing rights in Aegon;
- ii. persons to whom the beneficial interest in Aegon common shares is attributed based on the separated private assets (*afgezonderd particulier vermogen*) provisions of the Netherlands income tax act 2001 (*Wet inkomstenbelasting 2001*);
- iii. entities which are a resident of Aruba, Curacao or Sint Maarten that have an enterprise which is carried on through a permanent establishment or a permanent representative on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius or Saba, to which permanent establishment or permanent representative the Aegon common shares are attributable;
- iv. holders of Aegon common shares which are not considered the beneficial owner (*uiteindelijk gerechtigde*) of these shares or of the benefits derived from or realised in respect of the Aegon common shares; and
- v. individuals to whom Aegon common shares or the income therefrom are attributable to employment activities which are taxed as employment income in the Netherlands.

Where this section refers to the Netherlands, such reference is restricted to the part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands that is situated in Europe and the legislation applicable in that part of the Kingdom.



## Dividend Tax

### Withholding requirement

Aegon is required to withhold 15% Netherlands dividend tax in respect of dividends paid on its common shares. In the Netherlands Dividend Tax Act 1965 (*Wet op de dividendbelasting 1965*), dividends are defined as the proceeds from shares, which include:

- i. proceeds in cash or in kind including direct or indirect distributions of profit;
- ii. liquidation proceeds, proceeds on redemption of Aegon common shares and, as a rule, the consideration for the repurchase of its own common shares by Aegon in excess of the average paid-in capital recognised for Netherlands dividend tax purposes, unless a particular statutory exemption applies;
- iii. the par value of new common shares issued to a holder of Aegon common shares or an increase of the par value of Aegon common shares, except when the (increase in the) par value of Aegon common shares is funded out of its paid-in capital as recognised for Netherlands dividend tax purposes; and
- iv. partial repayments of paid-in capital recognised for Netherlands dividend tax purposes, if and to the extent there are qualifying profits (*zuivere winst*), unless Aegon's general meeting of the shareholders has resolved in advance to make such repayment and provided that the nominal value of Aegon common shares concerned has been reduced by an equal amount by way of an amendment of the articles of association.

### Residents of the Netherlands

If a holder of Aegon common shares is a resident of the Netherlands, or deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands for Netherlands corporate or individual income tax purposes, dividend tax which is withheld with respect to proceeds from Aegon common shares will generally be creditable for Netherlands corporate income tax or Netherlands income tax purposes.

### Non-residents of the Netherlands

If a holder of Aegon common shares is a resident of a country other than the Netherlands and if a treaty for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income is in effect between the Netherlands and that country, and such holder is a resident for the purposes of such treaty, such holder may, depending on the terms of that particular treaty, qualify for full or partial relief at source or for a refund in whole or in part of the Netherlands dividend tax. A refund of the Netherlands dividend tax is available to entities resident in another EU member state, Norway, Iceland, or Liechtenstein if (i) these entities are not subject to corporate income tax there and (ii) these entities would not be subject to Netherlands corporate income tax, if these entities would be tax resident in the Netherlands for corporate income tax purposes and (iii) these entities are not comparable to investment institutions (*fiscale beleggingsinstellingen*) or exempt investment institutions (*vrijgestelde beleggingsinstellingen*). Furthermore, a similar refund of Netherlands dividend tax may be available to entities resident in other countries, under the additional condition that (i) the Aegon common shares are considered portfolio investments and (ii) the Netherlands can exchange information with this other country in line with the international standards for the exchange of information.

### US-residents

Residents of the United States that qualify for, and comply with the procedures for claiming benefits under, the Convention between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the United States of America for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income 1992 (*the US/NL Income Tax Treaty*) may, under various specified conditions, be eligible for a reduction of Netherlands dividend withholding tax rate from 15% to 5% if the resident of the United States is a company which holds directly at least 10% voting power in Aegon. The US/NL Income Tax Treaty provides, subject to certain conditions, for a complete exemption from, or refund of, Netherlands dividend withholding tax for dividends received by exempt pension trusts and exempt organizations, as defined therein.

### Beneficial Owner

A recipient of proceeds from Aegon common shares will not be entitled to any exemption, reduction, refund or credit of Netherlands dividend tax if such recipient is not considered to be the beneficial owner of such proceeds. The recipient will not be considered the beneficial owner of these proceeds, if, in connection with such proceeds, the recipient has paid a consideration as part of a series of transactions in respect of which it is likely:

- a. that the proceeds have in whole or in part accumulated, directly or indirectly, to a person or legal entity that would: - as opposed to the recipient paying the consideration, not be entitled to an exemption from dividend tax; or - in comparison to the recipient paying the consideration, to a lesser extent be entitled to a reduction or refund of dividend tax; and
- b. that such person or legal entity has, directly or indirectly, retained or acquired an interest in Aegon common shares or in profit-sharing certificates or loans, comparable to the interest it had in similar instruments prior to the series of transactions being initiated.



