

PARIS
May 13, 2026

ARDIAN



IK Partners

ACTIVA

Ardian provides financing to support IK Partners' investment in Rhétorès Group, a leading independent financial advisor in France

Ardian, a global private investment firm, today announces that it has arranged a unitranche facility to support the LBO acquisition of Rhétorès Group ("Rhétorès" or "the Group") by IK Partners ("IK"), alongside the founders, the management team and Activa, all of whom have significantly reinvested as part of the transaction. The financing package also includes a sizeable committed line to support the Group's active acquisition strategy.

Rhétorès is a fast-growing French independent financial advisor. Founded in 2010 by Stéphane Rudzinski and Grégory Soudjoukdjian, the Group provides a comprehensive range of financial savings and investment products, including life-insurance wrappers and access to premium asset classes including private equity, real estate and structured products.

Rhétorès focuses on high-net-worth individuals and serves a diversified client base of more than 6,200, representing over €2.7bn in assets under management as of the end of 2025.

Since inception, Rhétorès has achieved strong organic growth and, following Activa's investment in 2022, it has accelerated its inorganic growth strategy with 20 add-on acquisitions completed to date. Notably, the Group's acquisition of Dauphine AM in 2023 enabled complementary asset management activity and provided access to an internal distribution platform for high value-added financial products.

"We are delighted to partner with IK as our new majority shareholder and Ardian as our financing partner. Their proven investment experience in the wealth management space will enable us to accelerate our development. We are eager to enter this next phase of growth through further organic development and buy-and-build activity to drive consolidation and diversify our offering."

● **STÉPHANE RUDZINSKI & GRÉGORY SOUDJOUKDJIAN** ● CO-FOUNDERS OF RHÉTORÈS GROUP

"The French financial savings market is both large and resilient, supported by strong underlying trends and a favourable regulatory environment. Under Stéphane and Grégory's leadership, Rhétorès has achieved remarkable success and earned a strong reputation within the French IFA landscape. We look forward to working closely with the team to support their ambitious growth strategy, including further consolidation and diversification of their service offering."

● **RÉMI BUTTIAUX & DIKI KORNILOFF** ● PARTNERS, IK PARTNERS

“We are delighted to be able to leverage our deep sector expertise to support Rhétorès, IK Partners and Activa as they embark on this pivotal chapter of growth. The Group has built an exceptional track record to date. We are confident that this partnership will help drive long-term value creation and continued expansion.”

● GREGORY PERNOT ● CO-HEAD PRIVATE CREDIT FRANCE, ARDIAN

With over two decades of experience, the Private Credit activity at Ardian is among Europe’s most established players, applying a multi local approach to partner with private equity sponsors and management teams in advancing the growth of high quality companies. This transaction adds to Private Credit’s track record of successful investments and reflects a period of strong investment activity for the team.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Ardian

Ardian Private Credit: Grégory Pernot, Gabrielle Philip, Alexis Bernet, Capucine Boulingre
Legal Advisor (Financing): Simpson Thacher & Bartlett (Hadrien Servais, Sophie Rezki, Kacper Szejter, Eline Souffriau)

Rhétorès

Rhétorès: Stéphane Rudzinski, Grégory Soudjoukdjian
Financial Advisor: NewCo Corporate Finance (Alexandre Gebelin, Thibault Hamaide)

IK Partners

IK Partners: Rémi Buttiaux, Diki Korniloff
Legal Advisor (financing): Weil (Geraldine Lezmi, Constance Frayssineau, Thomas Bouton, Nicolas Krieger)

Activa

Activa: Christophe Parier, Alexandre Masson, Frédéric Singer, Camille Emin, César Chaperon

ABOUT ARDIAN

In a world of constant evolution, Ardian stands out for its ability to anticipate, adapt, and turn challenges into opportunities. As a global, diversified private markets firm with 22 offices and more than 350 investment professionals worldwide, we provide investment and customized solutions that reflect new economic dynamics and help our clients remain resilient in a changing world.

We deliver multi-local expertise and long-term performance for our investors and partners as well as shared value for the broader society. Since Ardian's inception in 1996, our pioneering approach to diversification and our ability to offer tailor-made solutions at scale have remained the heart of our strategy.

Through commitment, knowledge and technology, we bring lasting value to our companies and contribute positively to the whole industry.

Ardian currently manages or advises \$200bn for more than 1,920 clients worldwide across Private Equity, Real Assets, and Credit.

Ardian. Mastering change for lasting value.

ardian.com

Media Contacts

ARDIAN

HEADLAND

ardian@headlandconsultancy.com