

## Media Release

### **COLUMBIA THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS TAKES ANOTHER STEP FORWARD IN SUSTAINABLE INVESTING WITH LAUNCH OF THE THREADNEEDLE (LUX) EUROPEAN SOCIAL BOND FUND**

#### **Leading European social enterprise INCO acts as independent social partner**

**LUXEMBOURG, 24 MAY 2017:** Following the launch of the Threadneedle UK Social Bond fund in 2013 with Big Issue Invest, and its US Social Bond fund in 2015, Columbia Threadneedle Investments is pleased to announce the launch today of the Threadneedle (Lux) European Social Bond fund in partnership with INCO, a leading global consortium for a new, inclusive and sustainable economy.

The Threadneedle (Lux) European Social Bond fund (the Fund), the first of its kind in Europe, aims to deliver both a financial and a social return by investing in corporate bonds across Europe with a clear focus on supporting positive outcomes for individuals, communities or society as a whole.

The Fund is managed by Simon Bond, Director of Responsible Investment Portfolio Management at Columbia Threadneedle Investments in London and Manager of the UK Social Bond fund. Simon, who has over 25 years' experience in corporate credit, benefits from access to Columbia Threadneedle Investments' 26-strong credit team and Columbia Threadneedle Investments' award-winning Responsible Investment team.

**Commenting on the launch, Simon said:** "We are seeing a growing demand from clients to deploy their savings in a way that can generate social benefits and sustainable positive outcomes. At the same time, we strongly believe that investors need not sacrifice performance to achieve social impact. We have a proven track record of over three years in managing outcomes-focused social bond strategies with strong risk-adjusted returns. Out of 4,000 European corporate bonds in the market, we have identified that approximately 45% are social in nature across different sectors and countries. By actively selecting specific bonds with positive social outcomes, rather than excluding bonds through conventional negative

screens, we aim to generate positive social and financial results. The portfolio also offers daily liquidity, therefore opening it up to a wide range of investors.”

To achieve positive outcomes, the Fund takes an evidence-based approach according to a defined social opportunity framework, aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG) and covering social areas such as affordable housing, health, education and employment.

In a similar manner to the UK Social Bond fund, which is independently advised by Big Issue Invest, Columbia Threadneedle Investments has partnered with INCO, a Paris-based pre-eminent global consortium for a new, inclusive and sustainable economy. INCO has a strong network across continental Europe and is active in four main areas all supporting social development: investment, incubation, training and events. INCO acts as an independent adviser to the new Fund.

**INCO’s founder, Nicolas Hazard said:** “As a leading European Impact Investing organisation, INCO is proud to provide its expertise in the field of social and environmental evaluation to Columbia Threadneedle Investments. This partnership shows a common desire to support organisations that make a positive change in their community, whether they are companies, local authorities or non-profits. It fosters our ambition to build a more inclusive and sustainable finance industry.”

The Fund builds on the strong foundation and success of Columbia Threadneedle Investments’ social bond strategies and the firm’s long-term active investment approach, incorporating best-in-class credit research and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) analysis, combined with INCO’s social development expertise and network in Europe.

Initially registered in Luxembourg, the fund is intended for distribution across other markets (UK, Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland) pending regulatory approval in each country.

- ENDS -

**For media enquiries please contact:**

Nicolas Duperrier  
+44 20 7464 5940

[Nicolas.Duperrier@columbiathreadneedle.com](mailto:Nicolas.Duperrier@columbiathreadneedle.com)

Ella Tekdag  
+44 20 7464 5082

[Ella.Tekdag@columbiathreadneedle.com](mailto:Ella.Tekdag@columbiathreadneedle.com)

**Notes to Editors**

**About the Threadneedle (Lux) European Social Bond Fund**

Structure: UCITS, Luxembourg SICAV

ISIN: LU1589836722 (Class I)

Minimum investment: EUR 100,000, GBP 100,000, CHF 150,000 (Class I)

Currency: EUR

Average number of securities: 50 to 100 issuers

Estimated Ongoing Charges Figure: 0.50% (Class I)

**Simon Bond**

Director – Responsible Investment Portfolio Management

Simon Bond joined the company in 2003 as an Investment Grade Credit Portfolio Manager and has been the manager of the Threadneedle UK Social Bond Fund since its launch in 2013. Having previously managed a number of institutional and retail investment grade corporate bond portfolios, Simon now concentrates his focus on managing the UK and European Social Bond funds and developing other responsible investment strategies across the firm.

