# QUILVEST CAPITAL PARTNERS Responsible Investment Policy

# Quilvest Capital Partners sustainability commitments

## Founding principles

At Quilvest Capital Partners, we are convinced that as leading financial institution we have a responsibility towards society to manage the environmental and social impacts of our investment activities. The focus on sustainability has always been core for our Company given Quilvest family shareholding structure and DNA. Our role as long-term investor should be to create growth and value in a durable manner: we believe that taking into account Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") criteria contribute to long-term absolute returns and to wealth preservation.

This policy goes beyond legal and compliance conformity; it sets both our commitment to sustainability and our approach to responsible investment with the main objective being the support of our people in performing their work and decision-making. It applies to QCP professionals and non-permanent staff working on behalf of QCP, in all countries where we do business.

### Our commitments

Following QCP founding principles, we have set forth commitments regarding sustainability. Meeting these commitments will determine the success of our approach to sustainability:

- We will systematically assess ESG impacts, risks and opportunities and inform the Investment Committee ("IC") before making any investment decision.
- In deals where QCP exercises a significant level of control, we will engage actively with investees to design and agreeupon action plans to improve business practices in relation to the management of ESG issues. In deals where QCP does not exercise significant control, QCP will exercise its stewardship duties in alignment with the values reflected in this ESG policy.
- We will promote awareness on ESG investment techniques within our organization in order to endorse sustainability in our investment culture and to deliver our ESG ambitions.
- We commit to frame clear statements of ESG investment beliefs for our investment products, define the investment strategies to reach our ESG goals and to monitor and report on the ESG performance.
- QCP recognizes climate change as a significant challenge for both the economy and society. In alignment with global commitments, QCP supports the objectives of the Paris Agreement and other international initiatives aimed at limiting global warming. We will commit to take proactive steps to combat climate change both at QCP level and at portfolio level. At QCP level, we will reduce our direct environmental impact by limiting the CO<sup>2</sup> impact from QCP business trips and by reducing all disposable or single-use items within QCP premises [KPI\*: travel carbon emissions/FTE]]

# Responsible investment in practice

## **Roles & Responsibilities**

The Sustainability policy has been endorsed by the QCP Board and Executive Committee with Alexis Meffre – the CEO – as the



#### ESG Sponsor.

The Global Head of Sustainability will be responsible for the definition of the Sustainability strategy and its implementation at both the QCP group and portfolio levels, communication, reporting, support to investment, etc.

Each BU head is a sponsor of the Responsible Investment Policy, their responsibility is to ensure its effective implementation providing the necessary support to their team so that QCP will be successful at meeting its commitments.

QCP investment professionals are primarily responsible for ensuring that investment decisions properly integrate ESG criteria. QCP teams will use the different techniques and tools available for integrating ESG in company analysis, asset valuation, portfolio decision making, and stewardship. Where additional subject matter expertise is needed, the teams will utilize external resources as relevant and necessary.

### Our approach

QCP will seek to integrate the consideration and thoughtful management of ESG issues throughout the investment cycle. Additionally, the entire organization regularly interacts with key clients, beneficiaries and various stakeholders in the ecosystem, which ensures that our sustainability commitments are aligned with their priorities and best practices.

#### **Negative Screening**

For any direct investment opportunity, preliminary screening ensures that the targeted investment does not significantly derive revenues from, or is critical to the value chain, of industries that are blacklisted. These industries are the following:

- fossil fuels,
- tobacco,
- gambling,
- pornography,
- prostitution,
- lethal weapons,
- recreational drug use,
- mining,
- palm oil,
- logging,
- the use of GMOs (except when applied to fertility services or general HC-related services)
- human cloning
- animal experimentation

This exclusion list notably aligns with our commitment to mitigating climate change risks. The oversight and accountability for these exclusions and the broader responsible investment policy rest with our senior-level bodies, including board members and senior executives, who ensure these guidelines are effectively implemented and adhered to across all investment activities.

#### Pre-investment Due-Diligence ("ESG DD")

For all direct investment opportunities, in each business unit, QCP will carry out an ESG analysis.

This analysis is based on our proprietary tool, *QCP ESG framework*, which helps us identify the most material ESG topics to detail and address. (See Annex for a sample of *QCP ESG framework* tool in practice)

• Buyout: *QCP ESG framework* is based on a set of specific questions for 22 different industries that will help identify relevant ESG factors. Depending on the complexity of the topics and the quality of information, the investment team may decide to hire an external consultant and at engage with management of the company on these topics. Since the

launch of its latest vintage, Buyout Fund III, this external DD is a mandatory step of the investment process.

- Real Estate: *QCP ESG framework* is based on a set of questions that are applied systematically for all types of property categories (commercial, residential, and industrial). Based on the results of this analysis and the investment thesis, the investment team may identify primary areas for potential improvements on ESG related matters.
- Private Credit: As a lower middle market investor focused on the U.S, we use a practical strategy that aligns with the non-control nature of debt investing. During our ESG due diligence phase, we take a proportional approach—aligning the depth of our analysis with the availability of ESG-related information, which is generally more limited compared to larger, up-market and control transactions.
- For Primaries, Co-Investments and Secondaries, the investment team assesses the overall commitment to responsible investment of the General Partner ("GP") and the level to which they integrate ESG factors into their investment process. This assessment is based on two sets of questions: one for GPs operating in developed markets and one for GPs in developing markets. For co-investments, the investment team assesses the business using an analysis similar to the one conducted in the Buyout BU. The ESG analysis will take into account the non-control nature of co-investments. If the investment team believes appropriate, it may also carried out the ESG analysis by assessing the lead sponsor according to ESG criteria

#### **Investment decision**

A summary of the ESG analysis and due diligence work is then included in the memo which is discussed during the Investment Committee ("IC") so that 1) the material ESG issues are discussed during IC and 2) IC decision-making takes into account ESG issues when appropriate.

