

Aquila Capital strengthens Board of Directors to advance its strategic ambition of becoming a leading asset manager for sustainable investments in Europe

- **Florian Becker assumes role of Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**
- **Silvia Schmitt-Walgenbach appointed as Chief Operating Officer (COO)**
- **Michael Hacker joined as Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**
- **Lars Kühne as Chief Risk Officer (CRO) and Markus Wandt as Chief Investment Officer (CIO) joining the Board of Directors**
- **Christoph Wallrich appointed as Head of Luxembourg in addition to his responsibility for Fund Management**

Hamburg, 10 February 2025 – Aquila Capital, an asset manager specialising in sustainable real asset investments, announces key additions to its Board of Directors. These strategic appointments reinforce the company's commitment to accelerating growth, delivering resilient returns to both institutional and retail clients while supporting clean energy initiatives and contributing to the decarbonisation of global infrastructure.

Effective as of February 2025, Florian Becker has taken on the role of Chief Executive Officer (CEO), succeeding the former Speaker of the Management Board, Harald Schönebeck, who transitioned to a Senior Advisor position. Florian brings nearly a decade of leadership expertise within the Aquila Group, where he has held numerous senior positions, including roles as Group Chief Operating Officer (COO) and General Counsel. As a long-standing member of Aquila Capital's management team, he has played a key role in building and shaping the company since its foundation. His in-depth knowledge of the company's business model and strategic vision makes him uniquely qualified to steer Aquila Capital's ambitious expansion and initiatives in the field of sustainable real asset investments.

Silvia Schmitt-Walgenbach has assumed responsibility as Chief Operating Officer (COO) after joining Aquila Capital in October 2024. A seasoned executive with a distinguished international background of over 30 years in the financial business, Silvia's career includes leadership roles at renowned investment banks and real estate investment companies. Her comprehensive expertise and deep familiarity with the industry equip her to enhance operational excellence and further build a market leading organisation.

In addition, Michael Hacker stepped into the position of Chief Financial Officer (CFO) in December 2024. With almost 20 years of experience in various German and international leadership roles at Commerzbank and a strong background in financial services consulting, Michael brings a wealth of knowledge in international finance. His expertise will play a critical role in advancing Aquila Capital's financial strategy.

Lars Kühne, Chief Risk Officer of Aquila Group, has taken over the role as Chief Risk Officer (CRO) of Aquila Capital from Harald Schönebeck. Lars Kühne held functional management responsibility for the Risk Management and Valuation division of Aquila Capital since joining the company in February 2023. His leadership in this capacity ensures continuity and a seamless transition of responsibilities. Markus Wandt has 30 years of professional experience and more than 17 years track record of investing in sustainable energy infrastructure and related sectors, following his career in investment banking. Markus joined Aquila Capital in March 2022 and has been Chief Investment Officer (CIO) since 2023.

Christoph Wallrich, heading Fund Management of Aquila Capital, will now also act as Head of Luxembourg.

Helge Papenhausen, Chief Compliance & Governance Officer, and Till Schulz-Eickhorst, Head Real Estate, will be stepping down from the Board of Directors but will continue to serve in leadership roles within the company.

Strategic ambition

Aquila Capital is committed to becoming a leader in sustainable real asset investments by diversifying its investor base, scaling fund strategies and entering new markets. To achieve this, the company is expanding beyond institutional investors to attract retail and wholesale clients through products like ELTIF funds. It is also strengthening its fund offering by focusing on large-scale growth and launching thematic funds that support innovative technologies such as Battery Energy Storage Solutions (BESS) and other energy transition solutions. Additionally, Aquila Capital is actively exploring new opportunities in key European and global markets. Its strategic partnership with Commerzbank, established last year,

enhances distribution channels and accelerates fund growth, further reinforcing Aquila Capital's role in the transition to a Net Zero economy.

Florian Becker, CEO of Aquila Capital, commented: *"I am committed to driving Aquila Capital's growth towards our ambition of becoming a leading asset manager for sustainable investment strategies across Europe and beyond. The recent appointments have further strengthened our leadership team, equipping us with the expertise and vision needed to deliver innovative investment strategies and create lasting value for our stakeholders. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Harald Schönebeck, Helge Papenhausen and Till Schulz-Eickhorst for their outstanding contribution and leadership during a time of transition."*

About Aquila Capital

Aquila Capital is an asset manager specialising in sustainable real asset investments.

Since 2007, we have been providing compelling investment opportunities focused on driving the energy transition and sustainable infrastructure. Our goal is to deliver resilient returns while supporting clean energy initiatives and contributing to the decarbonisation of global infrastructure.

Aquila Capital provides tailored solutions designed to meet the needs of both institutional and retail clients. As a one-stop-shop for equity and private debt investments, we are dedicated to making sustainable real asset investments accessible and straightforward. We are licensed as an Alternative Investment Fund Manager (AIFM).

In 2024, Aquila Capital entered a strategic partnership with Commerzbank, with the ambition of becoming a leading asset manager for sustainable investments in Europe and beyond. The company remains an important part of Aquila Group, leveraging the Group's industrial network to benefit its investors.

Aquila Capital is headquartered in Hamburg, Germany, and employs a dedicated team of around 200 professionals across seven European countries.

Further information: <https://www.aquila-capital.de/en/>

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