

Partnering with entrepreneurs to drive sustainable growth

2023 Report on the Article 29 of the Climate Energy Act

### Agenda

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- B. Meet our team
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- D. Giving ESG the means it deserves
- E. Our responsible investment policy
- F. Governance & remuneration

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- B. Our engagements as a responsible investor
- C. Our shareholder engagement policy
- D. Providing transparent information to our ecosystem
- E. Focus on our 3 differentiated pillars
- F. Setting the tone as a management company

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- B. Due Diligence phase
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- D. Holding & monitoring phase
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#### Classification of Funds under SFDR

Activa Capital Fund II ("ACF II") and Activa Capital Fund III ("ACF III") are to be reclassified as Article 8 under the EU Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation which applies "where a financial product promotes, among other characteristics, environmental or social characteristics or a combination of those characteristics, provided that the companies in which the investments are made follow good governance practices". ACF II and ACF III were previously categorized as Article 6 which covers funds that are not promoted as having ESG factors or objectives but that integrates sustainability risks into their investment decisions.

Activa Capital Fund IV ("ACF IV") is classified as Article 8 under the EU SFDR.

All future funds will be classified Article 8 or 9 under the EU SFDR.



Part 1 | Our philosophy

### Our firm

### The French small-cap primary growth buyout specialist

We are an independent private equity company, whollyowned by its management team characterized by a strong entrepreneurial spirit.

Our mission is to partner with ambitious mid-sized French companies backed by inspiring entrepreneurs.

We are the partners of choice to support great businesses throughout their value creation journey by unlocking their full potential.

Thanks to a proven track-record delivered by a cohesive and stable team of 10 professionals, we have earned the support and trust of first-class institutional investors

Activa Capital is authorized and regulated by the French Financial Services Authority (AMF).

Focus on primary opportunities



Profitable and fastgrowing companies



Core verticals-based approach



Majority / controlling minority stake



€400m assets under management



Sustainable value creation



### Meet our investment team

### 11 investment professionals guided by rigorous integrity & ethical standards

#### **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- Act in the best interest of our investors and our investees
- Avoid conflicts of interests
- Protect non-public data and information
- Confirm annually knowledge and promotion of our code of ethics and anti-bribery regulations
- Use appropriately our board seats
- Invest our own money alongside investors



**Alexandre Masson** Managing Partner



Christophe Parier Managing Partner



David Quatrepoint Partner



Frédéric Singer Partner



Elliot Thiéblin Investment Manager



Camille Emin Investment Manager



Julie Perouzel Associate



Valentine Loyer Associate



Alix Minne Senior Analyst



Thomas Lebre Analyst



Gaspard de la Tour du Pin Analyst

# Our purpose and values

"Partnering to Transform"

Our purpose: "Partnering to Transform"

We work hard to create strong, larger, durable businesses

- 1 Seeking the most ambitious and engaged entrepreneurs
- Building a proactive partnership underpinned by transparency and mutual trust
- 3 Enhancing the most transformative and scalable growth-oriented levers
- 4 Empowering sustainable initiatives and drive positive change

### Our values drive everything we do

### **Passionate**

As entrepreneurs ourselves, with ambition to improve and achieve distinction

### **Trustable**

We are a respectful, honest and transparent partner, accountable of our actions in everything we do

### Performance-oriented

We are professional investors with the highest standards and a culture of meritocracy

### Team spirit

We are collaborative, agile, and believe in teams acting humbly but with confidence

# Giving ESG the means it deserves

### Organizational structure and role of our practice

**66** We want our commitments to be successful and evidenced in our everyday actions.

That is why we have decided to embed directly our ESG team within our investment team, overseen by an ESG committee headed by an independent professional. This organization fosters a swift decision-making process which is mandatory for an efficient ESG strategy

