

Press release – 23 January 2020

## **IK Investment Partners joins Amin Khiari and Quilvest by investing in GEDH to accelerate its development**

Groupe EDH (“GEDH” or the “Group”), controlled by Quilvest Capital Partners (“Quilvest”) and Amin Khiari, has announced that IK Investment Partners (“IK”), a leading Pan-European private equity firm, has acquired a minority stake in the Group. The investment demonstrates a common willingness to pursue a strong development strategy for the private higher education Group, expanding both in France and internationally.

A pioneer in the field of communication (EFAP), cultural management (ICART) and journalism (EFJ), the Group, managed by Amin Khiari since 2014, received investment from Quilvest in 2017 in order to support its growth plan and in particular its external growth operations. GEDH has since completed the acquisitions of the Brassart and Aries schools, both specialised in the field of digital creation, now combined under the Brassart brand with a presence in 13 cities in France. More recently, the Spanish communication and design university CESINE, based in Santander, joined the Group.

“Our Group has undergone a significant development phase over the past five years through a combination of organic growth, geographic expansion and external growth, increasing from 2,000 to nearly 7,000 students, from three to five schools and from five to twenty campuses. We are proud of these results, rewarding a continuous improvement strategy of both our programs and educational methods to offer an ever better service and professional insertion to our students. The investment from IK will provide us with the necessary resources to pursue a next phase of growth in the coming years, in keeping with the identity and values of our schools,” said Amin Khiari, Chairman of GEDH

IK’s investment will allow the Group to keep up with the financing requirements in its existing schools and through their geographic roll-out, as well as for the acquisition and integration of new campuses in France and abroad, strengthening the position of GEDH as a leader in private higher education in France.

“We are delighted that the management of GEDH and Quilvest have decided to place their trust in us and to be able to contribute to the wider development of these schools. Our approach is based on a clear ambition: to build a champion in higher education in the fields of communication, culture and creation, in France and abroad,” added Thomas Grob, Partner at IK Investment Partners.

Quilvest Capital Partners retains its reference shareholding position in Groupe EDH, alongside Amin Khiari.

“We are familiar with the professionalism and quality of IK Investment Partners’ team and we look forward to building this new team alongside the management of Groupe EDH and continue the fantastic development that we have experienced for several years,” stated Thomas Vatie, Partner at Quilvest Capital Partners.

### **Parties involved in the transaction**

#### **Buyside**

IK Investment Partners: Thomas Grob, Thibaut Richard, Florent Labiale, Adrien Normand  
Legal advisor: Goodwin (Thomas Maitrejean, Mathieu Terrisse)  
Commercial advisor: PMSI (Rémi de Guilhermier, Lucinda Nicholson)

Financial advisor: Eight Advisory (Lionnel Gerard, Guillaume Catoire)  
Legal and tax advisor: PwC Société d’avocats (Jérôme Gertler, Marc-Olivier Roux, Bernard Borrely)

#### **Sellside**

Quilvest Capital Partners: Thomas Vatie, Loeiz Lagadec, Hichem Hadjoudj  
M&A advisor: Eurvad Finance (Charles Guigan, Yassine Jnan, Martin Klotz)

Legal advisor: Mayer Brown: Corporate (Olivier Aubouin, Patrick Loiseau Renan Lombard-Platet, Alexandre de Puysegur); Financing (Patrick Teboul, Marion Minard, Julien Lérés); Tax structure (Elodie Deschamps, Pauline Barbier)

Financing advisor: Finaxeed (Vincent Rivailon, Matthieu Lecomte)

Financial advisor: Exelmans (Stéphane Dahan, Richard Dahan, Chenwei Xu, Géraud Delloye)

Legal, tax and real-estate advisor: Delsol: Corporate (Henri-Louis Delsol et Alexandre Zitoune); Tax (Julien Monsenego et Margot Lasserre); Social (Delphine Bretagnolle, Jessica Neufville et Céline Coelho); Real estate (Benoît Bouscier et Céline Chaieb)

Private lenders advisor: Allen & Overy (Jean-Christophe David, Thomas Roy)

#### **Management team**

Amin Khiari, CEO

Legal advisor: Gomel Avocats (Arnaud Gomel)

Tax advisor: Ayache Salama (Bruno Erard)

#### **Joint advisors**

Private lenders: CIC Private Debt (Pierre-Jean Mouesca, Marie de Taisne, Maureen Planchard);

Idinvest (Eric Gallerne, Maxime de Roquette Buisson, Emmanuelle Tanguy)

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#### **About Groupe EDH**

Founded in 1961 by Denis Huisman, and succeeded by Amin Khiari in 2014, GEDH is comprised of 5 reference schools, namely EFAP (Communication), ICART (Art and Culture Management), EFJ (Journalism), Brassart (Digital Creation), and CESINE (Design, Marketing and Communication) with 20 campuses in France and abroad.

Benefiting from a powerful network of international partners from the corporate and academic world, GEDH has developed a unique pedagogy focused on strong professional exposure and work experiences. The different schools account for more than 7,000 students and 30,000 alumni throughout the world.

#### **About IK Investment Partners**

IK Investment Partners is a Pan-European private equity firm focused on investments in the Nordics, DACH region, France, and Benelux. Since 1989, IK has raised more than €10 billion of capital and invested in over 130 European companies. IK funds support companies with strong underlying potential, partnering with management teams and investors to create robust, well-positioned businesses with excellent long-term prospects. For more information, visit [www.ikinest.com](http://www.ikinvest.com)

### **About Quilvest Capital Partners**

Quilvest Capital Partners is the private equity arm of the Quilvest Group, a leading, global, independent wealth manager and private equity investor, which was created by a family of entrepreneurs in Paris a century ago. Since 1972, Quilvest Capital Partners partners with family owners and entrepreneurs of private small and medium sized companies in their ambitious, long-term growth projects. Over the last 40 years, Quilvest has backed over 150 mid-sized companies. Quilvest has a team of 15 investment professionals based in Paris and New York and invests equity tickets comprised between 20 and 70 million euros, through both majority and minority stakes. Quilvest Capital Partners also manages several investment programmes in private equity funds, private debt and private real estate. Quilvest Capital Partners manages around \$5 billion of assets.