

Press release

Effective sustainable investment: the Asset Management Association Switzerland and Swiss Sustainable Finance launch the “Swiss Stewardship Code”

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The Asset Management Association Switzerland (AMAS) and Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF) are today publishing the Swiss Stewardship Code, which provides asset managers, asset owners and financial service providers with guidance to encourage the active exercising of shareholder rights by investors in Switzerland. Investor stewardship is fundamental for effective investment and promoting sustainable businesses.

Through sustainable investments, more and more investors in Switzerland are committed to making a significant contribution to achieving the sustainability targets set by the Federal Council, in the process positioning Switzerland as a leading hub for sustainable finance. Sustainable financial investments and services not only help reduce investment risks, but also positively support desired economic, societal and environmental changes. Investor stewardship, which requires active dialogue with companies and the exercising of investor voting rights, is a key approach for achieving this goal and is becoming increasingly important not just in Switzerland, but on an international level.

AMAS and SSF, supported by pension funds, asset managers and service providers, have responded by developing the Swiss Stewardship Code, published today, as the standard for the Swiss financial centre. The Code defines what contemporary investor stewardship entails and lays the foundation for more proactive exercising of shareholder voting rights by Swiss financial actors, as well as providing greater transparency and improved comparability.

Integrating stewardship into the investment processes of the Swiss investment industry promotes a more sustainable and value-enhancing economy, and also helps increase the long-term return for investors, adjusted for sustainability risks. The Code consequently makes an important contribution to the measures for a sustainable financial centre outlined by the Federal Council.

Sabine Döbeli, CEO of SSF, comments: “There is increasing pressure on companies and investors to play their part in making a sustainable impact. With the new Stewardship Code, SSF and AMAS are helping Swiss financial players communicate their goals to companies and encourage them to adopt more sustainable business models and create long-term value. The Stewardship Code has been developed in collaboration with asset owners, asset managers and service providers, and describes how financial players can be as effective as possible in their shareholder activities. The Code also improves comparability and creates more transparency, which in turn boosts confidence in sustainable investments.”

Adrian Schatzmann, CEO of AMAS, adds: "The Swiss Stewardship Code is a further development of the initiatives for the financial centre aimed at continuously improving the framework conditions for effective and transparent sustainable finance in Switzerland. By encouraging the creation and management of sustainable investments, the Code also makes a positive contribution to sustainability and climate protection and strengthens the position of the Swiss financial centre as a hub for sustainable finance. From an investor's perspective, stewardship protects and increases the long-term return on financial investments and is therefore a core element of asset managers' fiduciary duty."

The Swiss Stewardship Code is applicable on a voluntary basis and serves as a recommendation and guidance for integrating stewardship into the investment process. The Code includes nine stewardship principles and describes the most important elements for effective and successful implementation. It is aligned with the Global Stewardship Principles of the International Corporate Governance Network (ICGN), the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) and the UK Stewardship Code, which together set an international benchmark for investors' stewardship activities.

The Swiss Stewardship Code is available [here](#).

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The mission of **Swiss Sustainable Finance** is to strengthen Switzerland's position as a leading voice and actor in sustainable finance, thereby contributing to a sustainable and prosperous economy. The association, founded in 2014, has representative offices in Zurich, Geneva, and Lugano. Currently, SSF unites over 240 members and network partners from financial service providers, investors, universities and business schools, public-sector entities, and other interested organisations.

The Asset Management Association Switzerland is the representative association of the Swiss asset management industry. It aims to strengthen Switzerland's position as a leading centre for asset management with high standards of quality, performance, and sustainability. To this end, it supports its members in developing the Swiss asset management industry and adding value for investors over the long term. The Asset Management Association Switzerland is an active member of the European Fund and Asset Management Association (EFAMA) and the International Investment Funds Association (IIFA). Founded in Basel in 1992, the Asset Management Association Switzerland currently has almost 200 members.