

**PRESS RELEASE**

London, 26 March 2019

## **Natixis Investment Managers expands its global equities offering with the creation of Thematics Asset Management**

**Natixis Investment Managers announces the creation of Thematics Asset Management, a new investment company<sup>1</sup> based in Paris, that joins the firm's global lineup of investment affiliates and will provide investors with access to a wide range of high conviction and active global thematic strategies, including, Safety, Water, Artificial Intelligence & Robotics, starting in Q2, 2019<sup>2</sup>.**

**Thematics Asset Management will be led by Karen Kharmandarian, Chairman & CIO, and Mohammed Amor, Managing Partner and Head of Development. The investment team will also include Arnaud Bisschop, Frédéric Dupraz and Nolan Hoffmeyer, who joined Natixis Investment Managers in November 2018, and Simon Gottelier who joins as a senior portfolio manager on the Water strategy.**

The management team consists of the above-named partners, specialized in global thematic investing, with a high-conviction, long-term approach and an emphasis on integrating Environmental, Social and Governance ('ESG') considerations throughout the investment decision-making process.

Prior to joining Natixis Investment Managers and over the past 11 years, the team has developed and launched a range of thematic funds and were together involved in the management of more than \$21 billion of assets. The investment managers have a strong expertise in bottom-up stock picking, identifying the companies exposed to long-term secular growth themes that should deliver risk-adjusted returns superior to those of broader global equity markets. The team's robust investment process will rely on broad investable universes and the building of portfolios based solely on the merits of the individual stocks. The result is a range of portfolios that reflect high levels of conviction and are global, unconstrained, benchmark-agnostic and socially responsible.

*"The long-term structural changes underway across all sectors of the global economy pose unique challenges for our clients as for us. The launch of Thematics Asset Management, as part of our multi-affiliate asset management model exemplifies Natixis' response to such challenges, providing investible exposure that turns a long-term trend from a challenge into an opportunity," said **François Riahi**, Chairman of Natixis Investment Managers' board and CEO of Natixis.*

One of the world's largest asset managers with €808b in AUM<sup>3</sup> and powered by the expertise of 24 specialized investment managers, Natixis Investment Managers offers access to highly active, high conviction managers, each of whom concentrates on the investment styles and disciplines in which they have proven expertise, the ultimate objective is to help investors to build stronger and more diversified portfolios over the long term.

*"The addition of Thematics Asset Management to our lineup of affiliated managers makes a substantial contribution to our global equity range and provides our investors around the world with access to distinctive thematic strategies. The team's strong expertise, proven track record and highly-active investment approach fit perfectly within our multi-affiliate model," commented **Jean Raby**, CEO of Natixis Investment Managers.*

*"Thematics Asset Management's partners share an entrepreneurial spirit combined with an active management approach. Our edge lies in our focus in identifying, developing and managing multi-decade investment themes fueled by four global primary forces that are transforming our world: demographic changes, globalization, innovation and scarcity. We are long-term by design in our investment style and in our close alignment with our clients' interest," explained **Karen Kharmandarian**, Chairman & CIO, Thematics Asset Management.*

“Natixis Investment Managers’ *multi-affiliate model offers tremendous growth opportunities, and we are pleased to become an affiliate of one of the world’s leading asset managers. It allows us to access a truly global distribution network and to benefit from the support of a large financial services group while retaining our autonomy and focusing on what we do best: capturing investment opportunities and delivering sustainable returns for our investors,*” said **Mohammed Amor**, Managing Partner and Head of Development, Thematics Asset Management.

The team recently launched a range of thematic strategies - Safety, Water, AI& Robotics, Meta strategy - under the Luxembourg-domiciled Natixis International Funds (Lux) I SICAV and new strategies will launch over the course of the year.

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## **Appendix: biographies**



**Arnaud Bisschop** is one of the founders and owners of Thematics Asset Management<sup>1</sup>. He will be the co-manager of the Thematics Water strategy. He has more than 11 years of experience and he began his career as a consultant at Ernst&Young, before joining the firm Suez, where he developed his expertise in French Water utilities. He joined Pictet Asset Management in 2007. Arnaud holds a master degree in engineering and economics from ‘Ecole Polytechnique’ and ‘Ecole Nationale du Genie Rural des Eaux et des Forets’.



**Frédéric Dupraz, CFA**, is one of the founders and owners of Thematics Asset Management<sup>1</sup>. He will be the manager of the Thematics Safety Strategy. He began his investment career at Pictet in 2004 and has 10 years’ experience managing long-only global thematic equities. Before, he was a consultant in the Financial Services industry with PricewaterhouseCoopers. Frédéric holds a master degree in econometrics from the University of Geneva and a bachelor degree in engineering from the HE S Geneva. He is also a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) charterholder.



