SYZ Asset Management names Stephen Jen Chairman of External Advisory Board on Total Return Strategies

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SYZ Asset Management (“SYZ AM”) the institutional asset management arm of SYZ Group, has added the expertise of macroeconomic and currencies specialist Stephen Jen.

Jen is CEO and co-CIO of Eurizon SLJ Capital, the London-based asset management company specialised in emerging market debt, currency management and macroeconomic research belonging to the Intesa Sanpaolo Banking Group. He has been appointed as Chairman of the External Advisory Board on the recently formed Total Return Strategies team, headed by Adrien Pichoud. The Advisory Board will work closely with Pichoud and the Total Return Strategies team with benefit for SYZ's full range of investment strategies.

From 1996 to 2009, Jen held various roles at Morgan Stanley, including Global Head of currency research and Managing Director. Prior to this, he spent four years as an economist with the IMF, covering economies in Eastern Europe and Asia. Jen holds a BSc degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of California at Irvine and a PhD in Economics from MIT.

Meanwhile, Guido Bolliger, Chief Investment Architect at SYZ Asset Management, is leaving the business. Bolliger will remain on the Scientific Advisory Board for the SYZ Asset Management quantitative solutions business, where his deep quantitative expertise will continue to reinforce the academic rigour behind the firm's active investment strategies.

Commenting on the changes, SYZ Asset Management CEO William Nott says: "*Given our long-term view of the 'Japanification' of the world, where persistent low growth and low rates increase our customers' need for income, Stephen's expertise in emerging markets and currencies is going to be more important than ever. Stephen will elevate SYZ Asset Management's investment expertise as the total return strategies team expands.*"

Nott adds: "*We thank Guido for the significant contribution he has made to the firm, particularly in his role as Chief Investment Architect. Thanks to his oversight, the investment teams have furthered their knowledge and integration of ESG criteria.*"

Benoît Vaucher, Head of Quantitative Investment Solutions at SYZ Asset Management, will build on the foundations put in place by Bolliger to ensure continuity on the outperforming OYSTER Equity Premia Global fund. Vaucher also continues to provide stewardship on quantitative solutions and global premia for the Total Return Strategies team.

The Total Return Strategies team was formed earlier this month, building on SYZ Asset Management's longstanding expertise in multi-asset investing, which rests on an investment philosophy of flexible asset allocation, a combination of sound risk and liquidity management.

Under the new structure, Portfolio Manager, Maurice Harari oversees equity selection and draws on the insights of the SYZ AM Global Equity team. On the fixed income side, Adrien Pichoud, Head of Total Return Strategies, has formally integrated the Milan-based credit team which is under the leadership of Portfolio Manager, Antonio Ruggeri. Christophe Buttigieg provides oversight for emerging market debt. Wanda Mottu, Portfolio Manager, provides oversight on FX.