

Milan/London/Paris/Munich, 22 May 2024

## Cap Vert, an Ambienta platform company, expands its expertise to infrastructure pruning with the acquisition of Groupe Vérali

- Cap Vert has acquired Groupe Vérali, a French specialist in infrastructure pruning
- The acquisition establishes Cap Vert's position as a multi-specialist by entering a fragmented infrastructure pruning market with critical demand for vegetation management services
- The addition of Vérali increases the platform's territorial coverage and strengthens its positive contribution to Pollution Control and Biodiversity

**Ambienta SGR S.p.A. ("Ambienta")**, one of Europe's leading and largest asset managers focused exclusively on environmental sustainability, is pleased to announce that **Cap Vert Group ("Cap Vert")**, one of the French leaders and specialists in pruning, has finalised the acquisition of **Groupe Vérali ("Groupe Vérali")**, a French company specialised in infrastructure pruning and the creation and maintenance of green spaces.

Founded in 2012 and based in Haute-Saône, Groupe Vérali employs over 100 people and is a respected pruning player in Eastern France with a client portfolio including transport and electricity network utility, public authorities and property managers. With the acquisition of Groupe Vérali, Cap Vert, a provider of services to help urban areas in France to become greener, more sustainable and resilient, enhances its offering to infrastructure pruning and reinforces its local presence in the region.

The Cap Vert Group platform, as a Pollution Control investment in line with Ambienta's Investment Strategy, drives positive contribution towards two of Ambienta's Environmental Impact Metrics - CO2 Emissions Reduced and Biodiversity Preserved - which are further strengthened with this latest acquisition. Correct pruning not only supports Biodiversity preservation of flora and fauna, but also improves annual CO2 absorption rates of trees by 70%. The carbon efficiency capture of trees is increased by monitoring their growth and preventing invasive plant species threats. Adequate pruning also lowers tree mortality by monitoring and controlling tree health.

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In cities Verali's activities thereby contribute to improving urban air quality and mitigating temperature increases during peak heat seasons (heat island effect) - trees can absorb CO2 and store up to 30 kg of CO2 per annum. In the context of infrastructure - by specialising in pruning services for high-voltage lines and rail infrastructure, Verali protects the functioning and enables the development of railways, one of the most sustainable way of transport (5x less emissions per passenger km than cars), and other infrastructure like powerlines, which are critical to power grid decarbonisation.

The infrastructure pruning market, which focuses on railway, powerline, and roadside pruning, exhibits continuous growth driven by user safety requirements and expansion of transport and electricity networks. In a market characterized by high fragmentation, significant barriers to entry stemming from the need of specific certifications and substantial investments, Groupe Vérali stands out as a recognized and accredited player able to deliver exceptional services to demanding customers.

**Eric Girot, CEO at Cap Vert**, commented: "The acquisition of Groupe Vérali stands as a testament to the unwavering confidence entrepreneurs have in Cap Vert to propel their growth trajectories forward. It highlights the Group's steadfast commitment to the buy-and-build strategy, aimed at not only broadening its geographical reach but also enriching its service portfolio with an array of high-value-added offerings. This acquisition represents a significant milestone in Cap Vert's journey, showcasing its ability to capitalize on market opportunities and foster synergistic partnerships that drive sustained growth and value creation."

**Gwenaëlle Le Ho Daguzan, Partner at Ambienta**, added: "We take immense pride in partnering with Cap Vert and its management team on this transformative buy-and-build initiative, which aims to bolster the value proposition for the Group's customers by expanding into the infrastructure pruning sector and in line with Ambienta's exclusive focus on sustainability investing, reaffirms the position of the Cap Vert platform as an environmental champion. Our collaborative effort reflects a shared vision to unlock new opportunities, drive growth, and deliver exceptional value across the platform's portfolio."

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## **About Ambienta**

Ambienta is a European environmental sustainability investor across private equity, public market and private credit. Operating out of Milan, London, Paris and Munich, Ambienta manages over €3.0bn in assets with a focus on investing in private and public companies driven by environmental megatrends and whose products or services improve Resource Efficiency or Pollution Control. In private equity, Ambienta has completed 70 Investments to date. In public equity markets, Ambienta has pioneered one of the world's largest absolute return funds entirely focused on environmental sustainability and manages a full suite of sustainable products ranging from low-risk multi-asset funds to equity long-only. Ambienta has also recently established a private credit strategy with the same environmental sustainability focus as the other asset classes.

An industry pioneer, Ambienta was one of the first UN PRI signatories in 2012 and attained B-Corp and Climate Neutral Company status in 2019. In 2020, Ambienta became IIGCC member and in 2023, as one of very few asset managers, continued being a positive role model for the industry by committing to the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi). [www.ambientasgr.com](http://www.ambientasgr.com)

## **Media Enquiries**

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