



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **AXIA Ventures Group expands further in Europe through the establishment of a Milan Representative Office**

*Milan, Italy, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017* – AXIA Ventures Group ("AXIA"), a subsidiary of AXIA Financial Group UK ("AFG"), announces today the establishment of its Milan-based Representative Office which will be headed by the former Co-Chairman of Nomura Italy, Mr. Marco Figus.

AXIA arrives in Italy to form a strong local investment banking platform and act as a valuable bridge between the global investor community and local opportunities. AXIA's established clientele base, strong credentials, as well as tailor-made and client-focused advice, can provide significant "value-add" to local companies and financial institutions as well as international investors seeking to invest in Italy.

AXIA has been expanding its presence in Europe, indicating AFG's strategic commitment to the Eurozone, while also reflecting the ability to capitalize on its brand name and the resulting economies of scale and knowledge from the Group's existing network of offices.

Mr. Marco Figus will lead the effort as Country Head at AXIA's Milan Office. Marco has served as Co-Chairman at Nomura International, Rome and Milan, for eight years where he was responsible for the Italian investment banking activities of the firm, domestic and cross-border corporate finance advisory, as well as fixed income deals. Prior to this, Marco was employed at Lehman Brothers International, London, Rome and Milan, where he held the position of Managing Director for almost 20 years. Among his many roles, he was Head of European Capital Markets, Member of the European Operating, Investment Banking and Fixed Income Executive Committees and Chairman of European Financial Institutions. In the years before, he worked at The Industrial Bank of Japan and The First National Bank of Chicago and he began his career in 1982 at Bank of America International. He holds a BSFS in International Economics from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and an MSc from the Faculty of Economics of the London School of Economics.

Mr. Antonios Achilleoudis, Group Managing Director of AXIA, stated: *"The opening of an office in Milan is a natural evolution of our expansion plan and our strategy of creating impactful local presence in geographies that our institutional clients need help. We are very excited to enter Italy and work closely with the local corporate and banking community. We plan to draw from the similarities of our other regional European offices in Cyprus, Greece and Portugal, while capitalizing on the uniqueness of the Italian market and corporate landscape. We will continue to expand the local team with experienced staff and we are thrilled to be making a long term commitment to Italy"*.

Mr. Marco Figus made the following comment: *"I am excited by the opportunity given to me by AXIA Ventures Group. Our goal in Italy will be to provide unparalleled and bespoke service to our global institutional clients in order to uncover unique investment opportunities"*.

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## About AXIA Financial Group Limited

AXIA Financial Group Limited (“AFG”) is a U.K. holding company and the parent of AXIA Ventures Group (“AXIA”), a privately owned investment bank providing financial advisory and capital market-related services to corporate and institutional clients. AXIA is headquartered in Nicosia, Cyprus, regulated by the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission (License No: 086/07) and fully licensed to provide financial advisory services in many financial markets around the world. AXIA has presence in Nicosia (Headquarters), Athens (Branch), Lisbon (Branch), New York (Subsidiary), Milan (Representative Office) and London (Representative Office). For more information on AXIA and its services, you can visit the AXIA website at <http://www.axiavg.com>

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