Simon has 30 years' experience in the fund management industry, with the last 25 years specialising in corporate credit. Throughout his career, Simon has taken a keen interest in the social investment space and as an analyst the first entity Simon reported on was Peabody Trust and the first sector he covered was housing associations. Simon is particularly passionate about the role of infrastructure in both regeneration and economic growth.

Prior to joining the firm, Simon managed £6 billion in his role as the Senior UK Credit Fund Manager for AXA. Simon also worked for GE Insurance as a Portfolio Manager, Provident Mutual as a Fixed Income Analyst and Hambros Bank as an Investment Accountant and Pension Fund Investment Administrator.

Simon is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment, holds the Investment Management Certificate and the General Registered Representatives Certificate.

**Nicolas Hazard**

Founder, INCO

Nicolas Hazard is a serial entrepreneur. He is the founder of INCO, a global organisation for a new, inclusive and sustainable economy. Nicolas has been elected Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum (2015), by the French-American Foundation (2016) and the Franco-British Council (2017). He is also the President of the Strategic Council of the City of Paris and the author of several books and publications about the new economy (The Guardian, Le Monde, Stanford Innovation Review).



## About INCO

INCO is the first global consortium for a new, inclusive and sustainable economy. By working in 20+ countries on 4 main activities: investment fund (100+M€ under management), incubation programmes (500 startups supported), workforce development (350 unemployed people trained) and media (5+M people inspired), INCO creates economic opportunities for all.

For more information, visit <http://www.inco.co.com>

## About Columbia Threadneedle Investments

Columbia Threadneedle Investments is a leading global asset management group that provides a broad range of actively managed investment strategies and solutions for individual, institutional and corporate clients around the world.

With more than 2000 people including over 450 investment professionals based in North America, Europe and Asia, we manage £373 / €438 billion<sup>1</sup> of assets across developed and emerging market equities, fixed income, asset allocation solutions and alternatives.

Our priority is the investment success of our clients. We know investors want strong and repeatable risk-adjusted returns and we aim to deliver this through an active and consistent investment approach that is team-based, risk-aware and performance-driven. Our investment teams around the world work together to uncover investment insights. By sharing knowledge across asset classes and geographies we generate richer perspectives on global, regional and local investment landscapes. The ability to exchange and debate investment ideas in a collaborative environment enriches our teams' investment processes to ensure the best insights are applied to portfolios. More importantly it results in better informed decisions for our clients.

Columbia Threadneedle Investments is the global asset management group of Ameriprise Financial, Inc. (NYSE:AMP), a leading US-based financial services provider. As part of Ameriprise, we are supported by a large and well-capitalised diversified financial services firm.

Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments as at 31 Mar 2017

<sup>1</sup> Source: Ameriprise Financial Q1 2017 earnings release.

[www.columbiathreadneedle.com](http://www.columbiathreadneedle.com)

Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

The value of investments and any income is not guaranteed and can go down as well as up and may be affected by exchange rate fluctuations. This means that an investor may not get back the amount invested.

This material is for information only and does not constitute an offer or solicitation of an order to buy or sell any securities or other financial instruments, or to provide investment advice or services.

The UK Social Bond Fund and the US Social Bond Fund are not registered for sale in Luxembourg.

Issued by Threadneedle Asset Management Limited. Registered in England and Wales, Registered No. 573204, Cannon Place, 78 Cannon Street, London EC4N 6AG, United Kingdom. Authorised and regulated in the UK by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Columbia Threadneedle Investments is the global brand name of the Columbia and Threadneedle group of companies.