

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Depository Trust Company



B#: 6285-10
Date: March 5, 2010
To: All Participants
Category: Dividends
From: International Services
Attention: Operations, Reorg & Dividend Managers, Partners & Cashiers
Subject: TaxRelief - Country: Switzerland
Europe 2001+ HOLDERS CUSIP: 29875G105
Market 2001+ HOLDERS CUSIP: 57059Y204
Paid on Novartis A G (NVS), a component of the HOLDR
R/D: 03/04/10 P/D: 04/15/10 EDS C/O Date: 03/08/10

***** **TIME CRITICAL** *****

DTC has been notified by The Bank of New York/Mellon, the depository bank for the Europe 2001+ HOLDERS and the Market 2001+ HOLDERS, that a dividend has been declared for Novartis AG (NVS CUSIP: 66987V109), a component of the HOLDERS. Novartis AG (NVS) dividends are covered under the Tax Convention between the United States and Switzerland, that qualifying U.S. beneficial owners are entitled to a reduced tax treaty rate .

Participants can use DTC's Elective Dividend System (EDS) function over the Participant Terminal System (PTS) to certify all or a portion of their position entitled to the applicable withholding tax rate. Participants are urged to consult the PTS function TAXI (TAXINFO) before certifying their elections over EDS.

NOTE: THE DEADLINE FOR CERTIFYING OVER EDS IS :MARCH 08, 2010.

**PLEASE REFER TO DTC'S IMPORTANT NOTICE B# 6268-10 FOR
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE UNDERLYING ISSUE,
NOVARTIS AG (NVS)
CUSIP # 66987V109.**

Non-Confidential

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Participants can use DTC's Elective Dividend System (EDS) function over the Participant Terminal System (PTS) or TaxRelief option on the Participant Browser System (PBS) web site to certify all or a portion of their position entitled to the applicable withholding tax rate. Participants are urged to consult the PTS or PBS function TAXI or TaxInfoSM respectively before certifying their elections over PTS or PBS.

Important: Prior to certifying tax withholding elections, participants are urged to read, understand and comply with the information in the Legal Conditions category found on TAXI or TaxInfo in PTS or PBS respectively.

Questions regarding this Important Notice may be directed to Sylvia Antonio at 813-470-1559 of DTCC's International Services

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