Press Release

Brussels, 29 June 2023 – 8 a.m.

KBC Bank NV (Belgium) and the Czech start-up Digital & Legal s.r.o. ('Green0meter') enter into joint venture to advise Czech SMEs on their journey to becoming more sustainable.

KBC Bank NV entered into a joint venture with Digital & Legal s.r.o.. This company is the legal entity behind the young Czech technological platform Green0meter. KBC will acquire a 50% stake in Digital & Legal, with the option to acquire the remaining shares at a later stage. Both parties agreed not to disclose financial details of the deal, which in any case is immaterial for KBC.

Green0meter focuses on sustainability services and providing CO_2 footprint calculation and ESG services to Czech SMEs. As a leader in ESG, ČSOB Group wants to enable its Czech SME clients to meet the changing expectations in society as well as the changing EU ESG requirements better and more efficiently.

Aleš Blažek, CEO of KBC's Czech Business Unit, comments on the agreement: '*The partnership between KBC and Green0meter will ensure that ČSOB's business clients are provided with fully individualised, professional sustainability advice tailored to their specific business processes and needs, in combination with suitable financing options. This will ensure that the transition to a more sustainable business model develops organically from within the business itself, with KBC, ČSOB and the Green0meter platform acting as catalyst and facilitator in the transition to more sustainable business operations. The new consultancy is implemented in the online banking platform which ensures the maximum added value of this service for the clients.*
I'm proud that Digital & Legal and ČSOB have a shared history, since it's one of the start-ups that successfully graduated from the Start it @ČSOB business accelerator programme. Digital & Legal's Green0meter platform clearly is a complementary asset within the KBC and ČSOB ESG proposition, offering strategic and business benefits to our clients, employees, society and other stakeholders.'

Filip Ferrante, Senior General Manager of Group Corporate Sustainability at KBC, adds: '*Mitigating the impact of climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing our society. In the near future, businesses large and small will have to adapt in order to reduce their ecological footprint. It's clear that we still need to make major efforts to achieve the ambitious European targets on reducing carbon emissions. Working in partnership with Digital & Legal's Green0meter means we as bank-insurer are able to help our clients to reduce their impact on the climate. That fits in completely with our engagement philosophy. For us, working in partnership with our clients, both private individuals and companies, is a key and necessary step towards a more sustainable society. We will seek to help them achieve this by supporting them as a bank, insurer and asset manager in their transition to a greener economy. After all, that's something that's embedded in our business strategy.*'

Karel Kotoun, co-founder of the Green0meter platform and CEO of Green0meter, concludes: '*Green0meter's vision is to help as many businesses as possible with their sustainable transition, using data and artificial*

intelligence. We look forward to our cooperation with KBC, which will help to accelerate this transition. It will also help companies to use sustainability as a business opportunity through a user-friendly and fully automated Czech platform. Thanks to this collaboration, we will be able to use new tools and services that will help businesses to monitor and manage their sustainable goals more effectively and reduce their ecological footprint. We look forward to this collaboration and how it will benefit businesses across Europe".

Becoming more sustainable not only demands a change in attitudes within the business, but also changes in the underlying business processes in order to identify, shape and finance the opportunities and impact of that transition. Companies often have the intention of working on their transition to greater sustainability, but do not always know where to start.
KBC and ČSOB are keen to share their experiences and offer business clients the tools they need to become more aware of the impact a more sustainable business model can have, and the new opportunities and requirements it brings. Green0meter is providing clients with a suitable tool, which can support them in their ESG transition.
In addition, KBC and ČSOB intend to use Green0meter as a beyond-banking digital ESG advisory solution for companies of all sizes, integrated with the bank-insurer's digital channels, and with a potential to introduce the platform to other KBC home markets. Additionally, it provides KBC and ČSOB with the opportunity to capitalise on business opportunities by providing sustainable financing.

Note for editors

GREEN0METER (www.green0meter.com)
The founders and owners of Digital & Legal, based in Prague, are young entrepreneurs Karel Kotoun and Jan Zvěřina. Green0meter is a sustainability assessment and reporting tool that allows companies to measure their carbon footprint and provides recommendations for reducing their environmental impact. It is a cloud-based platform that uses data analytics to evaluate a company's energy consumption, water usage and waste generation. Green0meter has a full team of experts in software development, sustainability, and data analytics. Start-up partners include, for example, Budvar, Crown Metals CZ, Czech University of Agriculture in Prague, Home for Trees, Koh-i-noor Hardtmuth and Microsoft. Green0meter was one of the projects hosted by the start-up accelerator Start it @ ČSOB.

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