



## Press release

Brussels, 22 January 2021 – 9.30 a.m. CET

# KBC nuclear arms policy fully in line with UN Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

After being negotiated and voted on by 122 countries back in 2017, the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force today. Eighty-six states signed the treaty and more than 50 have now ratified it. This treaty is the first legally binding international agreement banning nuclear weapons. KBC was one of the first to take account of the treaty by enshrining its principles in tighter policy guidelines for sustainable banking and insurance on [1 July 2018](#).

Since then, the *KBC Group Policy on Arms-Related Activities* has classified all nuclear weapons as controversial. As a result, any companies involved in the production or development of nuclear weapons are put on the [KBC Blacklist](#) and excluded from all business activities pursued by the group. In effect, therefore, KBC had for some time been adhering to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons endorsed by 122 countries on 7 July 2017, augmenting exclusions based on other controversial weapons systems that were already in place. KBC remains extremely reluctant about getting involved in any form of weapons-related activity, as illustrated by restrictive policy guidelines clearly set out in the *KBC Group Policy on Arms-Related Activities* and the *KBC Group Policy on Blacklisted Companies*.

**Johan Thijs, KBC Group CEO** explains: *‘Sustainability is an integral part of our strategy, ensuring that our sustainability principles and guidelines are incorporated group-wide into all our activities and embedded in every part of the organisation. Inspired and driven by our customers’ growing demand for sustainability in a fast-changing society, we have adopted far-reaching group-wide corporate sustainability policies and guidelines that reflect this major behavioural and ethical shift. Responsible conduct, based on integrity and a healthy awareness of risk, forms the long term basis of our approach to sustainability.’*

**Filip Ferrante, General Manager of KBC Group Corporate Sustainability** adds: *‘Our thinking is evolving in line with society’s shifting perceptions and expectations. To keep up with developments, like those in the area of controversial weapons, we engage our stakeholders in an open dialogue and ensure transparent communication. This approach gives us a clear idea as to what society regards as relevant and allows us to respond better and more proactively to expectations. It also means that we can enhance the positive impact our day-to-day operations have on society, while reducing the negative impact by strictly applying our guiding principles, actively monitoring our own ecological impact and actively developing a wide range of socially responsible business activities.’*

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