Independent assurance report on the alignment of BNP Paribas Asset Management's impact management systems with the Operating Principles for Impact Management

To the Chief Executive Officer of BNP Paribas Asset Management,

In response to your request, we verified whether BNP Paribas Asset Management impact management systems (the “Policies”) are aligned, in all material aspects, with the Operating Principles for Impact Management dated February 2019 and updated June 2021 (the “Impact Principles”, available at www.impactprinciples.org) for EUR 1291 million of its assets under management (as of December 31, 2020).

BNP Paribas Asset Management’s responsibilities

It is the responsibility of BNP Paribas Asset Management to define the necessary processes, roles and responsibilities to align its organization with the Impact Principles. It is also its responsibility to prepare and publicly disclose, on an annual basis, a report describing the alignment of its impact management systems with the Impact Principles and, at regular intervals, arrange for independent verification of this alignment. These disclosures are available on the Impact Principles’ website.

Our responsibility

Our responsibility is to (i) plan and perform the engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the Policies are aligned with the Impact Principles; (ii) form an independent conclusion, based on the procedures we have performed and the evidence we have obtained; and (iii) report our conclusion to the Chief Executive Officer of BNP Paribas Asset Management. However, our responsibility does not include an assessment of the effectiveness of BNP Paribas Asset Management’s impact measurement approach nor the verification of the resulting impacts achieved.

As we are engaged to form an independent conclusion, we are not permitted to be involved in the preparation of the Policies or of the Statement, as doing so may compromise our independence.

Professional Standards Applied

We performed a limited assurance engagement in accordance with International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised) Assurance Engagements other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. The procedures performed in a limited assurance engagement vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for, a reasonable assurance engagement. Consequently, the level of assurance obtained in a limited assurance engagement is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had we performed a reasonable assurance engagement.

Our independence and quality control

We have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of the International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants, which is founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behavior.

We apply International Standard on Quality Control 1 and accordingly maintain a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance and ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Our work was carried out by an independent and multidisciplinary team including assurance practitioners and sustainable finance experts. We remain solely responsible for our assurance conclusion.

Summary of the work we performed

We performed the following procedures based on our professional judgment:

- We verified that the Policies are addressing each of the Impact Principles.
- We assessed the relevance, completeness, reliability, neutrality and understandability of the Policies in relation to the Impact Principles.
- We conducted interviews with the people in charge of defining, applying and enforcing the Policies.
- We performed walk-through tests to check the correct application of the Policies.
- We verified the amount of assets under management (as of December 31, 2020) aligned with the Impact Principles.
- We examined the integrity of the information provided in the Statement in relation to the Policies.

Limited assurance conclusion

Based on the procedures performed and the evidence obtained, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe in all material aspects that BNP Paribas Asset Management is not aligned with the Impact Principles for EUR 1291 million of its assets under management (as of December 31, 2020).

Comment

Without modifying our conclusion, we have the following comment: Singularity, representing EUR 80 million of total commitment, was launched in 2020 and could not yet fully implement impact management systems due to the recent creation of the fund, although those systems have already been defined.

Paris-La Défense, July 12, 2021

Caroline Delérable, Partner

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