### Netherlands Withholding Tax upon Redistribution of Foreign Dividends

Aegon must transfer to the Dutch tax authorities all Netherlands dividend withholding tax it withholds on dividends it distributed with respect to the Aegon common shares. Provided certain conditions are met, Aegon may apply a reduction with respect to the withholding tax that it has to pay over to the Dutch tax authorities. This reduction can be applied if Aegon distributes dividends that stem from dividends Aegon itself has received from certain qualifying non-Netherlands subsidiaries, provided these dividends received by Aegon are exempt from Dutch corporate income tax and were subject to withholding tax of at least 5% upon distribution to Aegon. The reduction is applied to the Netherlands dividend tax that Aegon must pay to the Netherlands tax authorities and not to the amount of the Netherlands dividend tax that Aegon must withhold. The reduction is equal to the lesser of:

- i. 3% of the amount of the dividends distributed by Aegon that are subject to withholding tax; and
- ii. 3% of the gross amount of the dividends received during a certain period from the qualifying non-Netherlands subsidiaries.

### Corporate and Individual Income Tax

#### Residents of the Netherlands

If a holder of Aegon common shares is a resident or deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands for Netherlands corporate income tax purposes and is fully subject to Netherlands corporate income tax or is only subject to Netherlands corporate income tax in respect of an enterprise to which Aegon common shares are attributable, income derived from Aegon common shares and gains realised upon the redemption or disposal of Aegon common shares are generally taxable in the Netherlands (at up to a maximum rate of 25%) under the Netherlands corporate income tax act 1969 (*Wet op de vennootschapsbelasting 1969*).

If an individual is a resident or deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands for Netherlands individual income tax purposes (including an individual who has opted to be taxed as a resident of the Netherlands), income derived from Aegon common shares and gains realised upon the redemption or disposal of Aegon common shares are taxable at the progressive rates (at up to a maximum rate of 52%) under the Netherlands income tax act 2001 (*Wet inkomstenbelasting 2001*) if:

- i. the individual is an entrepreneur (*ondernemer*) and has an enterprise to which Aegon common shares are attributable or the individual has, other than as a shareholder, a co-entitlement to the net worth of an enterprise (*medegerechtigde*), to which enterprise Aegon common shares are attributable; or
- ii. such income or gains qualify as income from miscellaneous activities (*resultaat uit overige werkzaamheden*), which include but are not limited to the performance of activities with respect to Aegon common shares that exceed regular, active portfolio management (*normaal, actief vermogensbeheer*).

If neither condition (i) nor condition (ii) above applies to an individual that holds Aegon common shares, such individual must determine taxable income with regard to Aegon common shares on the basis of a deemed return on income from savings and investments (*sparen en beleggen*), rather than on the basis of income actually received or gains actually realised. This deemed return on income from savings and investments has been fixed at a rate of 4% of the individual's yield basis (*rendementsgrondslag*) at the beginning of the calendar year, insofar as the individual's yield basis exceeds a certain threshold. The individual's yield basis is determined as the fair market value of certain qualifying assets held by the holder of Aegon common shares less the fair market value of certain qualifying liabilities on 1 January. The fair market value of Aegon common shares will be included as an asset in the individual's yield basis. The 4% deemed return on income from savings and investments is taxed at a rate of 30%.

#### Non-residents of the Netherlands

If a person is neither a resident nor is deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands for Netherlands corporate or individual income tax purposes (nor has opted to be taxed as a resident of the Netherlands for individual income tax purposes), such person is not subject to Netherlands income tax in respect of income derived from Aegon common shares and gains realised upon the redemption or disposal of Aegon common shares, except if:

- i. the person is not an individual and (1) has an enterprise that is, in whole or in part, carried on through a permanent establishment or a permanent representative in the Netherlands to which permanent establishment or a permanent representative Aegon common shares are attributable, or (2) is (other than by way of securities) entitled to a share in the profits of an enterprise or a co-entitlement to the net worth of an enterprise, which is effectively managed in the Netherlands and to which enterprise Aegon common shares are attributable. This income and these gains are subject to Netherlands corporate income tax at up to a maximum rate of 25%.
- ii. the person is an individual that (1) has an enterprise or an interest in an enterprise that is, in whole or in part, carried on through a permanent establishment or a permanent representative in the Netherlands to which permanent establishment or permanent representative Aegon common shares are attributable, or (2) realises income or gains with respect to Aegon common shares that qualify as income from miscellaneous activities (*resultaat uit overige werkzaamheden*) in the Netherlands which includes activities with respect to Aegon common shares that exceed regular, active portfolio management (*normaal, actief vermogensbeheer*), or (3)