**Karen Kharmandarian** is one of the founders and owners of Thematics Asset Management<sup>1</sup>. He will be the Chairman & CIO of the company. Karen will also be the co-manager of the Thematics Artificial Intelligence & Robotics strategy. Karen has 25 years of industry experience, both on the sell-side and on the buy-side, of which 12 years of managing global thematic equity funds. He notably created and managed the first of its kind Robotics active fund in 2015. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Economics and a Master’s degree in Banking and Finance from the Sorbonne University, as well as a business degree from the Institut d’Études Politiques (Paris).



**Mohammed Amor** is one of the founders and owners of Thematics Asset Management<sup>1</sup>. He will be the Managing Partner & Head of development of Thematics Asset Management. Mohammed has 9 years of experience. He began his career in 2010 as a Sales Representative at Derivatives Capital, a brokerage firm specialized in structured products. He joined Turgot Asset Management in 2013, as Head of retail. In 2014, he joined Pictet Asset Management, where he covered retail, banks and networks in France. Mohammed holds a Master degree from Ecole de Management de Grenoble.



**Nolan Hoffmeyer, CFA**, is one of the founders and owners of Thematics Asset Management<sup>1</sup>. He will be the co-manager of the Thematics AI & Robotics and Thematics Safety strategies. He has 6 years of experience. He was previously with Pictet Asset Management (since 2012). Nolan graduated from the University of St. Gallen with a bachelor in business administration and he holds a master in financial engineering from the University of Lausanne. He is also a CFA charterholder.



**Simon Gottelier** is one of the founders and owners of Thematics Asset Management<sup>1</sup>. He will be the co-manager of the Thematics Water strategy. Simon has 20 years of experience. He began his career as an Investment Banker in London and also worked at Veolia Water UK before spending 12 years between London and New York at the specialist Environmental Investment Company Impax Asset Management, where he managed the Impax Water strategy, the BNP Paribas Investment Partners ‘Aqua Fund’ and a range of broader Environmental and Thematic equity products. In 2016, he joined Pictet Asset Management. Simon holds a BA in modern languages from the University of Bristol.

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<sup>1</sup>Subject to regulatory approval.

<sup>2</sup>Four Thematics funds were recently launched within Ostrum Asset Management under the Natixis International Funds umbrella. The Thematics team currently sits within Ostrum Asset Management, a limited company with a share capital of 27 772 359 euros – Trade register n°525 192 753. 43, avenue Pierre Mendès-France - CS 41432 - 75648 Paris cedex 13 France

<sup>3</sup>As of 31 December 2018

### **About Thematics Asset Management<sup>1</sup>**

Thematics Asset Management is a dedicated investor in innovative thematic strategies. The Company invests in stocks of businesses operating in a collection of markets that are growing at a rate superior to that of the broader global economy due to the long-term secular growth drivers that underpin them. With a robust investment process that relies on broad investable universes, the experienced analyst-portfolio managers use bottom-up fundamental research to analyse companies in the value chain of their theme and focus on building conviction-based portfolios based solely on the merits of the individual stocks and are global, unconstrained, benchmark-agnostic and socially responsible. In every case, the drivers underpinning the strategy are fuelled by four global primary forces that are transforming our world: demographic changes, globalization, innovation and scarcity. Today, Thematics Asset Management's core investment themes include Water, Safety, and Artificial Intelligence & Robotics.

### **About Natixis Investment Managers**

Natixis Investment Managers serves financial professionals with more insightful ways to construct portfolios. Powered by the expertise of 24 specialized investment managers globally, we apply Active Thinking<sup>SM</sup> to deliver proactive solutions that help clients pursue better outcomes in all markets. Natixis ranks among the world's largest asset management firms\* with €808bn\*\* 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. For additional information, please visit the company's 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 includes all of the investment management and distribution entities affiliated with Natixis Distribution, L.P. and Natixis Investment Managers S.A. Natixis Distribution, L.P. is a limited purpose broker-dealer and the distributor of various registered investment companies for which advisory services are provided by affiliates of Natixis Investment Managers. In the U.K.: Provided by Natixis Investment Managers UK Limited which is authorised and regulated by the UK Financial Conduct Authority (register no. 190258). Registered Office: Natixis Investment Managers UK Limited, One Carter Lane, London, EC4V 5ER.

\* Cerulli Quantitative Update: Global Markets 2018 ranked Natixis Investment Managers (formerly Natixis Global Asset Management) as the 16th largest asset manager in the world based on assets under management as of December 31 2017

\*\*Net asset value as at December 31st 2018, Assets under management ("AUM"), as reported, may include notional assets, assets serviced, gross assets and other types of non-regulatory AUM.

### **About Natixis**

Natixis is the international corporate and investment banking, asset management, insurance and financial services arm of Groupe BPCE, the 2nd-largest banking group in France through its two retail banking networks, Banque Populaire and Caisse d'Epargne.

With more than 18,000 employees, Natixis has a number of areas of expertise that are organized into four main business lines: Asset & Wealth Management, Corporate & Investment Banking, Insurance and Specialized Financial Services.

A global player, Natixis has its own client base of companies, financial institutions and institutional investors as well as the client base of individuals, professionals and small and medium-size businesses of Groupe BPCE's banking networks.

*Figures as at December 31, 2018*