#### **Ownership phase**

Where QCP exercises a significant control over the investee companies, QCP will exercise its stewardship duties by engaging with management of these companies.

#### Buyout

- Quilvest will engage with the management of its portfolio companies to open a dialogue and work closely with investees over time on specific governance, social, or environmental issues that the investor regards as posing a downside risk to the business. QCP will promote that investee companies adopt better ESG practices, or at least to relinquish poor practices and will agree-upon specific goals and an action plans to reach these goals.
- Quilvest commits to monitor the deployment and delivery of corporate ESG goals and to promote ESG awareness through effective oversight.
- Quilvest intends to incentivize the management of its investment targets to enhance their company's Sustainability performance by integrating ESG clauses into their management package and the Shareholder Agreements.

#### **Real Estate**

 Our approach to ESG includes the inclusion of this topic when defining, designing and implementing any major renovation in Real Estate projects, ensuring that any significant upgrades or refurbishments are aligned with our sustainability goals.

For Buyout and Real Estate BU investees, reports will be generated annually on a set of asset-specific and common ESG metrics. In this phase, the geographical relevance of specific sustainability outcome objectives is considered.

Where QCP does not exercise significant control, QCP will apply its stewardship duties in alignment with the values reflected in this



ESG policy. Notably, QCP will encourage its portfolio (borrowers, underlying GPs, etc.) to engage in ESG and can provide support on ESG initiatives.

#### Private Credit

- Our PC group aims to increase awareness of ESG within our portfolio, with a focus on identifying positive economic impacts post initial investment:
  - Increased Awareness of ESG Impact: we encourage borrowers to engage in ESG and we can provide support on ESG initiatives
  - Focus on Economic Impact: we measure and take into consideration the broader economic impact of our investments
  - o Job Creation Tracking: our team tracks contributions to job creation within the borrower's operations
  - Support for Minority and Women Owned Businesses: we encourage our partners and business owners to support minority- and women-owned businesses
  - Impact in Underserved or Low-income Geographies: we track how our business partners perform initiatives in underserved or low-income areas

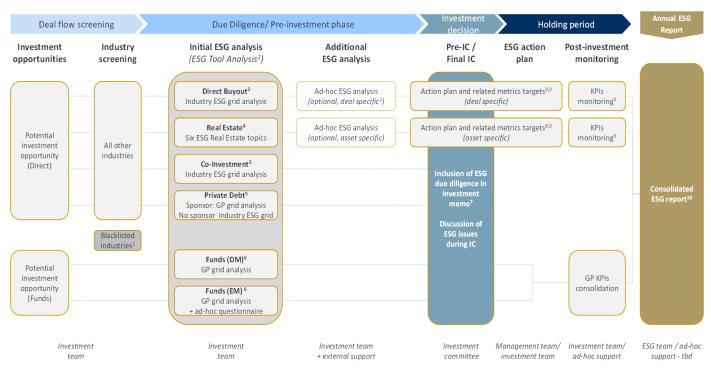
### Industry groups participation

We are convinced that collaboration within the industry is essential to promote the acceptance and practical application of responsible investments. Following this belief, Quilvest Capital Partners ("QCP") became signatory in 2016 of the United-Nations backed *Principles for Responsible Investment* ("PRI") and joined the 3000+ organizations worldwide, managing US\$ 100+ trillion worth of assets, which are committed to incorporate ESG criteria into investment practices<sup>1</sup> and to report annually on progress. Additionally, QCP is a member of France Invest, an organization whose one of the goals is to promote responsible and sustainable growth. France Invest works towards a fair transition to greener practices, creating both value and jobs in the process. As a member, QCP is committed to these goals, aiming to make investments that benefit both the economy and society.



# Appendices

#### QCP ESG framework tool:



ESG FLOW CHART

ESG Stewardship and engagement in practice:

- Buyout strategy's latest vintage, Buyout Fund III, is a SFDR Article 8 fund. As part of its Sustainability commitments, the fund will promote, among other characteristics, the development of an ESG strategy, processes and organization at its portfolio companies, using the following indicators:
  - The # / % of portfolio companies that have developed or updated a ESG strategy/action plan in the year following the investment date and which is subsequently updated annually,
  - The # / % of portfolio companies where ESG matters are considered as an item on the agenda of 100% of board meetings,
  - The # / % of portfolio companies with a senior manager / board committee responsible for overseeing ESG matters, including the implementation of the ESG strategy and action plans,
  - The # / % of portfolio companies that have submitted a dedicated questionnaire on EcoVadis.

Frameworks / industry standards supported by QCP, and that shape its Responsible Investment Policy approach:

- The 10 principles of the United Nations Global Compact
- The United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)
- The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- The Sustainability Accounting Standards Boards (SASB) Materiality Map
- The Principal Adverse Impacts (PAIs) included in the technical regulatory standards draft associated with Regulation (EU)



### 2019/2088 (SFDR)

- The objectives of the Paris Agreement
- The Task Force on Climate-related financial Disclosure (TCFD)
- The Task Force on Nature-related financial Disclosure (TNFD)
- The European Taxonomy (technical and Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) criteria and minimum social safeguards)

### Version

This version of the Responsible Investment Policy has been updated in March 2025, following previous version released in July 2024. Initial version dating from 2021.

Alexis Meffre

**Chief Executive Officer**