is (other than by way of securities) entitled to a share in the profits of an enterprise that is effectively managed in the Netherlands and to which enterprise Aegon common shares are attributable. Income and gains derived from Aegon common shares as specified under (1) and (2) by an individual are subject to individual income tax at up to a maximum rate of 52%. Income derived from a share in the profits of an enterprise as specified under (3) that is not already included under (1) or (2) will be taxed on the basis of a deemed return on income from savings and investments (as described above under "Residents of the Netherlands"). The fair market value of the share in the profits of the enterprise (which includes Aegon common shares) will be part of the individual's Netherlands yield basis.

### Gift and Inheritance Tax Residents of the Netherlands

Generally, gift tax (*schenkbelasting*) or inheritance tax (*erfbelasting*) will be due in the Netherlands in respect of the acquisition of Aegon common shares by way of a gift by, or on behalf of, or on the death of, a holder of Aegon common shares that is a resident or deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands for the purposes of Netherlands Gift and Inheritance Tax Act 1956 (*Successiewet 1956*) at the time of the gift or his or her death. A gift made under a condition precedent is for the purposes of Netherlands Gift and Inheritance Tax Act 1956 deemed to be made at the time the condition precedent is fulfilled and is subject to gift tax if the donor is, or is deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands at that time.

A holder of Netherlands nationality is deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands for the purposes of the Netherlands Gift and Inheritance Tax Act 1956 if he or she has been resident in the Netherlands and dies or makes a gift within ten years after leaving the Netherlands. A holder of any other nationality is deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands for the purposes of the Netherlands Gift and Inheritance Tax Act 1956 if he or she has been resident in the Netherlands and makes a gift within a twelve months period after leaving the Netherlands. The same twelve-month rule may apply to entities that have transferred their seat of residence out of the Netherlands.

### Non-residents of the Netherlands

No gift or inheritance tax will arise in the Netherlands in respect of the acquisition of Aegon common shares by way of a gift by, or as a result of, the death of, a holder that is neither a resident nor deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands for the purposes of Netherlands Gift and Inheritance Tax Act 1956. However, inheritance tax will be due in the case of a gift of Aegon common shares by, or on behalf of, a holder who at the date of the gift was neither a resident nor deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands for the purposes of the Netherlands Gift and Inheritance Tax Act 1956, but such holder dies within 180 days after the date of the gift, and at the time of his or her death is a resident or deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands for the purposes of the Netherlands Gift and Inheritance Tax Act 1956. A gift made under a condition precedent is deemed to be made at the time the condition precedent is fulfilled.

### Value Added Tax

In general, no value added tax will arise in respect of payments in consideration for the issue of Aegon common shares or in respect of a cash payment made under Aegon common shares, or in respect of a transfer of Aegon common shares.

### Other Taxes and Duties

No registration tax, customs duty, transfer tax, stamp duty, capital tax or any other similar documentary tax or duty will be payable in the Netherlands by a holder of Aegon common shares in respect of or in connection with the subscription, issue, placement, allotment, delivery or transfer of the Aegon common shares.

### ii Taxation in the United States

This section describes certain US Federal income tax consequences to beneficial holders of common shares that are held as capital assets. This section does not address all US Federal income tax matters that may be relevant to a particular holder. Each investor should consult their tax advisor with respect to the tax consequences of an investment in the common shares. This section does not address tax considerations for holders of common shares subject to special tax rules including, without limitation, the following:

- ⌋ Financial institutions;
- ⌋ Insurance companies;
- ⌋ Dealers or traders in securities or currencies;
- ⌋ Tax-exempt entities;
- ⌋ Regulated investment companies;
- ⌋ Persons that will hold the common shares as part of a "hedging" or "conversion" transaction or as a position in a "straddle" or as part of a "synthetic security" or other integrated transaction for US Federal income tax purposes;



## Additional Information

- ⓘ Holders that own (or are deemed to own for US Federal income tax purposes) 10% or more of the voting shares of Aegon;
- ⓘ Partnerships or pass-through entities or persons who hold common shares through partnerships or other pass-through entities; and
- ⓘ Holders that have a “functional currency” other than the US dollar.

Further, this section does not address alternative minimum tax consequences or the indirect effects on the holders of equity interests in a holder of common shares. This section also does not describe any tax consequences arising under the laws of any taxing jurisdiction other than the Federal income tax laws of the US Federal government.

