Dear Mr. Frijns,

We would like to thank you for your letter dated 29 July 2019, as well as for your interest in the Principles for Responsible Banking.

As we are all aware, the Principles for Responsible Banking is a global initiative that aims to define the role and the responsibilities of the banking sector internationally, in the context of a collective effort for a sustainable future. The Principles, being ambitious and containing a strong underlying commitment to transparency, accountability and impact, provide the framework for a new sustainable banking industry and aim to accelerate the contribution of the banking industry to achieving society’s goals as expressed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations and the Paris Climate Agreement.

Signatory Banks are taking a leading step towards aligning their operations with society’s goals and are supporting their stakeholders in adopting sustainable practices. However, given the diversity of the participating banks, flexibility is required in order for progress to be made, at the appropriate pace for the markets in which the respective banks operate, and according to their sustainable development experience.

Following the launch of the Principles planned to take place in September 2019, and as per the timeline, the requirements and the implementation framework of the Principles, we will share with you as well as with all our stakeholders, the targets set and the progress made through our public reporting.

In closing, we would like to thank you for your contribution to the public consultation process, which contributed to the development of the Principles for Responsible Banking.

Yours sincerely,

Ioanna Koufogianni
Head of Group Sustainability/
Environmental & Social Affairs Division