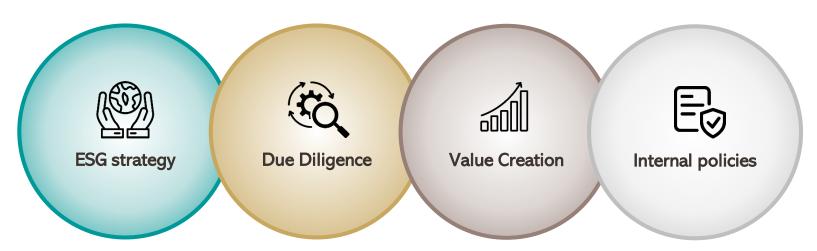


David Quatrepoint Partner, head of ESG



Stéphanie Goujon Head of ESG Committee

The role and responsibilities overseen by the ESG committee impacts all core functions of the investment team:



# Our responsible investment policy

### A 4-pillar approach at the core of what we do

commitment to the 6 United Nations principles for responsible investments, we have enriched each year our already deep pledge to foster sustainable initiatives within our industry and our portfolio companies.

Christophe Parier Managing Partner

- 1 Ensure the strict application of our commitments to the 6 united nations principles for responsible investments
  - Incorporate ESG issues into investment analysis and decision-making processes;
  - ii. Be an active shareholder and incorporate ESG issues into ownership policies and procedures;
  - iii. Seek appropriate disclosure on ESG issues by the companies in which we invest;
  - iv. Promote the adoption and implementation of the Principles in the investment sector;
  - v. Work together to enhance our effectiveness in implementing the Principles;
  - vi. Report on our activities and progress towards implementing the Principles.
- Respect the environment and reduce our impact
- 3 Promote diverse, responsible and rewarding policies and practices within Activa and in our portfolio companies
- 4 Have a concrete positive impact on society

### Governance & remuneration

#### Investment team at the heart of our commitments

#### ESG embedded within the investment team

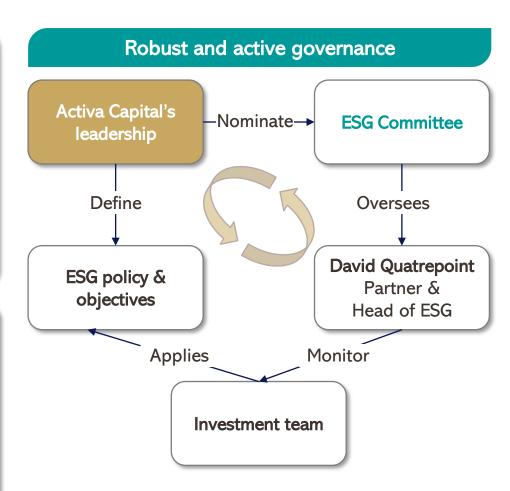
2022 marks a turning point for Activa in its ESG commitments: we decided to embark directly our ESG team within our investment team.

This reflects our belief that an ESG policy should be integrated directly into our investment team and our business model to be effective. In order to do so, Activa nominated David Quatrepoint (Partner from the investment team) as head of ESG, responsible of carrying out our ESG commitments and integrate them directly into our internal investment processes.

#### Remuneration policy

The remuneration policy is reviewed and checked by the remuneration committee and is based on an annual appraisal process considering a variety of factors notably qualitative, nonfinancial performance and ESG criteria.

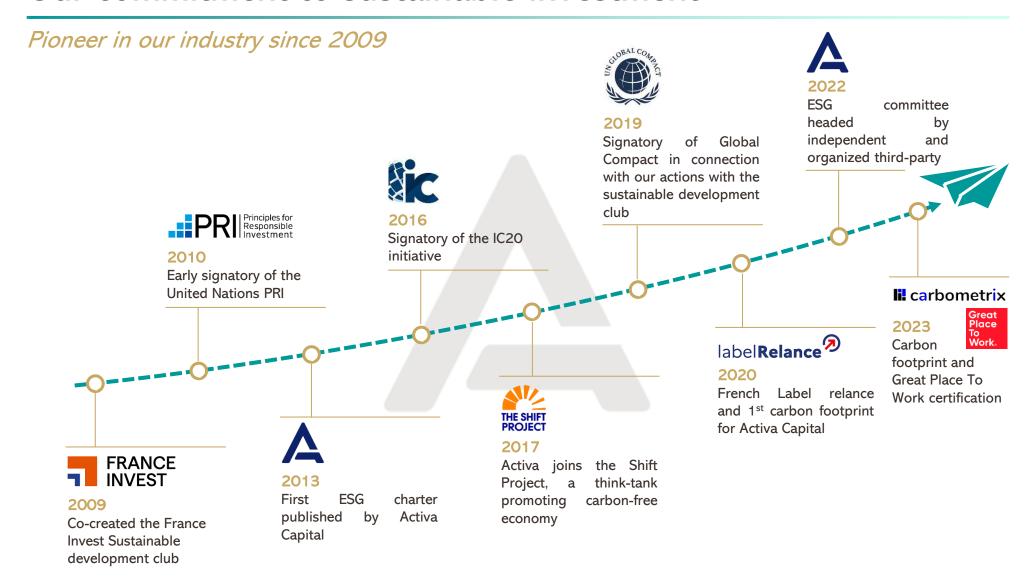
Furthermore, a significant portion of the investment team is differed and linked to long-term fund performance





