**Brussels, 15 September 2021**

PRESS RELEASE

**BNP PARIBAS FORTIS AND CLIMACT ENTER INTO A PARTNERSHIP TO HELP THE BANK’S CORPORATE CLIENTS REDUCE THEIR CLIMATE IMPACT**

***BNP Paribas Fortis and Climact — a Belgian company that helps companies, public authorities and other organisations in their transition towards a sustainable carbon-free society — have concluded a strategic partnership. The bank’s company clients can call on the services of Climact, which provides a thorough analysis of the climate footprint and offers concrete solutions for making activities more sustainable.***

More and more companies see opportunities in the ‘mandatory’ transformation to a carbon-free economy. To assist those companies, BNP Paribas Fortis already offers a targeted “green” offer. With its renewable energy financing, green bonds, sustainable loans and green hedging, the bank has a growing range of sustainable financing options for its corporate clients.

**Partnership with Climact**

BNP Paribas Fortis now wants to go a step further in helping its customers. That is why the bank has entered into a partnership with Climact, a Belgian company that has been helping companies, public authorities and other organisations in their transition to greater sustainability since 2007. BNP Paribas Fortis’ company clients who so wish can call on Climact to analyse their climate footprint. The expert then develops a strategy to reduce it and proposes concrete, workable solutions. These can be quick wins or the development of a long-term policy.

The services of Climact are a perfect complement to the advice given by the Sustainable Business Competence Centre of BNP Paribas Fortis. The latter informs clients about important sustainability trends, tests the financial feasibility of specific projects and thinks, together with the client, about the evolution of the business model. Climact provides strategic advice and makes detailed technical calculations of the climate footprint, and on this basis draws up a decarbonisation strategy for the company.

**Didier Beauvois**, Head of Corporate Banking at BNP Paribas Fortis: “*The partnership with Climact is perfectly in line with the efforts that BNP Paribas Fortis has been making for several years to support its corporate clients in the area of sustainability. We see companies increasingly recognise the importance and the opportunities of the ecological transition. The complementarity between Climact’s specialised team and BNP Paribas Fortis services will allow companies to make their activities more sustainable.*”

Climact’s mission is to enable their clients to take action against climate change, with a view towards a zero-emission society by 2050. The company is completely independent and measures its success against three pillars: the achievement of this mission and the associated interim targets, the development and satisfaction of its team of employees, and its financial sustainability.

**Hugues de Meulemeester**, co-founding partner at Climact: “*We are very pleased to enter into this strategic partnership with BNP Paribas Fortis to support its corporate clients on this journey. BNP Paribas Fortis is committed to sustainability in various fields and reducing the climate impact of its clients’ activities is one of their top priorities. We are excited about the leverage this partnership will generate for real climate action and look forward to making it a success for BNP Paribas Fortis’ corporate clients*.”

Through training, BNP Paribas Fortis account managers will be given a solid foundation in the effects of climate change, the need for emission reductions and the associated risks and opportunities.

With this knowledge, relationship managers will then talk to their corporate clients about their energy transition, after which an introduction to Climact itself is possible. If the client is convinced, an agreement is concluded with Climact without the intervention of BNP Paribas Fortis. BNP Paribas Fortis remains a partner to its clients and will gladly support them in the elaboration of the proposed sustainability solutions.

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***BNP Paribas Fortis*** *(*[*www.bnpparibasfortis.com*](http://www.bnpparibasfortis.com)*) offers the Belgian market a comprehensive range of financial services for private individuals, the self-employed, professionals, companies and public organisations. In the insurance sector, BNP Paribas Fortis works closely, as a tied agent, with Belgian market leader AG Insurance. At international level, the Bank also provides high-net-worth individuals, large corporations and public and financial institutions with customised solutions, for which it is able to draw on the know-how and international network of the BNP Paribas Group.*

***BNP Paribas*** *(*[***www.bnpparibas.com***](http://www.bnpparibas.com)*) is the European Union’s leading bank and key player in international banking. It operates in 68 countries and has more than 193,000 employees, including nearly 148,000 in Europe. The Group has key positions in its three main fields of activity: Retail Banking for the Group’s retail-banking networks and several specialised businesses including BNP Paribas Personal Finance and Arval ; Investment & Protection Services for savings, investment and protection solutions ; and Corporate & Institutional Banking, focused on corporate and institutional clients. Based on its strong diversified and integrated model, the Group helps all its clients (individuals, community associations, entrepreneurs, SMEs, corporates and institutional clients) to realise their projects through solutions spanning financing, investment, savings and protection insurance. In Europe, BNP Paribas has four domestic markets: Belgium, France, Italy and Luxembourg. The Group is rolling out its integrated retail-banking model across several Mediterranean countries, Turkey, Eastern Europe as well as via a large network in the western part of the United States. As a key player in international banking, the Group has leading platforms and business lines in Europe, a strong presence in the Americas as well as a solid and fast-growing business in Asia-Pacific. BNP Paribas has implemented a Corporate Social Responsibility approach in all its activities, enabling it to contribute to the construction of a sustainable future, while ensuring the Group's performance and stability.*

***Climact*** *(*[*www.climact.com*](http://www.climact.com)*) is a consulting company active in the energy transition and the fight against climate change. It is based in Louvain-la-Neuve and Brussels and has about 30 employees. Our mission is to "empower our customers to act on climate change", towards a sustainable zero-carbon society in 2050. We put all our energy and expertise into removing barriers and facilitating solutions. Climact offers services that provide comprehensive, credible and pragmatic end-to-end solutions: from policy support and regulatory advice to greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies and action plans. The climate transition requires a global change in our behaviours, our businesses, our energy system and the technologies we use. Tomorrow's world will have to be more collaborative, can cost less, create new local jobs and offer new opportunities. It needs to be more efficient, more electrified and more renewable.*