



LONDON, (19 October 2020)

Baring Emerging Europe plc proposes new investment policy and name change

Baring Emerging Europe plc (“BEE”) announces its intention to broaden the investment policy of the Company to focus on the whole of Emerging Europe, the Middle East and Africa (“EMEA”) where the manager recognizes value, opportunistic exposure to select Frontier Market investments within the EMEA region.

Under the new proposals, which are subject to shareholder approval, the Company’s name will be changed to **Barings EMEA Opportunities PLC** and the new mandate will be benchmarked to MSCI EM EMEA.

BEE also intends to rollover existing performance targets and discount management measures, with a new term length of five years. This will align the managers’ goal to outperform the benchmark over a full market cycle.

There will be no change to the existing investment team of Matthias Siller, Maria Szczesna and Adnan El-Araby. The team currently manages assets of over \$1.6bn across EMEA and selected Frontier markets. They can leverage the existing research capability of Barings global research team to construct portfolios designed to deliver superior risk-adjusted returns through fundamental bottom-up stock selection.

Frances Daley, Chairman of Baring Emerging Europe plc, commented: “These proposed changes will mean that BEE remains the only emerging market Investment Trust focused on EMEA. We hope to broaden the appeal to a wider investor group, as country and sector concentrations will be reduced, without compromising on capital growth or dividend yield, which has always been our priority to deliver for our shareholders.”

*include data source

Matthias Siller, Head of Barings' EMEA Equities Team, said: "The new broader investment focus will enable the Company to reduce the portfolio's exposure to hydrocarbons and access exciting growth opportunities in financial, consumer and technology sectors in particular."

"It will increase the potential for bottom-up stock selection to drive returns and create a wider global investment universe in some of the world's most dynamic markets."

"The investment case for EMEA remains strong. Underlying dividends have been impacted less by COVID-19 than within developed Europe. EMEA countries generally have low debt at government, corporate and household levels and are therefore less correlated with global currency and interest rate movements. Their economies are also predominantly domestically focused and relatively uncorrelated with each other."

The Company's proposed investment universe also covers over 170 companies across EMEA markets. Countries within this scope expands upon the current investment universe to include investments across South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE and Egypt.

ENDS

Notes to editors

Barings is a \$346+ billion* global financial services firm dedicated to meeting the evolving investment and capital needs of our clients and customers. Through active asset management and direct origination, we provide innovative solutions and access to differentiated opportunities across public and private capital markets. A subsidiary of MassMutual, Barings maintains a strong global presence across North America, Europe and Asia Pacific.

*As of June 30, 2020

Baring Emerging Europe plc latest factsheet can be accessed [here](#)

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