CANDIDATE STATEMENT, BIOGRAPHY, SIGNATORY AND COMPARATIVE INFORMATION FORM

Name: Carola van Lamoen  
Title: Head SI Center of Expertise, Executive Director  
Signatory organisation: Robeco  
Signatory organisations seconding your candidacy: NNIP, Storebrand, Kempen Capital Management NV, Actiam

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

It has never been more clear that the world needs sustainability leadership. Our planet is experiencing one of the worst health crises in history. At the same time we face a climate emergency and the loss of biodiversity is progressing at an alarming rate. Nobody will solve these interconnected crises on their own. Not governments, not individual companies, and not NGOs. In these circumstances it is of key importance that the PRI and joint investors worldwide further step up their efforts to be part of the solution.

Given these dynamics and challenges, I would like to contribute as a board member to the highly important work that PRI is doing. For an organisation that has only existed for 14 years, the impact has been substantial. However, much more is possible.

The role of the PRI is crucial in supporting investors and guiding them in the right direction. Investors must contribute to a more sustainable world, and their influence should not be underestimated, as investors decide where they put their money. Next to that, when investors join forces great things can happen. We have seen the positive impact that the Climate Action 100+ initiative has had so far on companies supporting a transition to a low carbon world.

Nonetheless, a shift is needed in the coming years towards delivering real world outcomes and real world impact. We have to move from producing policies to producing tangible outcomes and change, allowing us to definitively demonstrate the effectiveness of sustainable investment.

Throughout my career, I have dedicated myself to creating meaningful, sustainable change in the financial industry. As Head of Robeco’s SI Center of Expertise I am focused on driving sustainable improvements within our organization and invested companies. I firmly believe in the power of collaboration to achieve these improvements. Within PRI and other investor groups, Robeco has always looked for collaborative effort and has been actively involved in PRI’s activities since its launch in 2006, via various working groups and committees.
With sustainable investing and leadership experience gained over the last 20 years, my network in the industry, and my ESG expertise, I am convinced that I can make a valuable and meaningful contribution to the PRI board.

BIOGRAPHY

Carola van Lamoen, Head SI Center of Expertise, Executive Director

Carola van Lamoen has almost 20 years of experience in Sustainable Investing, Active Ownership and corporate governance. She is dedicated to enabling sustainable and positive change in the financial industry.

Carola van Lamoen is an Executive Director; Head of Robeco's Sustainable Investing (SI) Center of Expertise and Head of Active Ownership. In this role she leads an international team of 36 professionals located in Europe and Asia; she is responsible for Robeco's global activities on Active Ownership, Sustainable Investing (SI) Research, SI Thought Leadership and SI Client Portfolio Management. Carola is also chair of Robeco's Sustainability & Impact Strategy Committee, the committee that oversees, coordinates and drives sustainability initiatives from a company-wide perspective.

In addition to her SI activities within Robeco, Carola is actively involved in several international and local Sustainable Investing initiatives. She is Co-Chair of the Board Governance Committee of the International Corporate Governance Network (ICGN) since 2015; she is also member of the ICGN Nomination Committee since 2019. Carola has been chair of the Investment Committee of Eumedion, the Dutch Corporate Governance platform, since 2015 until September 2020. From October 2020 onwards Carola will be board member of Eumedion.

Carola started at Robeco in 2007 as a corporate governance engagement specialist, and became Head of Active Ownership in 2013. In 2020 she became Head of the newly launched SI Center of Expertise.

Previously, she worked at the Dutch Ministry of Finance as a policy advisor, focused on implementing good corporate governance in state owned companies.

Carola holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Erasmus University of Rotterdam, the Netherlands. During her Master's, she specialized in sustainability, with a thesis focused on sustainability reporting.
SIGNATORY ORGANISATION INFORMATION

Robeco Institutional Asset Management B.V. (Robeco) is a pure play international asset manager founded in 1929. It currently has offices in 15 countries worldwide and is headquartered in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Through its integration of fundamental, sustainability and quantitative research, Robeco is able to offer institutional and private investors a selection of active investment strategies, covering a range of asset classes. As at 31 December 2019, Robeco had EUR 173 billion in assets under management, of which EUR 149 billion is committed to ESG integration. Robeco is a subsidiary of ORIX Corporation Europe N.V.