Part 2 | Our approach

### Our commitment to sustainable investment



# Our commitments as a responsible investor

### A recognized ESG practice by our peers



# Investors for growth charter

The charter serves as guideline to responsible investment in supporting sustainable growth of companies, shared value creation and transparency



2014

2

# Initiative Climate International

ICI is the first Private
Equity initiative dedicated
to managing and reducing
greenhouse gas emission
across portfolio
companies



2016

3

# Gender equality charter

30 commitments to promote gender parity among French private equity players and the company they support



2020

4

# Shareholder agreement policy

Internal policy describing how we foster dialogue, cooperation and transparent communication as an active shareholder



# Value creation policy

France Invest charter to give access to value creation sharing mechanism



2023

FRANCE INVEST

2023

# Awards in the PRI campaign





### Strategy & Governance

Private Equity

**A**+

# Our shareholder engagement policy

### Ensuring a sustainable and efficient ownership phase

66 Activa's shareholder engagement policy is at the core of our role as sustainable investor. As steward of our investor's assets, we strive to build and maintain constructive and long-term relationship with all our stakeholders.





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### Stewardship policy

Monitoring of strategy, financial and non-financial performance, risks, capital structure, social and environmental impact and corporate governance

A thorough investment process

Dialogue with companies held

Constant & direct dialogue : the key for success

3 Exercise of voting rights and other rights attached to shares

Ensuring an efficient & protective governance

- 4 Cooperation with other shareholders
- 5 Communication with relevant stakeholders

General rule to stimulate debate and drive change

6 Prevention and management of potential conflicts of interest in relation to their involvement

# Providing transparent information to our ecosystem

**Activa** has always promoted a culture of full transparency, believe that truly embedded ESG culture starts with sharing our commitments with all our stakeholders





Through regular internal communications by our ESG committee providing training and updates on ESG commitments and practices at Activa and within our industry



As soon as the due diligence prior to investment (sharing of our buyer's due diligence) and during monthly / quarterly meetings to track progress

### To our network, industry and public ...

With a publicly downloadable ESG annual report and other reports on our various commitments on our website

To our portfolio companies...

# Focus on our 3 differentiated pillars

### Going beyond compliance and standards of our industry

- As the French primary growth buyout specialist in tech / services / healthcare verticals, we invest in companies with human capital at the heart of their business model.
- People's businesses can represent a risk when not dealt with properly we see an opportunity through ESG initiatives to foster value creation directly into the business model.
- We have built a voluntary and pioneer approach to systematically:
  - i. we commit to carefully monitor and reduce the yearly carbon footprint per FTE,
  - ii. put in place a broad employee's value creation sharing plan based on Activa's proceeds at exit, and
  - iii. work with the company towards a more sustainable employer brand strategy using GTPW index as a starting point.