This section is based on the US Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, US Treasury regulations and judicial and administrative interpretations, in each case as in effect and available on the date of this Annual Report. All of the foregoing is subject to change, which change could apply retroactively and could affect the tax consequences described below.

For the purposes of this section, a “US holder” is a beneficial owner of common shares that is, for US Federal income tax purposes:

- ⓘ A citizen or individual resident of the United States;
- ⓘ A corporation created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or any state of the United States (including the District of Columbia);
- ⓘ An estate, the income of which is subject to US Federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- ⓘ A trust, if a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over its administration and one or more US persons have the authority to control all of the substantial decisions of such trust.

A non-US holder is a beneficial owner of common shares that is not a US holder.

## Tax Consequences to US Holders

### Distributions

The gross amount of any distribution (including any amounts withheld in respect of Dutch withholding tax) actually or constructively received by a US holder with respect to common shares will be taxable to the US holder as a dividend to the extent of Aegon’s current and accumulated earnings and profits as determined under US Federal income tax principles. Such dividends will not qualify for the dividends received deduction otherwise allowable to corporations. Distributions in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits are treated under US tax law as non-taxable return of capital to the extent of the US holder’s adjusted tax basis in the common shares. Distributions in excess of earnings and profits and such adjusted tax basis will generally be taxable to the US holder as capital gain from the sale or exchange of property. However, Aegon does not maintain calculations of its earnings and profits under US Federal income tax principles. Therefore, US holders of Aegon shares will generally be taxed on all distributions as dividends, even if some portion of the distributions might otherwise be treated as a non-taxable return of capital or as capital gain if the amount of US earnings and profits was known. The amount of any distribution of property other than cash will be the fair market value of that property on the date of distribution.

Certain “qualified dividend income” received by individual US holders is taxed at a maximum income tax rate of 15% in 2012 and 20% in 2013 and subsequent years. Only dividends received from US corporations or from a “qualified foreign corporation” and on shares held by an individual US holder for a minimum holding period (generally, 61 days during the 121-day period beginning 60 days before the ex-dividend date) can qualify for this reduced rate. Aegon is eligible for benefits under the comprehensive income tax treaty between the Netherlands and the US; therefore, Aegon should be considered a “qualified foreign corporation” for this purpose. Accordingly, dividends paid by Aegon to individual US holders on shares held for the minimum holding period may qualify for a reduced income tax rate. Each US holder should consult their tax advisor regarding the applicable tax rate.

Distributions paid in currency other than US dollars (a “foreign currency”), including the amount of any withholding tax thereon, must be included in the gross income of a US holder in an amount equal to the US dollar value of the foreign currency calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the date of receipt. This is the case regardless of whether the foreign currency is converted into US dollars. If the foreign currency is converted into US dollars on the date of receipt, a US holder generally should not be required to recognize foreign currency gain or loss in respect of the dividend. If the foreign currency received in the distribution is not converted into US dollars on the date of receipt, a US holder will have a basis in the foreign currency equal to its US dollar value on the date of receipt. Any gain or loss on a subsequent conversion or other disposition of the foreign currency will be treated as ordinary income or loss.

Dividends received by a US holder with respect to common shares will be treated as foreign source income for foreign tax credit limitation purposes. Subject to certain conditions and limitations, any Dutch income tax withheld on dividends may be deducted from

taxable income or credited against a US holder's Federal income tax liability. The limitation on foreign taxes eligible for the US foreign tax credit is calculated separately with respect to "passive category income" and "general category income". Dividends distributed by Aegon generally will constitute "passive category income", or, in the case of certain US holders, "financial services income", which is treated as general category income. Each US holder should consult their tax advisor regarding the availability of the foreign tax credit under their particular circumstances.

The amount of the qualified dividend income paid by Aegon to a US holder that is subject to the reduced dividend income tax rate and that is taken into account for purposes of calculating the US holder's US foreign tax credit limitation must be reduced by the "rate differential portion" of such dividend (which, assuming a US holder is in the highest income tax bracket, would generally require a reduction of the dividend amount by approximately 57.14% in 2012 and 49.49% in 2013 and subsequent years). Each US holder should consult their tax advisor regarding the implications of the rules relating to qualified dividend income on the calculation of US foreign tax credits under their particular circumstances.

In general, upon making a distribution to shareholders, Aegon is required to remit all Dutch dividend withholding taxes to the Dutch tax authorities. The full amount of the taxes so withheld should (subject to certain limitations and conditions) be eligible for the US holder's foreign tax deduction or credit as described above. Investors are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the general creditability or deductibility of Dutch withholding taxes.

