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## Ostrum Asset Management strengthens its position as a responsible equity manager, obtaining SRI labels for three thematic strategies

Ostrum Asset Management (Ostrum AM), an affiliate of Natixis Investment Managers, announces that the French SRI label certification process has been completed for three thematic equity strategies: Euro Dividend Grower, Global New World and Global Alpha Consumer. Ostrum AM is relying on the accreditation body EY France for its equity SRI investment process certification.

With EUR22 billion equity assets under management as at end of June 2019, the certification for the three thematic equity strategies is only a first step for Ostrum AM. Additional SRI labels are in progress and a full accreditation process is expected to be completed by the first half of 2020. Strategies eligible for certification include follow-on thematic strategies (Euro Smart Cities, Global Sport and European Consumer) as well as all cap and small cap strategies. Certification will apply to strategies investing in France, the Eurozone, Europe, Global Emerging Markets and Asia.

### Ostrum AM's, a responsible quality growth approach to equity investing

Ostrum AM is a high conviction, bottom-up, stock picking equity manager. Ostrum AM's investment process relies on having in-depth knowledge of each company it is investing in. To achieve this, team members take on a dual role as "Analyst/Portfolio Manager", empowering them to research and invest based on equally important financial and non-financial quality characteristics. The ESG profile of a company falls under the non-financial analysis. The company's ESG profile will have a positive or negative effect on the Ostrum valuation model of the company, impacting the decision to invest, the expected upside and weight in the portfolio.

Active stewardship is also an integral part of Ostrum AM's responsible investment approach. By exercising voting rights, Ostrum AM can directly express its agreement or disagreement with decisions made by management of the companies in investment portfolios. Ostrum AM also engages with companies to ask for ESG transparency and better ESG practices. In 2018, Ostrum AM voted 9,305 resolutions and participated in 604 General Assemblies.

### Jean-Louis Scandella, Chief Investment Officer for Equities at Ostrum AM comments:

"We see companies as a two-sided coin, meaning both financial and non-financial analysis are critical in getting an investment case right. Our 360° approach to stock selection and portfolio construction is designed to capture sustainable corporate growth and generate a positive return for our clients. EY France's SRI accreditation applies to our investment process and is recognition for our sustainable growth approach to equity investing."

### More on Ostrum AM, a responsible asset manager

Signatory of Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) since 2008<sup>1</sup> and rated A+ in 2019<sup>2</sup> for the quality of inclusion of ESG factors in the company's strategy and investment management, Ostrum AM is careful to avoid endorsing a number of activities and practices that are contrary to the fundamental principles of responsibility.

This approach is applied to all asset classes and asset managers use all means at their disposal to promote the emergence of a responsible economic and financial system, as Ostrum AM's screens more than 90% of its assets for ESG criteria and manages €59 billion using an intensive SRI or ESG management process. (Source: Ostrum AM, as of June 2019).

Ostrum Asset Management has been committed to helping clients provide for their future and achieve their long-term financial goals for more than 30 years. Our portfolio managers combine high-quality proprietary research with stringent risk analysis at each stage of the investment process driving their decisions to deliver the highest quality outcomes for clients.

Ostrum Asset Management is based in Europe, with a local presence in the United States<sup>3</sup> and Asia<sup>4</sup>, providing a full range of active fixed-income and equity expertise, along with tailored insurance investment management solutions and alternative strategies to address investors' needs worldwide.

Ostrum Asset Management is a responsible and committed company<sup>5</sup>, ranking among the leading asset managers in Europe<sup>6</sup> with €265.6 billion in assets under management<sup>7</sup> for institutional clients, individual investors and distributors.

Ostrum Asset Management is an affiliate of Natixis Investment Managers.

<sup>1</sup> In 2008, Ostrum AM operated as Natixis Asset Management, RCS Paris 329 450 738. On October 1<sup>st</sup> 2018, Ostrum AM began operating an affiliate of Natixis Investment Managers

<sup>2</sup> Ostrum AM is a PRI signatory since 2008. In 2019, Ostrum AM is rated A+ on all categories. Methodology: [www.unpri.org](http://www.unpri.org) References to a ranking or a rating do not indicate the future performance of the fund manager.