Carbon footprint



100% yearly monitoring in t / FTE
Objective ACF IV

2

Value creation sharing plan



100% portfolio companies
Objective ACF IV

3

**Employer brand strategy** 



100% portfolio companies
Objective ACF IV

# Setting the tone as a management company



#### **Environment**



Carbometrix

Carbon footprint

2

### Impact on society



Agence du Don en nature

Funding charities

3

### Internal training



8 sessions

Each year on ESG topics



### **Corporate culture**



100% portfolio companies

ESG value creation plan

5

### **Internal policies**



100% team members

Trained and committed

-(6

#### Remuneration scheme



10% team bonus

Based on ESG criteria



Part 3 | Sustainable investments

# ESG throughout the investment cycle

Implication of the investment team at every step: our embedded strategy

|   | •  | •  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| Due Diligence   | Value creation plan  | Holding & monitoring   | 4 Exit   |
| Rigorous investment decision  | A collaborative process  | Transparent & accountable  | Measure ESG progress   |
| <ul> <li>Legal / normative exclusion policy</li> <li>Industry &amp; business model-specific ESG risk mapping by the team, helped by the ESG committee and external consultant if appropriate</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Designed to share the objectives with the management team, define and allocate resources where needed</li> <li>Usually drafted during the first 3 months of the investment</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Ensure the implementation of a concrete value creation plan</li> <li>Implement our 3 differentiated ESG pillars</li> <li>Regular data gathering</li> <li>Permanent watch of potential ESG risks that may arise</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Assessment of ESG progress during partnership with Activa</li> <li>ESG case studies with key achievements</li> <li>Roadmap for future developments in the vendor business plan</li> </ul> |
| Investment team   | Investment team  | Investment team  | Investment team  |
| ESG committee   | Third-party advisor  |  | Third-party advisor  |
| Third-party consultant (*)  |  |  |  |
| Investment Committee  |  |  |  |

(\*) if needed for a specific ESG expertise (e.g., cybersecurity)

# Due diligence phase



**Due Diligence** 

Value creation plan

Holding & monitoring

Exit

#### NORMATIVE EXCLUSION

As part of its in-depth consideration of ESG in its investment process. Activa applies in the pre-investment stage a strict exclusion policy, consistent with its DNA, its commitments and its ethics. The investment team is ultimately responsible for implementing this policy.

Activa will not invest in companies which would not respect international standards such as the UN Global Compact principles, the OECD guidelines or the conventions & recommendations of the International Labor Organization (ILO).

Furthermore, we do not wish to invest in sectors or activities which may have or cause unacceptable high greenhouse gas footprint and/or which may generate additional risks to consider (reputation, ethic, RGPD, cybersecurity, legal, etc). This list is not exhaustive and is qualified by the legal documentation governing Activa Capital's Fund and internal ESG policy.

#### SPECIFIC INDUSTRY / BUSINESS MODEL RISK MAPPING

This workstream focuses on specific issues relating directly to the target's business model, end-market and value chain.

#### Main topics covered are:



Law & regulation (anti-bribery, anti-corruption, sanctions...)



**Environmental** matters:



People-related matters (H&S, diversity, inclusion, well-being...)



Value chain (illegal activities, responsible supply & sourcing...)



Governance (business ethics, corporate culture, leadership...)



Data (cybersecurity, French RGPD, IP rights...)

| Exclusion policy |
|------------------|
|                  |

Normative / legal Weapons / bombs / Ammunition

Fossil fuels (extraction / prod.) Pornography

Betting / Gambling

Coal-related activities Genetically modified organism Human cloning

Distilled alcohols / Tobacco

Prostitution

Speculation in raw materials

# Due diligence phase



**Due Diligence** 

Value creation plan

Holding & monitoring

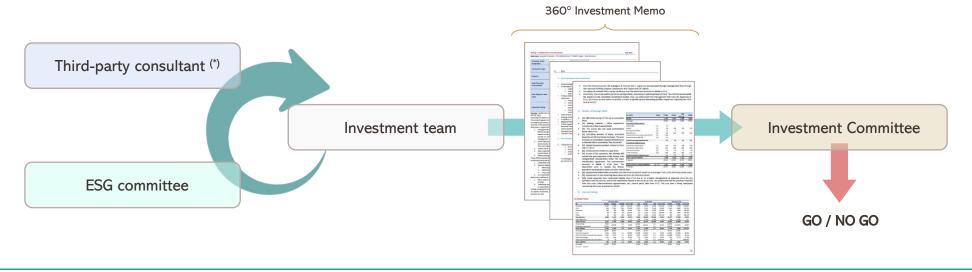
Exit

#### **CONCLUSION ON DUE DILIGENCE**

This ESG due diligence is included within the investment memorandum presented to and discussed with the Investment Committee prior every investment approval.

