

Press release

COLUMBIA THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS SUPPORTS THE VLERICK CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

New partnership to support sustainability in the financial services industry

LUXEMBOURG – 14 OCTOBER 2021: Columbia Threadneedle Investments, a leading global asset management group, becomes an official member of the “Centre for Sustainable Finance”, which is part of the Asset Management Academy of Vlerick Business School, one of the most renowned business schools in Europe. It is a one year collaboration with the possibility of continuing after the first year.

Sustainable development is more and more an integral part of the strategy of organisations. Thanks to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance) reports, responsible leadership makes our companies fairer and more prosperous.

The mission of the Vlerick Centre for Sustainable Finance is to advance knowledge and understanding among its students of sustainability to support the financial services industry in its decision making. The centre is part of Vlerick's Asset Management Academy, which is based on three pillars:

- Executive programme & workshops
- Networking events
- Centre for Sustainable Finance

The Centre for Sustainable Finance offers its members, now including Columbia Threadneedle Investments, a unique knowledge platform and access to research findings, both relevant to the sustainable finance ecosystem, as well as the opportunity to share the best sustainable investment practices.

Katherine Haesaerts, Commercial Director at Columbia Threadneedle Investments: *“We are pleased to be able to reinforce, together with Vlerick Business School, the importance of sustainability in the financial services industry. As a leading global asset management group, it is our responsibility to pass on our expertise in sustainable development to equip our future finance professionals with the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the challenges of their time”.*

Professor David Veredas, administrator and member of the Steering Committee of the Vlerick Business School, adds: *“The mission of the Centre for Sustainable Finance is to facilitate the understand and to increase the knowledge on sustainability in the financial sector. The fact that Columbia Threadneedle is now a member of our Centre fits this mission perfectly. We look forward to this collaboration. Together, we will create a forum for knowledge exchange and consultation with the financial community in the broadest sense”.*

For more information, visit <https://www.vlerick.com/en/research-and-faculty/research-in-action/centre-for-sustainable-finance>.

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Notes to Editors

About Vlerick Business School

Vlerick Business School is a triple accredited international business school in the heart of Europe. We offer the best management training in the Benelux and are among the 20 best business schools in Europe. We can take advantage of specific expertise in the fields of digital transformation and entrepreneurship. In addition to a close collaboration with KU Leuven and Ghent University, and strategic links with Peking University, Stellenbosch University Business School and the Institute of Management Technology in India, we are constantly developing our global network of business partners.

About Columbia Threadneedle Investments

Columbia Threadneedle Investments is a leading global asset manager that provides a broad range of actively managed investment strategies and solutions for individual, institutional and corporate clients around the world.

With more than 2000 people including over 450 investment professionals based in North America, Europe and Asia, we manage €500bn of assets across developed and emerging market equities, fixed income, asset allocation solutions and alternatives.

Our priority is the investment success of our clients. We know investors want strong and repeatable risk-adjusted returns and we aim to deliver this through an active and consistent investment approach that is team-based, risk-aware and performance-driven. Our investment teams around the world work together to

uncover investment insights. By sharing knowledge across asset classes and geographies we generate richer perspectives on global, regional and local investment landscapes. The ability to exchange and debate investment ideas in a collaborative environment enriches our teams' investment processes to ensure the best insights are applied to portfolios. More importantly it results in better informed decisions for our clients.

Columbia Threadneedle Investments is the global asset management group of Ameriprise Financial, Inc. (NYSE:AMP), a leading US-based financial services provider. As part of Ameriprise, we are supported by a large and well-capitalised diversified financial services firm.

www.columbiathreadneedle.com

Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments as at 31 June 2021

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