



What do global investors think about Finnish cross-border voting practices?

Only 50 % of investors vote regularly at AGMs in Finland.

Pre-registration and the difficulty of accessing information are still the major obstacles to voting in Finland.

**The Finnish Cross-Border Voting Process:
Seminar and Survey findings**

Sodali conducted a survey of major US and European institutional investors in Finnish companies to evaluate the effectiveness of the cross-border voting process. Survey results were analyzed and discussed at the “**Proxy and General Meetings Seminar**” convened by Nordea Bank in Helsinki on the 16th of September 2008. The Seminar audience included representatives from the Finnish Ministry of Justice, NCSD (National Central Depository System), Finnish Issuers, Depository Banks, Law Firms and other experts.

To provide further insights, Sodali also examined voting participation by global institutional investors at 2007 and 2008 AGMs of the 25 OMX Finnish listed companies (representing a total market capitalization of €73 bn.)

The survey and seminar confirmed that inefficiencies and lack of transparency in cross-border information flow and share voting continue despite widespread public discussion and efforts at reform.

Seminar participants agreed that a proactive and constructive dialogue is needed to improve cross-border communications and share voting and achieve long-term systemic solutions. The Finnish Ministry of Justice is currently seeking comment on proposed reforms.

Main Issues Raised by Investors During the Survey

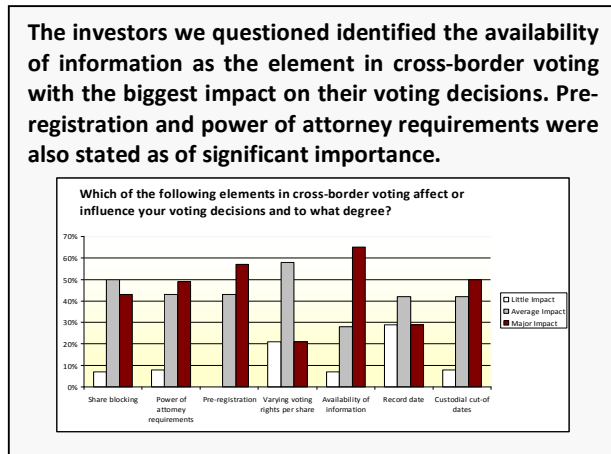
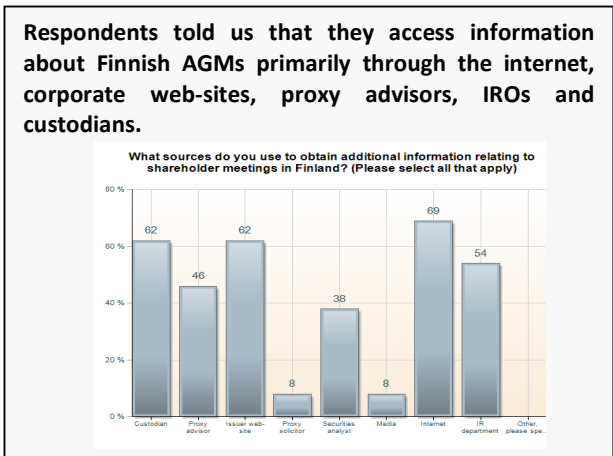
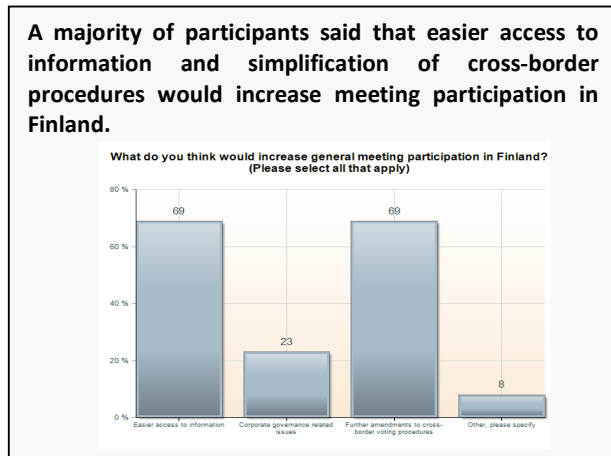
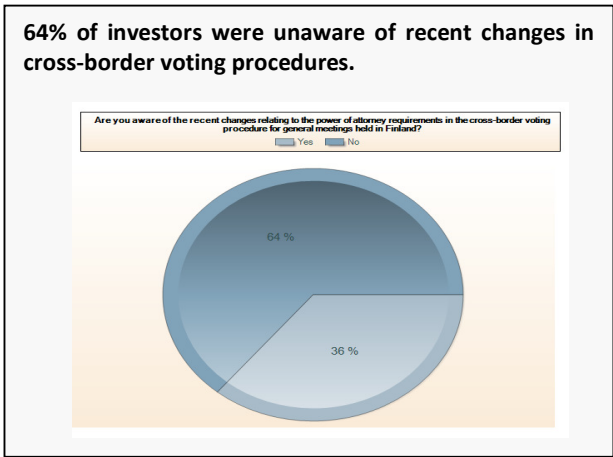
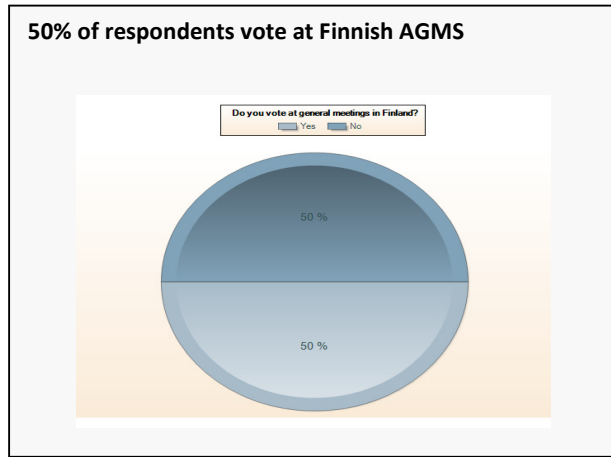
- ✓ Surprisingly, two thirds of investors were still unaware of the change in the requirement for Power of Attorneys in February 2008.
- ✓ The pre-registration process remains the major cross-border voting obstacle.
- ✓ The investor community is eager for more information about AGMs and voting agendas.
- ✓ Access to information is still difficult.
- ✓ Investors are still concerned that the temporary registration is equivalent to share blocking.

Issues Raised at the Nordea Proxy and General Meeting Seminar

- ✓ There continues to be misperception that temporary disclosure of beneficial ownership may result in a permanent record available to companies.
- ✓ The Annual Report is still not published in a timely manner.
- ✓ Untimely dissemination of AGM materials causes delays in the issuance of Proxy Advisory reports.
- ✓ Different versions of meeting agendas create confusion among investors.



The following is a selection of the major results of the survey:



Sodali is a European headquartered Corporate Governance, Shareholder Response and Transaction Execution Consultancy focusing on Listed Companies in Europe, Asia, Africa & Latin America.

Sodali's mission is to help companies anticipate, understand and deal effectively with the expectations of investors, minority shareholders and the financial markets.

Please use the contact details below to request a copy of this survey.