



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Renaud Tourmente joins Dominique Gaillard and Laurent Bénard as co-founder of Armen, the European GP stakes pioneer**

**Paris, September 13, 2022 - Renaud Tourmente joins Dominique Gaillard and Laurent Bénard as co-founder of Armen, a company which invests in European alternative investment companies and supports their growth through GP stakes transactions.**

Dominique Gaillard will be the Executive Chairman, Laurent Bénard the CEO and Renaud Tourmente the Deputy CEO and Chief Operating Officer (COO). All three will be members of the Management Board.

The three founders of Armen, and Thierry Baudon, Senior Managing Director (UK), have unrivalled collective experience, as executives and investors, in raising and investing European private funds. They have all contributed to transforming management companies into European or global multi-platform leaders (Ardian, CAPZA, Mid Europa Partners). They have dealt successfully with the complexity and challenges of building pan-European companies in an environment where both financial and non-financial performances must be combined.

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Throughout his career, Renaud has faced the challenges of structuring and growing platforms and as such has developed a deep understanding and know-how of the operational aspects required for a management company to grow in a robust and sustainable manner.

Renaud started his career at Paribas in 1999. He then joined WestLB in 2005 to develop a Media & Telecom franchise in Europe. He led the Corporate & Acquisition Finance team for the EMEA region between 2009 to 2012. During this period, he also took over the general management of WestLB France (2010-2011).

Renaud joined AXA IM in Paris in 2012 to manage its corporate credit exposure and then co-managed its loans and private debt business until 2019. He co-managed a team of 30 professionals investing in illiquid asset classes with over 100 investments made per year. During this period, assets under management grew from €3bn to €12bn.

Whilst at AXA IM, he also worked closely with the management of CAPZA, initiating its first fund dedicated to direct lending and co-investment. And in a natural progression, he joined CAPZA in 2019 to structure and accelerate the growth of the platform.

As Head of Development and COO of CAPZA, he contributed to its development and enabled the management company to grow from €2.4bn under management to €7bn in 3 years.

Renaud (48) holds a master's degree in European law (Nancy II and University of Westminster in London) and graduated from Neoma Business School and QUT (Queensland University of Technology) in Australia.

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Renaud Tourmente, Deputy CEO and COO of Armen: "I share with Dominique Gaillard and Laurent Bénard the ambition to contribute to a positive and sustainable transformation of the private equity ecosystem. In that context, Armen is a pioneer and I am delighted to be able to put my experience at the service of this transformation".

### **About Armen**

Armen is a portfolio management company authorized by the French financial markets' regulator AMF (Autorité des Marchés Financiers) on 07/09/2022 under the number GP-202222, which benefits from a status of purpose-driven company, as defined by the 2019 French "loi Pacte". Armen is the European pioneer of the GP stake, which consists of investing in European alternative investment companies and supporting their growth.

The name Armen was chosen in reference to the famous lighthouse off the coast of Brittany, which embodies foresight, resilience and trust. These values are at the cornerstone of the approach of Armen's founders, whose ambition is to accompany the development of asset management companies towards a sustainable future, in a responsible manner.

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