Dear Mr Frijns,

We thank you for your letter dated 29 July 2019 and your interest in the Principles for Responsible Banking. Their purpose is to provide signatory banks with guidance and one comprehensive framework to support each bank’s approach to addressing sustainable development across its entire business.

Banks that sign up to the Principles are taking a leading step forward towards aligning their operations with society’s goals and supporting their customers, clients, employees and investors in adopting sustainable practices that create measurable, significant and positive impacts to realize the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change. This includes strong underlying requirements and mechanisms around transparency and accountability which require banks to manage what matters most by setting targets and publicly reporting back to stakeholders on progress made.

These are commitments already taken by BNP Paribas and it leads all the signatory banks to align their practices at the same level of transparency, accountability and impact.

Development of the Principles included a six-month consultative process, in which more than 500
stakeholders provided valuable feedback, including BankTrack. As a result, more than 100 banks are now poised to become signatories at the formal launch of the Principles in September 2019. With this high number of initial banks committed to supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement for climate change, through the Principles for Responsible Banking, significant impacts will be realized around the globe. Thus we are expecting that the best practice becomes the market practice.

More concretely as regards the Principles for Responsible Banking’s application by BNP Paribas, the Group has already identified its impacts as reflected by its materiality analysis, which allows to identify, understand and rank the issues affecting a business. This is available in our 2018 Registration document on page 563 and in our integrated report on pages 10 and 11 (https://invest.bnpparibas.com/sites/default/files/documents/2018_bnp_paribas_integrated_report.pdf). BNP Paribas has also set targets which are reported in its 2018 Registration Document, chapter 7. The BNP Paribas’ application of the UN Principles for Responsible Banking is described in the same chapter of our Registration document annually and is easily identifiable thanks to the table of concordance on pages 566 and 567.

In case of question regarding the Principles for Responsible Banking, please contact Emmanuelle Bru and Paula Meissirel (in copy of the email) who are in charge of the relationship with the NGOs.

Thank you again for your interest in this important initiative, the Principles for Responsible Banking, and your positive contribution to the public consultation process that contributed to its development.

Yours sincerely,

Laurence Pessez
Head of Corporate Social Responsibility