

PRESS RELEASE

**NEXTALIA STRENGTHENS THE STRATEGIC ADVISORY BOARD WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF FIVE NEW MEMBERS: CATANESE, FALCHETTI, MERLO, PALENZONA AND SIMONTACCHI**

*Milan, 15 February 2022.* Following the announcement of a strategic agreement with Intesa Sanpaolo aimed at creating the Italian leader in education and digital learning, Nextalia SGR S.p.A. ("**Nextalia**") **further expanded the skills and expertise of the Strategic Advisory Board** in view of the ongoing deal flow and the fundraising activity (following a first closing above half a billion Euros in November 2021). As a result, five new members of the Strategic Advisory Board have been appointed: **Domenico Catanese, Antonio Falchetti, Silvia Merlo, Fabrizio Palenzona and Stefano Simontacchi.**

**Domenico Catanese**, entrepreneur, is chairman of Prima Holding S.p.A.. Previously, he was founder and chairman of Zephyro S.p.A., the Italian reference player in the energy efficiency sector and in the supply of integrated energy management solutions for complex structures, later acquired by Edison S.p.A..

**Antonio Falchetti**, entrepreneur, is general manager of MTA S.p.A., a leading company in the production of electronic and electromechanical components for the automotive and agriculture markets.

**Silvia Merlo**, entrepreneur, is chairman of Merlo Industria Metalmeccanica S.p.A., an operator specialised in the production of telescopic vehicle lifts. Since April 2021, she also serves as chairman of Saipem S.p.A. and is a member of the Board of Directors of Sanlorenzo S.p.A, an Italian leading player in the nautical sector.

**Fabrizio Palenzona** is chairman of Prelios S.p.A., one of the Europe's leading providers of alternative asset management and specialised real estate services. Previously, he held a number of roles including vice chairman of UniCredit, board member of Mediobanca, chairman of Aviva Italia, board member of Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Torino and chairman of ADR S.p.A..

**Stefano Simontacchi** is chairman of Studio BonelliErede. He is an expert in tax law. He currently serves as advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Investment Attraction and, in 2020, he joined the Committee of Experts on economic and social matters (the so-called Colao task force) appointed by the Presidency of the Council to address the Covid emergency. He is also chairman of the Buzzi Foundation and board member of RCS S.p.A., Prada S.p.A, Cordusio SIM S.p.A. (UniCredit Group), Fattorie Osella S.p.A., ISPI, and Assoedilizia.

The Strategic Advisory Board, chaired by **Francesco Micheli** and composed of highly regarded professionals with a diverse background across finance, business, social community engagement and academia, already counts the following members: **Umberta Gnutti Beretta, Giustina Mistrello Destro, Danilo Iervolino, Gaetano Micciché, Monica Mondardini, Livia Pomodoro and Massimo Tononi.**

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**Nextalia SGR S.p.A.**

Nextalia is an asset management company established by Francesco Canzonieri together with leading Italian institutional investors (Intesa Sanpaolo, UnipolSai Assicurazioni, Coldiretti and Micheli Associati). The Company aims to invest in the real economy and promote sustainable growth. Nextalia acts as the reference platform for private market investments in Italy, leveraging its proprietary network and in-house professional capabilities. Nextalia has established "Nextalia Private Equity", a closed-end alternative investment fund under Italian law, reserved to professional investors and focused on Italian SMEs.