

Calista Direct Investors announces a strategic milestone by welcoming CAPNOR and its founding CEO, Louis De Clercq, as its new reference shareholder, reinforcing its position as a key partner for single-family offices in PE/VC while expanding its presence in Belgium and the UK

Calista Direct Investors SAS is hitting a major milestone by welcoming a new family-owned reference shareholder, CAPNOR. This strategic move allows CALISTA to strengthen its position in its reference market as the partner of single family offices keen to professionalise their PE/VC investments across the board.

By the same token, CALISTA is expanding its geographical footprint in Belgium where CAPNOR is based and in the UK with a representative office in London, while retaining its headquarters in Luxembourg.

Rajaa Mekouar, founding CEO, stated: “It is with great enthusiasm and a deep sense of conviction that I am welcoming CAPNOR, founded and led by Louis De Clercq, as the new reference shareholder of our firm. While I remain CEO and a key shareholder, Serge de Ganay also remains our Chairman. We remain the PEVC hub for families & entrepreneurs keen to boost their investment efforts. Importantly, going forward CALISTA remains to be operationally independent, and will boost growth of its Observatoire, a unique initiative dedicated to providing first-hand family office insights, thematic research and exclusive gatherings across Europe. Louis is an exceptional professional and talented investor, who I have had the privilege to work with for 3 years now. Our tie-up comes as a natural next step to both of us, in continuity with the several investments and projects we have in common. I am thankful for his trust, and look forward to our enhanced collaboration, with him as anchor shareholder. I am also grateful to Serge for accepting the challenge to pursue the adventure with Louis and I, in the same spirit of professionalism, integrity, wisdom and goodwill”.

Louis De Clercq, founding CEO of CAPNOR, pursues: “I am delighted to have joined forces with CALISTA as part of CAPNOR’s long-term strategy to build a unique European-based family-owned investment platform across different pillars: Directs; Co-Investments; Funds. Having worked closely with Rajaa and the CALISTA team for over three years in sourcing, selecting, and monitoring opportunities, I am now confident that Calista is well-positioned to support both CAPNOR’s ambitions and the investment needs of other families. This strong foundation provides a springboard for our long-term goal of building a leading private equity and venture capital hub for family offices”.

Serge de Ganay, founding Chairman of Calista, concludes: “After just 4 years of existence, Calista has done its proof of concept in the best possible manner: Securing a strategic and capitalistic tie-up with CAPNOR is a game changer that allows it to move to the next level, equipped with enhanced resources and reach. I look forward to pursuing my role as Chairman given the clear and converging visions and ethos of Louis and Rajaa, both talented and hard-working entrepreneurs and investors who I respect and enjoy working with”.





LOUIS DE CLERCQ

Vice Chairman

Louis De Clercq is the Founder and CEO of Capnor, a Belgium-based professional investment firm structured as a single-family office dedicated to private equity and venture capital investments.

Louis holds several board positions, notably serving as Chairman of ODE and Medi-Market, two companies that Capnor has developed alongside their respective founders and management teams.

Before establishing Capnor, Louis led the transformation of his family's holding company, Imocobel, into a fully-fledged single-family office with a focus on direct and indirect private equity investments. He continues to run Imocobel's operations and has established a strong partnership between Imocobel and Capnor.

Prior to joining Imocobel, Louis was part of the investment team at Groupe Bruxelles Lambert (GBL), a prominent investment holding company with a diversified global portfolio of listed and private assets.

Prior to that, Louis started his career as an investment banker at Goldman Sachs in London where he held various positions in the Leveraged Finance and Mergers & Acquisitions teams.

Louis holds degrees in business and finance from the London School of Economics and IE University.