

## Press Release

Paris, Monday 14 June 2010

**PlaNet Finance Group creates a subsidiary company from PlaNIS, the department which advises on microfinance investments and which is one of the world leaders in the sector.**

PlaNIS, the entity of the PlaNet Finance Group dealing with advice on Socially Responsible Investment microfinance funds (SRI), became a subsidiary company on 10 June 2010, thanks to investments by PlaNet Finance, Natixis Asset Management via its existing French microfinance SICAV *Natixis Impact Nord-Sud Développement* and the finaréa network, via its holding company finaréa nap. This creation will enable PlaNIS to consolidate its position as second in the world and first in France for microfinance investment advice.

The initial funds raised give PlaNIS the backing of prestigious partners: Natixis Asset Management is a pioneer of Responsible Investment and a leader of solidarity in management in France\*; finaréa has a network of more than 30 ISF animator vehicles across the whole of France. Strengthened by its five years of experience, PlaNIS is entering on a new stage. This creation will give it the means to develop new projects and strengthen its presence on the ground and so to maintain strong control of the quality of its analyses for the funds to which it acts as advisor. Amongst these is its principal partner, the asset managers ResponsAbility Social Investments AG, the world leader in investment and microfinance.

Currently, with a team of 13 permanent staff, PlaNIS manages a portfolio of 165 million USD, spread over 77 Microfinance Institutions (MFI) in 30 countries, with various European microfinance funds.

The new major axes of development for PlaNIS are to:

- provide finance to more microfinance institutions
- consolidate its presence in the different parts of the world
- continue its programme MicroFix which aims to connect the microfinance sector to the capital markets by facilitating recourse to exchange risk cover

**Sébastien Duquet, Director General of PlaNIS** : « *Thanks to this partnership with Natixis Asset Management and finaréa, PlaNIS is making an important step, with greater independence on the one hand and new development possibilities on the other hand.* »

**Christophe Point, Director General of the SICAV Natixis Impact Nord-Sud Développement at Natixis Asset Management** : « *This partnership with the PlaNet Finance Group, a major player in originating and following up microfinance projects throughout the world, confirms our ambition to retain our position as leaders in solidarity financing in France with our SICAV Natixis Impact Nord-Sud Développement.* »

**Christian Fleuret, Founding President of the finaréa network**, adds: « *After a joint investment in 2009 with one of the subsidiaries of the PlaNet Finance Group, we wish now to strengthen our commitment to Socially Responsible Investment. This is a principle which we apply at our own level by favouring socially responsible investments or in the domain of sustainable development.* »

\* Source : 2009 Edition of Finansol's professional barometer of solidarity financing. (Finansol is a professional association whose aim is to develop solidarity in savings and finance.)

**About PlaNIS :**

PlaNIS is the entity of the PlaNet Finance Group dedicated to advice on microfinance SRI (Socially Responsible Investments). PlaNIS identifies microfinance institutions (MFI) across the world and evaluates their needs for finance. PlaNIS then presents these MFI to investors who are capable of responding to their needs. PlaNIS follows up the loans granted, the repayments to be made by the institutions and the risks associated with the institutions recommended. In 2009, PlaNIS teams (13 analysts and area executives) met 300 MFI in 40 countries. 70 investments proposals were drawn up and nearly 50 million USD were loaned to MFI.

PlaNIS succeeded, in spite of the difficult market conditions, in obtaining good results for the first months of 2010.

Currently, PlaNIS manages a portfolio of 165 million USD, spread over 77 MFI in 30 countries invested in various funds : responsAbility, MicroWorld, MicroFund, Norwegian Microfinance Initiative and Banque de Luxembourg.

**About PlaNet Finance**

PlaNet Finance is an organisation working for international solidarity. Its mission is to fight against poverty by developing microfinance in order to improve access to financial services for peoples who are poor and who are excluded from such services. It is based in Paris. PlaNet Finance and its international network are active in nearly 80 countries.

[www.planetfinancegroup.org](http://www.planetfinancegroup.org)

**About Natixis Asset Management**

Natixis Asset Management is the European expert of Natixis Global Asset Management. It is based in Paris and is amongst the very largest European asset managers with 309 billion Euros under management and nearly 610 staff, as at 31 March 2010.

Natixis Asset Management offers institutional investors, companies, distributors and banking networks a complete range of investment products and solutions, of all classes of assets. A committed player with more than 25 years of experience, Natixis Asset Management is also a leader of SRI in France and in Europe.

[www.am.natixis.fr](http://www.am.natixis.fr)

**About finaréa**

« finaréa » is a national network of holding societies whose objective is to support very small French and European businesses by risk investment in their capital. The network puts ambitious entrepreneurs looking for capital in contact with investors motivated by a spirit of enterprise and wishing to take advantage of the fiscal advantages offered by the TEPA law. In addition to financial support, the finaréa network supports the entrepreneurs in their development and in their strategy, by providing them with administrative and operational guidance.

[www.finarea.eu](http://www.finarea.eu)

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