Aegon generally affords shareholders an option to receive dividend distributions in cash or in stock. A distribution of additional common shares to US holders with respect to their common shares that is made pursuant to such an election will generally be taxable in the same manner as a cash dividend under the rules described above.

#### [Sale or Other Disposition of Shares](#)

Upon the sale or exchange of common shares, a US holder will generally recognize gain or loss for US Federal income tax purposes on the difference between the US dollar value of the amount realized from such sale or exchange and the tax basis in those common shares. This gain or loss will be a capital gain or loss and will generally be treated as from sources within the United States. Investors should consult their tax advisors with respect to the treatment of capital gains (which may be taxed at lower rates than ordinary income for taxpayers who are individuals, trusts or estates that have held the common shares for more than one year) and capital losses (the deductibility of which is subject to limitations).

If a US holder receives foreign currency upon a sale or exchange of common shares, gain or loss, if any, recognized on the subsequent sale, conversion or disposition of such foreign currency will be ordinary income or loss, and will generally be income or loss from sources within the United States for foreign tax credit limitation purposes. However, if such foreign currency is converted into US dollars on the date received by the US holder, the US holder generally should not be required to recognize any gain or loss on such conversion.

#### [Passive Foreign Investment Company Considerations](#)

Based on the nature of Aegon's gross income, the average value of Aegon's gross assets, and the active conduct of Aegon's insurance business, Aegon does not believe that it could be classified as a Passive Foreign Investment Company ("PFIC"). If Aegon were treated as a PFIC in any year during which a US holder owns common shares, certain adverse tax consequences could apply. Investors should consult their tax advisors with respect to any PFIC considerations.

#### [Tax Consequences to Non-US Holders](#)

A non-US holder generally will not be subject to US Federal income tax on dividends received on common shares or on any gain realized on the sale or exchange of common shares unless the gain is connected with a trade or business that the non-US holder conducts in the United States or unless the non-US holder is an individual, such holder was present in the United States for at least 183 days during the year in which such holder disposes of the common shares, and certain other conditions are satisfied. Non-US holders should consult their tax advisors with respect to the US Federal income tax consequences of dividends received on, and any gain realized from the sale or exchange of, the common shares.

#### [Backup Withholding and Information Reporting](#)

Backup withholding and information reporting requirements may apply to certain payments on the common shares and to proceeds of a sale or redemption of the common shares to US holders made within the United States. Aegon, its agent, a broker, or any paying agent, as the case may be, may be required to withhold tax from any payment that is subject to backup withholding if a US holder fails to furnish the US holder's taxpayer identification number, fails to certify that such US holder is not subject to backup withholding, or fails



to otherwise comply with the applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules. Certain US holders are not subject to the backup withholding and information reporting requirements.

Non-US holders that provide the required tax certifications of exempt or foreign status will generally be exempt from US information reporting requirements and backup withholding. However, sales proceeds a non-US holder receives on a sale of common shares through a broker may be subject to information reporting and backup withholding if the non-US holder is not eligible for an exemption.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to a US holder or a non-US holder generally may be claimed as a credit against such holder's US Federal income tax liability provided that the required information is furnished to the US Internal Revenue Service. Investors should consult their tax advisors as to their qualification for exemption from backup withholding and the procedure for obtaining an exemption. Non-US holders should consult their tax advisors concerning the applicability of the information reporting and backup withholding rules.

Individual US holders may be required to report to the IRS certain information with respect to their beneficial ownership of certain foreign financial assets, such as the common shares, if the aggregate value of such assets exceeds USD 50,000 and the assets are not held through a US financial institution. US holders who fail to report required information could be subject to substantial penalties. Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors concerning the application of the information reporting rules to their particular circumstances.

### Principal accountant fees and services

Ernst & Young Accountants has served as Aegon's independent public accountant for each of the fiscal years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2012, for which audited financial statements appear in this Annual Report.

The following table presents the aggregate fees for professional services and other services rendered by Ernst & Young Accountants to Aegon in 2012, 2011 and 2010.

### Fees Ernst & Young

In million EUR	2012	2011	2010
Audit Fees	19	22	24
Audit Related Fees	7	6	2
Tax Fees	-	-	-
All Other Fees	-	1	-
	<b>26</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>26</b>

Audit fees consist of fees billed for the annual financial statement audit (including required quarterly reviews), subsidiary audits, equity investment audits and other procedures required to be performed by the independent auditor to be able to form an opinion on Aegon's consolidated financial statements. These other procedures include information systems and procedural reviews and testing performed in order to understand and place reliance on the systems of internal control, and consultations relating to the audit or quarterly review. They also include fees billed for other audit services, which are those services that only the external auditor reasonably can provide, and include statutory audits or financial audits for subsidiaries or affiliates of the company and services associated with SEC registration statements, periodic reports and other documents filed with the SEC or other documents issued in connection with securities offerings.

