

Announcement

31 March 2017

SVVK-ASIR appoints GES as engagement provider

GES is pleased to announce that **the Swiss Association for Responsible Investments (SVVK-ASIR)** has appointed GES as its engagement provider to conduct dialogue with companies from its members' investment portfolios. The engagement will cover a selection of companies in breach of sustainability norms as determined by the Federal Constitution and/or international norms and conventions such as the UN Global Compact. SVVK-ASIR considers engagement to be the most effective tool to support the interests of its members that together manage more than CHF 150 billion in assets. GES has been selected to serve as the engagement provider due to its extensive network and expertise in engagement.

Hanna Robert, CEO of GES says: "We welcome this major Swiss initiative and are confident that our partnership with SVVK-ASIR will add further leverage to our international engagement efforts. We have seen many interesting developments within Swiss responsible investing the past few years, and this new assignment confirms that Switzerland is becoming a key player in the European RI community."

SVVK-ASIR was founded in December 2015 by a group of major institutional investors - **BVK** (canton of Zurich), **compenswiss** (the umbrella organisation for the Swiss first pillar scheme AHV/AVS), **comPlan** (Swisscom), **Pensionskasse Post** (postal service), **Pensionskasse SBB** (Swiss Federal Railways), **PUBLICA** (Swiss Federal Pension Fund) and **Suva** (accident insurance fund). The association aims to provide services to its members that enable them to holistically act responsibly towards the environment, the economy and society through their investment decisions.

GES is a leading provider of responsible investment and engagement services to institutional investors. We support asset owners and asset managers in developing and implementing integrated investment strategies with regard for environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations. Representing more than €1 trillion of investments worldwide, GES acts as an owner-advocate by evaluating material ESG risks in clients' portfolios, engaging with company representatives and providing voting support at general meetings. GES is an independent company founded in 1992 with over 60 employees globally, of which 40 are dedicated to corporate engagement. We have offices in the UK, Sweden, Denmark, Poland and Switzerland with engagement professionals based in a number of other European countries, as well as a strategic business partnership with oekom research in Germany.

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