This memorandum aims to give the committee with a 360° view that can influence the final investment decision by summarizing:

- A comprehensive list of all material ESG risks & opportunities, based on interviews, the deal team analysis, and a specialized third-party if needed on specific topics (e.g. cybersecurity);
- A first draft of the ESG value creation plan which will be formalized post closing with the management team and a third-party advisor.



# Value creation plan

2

Due Diligence

Value creation plan

Holding & monitoring

Exit

#### 100-DAY PLAN

Activa's stewardship leads to a very active role in considering ESG value creation plan post acquisition. The framework initiated pre acquisition is set up by the investment team together with the management team and a third-party advisor, and incentives are defined.

The ESG value creation plan aims at:

- Assessing and limiting risks (physical, geographical, regulatory, market);
- Identifying and guiding the management on sustainable opportunities;
- Defining KPIs to be monitored during supervisory board

Depending on the business model, the 100-day plan is usually supervised by the CEO, the CFO and the CHRO. Follow-up is ensured by the supervisory board (quarterly meetings).





#### **3 DIFFERENTIATED PILLARS**

On top of the ESG value creation plan, specific to each company, Activa seeks to stay ahead of the game by implementing three additional pillars on every portfolio companies of Activa Capital Fund IV



Carbon footprint annual calculation (scope 1, 2 and 3) and measures to improve it;

#### **ii** carbometrix

Great Place To Work



Set up of a financial investor value creation sharing plan with employees, under the terms of the French law "PACTE";



Specific workshop on employer brand, which is key in the 3 core verticals addressed by Activa Capital (Services, Tech, Healthcare & wellness).

# Holding & monitoring phase

Due Diligence Value creation plan

Holding & monitoring

Exit

#### SETTING THE RIGHT GOVERNANCE & INCENTIVES

As an embedded part of value creation, Activa seeks to build the most efficient governance to assess and monitor the progress of the ESG value creation plan implementation.

An engagement to improve ESG standards of each portfolio company is committed specifically in the shareholder agreement and is part of the management incentives' annual objectives.

At the management company level, **ESG** is also a key criteria of a portion of the team bonus attribution and is based on qualitative assessment of:

- Follow-up & ESG data gathering from portfolio companies
- Value creation plan progress
- Adequation of behavior with management company's DNA and ESG culture
- Overall willingness to foster an ESG corporate culture within Activa and the portfolio company

#### **DATA GATHERING**

The investment team oversees data gathering across Activa's portfolio companies, on a yearly basis.

This provides the sufficient data set to:

- Answer specific needs of investors
- Realize the annual ESG report

However, as Activa operates on the French smid market, the company it invests in may not have sufficient resource or may lack size / scale to provide a consistent set of data in due time, especially at the beginning of Activa's holding period.

Activa encourages its portfolio companies to improve their data points and collection methodology during its holding period.

On top of quantitative data, Activa provides a qualitative analysis of the ESG value creation plan status in its quarterly report to investors.

# Exit phase

Due Diligence

Value creation plan

Holding & monitoring

**Exit** 

#### **VDD AT EXIT**

As a general rule, exit processes are discussed and launched in agreement with the management, the other shareholders and in accordance with the company's best interest (timing, market conditions, etc).

A vendor due diligence ("VDD") is systematically prepared when competitive auctions are organized, as Activa strongly believes that the ESG corporate culture it has fostered during its ownership phase is a key valuation point for acquirers, especially for secondary LBOs.

The VDD typically presents the **ESG enhancement journey** from investment to divestment, and further initiatives that remain to be set up or improve to create value.

#### **CASE STUDY**

**Alliance Etiquettes** 

An industrial business which grew from €8m to €70m revenues with Activa between 2015 and 2020.

During its growth journey, Activa spent time & resources to make the company more professional and considerate of its impact on ESG criteria.