Audit-related fees consist of fees billed for audit-related services including assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of Aegon's financial statements or that are traditionally performed by the independent auditor. Audit-related services include, among others, assurance services to report on internal controls for third parties, due diligence services pertaining to potential business acquisitions/dispositions; accounting consultations related to accounting, financial reporting or disclosure matters not classified as "Audit services"; assistance with understanding and implementing new accounting and financial reporting guidance from rulemaking authorities; financial audits of employee benefit plans; agreed-upon or expanded audit procedures related to accounting and/or billing records required to respond to or comply with financial, accounting or regulatory reporting matters; and assistance with internal control reporting requirements.

Tax fees include fees billed for tax compliance.

All other fees include fees billed for permissible non-audit services that Aegon believes are routine and recurring services, would not impair the independence of the auditor and are consistent with the SEC's rules on auditor independence.

#### Audit Committee Pre-approval Policies and Procedures

Aegon's Audit Committee is responsible, among other matters, for the oversight of the external auditor. The Audit Committee has adopted a policy regarding pre-approval of audit and permissible non-audit services provided by Aegon's independent auditors (the "Pre-approval Policy").

Under the Pre-approval Policy, proposed services either

- ⌚ May be pre-approved by the Audit Committee without consideration of specific case-by-case services ("general pre-approval"); or
- ⌚ Require the specific pre-approval of the Audit Committee ("specific pre-approval"). Appendices to the Pre-approval Policy (that are adopted each year) set out the audit, audit-related, tax and other services that have received general pre-approval of the Audit Committee. All other audit, audit-related, tax and other services must receive specific pre-approval from the Audit Committee.

For the period 2010 to 2012, all services provided to Aegon by Ernst & Young Accountants were pre-approved by the Audit Committee in accordance with the Pre-approval Policy.

#### Purchases of equity securities by the issuer and affiliated purchasers

Period	Total number of shares purchased <sup>1</sup>	Average price paid per share in EUR	Total number of shares purchased as part of publicly announced plans or programs	Maximum number of shares that may yet be purchased under the plans or programs at end of month
January 1 - 31, 2012	14,156	3.83	-	-
February 1 - 29, 2012	13,765	3.79	-	-
March 1 - 31, 2012	8,547	4.58	-	-
April 1 - 30, 2012	14,963	3.83	-	-
May 1 - 31, 2012	15,477	3.10	-	-
June 1 - 30, 2012	15,323	3.11	-	-
July 1 - 31, 2012	15,222	4.01	-	-
August 1 - 31, 2012	11,931	4.06	-	-
September 1 - 30, 2012	10,320	4.77	-	-
October 1 - 31, 2012	9,436	4.69	-	-
November 1 - 30, 2012	7,932	3.91	-	-
December 1 - 31, 2012	6,193	4.62	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>143,265</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

<sup>1</sup> The shares have been purchased as part of a share purchase program, to neutralize the dilution effect of issued stock dividends and to hedge Aegon's obligations under its employee stock appreciation plans and other agent related incentive programs. Excluding Aegon shares purchased by index funds controlled by Aegon. Such purchases are made to the extent necessary to maintain a basket of securities within the relevant fund reflecting the underlying index.

#### Documents on display

Aegon files annual reports with and furnishes other information to the Securities and Exchange Commission. You may read and copy any document filed with or furnished to the SEC by Aegon at the SEC's public reference room at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Aegon's SEC filings are also available to the public through the SEC's web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room in Washington D.C. and in other locations.

The SEC allows Aegon to "incorporate by reference" information into this Annual Report on Form 20-F, which means that:

1. Incorporated documents are considered part of this Annual Report on Form 20-F; and
2. Aegon can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents.

Those documents contain important information about Aegon and its financial condition. You may obtain copies of those documents in the manner described above. You may also request a copy of those documents (excluding exhibits) at no cost by contacting us (refer to page 337)





## Glossary

**Acquisition date** is the date on which the acquirer effectively obtains control of the acquiree. In most cases this includes at least the transfer of risks and rewards related to the acquired business or assets/liabilities.

**Actuarial funding** enables a life insurance company to reduce the size of the unit reserves it holds for unit linked business to reflect some or all of the unit-linked charges it expects to receive in the future from the units nominally allocated. Actuarial funding is used on those contracts that have surrender penalties and the company will hold a minimum of the surrender value at all times.

**Actuarial gains and losses** relate to the accounting for post-employment benefit plans. They comprise the effects of experience adjustments and changes in assumptions used to determine the cost of a plan.

