



Press Release

Paris, London, Singapore, Nice, October 22, 2012

## **EDHEC-Risk Institute and NATIXIS set up a research chair on the investment characteristics and governance of infrastructure debt instruments**

EDHEC-Risk Institute and Natixis are proud to announce the creation of a research chair entitled "Investment and Governance Characteristics of Infrastructure Debt Instruments". The purpose of the chair is to contribute to clarifying the nature and investment profile of infrastructure debt instruments in order to reduce the relative shortfall of publicly available investment data on the subject, compared to longer established investment segments. The chair will specifically focus on the risk and return characteristics and portfolio diversification benefits that infrastructure debt instruments can bring to institutional investors.

The research associated with the Natixis-sponsored Infrastructure Debt Chair will be led by Research Director Frederic Blanc-Brude, Ph.D., who has more than ten years of research experience in the infrastructure sector and has published numerous academic papers on this topic.

This three-year partnership was officially signed today by Laurent Mignon, Natixis Chief Executive Officer, and Noël Amenc, Director of EDHEC-Risk Institute, ahead of the first Natixis European Infrastructure Day which will be held on October 23 in Paris. Dr Frederic Blanc-Brude, will take this opportunity to make a presentation of the chair to a large number of institutional investors and to unveil the initial research work that will be carried out within the chair.

"This partnership with EDHEC-Risk Institute will contribute to facilitating the cooperation between banks and institutional investors in infrastructure debt. By sponsoring this chair, Natixis aims to help allow institutional investors to play a more active role in the financing of infrastructure investments that are crucial as drivers of growth, productivity and competitiveness", announced Laurent Mignon, Natixis Chief Executive Officer.

"In the current macroeconomic and regulatory context, it makes particular sense to conduct research into the investment characteristics and governance of infrastructure debt instruments. We are delighted to be partnering with Natixis on this research chair and look forward to rolling out the research results, which should be of particular interest to institutional investors", said Noël Amenc, Director of EDHEC-Risk Institute.

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## **About EDHEC-Risk Institute**

Since 2001, EDHEC has been pursuing an ambitious policy in terms of international research. This policy, known as “Research for Business”, aims to make EDHEC an academic institution of reference for the industry in a small number of areas in which the school has reached critical mass in terms of expertise and research results. Among these areas, asset and risk management have occupied privileged positions, leading to the creation in 2001 of a major research facility: EDHEC-Risk Institute. This institute now boasts a team of 85 permanent professors, engineers and support staff, as well as 45 research associates from the financial industry and affiliate professors. EDHEC-Risk Institute is located at campuses in Singapore, which was established at the invitation of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), the City of London in the United Kingdom, and Nice, France. In addition, it has a research team located in the United States. The philosophy of the institute is to validate its work by publication in prestigious academic journals, but also to make it available to professionals and to participate in industry debate through its Position Papers, published studies and conferences. From 2013, EDHEC-Risk will be organising major conferences for professionals on three continents in order to present the results of its research, one in London (EDHEC-Risk Days Europe), one in Singapore (EDHEC-Risk Days Asia), and one in New York (EDHEC-Risk Days North America).

To ensure the distribution of its research to the industry, EDHEC-Risk also provides professionals with access to its website, [www.edhec-risk.com](http://www.edhec-risk.com), which is entirely devoted to international risk and asset management research. The website, which has more than 55,000 regular visitors, is aimed at professionals who wish to benefit from EDHEC-Risk’s analysis and expertise in the area of applied portfolio management research. Its monthly newsletter is distributed to more than 1,400,000 readers. EDHEC-Risk Institute also has highly significant executive education activities for professionals. In partnership with CFA Institute, it has developed advanced seminars based on its research which are available to CFA charterholders and have been taking place since 2008 in New York, Singapore and London. EDHEC-Risk Institute has an original PhD in Finance programme which, in addition to its highly selective residential track for young talents worldwide, has an executive track for high level professionals who already have master’s degrees from prestigious universities and significant industry experience. This unique PhD in Finance programme has highly prestigious affiliate faculty from universities such as Princeton, Wharton, Oxford, Chicago and CalTech.

## **About Natixis**

Natixis is the corporate, investment and financial services arm of Groupe BPCE, the 2nd-largest banking group in France with 21% of total bank deposits and 36 million clients spread over two networks, Banque Populaire and Caisse d’Epargne. With around 22,000 employees, Natixis has a number of areas of expertise which are organized in three main business lines: Wholesale Banking, Investment Solutions and Specialized Financial Services.

A global player, Natixis has its own client base of companies, financial institutions and institutional investors as well as the client base of individuals, professionals and small and medium-size businesses of Groupe BPCE’s two retail banking networks. Listed on the Paris stock exchange, it has a solid financial base with total Core Tier 1 capital of €13.2 billion, a Core Tier 1 ratio of 10.9% and quality long-term ratings (Standard & Poor’s: A / Moody’s: A2 / Fitch Ratings: A+). (Figures as at June 2012).

***Please note: Natixis is a major player in Project Finance: ranked N°2 on advisory for EMEA by PFI Magazine in 2011 and N°1 French bank by Magazine des Affaires.***