Sustainability is one the key pillars of Robeco’s corporate strategy. Robeco is a PRI member since 2006. The Sustainability and Impact Strategy Committee oversees, coordinates and drives Robeco’s sustainability efforts. Since May 2020 all of Robeco’s Sustainable Investing capabilities have been merged in the SI Center of Expertise, headed by Carola van Lamoen.

Robeco’s history of sustainable investing goes back over twenty years in time, when in 1999, Robeco was one of the first movers in sustainable investing with the Dutch mutual fund Robeco Duurzaam Aandelen (see Figure 1). Since then, Robeco has continuously refined their sustainability investing processes and launched innovative sustainable funds. Robeco consistently scores very highly in the annual PRI assessment, with A+ scores for all modules in 2020. In 2020 Robeco ranked first in the ShareAction Responsible Investment assessment of 75 of the world’s largest asset managers. ShareAction ranked asset managers according to their responsible investment practices, with a specific focus on governance, climate change, human rights and labor standards, and biodiversity. Robeco is constantly working to further expand its leadership position in the field of sustainable investing.

Figure 1 | History of Sustainability investing at Robeco & RobecoSAM

Source: Robeco/RobecoSAM
SPECIFIC EXPERTISE:

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE EXPERIENCE

Carola has extensive sustainability leadership and governance experience. She has been active in sustainable leadership roles within Robeco and different collaborative sustainability initiatives since 2013. Next to leading an international team of sustainability experts and chairing Robeco’s Sustainability & Impact Strategy Committee, Carola holds leadership roles in the International Corporate Governance Network ICGN and the Dutch Governance Platform Eumedion.

- In her responsibility as Co-Chair of ICGNs Board Governance Committee (since 2015) she focused on the quality of directors, taking the institutional investors’ perspective. The committee prioritises issues relating to board structure, diversity, remuneration, independence and risk management oversight. Under co-leadership of Carola, viewpoints on emerging themes for directors were published, for example related to Cyber Risk and Artificial Intelligence.
- In her role as Chair of the Eumedion Investment Committee since 2015, Carola has focused on improving corporate governance and sustainability at Dutch listed companies. Key sustainability topics are brought to the attention of companies through an annual focus letter. A particular focus for Carola was increased diversity on boards. The Investment Committee drives the investor dialogue with Dutch listed companies. Eumedion, the Dutch corporate governance platform, is perceived as one of the most effective governance organisations worldwide.
- As a member of ICGN’s Nomination Committee since 2019, Carola contributes to putting forward high quality candidates for the ICGN board, taking into account the incumbent board composition and ICGNs future strategic direction.
- Per October 2020 Carola will be member of the General Board of Eumedion.
- In her capacity as chair of Robeco’s Sustainability and Impact Strategy Committee, Carola works closely with the Executive Committee, CEO and CIO of Robeco on sustainability strategies, institutional investor leadership and good governance.

GENERAL:

DEMONSTRATED LEADERSHIP WITHIN RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT, ESG EXPERTISE AND OTHER EXPERIENCE RELEVANT TO THE LONG-TERM SUCCESS OF THE PRI

Overall leadership & focus on collaboration

Carola is a strong believer in the collective force for change that the investment industry can be. Global challenges cannot be solved individually. A strong focus on collaboration is needed in the industry. In Carola’s role as Head of SI Center of Expertise, but also in previous roles as Head of Active Ownership she always encourages a focus on collaborative action.

Involvement in driving change within PRI

Under Carola’s leadership, Robeco has taken an active role in many PRI working groups and initiatives over the years. For example, Robeco has been leading on several Climate Action 100+ companies. In
those instances, we used innovative approaches to enable change, which lead to notable engagement successes, for example at companies like Shell and Enel.

SI Leadership within Robeco
Robeco is an early mover in the world of sustainable investing and began its active ownership activities in 2005; at that time Robeco was one of the first. Since 2007 Carola has contributed to building the team, since 2013 in a leadership role. The approach of Robeco’s Active Ownership team has been identified as best practice by PRI. Carola is the chairman of Robeco’s overarching Sustainability and Impact Strategy Committee since 2020, in that role she aims to drive progress on sustainable investing throughout Robeco.

SI leadership in several sustainable investing & governance organisations
Carola holds leadership roles in the International Corporate Governance Network (ICGN) and the Dutch Governance Platform, Eumedion. Next to Carola’s focus on PRI, ICGN and Eumedion, she and her team are actively collaborating with other leading SI organisations around the world. Examples of such initiatives are ACGA – the Asian Corporate Governance Association, AMEC – the Brazilian engagement platform and ICCR – the US investor platform.