

Report: Intervention of Helman Le Pas de Sécheval. Financial Director of Groupama and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Groupama Asset Management

During the conference organised by Novethic on the theme of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors, a new deal for institutional investors, Helman Le Pas de Sécheval took part in a roundtable to discuss the question: Must a long-term investor automatically take into account ESG factors?

Helman Le Pas de Sécheval recalled that Groupama Asset Management had already begun to integrate ESG criteria in the early 2000s. The SICAV (mutual fund) Euro Capital Durable was set up in 2001 when responsible company savings products were being made available to investors. Club Eurôka! was launched in 2002 to promote exchanges between issuing companies and institutional investors in this area. This initiative will be rolled out across Groupama's networks through the establishment of a dedicated Club Eurôka! in 2009.

Through Groupama Asset Management, the Groupama Group has extensive Socially Responsible Investment expertise with a team of four SRI analysts within the financial and credit analyst team. In addition to developing several social initiatives, the Group is striving to reduce its ecological footprint through a series of measures, including property investments and new premises (HQE buildings, charging sockets for electrical vehicles, etc.). Moreover, at the beginning of 2008, Groupama established an Ethics and Sustainable Development department to improve and promote its Corporate Social Responsibility policy throughout all Group networks and companies.

With regard to Groupama's international development, ESG factors have also been taken on board with foreign subsidiary investment funds managed by Groupama Asset Management.

Finally, Helman Le Pas de Sécheval expressed the hope at the end of 2008 for policy revisions and the adoption of more responsible accounting and prudential standards to promote sustainable development in activities across the profession.