**Alt-A mortgages** relates to a type of US residential mortgage which are securitized home equity loans. Typical Alt-A borrower has a credit score high enough to obtain an: "A" standing. Alt- A mortgages are primarily backed by loans with fixed interest rates for the entire term of the loan.

**Amortized cost** is the amount at which the financial asset or liability is measured at initial recognition minus principal repayments, plus or minus the cumulative amortization using the effective interest rate method of any difference between that initial amount and the maturity amount and minus any reduction (directly or through the use of an allowance account) for impairment or uncollectability.

**Asset Backed Securities (ABS)** are securities whose value and income payments are derived from and collateralized (or "backed") by a specified pool of underlying assets.

**Assets held by long-term employee benefit funds** are part of plan assets. These are assets (other than non-transferable financial instruments issued by the reporting entity) that:

- ⚡ Are held by an entity that is legally separate from the reporting entity and exists solely to pay or fund employee benefits; and
- ⚡ Are available to be used only to pay or fund employee benefits and are not available to the reporting entity's own creditors.

**Bifurcation** is the measurement and presentation of embedded derivatives separate from the host contracts, as if they were stand-alone derivative financial instruments.

**Binomial option pricing model** uses a binomial lattice that represents possible paths that might be followed by the underlying asset's price over the life of the option, for a given

number of time steps between valuation date and option expiration. Each node in the lattice represents a possible price of the underlying asset, at a particular point in time. The valuation process is iterative; it starts at each final node and then works backwards through the lattice to the first node, which is the valuation date, where the calculated result is the value of the option.

**Business combination** is the bringing together of separate entities or operations of entities into one reporting entity. This can be realized through a purchase transaction or by means of a merger. A business combination involving entities (or operations of entities) under common control is a business combination in which all of the combining entities (or operations of entities) ultimately are controlled by the same party or parties both before and after the combination, and that control is not transitory.

**Capitalization** is the recognition of a cost as part of the cost of an asset on the statement of financial position.

**Cash generating unit** is the smallest identifiable group of assets that generates cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

**Cedant** is the policyholder under a reinsurance contract.

**Claims settlement expenses** are costs incurred in settling a claim. These costs include internal administration and payout costs, but also such items as attorney's fees and investigation expenses.

**Collateral** is an asset pledged by a borrower to secure a loan and is subject to seizure in the case of default.

**Collateralized Debt Obligation (CDO)** is a type of asset-backed security which provides investors exposure to the credit risk of a pool of fixed income assets.

**Collateralized Loan Obligation (CLO)** is a type of CDO which is backed primarily by leveraged loans.

**Commercial Mortgage Backed Securities (CMBS)** is a type of mortgage-backed security that is secured by the loan on a commercial property.

**Compound financial instruments** are financial instruments that, from the issuer's perspective, contain both a liability and an equity element.

**Constructive obligation** is an obligation that derives from an entity's actions whereby an established pattern of past practice, published policies or a sufficiently specific current statement,

the entity has indicated to other parties that it will accept certain responsibilities, and as a result, the entity has created a valid expectation on the part of those other parties that it will discharge those responsibilities.

**Credit risk** is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation and cause the other party to incur a financial loss.

**Currency exchange rate risk** is a market risk, namely the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in foreign exchange rates.

**Deferred tax assets** are amounts of income taxes recoverable in future periods in respect of deductible temporary differences; the carryforward of unused tax losses; and the carryforward of unused tax credits.

**Deferred tax liabilities** are amounts of income taxes payable in future periods in respect of taxable temporary differences.

**Defined benefit obligation** is the present value, without deducting any plan assets, of expected future payments required to settle the obligation resulting from employee service in the current and prior periods.

**Defined benefit plans** are post-employment benefit plans other than defined contribution plans.

**Defined contribution plans** are post-employment benefit plans under which an entity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity (a fund) and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employee benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

**Deferred Policy Acquisition Cost (DPAC)** - are the variable costs related to the acquisition or renewal of insurance contracts and investment contracts with discretionary participation features.

**Deposit accounting method** includes amounts charged and paid to customers directly into the financial liability and not through the income statement as premium income and claims.

**Derecognition** is the removal of a previously recognized asset or financial liability from an entity's statement of financial position.

**Derivatives** are financial instruments whose value changes in response to an underlying variable, that require little or no net initial investment and are settled at a future date.

**Discretionary participation feature** is a contractual right to receive, as a supplement to guaranteed benefits, additional benefits:

- ⚙ That are likely to be a significant portion of the total contractual benefits;
- ⚙ Whose amount or timing is contractually at the discretion of the issuer; and

That are contractually based on:

- ⚙ The performance of a specified pool of contracts or a specified type of contract;
- ⚙ Realized and/or unrealized investment returns on a specified pool of assets held by the issuer; or
- ⚙ The profit or loss of the company, fund or other entity that issues the contract.

