



**ETHENEA**  
managing the Ethna Funds

## Press release

### **ETHENEA strengthens its Portfolio Management Team and plans international expansion**

**The Portfolio Management Team welcomes Dr. Volker Schmidt, Harald Berres and Michael Blümke.**

**John Korter is appointed Head of BDS-External Distribution Partners**

**Munsbach, 15 February 2018** – ETHENEA Independent Investors S.A. continues to strengthen its Portfolio Management Team with the addition of Dr Volker Schmidt, Harald Berres and Michael Blümke as new Portfolio Managers. “With their respective skills and experience, they will greatly contribute to the prudent management of equity and bond positions within our Ethna Funds,” says Thomas Herbert, Head of Portfolio Management at ETHENEA.

With more than 20 years’ experience in the finance industry, Dr Schmidt brings a wealth of expertise to the Portfolio Management team. Dr Schmidt started his career in 1997 as an OTC Derivatives Trader at Dresdner Bank Luxembourg S.A. before moving to the Asset Liability Management division of the Landesbank Rheinland-Pfalz in 2000. Following this, he assumed the role of Asset Manager at LBBW Luxemburg S.A then Asset Manager at YCAP Asset Management (Europe). Dr Schmidt joined ETHENEA in November 2017. He holds a master’s degree of mathematics and economics, and a PHD in mathematics from the University of Trier.

In his new role, Dr Schmidt will focus on the fixed income security selection for the Ethna-AKTIV fund.

Harald Berres is a certified banking specialist and holds a bachelor’s degree in finance from Steinbeis University, Berlin. He joined the Portfolio Management team at ETHENEA Independent Investors in December 2017. Prior to that, he worked for 10 years for GS&P Kapitalanlagegesellschaft S.A. as a Portfolio Manager. He was also an Equity-Partner with the company. Between 1993 and 2007, he worked for several institutions in Luxembourg and Germany, holding various positions in the securities front- and back office.

At ETHENEA Harald Berres will team up with Christian Schmitt, managing the equity-driven Ethna-DYNAMISCH fund.

Michael Blümke holds a degree in business administration from the Universität der Bundeswehr in Munich and has more than 10 years’ experience in the asset management industry. He is a CFA and a CAIA charterholder. After 12 years as officer in the German Armed Forces, he started his asset management career at Versicherungskammer Bayern as Senior Investment Manager for hedge funds. In 2014, he was promoted to Head of Alternative Investments for Tecta Invest GmbH, a wholly owned subsidiary of Versicherungskammer Bayern. In this role, he was responsible for the asset allocation decisions of a multi-asset fund, private equity, and other alternative investments. He joined ETHENEA Independent Investors as a Portfolio Manager in 2018.

Michael Blümke will focus on the equity allocation for the Ethna-AKTIV Fund as a co-lead manager.

ETHENEA Independent Investors S. A. is also planning to market its products in additional countries and is therefore optimizing its business development services (BDS) structure to reflect this new strategic orientation.



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The company's aim is to open up new markets and grow internationally. In his new position as Head of BDS-External Distribution Partners, John Korter will be responsible for the expansion of the Third Party Marketer (TPM) relationships. "As a long-time employee with extensive expertise, John Korter is the ideal candidate for this task," says Dominic Nys, Global Head of Business Development & Marketing at ETHENEA Independent Investors.

#### About ETHENEA

Managed by ETHENEA Independent Investors S.A., the Ethna Funds are conservative investment funds focused on continuous performance and risk minimisation. The Portfolio Management Team actively manages assets of 7.48 billion euro, which are spread across three funds: Ethna-DEFENSIV, Ethna-AKTIV and Ethna-DYNAMISCH (as of 29.12.2017). ETHENEA is a non-bank affiliated investment company headquartered in Luxembourg, with subsidiaries in Germany, France, Italy, and Switzerland, and a representative office in Austria. The Group currently employs 80 people. For further information, please visit **[ethenea.com](http://ethenea.com)**.

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