

MEDIA RELEASE
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Ireland's Sustainable & Responsible Investment Forum joins European network Eurosif

- *Ireland has key role in supporting EU's Sustainable Finance Action Plan*
- *Eurosif advocates for a more sustainable financial system*

Brussels/Dublin: Eurosif and the Sustainable & Responsible Investment Forum (SIF) Ireland are delighted to announce during Climate Finance Week Ireland 2020 that SIF Ireland is joining the influential association as a full member.

The move comes at a time when the EU is stepping up its ambitions with the EU Green Deal and very clear long-term commitments to meet the sustainability challenges that all European citizens are facing.

Eurosif is the leading pan European Sustainable and Responsible Investment association of national SIF's advocating for a more sustainable financial system. National SIF members include institutional investors, asset managers, index providers and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) research and analysis firms totalling over €8 trillion of assets under management.

SIF Ireland's partners include some of the leading names in the Irish financial industry including Irish Life, KBI Global Investors, Amundi Asset Management, Mediolanum International Funds, State Street Global Advisors, Davy Asset management, Aberdeen Standard Investors, Impax, the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund, L&P Cantor Fitzgerald, Mercer, KPMG Ireland, PwC Ireland, Solar 21, NTR Plc and Greencoat Renewables Plc.

As the European Commission prepares to unveil its new strategy on Sustainable Finance, it is clear the financial industry, asset owners and investors have an opportunity as well as the responsibility towards their clients to make a significant contribution to the transition of our economies to a more sustainable model.

As one of the recognised global centres for asset management, Ireland has a critical role to play in this agenda. SIF Ireland is the leading platform for the financial services industry, policy makers and intermediaries to advance sustainable and responsible investing best practice across all financial service sector activities in Ireland.

For that reason, SIF Ireland is uniquely positioned to have a positive impact on the EU sustainable finance agenda together with Eurosif and the SIFs already involved, the FIR (France), FNG (Germany, Austria and Switzerland), Itasif (Italy), Spainsif (Spain), UKSIF (UK) and the VBDO (the Netherlands).

Commenting, **Will Oulton, Chairman of Eurosif** said:

“We are delighted that SIF Ireland is joining Eurosif as a full member. We have been impressed by the progress that SIF Ireland has made over the years which is a credit to all involved. As an important centre for Europe’s asset management industry, Ireland has a key role to play in ensuring that the EU’s Sustainable Finance Action Plan meets its ambitious goals, through for example the successful implementation of the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation. Eurosif look forward to working with our SIF Ireland colleagues to meet the exciting challenges ahead.”

Jerry Moriarty, Chairman of SIF Ireland said:

“I am delighted that SIF Ireland is joining Eurosif as a full member, particularly at such an important moment when the EU is preparing to accelerate its sustainability ambitions and commitments. In Ireland, we too are working tirelessly to ramp up and advance ESG best practices. In the context of European Commission ESG leadership activities, we look forward to learning from our fellow Eurosif members and contributing to this important and rapidly evolving agenda.”

Victor van Hoorn, Executive Director Eurosif: *“We look forward to having SIF Ireland join Eurosif as a full member. ESG and sustainable investments have grown in 2020 at an unprecedented pace as we increasingly become aware of the magnitude of long-term challenges and risks such as climate change, biodiversity loss and the need for a socially just transition. We look forward to working closely with SIF Ireland and its members to ensure investors and asset managers make an ambitious contribution to the EU Sustainable Finance Agenda”.*

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About Eurosif

Eurosif is the leading pan European Sustainable and Responsible Investment association advocating for a more sustainable financial system. Our mission is to promote sustainable development through financial markets by supporting the financing through private and public capital of investments that make a measurable contribution to the sustainable development goals set by the United Nations, the European Union and other European countries.

Eurosif works as a partnership of Europe-based national Sustainable Investment Forums (SIFs). SIF members include institutional investors, asset managers, index providers and ESG research and analysis firms totalling over €8 trillion of assets under management, as well as other stakeholders such as NGOs, trade unions, think-tanks and philanthropic foundations. Eurosif is also a founding member of the Global Sustainable Investment Alliance, the alliance of the largest SIFs around the world.

About SIF Ireland

An output of government’s IFS 2020 Strategy, Sustainable & Responsible Investment Forum (SIF Ireland) was established in 2017 by Sustainable Nation Ireland and leading members of the Irish investment community as a national platform to advance responsible investment practices across all asset classes. SIF Ireland serves as a national platform for thought leadership, dialogue, knowledge sharing, research, best practice development and capacity building for members of the Irish investment community. It brings together policy makers, asset owners, asset managers and other investment intermediaries to stimulate and advance the growth of Responsible Investment practices in Ireland. A key output of SIF Ireland is the annual Irish ESG State of Play report, which measures the progress of Irish-located asset managers as they work to adopt and apply ESG best practices.