As of 2020, the VDD reports highlighted 100% annual monitoring of SCR objectives and 100% coverage of production sites with eco-responsible label and certification







**Appendix** 

# **Exclusion policy**

### Reinforced ESG practice

#### **Exclusion policy**

Normative / legal exclusion

Fossil fuels (extraction / prod.)

Speculation in raw materials

Coal-related activities

Weapons / bombs / Ammunition

Pornography

Betting / Gambling

Genetically modified organism

Human cloning

Distilled alcohols / Tobacco

Prostitution

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This list is not exhaustive and is qualified by the legal documentation governing Activa Capital's Fund and internal ESG policy. Our most recent fund and future funds will include these criteria in their by-laws.

https://www.unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/mission/principleshttp://mneguidelines.oecd.org/guidelines/

 $\underline{https://www.ilo.org/global/standards/introduction-to-international-labour-standards/conventions-and-recommendations/lang--en/index.htm. \\$ 



Correspondence table w/ Article 29 of the Energy-Climate law

# Correspondence table w/ Article 29 of the Energy-Climate law

| 1 / Inforr | nation rela | tina to th | e entitv's genera | annroach  |
|------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|-----------|
|            | nauon reia  |            | e enuly s denera  | abbibacii |

1-a. Summary presentation of the entity's general approach to considering environmental, social and quality of governance criteria, and in particular in the investment policy and strategy

Page 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15

1-b. Content, frequency and means used by the entity to inform subscribers, affiliates, contributors, beneficiaries or customers of the criteria relating to the environmental, social and quality of governance objectives taken into account in the policy and strategy investment

Page 14

1-c. List of financial products mentioned pursuant to Article 8 and Article 9 of SFDR, and the overall share, in percentage, assets under management taking into account environmental, social and quality of governance criteria in the total amount of assets managed by the entity

Page 2

1-d. Consideration of environmental, social and governance criteria in the decision-making process for the allocation of new management mandates by the entities mentioned in Articles L. 310-1-1-3 and L. 385-7-2 of the French Insurance Code

Not applicable

1-e. Adherence of the entity, or of certain financial products, to a charter, code, initiative or obtaining a label on the consideration of environmental, social and governance quality criteria, as well as a brief description of these, consistent with d) of 2 of article 4 of the regulation mentioned above

Page 11,12

#### 2/ Information relating to the internal resources deployed by the entity

2-a. Description of the financial, human, and technical resources dedicated to taking into account environmental, social and governance criteria in the investment strategy as a ratio of the total outstanding receivables managed or held by the entity.

Page 7, 9

2-b. Actions taken to strengthen the entity's internal capacities. The description includes all or part of the information relating to training, the communication strategy, the development of financial products and services associated with these actions.

Page 14, 16

#### 3/ Information relating to the process for taking into account environmental, social and governance criteria at the level of the governance of the entity

3-a. Knowledge, skills, and experience of the governance bodies, in particular the administrative bodies, supervision and management, in terms of decision-making relating to the integration of ESG criteria into the investment policy and strategy of the entity and the entities that the latter controls, where applicable.

Page 9, 12, 13

3-b. Integration of environmental, social and governance criteria in the internal rules of the entity's board of directors or supervisory board

Page 9

# Correspondence table w/ Article 29 of the Energy-Climate law

| 4/ Information on the strategy of engagement with issuers or vis-à-vis management companies and on its implementation                                    |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| This section refers to the Article D. 533-16-1, III, 4° of the French Monetary and Financial Code as modified by the Decree no. 2021-663 of 27 May 2021. | Page 9, 13 ,14                       |
| 5/ Information relating to European taxonomy and fossil fuels  |                                      |
| Not applicable for Activa Capital's Funds while assets under management remain below €500m   | Not applicable for<br>Activa Capital |
| 6/ Information on the strategy for alignment with the international objectives for limiting global warming   |                                      |
| Not applicable for Activa Capital's Funds while assets under management remain below €500m   | Page 11, 12, 15,<br>16               |
| 7/ Information on the strategy for alignment with long-term objectives related to biodiversity   |                                      |
| Not applicable for Activa Capital's Funds while assets under management remain below €500m   | na                                   |
| 8/ Information on the procedures for taking environmental, social and quality of governance criteria into account in risk management                     |                                      |

Page 18 to 23