

Press release

For immediate release

14 December 2009

SNS Asset Management appoints Governance for Owners as its global corporate voting and engagement partner

Governance for Owners (GO) is delighted to announce that SNS Asset Management (SNS AM), the investment manager of the Dutch financial services group SNS REAAL and an important player in responsible investment, has chosen GO as its partner in a wide ranging relationship covering voting across global markets and engaging with investee companies.

GO will work closely with SNS AM staff in two key areas of responsible ownership – voting and engagement. In voting, GO will implement detailed voting policies across global markets, highlighting environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues derived from SNS Asset Management’s Fundamental Investment Principles. These Fundamental Investment Principles – that are applied across all assets - are derived from international treaties, guidelines and codes of best practice and cover a range of social, ethical, environmental and governance issues including weapons production, human rights violations, use of child labour, environmental policies and corporate corruption. SNS Asset Management’s commitment to responsible voting extends to recalling all lent stock in order to be able to fulfil its ownership responsibilities.

In engagement, GO will lead discussions with boards and management teams of a selection of SNS investee companies on ESG issues where SNS believes operation changes or additional disclosure is required.

Manuel Adamini, Head of ESG Research at SNS Asset Management, said “At SNS Asset Management we believe that the best way to bring about responsible change at investee companies is to partner with organisations that have the specialist expertise required to be credible with corporate boards and management teams. We have identified GO as a world leader in voting and engagement and have been particularly impressed by its global presence and senior level experience. We are looking forward to working with the GO team in this area of high importance for SNS Asset Management”.

Peter Butler, GO’s CEO, said “SNS Asset Management has very strong credentials in responsible investment and we are delighted to be working with them on ESG issues. We believe ‘co-sourcing’ between asset managers and specialist engagement providers is the right model for effective responsible ownership and are looking forward to this exciting collaboration”.



ENDS

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Notes to Editors:

1. **SNS Asset Management N.V.** is an asset manager for institutional investors and is a part of SNS REAAL, a large financial service provider in the Netherlands. SNS Asset Management has total assets under management of more than EUR 25 billion (as of June 2009). SNS Asset Management is a pioneer in the area of responsible institutional asset management of which investing in responsible index products and developing countries through microfinance are an important part. For more information: www.snsam.nl
2. **Governance for Owners Group LLP (GO)** is an independent partnership between major financial institutions, shareowners and executives dedicated to adding long-term value for clients by exercising owners' rights. GO has two main offerings. The **GO European Focus Fund** invests in a small number of European public companies where value can be added through exercising owners' rights to address structural and strategic governance issues that have historically impaired company performance. The **GO Stewardship Service** offers independent corporate governance voting advice and engagement covering all of the world's major markets. GO has its group and European headquarters in London, and has offices in the USA and Japan. Please visit www.g4owners.com for further information.