**Effective interest rate method** is a method of calculating the amortized cost of a financial asset or liability and of allocating the interest income or expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts through the expected life of the financial instrument or, when appropriate, a shorter period to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or liability.

**Embedded derivative** is a component of a hybrid instrument that also includes a non-derivative host contract, with the effect that some of the cash flows of the combined instrument vary in a way similar to a derivative.

**Equity instruments** are financial instruments issued by the Group that are classified as equity if they evidence a residual interest in the assets of the Group after deducting all of its liabilities.

**Equity method** is a method of accounting whereby the investment is initially recognized at cost and adjusted thereafter for the post-acquisition change in the investor's share of net assets of the investee. The profit or loss of the investor includes the investor's share of the profit or loss of the investee.

**Equity volatility** is the relative rate at which the price of equity changes.

**Exchange differences** are differences resulting from translating a given number of units of one currency into another currency at different exchange rates.

**Finance lease** is a lease that transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incident to ownership of an asset.

## Additional Information

**Financial asset** is any asset that is:

- ⌚ Cash;
- ⌚ An equity instrument of another entity;
- ⌚ A contractual right to receive cash or another financial asset from another entity or to exchange financial instruments with another party under conditions that are potentially favorable; or
- ⌚ A contract that will or may be settled in the entity's own equity instruments; and is
- ⌚ A non-derivative for which the entity is or may be obliged to receive a variable number of the entity's own equity instruments; or
- ⌚ A derivative that will or may be settled other than by the exchange of a fixed amount of cash or another financial asset for a fixed number of the entity's own equity instruments.

**Financial instrument** is any contract that gives rise to both a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity.

**Financial liability** is any liability that is:

- ⌚ A contractual obligation to deliver cash or another financial asset to another entity or to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially unfavorable to the entity; or
- ⌚ A contract that will or may be settled in the entity's own equity instruments; and is
- ⌚ A non-derivative for which the entity is or may be obliged to deliver a variable number of the entity's own equity instruments; or
- ⌚ A derivative that will or may be settled other than by the exchange of a fixed amount of cash or another financial asset for a fixed number of the entity's own equity instruments.

**Financial risks** are risks of a possible future change in one or more of the following variables: a specified interest rate, financial instrument price, commodity price, foreign exchange rate, index or prices or rates, credit rating or credit index or other variable, provided in the case of a non-financial variable, that the variable is not specific to a party to the contract.

**Firm commitment** is a binding agreement for the exchange of a specified quantity of resources at a specified price on a specified future date or dates.

**Foreign currency** is a currency other than the functional currency of an entity within the Group.

**Foreign operation** is an entity that is a subsidiary, associate, joint venture or branch of a reporting entity within the Group, the activities of which are based or conducted in a country or currency other than those of the reporting entity.

**Functional currency** is the currency of the primary economic environment in which an entity within the Group operates.

**General account investments** are investments of which the financial risks are not borne by the policyholder.

**Goodwill** is the amount of future economic benefits arising from assets that are not capable of being individually identified and separately recognized as an asset in a business combination.

**Guaranteed benefits** are payments or other benefits to which a particular policyholder or investor has an unconditional right that is not subject to the contractual discretion of the issuer.

**Hedge effectiveness** is the degree to which changes in the fair value or cash flows of the hedged item that are attributable to a hedged risk are offset by changes in the fair value or cash flows of the hedging instrument.

**Incremental cost** is one that would not have been incurred if the entity had not acquired, issued or disposed of a financial instrument.

**Insurance asset** is an insurer's contractual right under an insurance contract.

**Insurance contract** is a contract under which one party (the insurer) accepts significant insurance risk from another party (the policyholder) by agreeing to compensate the policyholder if a specified uncertain future event (the insured event) adversely affects the policyholder.

**Insurance liability** is an insurer's contractual obligation under an insurance contract.

**Insurance risk** is a risk, other than financial risk, transferred from the holder of a contract to the issuer.

**Interest rate risk** is a market risk, namely the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates.

**Joint control** is the contractually agreed sharing of control over an economic activity, which exists when the strategic and operating decisions relating to the activity require the unanimous consent of the parties sharing control.

**Liability adequacy testing** is an assessment of whether the carrying amount of an insurance liability needs to be increased (or the carrying amount of related deferred acquisition costs or related intangible assets decreased) based on a review of future cash flows.

**Liquidity risk** is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in raising funds to meet commitments associated with financial instruments.