<sup>3</sup> US via Ostrum AM U.S., LLC, limited liability company, registered as an investment adviser with the SEC.

<sup>4</sup> Asia via Ostrum AM Asia Limited – Registered as a fund management company with the Monetary Authority of Singapore – An Ostrum AM subsidiary and via Ostrum AM Hong Kong Limited, subsidiary of Ostrum AM Asia Limited.

<sup>5</sup> Ostrum AM was one of the first French asset manager signatories to the PRI in 2008. More details; [www.unpri.org](http://www.unpri.org)

<sup>6</sup> IPE Top 400 Asset Managers 2019 ranked Ostrum AM as the 68th largest asset manager, as at 12/31/2018.

<sup>7</sup> Ostrum AM – 06/30/2019.

[www.ostrum.com](http://www.ostrum.com)



## About Natixis Investment Managers

Natixis Investment Managers serves financial professionals with more insightful ways to construct portfolios. Powered by the expertise of more than 20 specialized investment managers globally, we apply Active Thinking® to deliver proactive solutions that help clients pursue better outcomes in all markets. Natixis Investment Managers ranks among the world's largest asset management firms<sup>2</sup> with more than \$1 trillion assets under management<sup>3</sup> (€898.2 billion).

Headquartered in Paris and Boston, Natixis Investment Managers is a subsidiary of Natixis. Listed on the Paris Stock Exchange, Natixis is a subsidiary of BPCE, the second-largest banking group in France. Natixis Investment Managers' affiliated investment management firms include AEW; Alliance Entreprendre; AlphaSimplex Group; Darius Capital Partners; DNCA Investments;<sup>4</sup> Dorval Asset Management; Flexstone Partners; Gateway Investment Advisers; H2O Asset Management; Harris Associates; Investors Mutual Limited; Loomis, Sayles & Company; Mirova; MV Credit; Naxicap Partners; Ossiam; Ostrum Asset Management; Seeyond; Seventure Partners; Thematics Asset Management; Vaughan Nelson Investment Management; Vega Investment Managers;<sup>5</sup> and WCM Investment Management. Investment solutions are also offered through Natixis Advisors and Dynamic Solutions. **Not all offerings available in all jurisdictions.** For additional information, please visit Natixis Investment Managers' website at [im.natixis.com](http://im.natixis.com) | LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/natixis-investment-managers](https://www.linkedin.com/company/natixis-investment-managers).

Natixis Investment Managers' distribution and service groups include Natixis Distribution, L.P., a limited purpose broker-dealer and the distributor of various registered investment companies for which advisory services are provided by affiliated firms of Natixis Investment Managers, and Natixis Investment Managers S.A. (Luxembourg) and its affiliated distribution entities in Europe and Asia.

<sup>1</sup> ESG Fund Universe in Spain: All the funds available in the Spainsif database were taken into account for the analysis, which were then included in the Morningstar ESG categories. Subsequently, only the Morningstar categories were used for the analysis, where there were more than two ESG funds.

<sup>2</sup> Cerulli Quantitative Update: Global Markets 2019 ranked Natixis Investment Managers as the 17th largest asset manager in the world based on assets under management as of December 31, 2018.

## About the SRI Label ([www.lelabelisr.fr/en](http://www.lelabelisr.fr/en))

The SRI label was announced by the Ministry of Finance in September 2015 and launched in August 2016 during the Responsible Finance Week. The aim of having SRI labeled investment strategies was targeted at increasing the visibility of sustainable and responsible investments. An SRI investment seeks to reconcile economic performance, social issues and environmental impact by financing companies contributing to a sustainable development in all business sectors. The SRI label, issued at the end of a strict process of labelling led by two independent bodies (Afnor Certification et EY France), constitutes a unique mark for the savers wishing to participate in a more sustainable economy.

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