



# REYL Group launches dedicated impact investing asset management affiliate and recruits a team of seasoned professionals

- ➤ The REYL Group launches an independent asset management affiliate exclusively dedicated to social and environmental impact investing under the distinctive brand Asteria.
- > The new entity will have as a principal objective to offer institutional investors a comprehensive and coherent offering of impact products and strategies in order to provide much needed vectors through which capital can contribute meaningfully to a transition towards a more sustainable and equal society.
- Asteria's management team will include five seasoned professionals. Reporting to CEO Katia Coudray, the investment team will consist of three experienced specialists: Guido Bolliger, Head of investments; Natacha Guerdat, Head of research; and Fabio Sofia, Head of fixed income and private debt strategies. Sales and overall commercial development will be ensured by Francesco Genovese.

Geneva, 3 October 2019. The REYL Group launches Asteria Investment Managers, an affiliate exclusively dedicated to social and environmental impact investing, to offer institutional investors access to a wide range of asset classes fully focused on this theme.

Asteria will have as a principal objective to offer institutional investors a comprehensive and coherent offering of impact products and strategies in order to provide much needed vectors through which capital can contribute meaningfully to a transition towards a more sustainable and equal society. It will provide access to a wide range of asset classes (thematic listed equities, sustainable bonds, alternative strategies, private debt and private equity), sharing a dual goal of financial returns and positive impact.

Asteria will allocate capital to companies that generate positive social and environmental benefits, looking to the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as its frame of reference. The offered products and strategies will be structured around four specific focuses:

- diversity and inclusion;
- preservation of our planet;
- support for developing countries;
- innovation and technology as drivers for change.

Asteria also plans to carry out one or more acquisitions to enhance its offering.





## **Engagement of seasoned professionals**

In July, the REYL Group recruited Katia Coudray as Head of Impact Investing. Before contributing to Asteria's creation, she spent more than seven years with Banque SYZ as head of asset management, a member of the group's management committee, and head of the investment division. Prior to joining SYZ, she spent 11 years at Union Bancaire Privée as a member of the asset management division and the executive management team. This allowed her to develop and lead numerous departments such as multimanagement, advisory, as well as the product innovation platform.

Katia Coudray will be joined by three seasoned professionals in institutional management and impact investing: Guido Bolliger, Head of investments and equity strategies; Natacha Guerdat, Head of research; and Fabio Sofia, Head of bond and private debt strategies. Together, this investment team will be responsible for establishing and managing future products. As part of the senior management team, Francesco Genovese, currently within the REYL Group, will be responsible for the new company's commercial development.

Guido Bolliger has more than 25 years of experience in managing and developing systematic investment strategies. In addition to his roles as chief investment architect and head of quantitative strategies at SYZ Asset Management before joining Asteria, he has also held various positions as head of investment and served as CEO of the Olympia Capital alternative investment fund. He is an adjunct professor of finance at the University of Neuchâtel and holds a PhD in financial economics from the Swiss Finance Institute.

Natacha Guerdat has devoted her entire career to responsible and sustainable investment, recognised as one of the sector's pioneers. She began her professional career as an ESG analyst at Lombard Odier and quickly moved towards sustainable portfolio management roles for nearly 10 years. She then dedicated her time to launching and developing the company Conser as a founding partner. She helped to develop the company's business through the implementation of sustainability analysis tools and processes. She is a founding member of Sustainable Finance Geneva (SFG) and Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF).

Fabio Sofia has devoted his career to developing and promoting impact strategies. He began at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and soon became a founding member of Symbiotics, a pioneer in microfinance, actively contributing to its development during his 13 years with the company in a variety of roles, including portfolio advisory. He is president of Sustainable Finance Geneva (SFG).

Sales and overall commercial development will be ensured by Francesco Genovese. Prior to joining the REYL Group in September 2018, he spent 17 years at Pictet & Cie, holding various commercial development roles within the asset management division. Thanks to his numerous responsibilities, he has forged an extensive network of institutional partnerships in Switzerland, the Middle East, Europe, and the United States.

#### Strong entrepreneurial culture

Katia Coudray, CEO of Asteria Investment Managers, comments: "It truly is a unique opportunity to be able to create from scratch a new asset management company entirely dedicated to impact investing. This would not have been possible without the



# Press release

combination of strong human values and entrepreneurial culture within the REYL Group. We at Asteria are committed to achieving a positive impact in line with the 17 UN SDGs, in addition to our financial return objectives, across all of our strategies. We are delighted to have high-calibre professionals contribute to Asteria from inception. Their recognised entrepreneurial expertise in this field and the institutional networks they have built will play an important role in the implementation and development of our strategies".

According to François Reyl, CEO of REYL & Cie, "We are convinced that the allocation of private and institutional capital will be an essential factor in a radical shift towards greater sustainability and inclusion. According to a joint OECD/MSCI report, approximately USD 2.5 trillion per year will be needed to meet the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Our aim is to provide access to strategies dedicated to social and environmental impacts so that we can raise additional capital and actively contribute to the positive transformation of our society. The REYL Group favours an innovative entrepreneurial approach: this new initiative, bolstered by substantial investments and the commitment of recognised experts, is deeply rooted in our philosophy and convictions".

REYL & Cie is sponsoring the Building Bridges Summit to be held in Geneva on 10 October 2019 as part of Sustainable Finance Week. REYL & Cie SA is a member of the Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN), Sustainable Finance Geneva (SFG), and Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF).

## **About the REYL Group**

www.reyl.com

Founded in 1973, the REYL Group is an independent diversified banking group with a presence in Switzerland (Geneva, Zurich, Lugano), Europe (London, Luxembourg, Malta), and the rest of the world (Singapore, Dubai, and the United States). The REYL Group (including its minority-holding subsidiaries) manages assets in excess of CHF 16 billion and employs more than 200 professionals.

Developing an innovative approach to banking, the Group serves a clientele of international entrepreneurs and institutional investors through its *Wealth Management*, *Entrepreneur & Family Office Services*, *Corporate Advisory & Structuring*, *Asset Services*, and *Asset Management* business lines.

REYL & Cie Ltd is licensed as a bank in Switzerland and carries out its activities under the direct control of the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA) and the Swiss National Bank (SNB). The REYL Group's subsidiaries are also regulated by the LPCC in Switzerland, the FCA in the United Kingdom, the CSSF in Luxembourg, the MFSA in Malta, the MAS in Singapore, the DFSA in Dubai, and the SEC in the United States.

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