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Publication pursuant to SFDR - Summary

DWS ESG European Equities

This financial product promotes environmental and social characteristics and qualifies as product in accordance with Article 8(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088.

No sustainable investment objective

This financial product promotes environmental or social characteristics, but does not have as its objective sustainable investment.

The fund commits to partially invest in sustainable investments. To ensure those sustainable investments do not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective following processes are implemented:

DNSH Assessment

The sustainable investments in which the fund invests are assessed to ensure they do not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective. This is achieved by taking into account the indicators for principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors (dependent on relevance) as described below. If a significant harm is identified, the investment cannot be considered sustainable.

Integration of adverse impacts on sustainability factors

The Sustainability Investment Assessment systematically integrates the mandatory principal adverse indicators on sustainability factors (dependent on relevance) from Table 1 and relevant indicators from Tables 2 and 3 of Annex I of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1288 supplementing the SFDR. Taking into account these principal adverse impacts, DWS has established quantitative thresholds and/or qualitative values to assess a significant harm on any of the environmental or social sustainable investment objectives. These values are set based upon various external and internal factors, such as data availability or market developments and may be adapted going forward.

Alignment with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

The alignment of sustainable investments with, amongst others, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights is evaluated through the Norm Controversy Assessment (as further described below). Companies with the worst Norm Controversy Assessment of "F" are excluded as an investment.

Environmental or social characteristics of the financial product

This fund promotes environmental and social characteristics related to a general consideration of ESG criteria by excluding, for example, investments in companies with the worst norm-related issues towards international standards, issuers with the worst assessment in terms of environmental, social and governance aspects compared to their peer group and/or investments in companies whose involvement in controversial sectors exceeds predefined revenue thresholds.

Further, this fund promotes a minimum proportion of sustainable investments in accordance with article 2(17) of the regulation on sustainability-related disclosures in the financial services sector (SFDR).

This fund has not designated a reference benchmark for the purpose of attaining the environmental and social characteristics promoted.

Investment strategy

This fund follows an equity strategy as the principal investment strategy. Here, at least 75% of the fund's assets are invested in equities of international issuers having their headquarters in a member state of the EU, Norway, Iceland or the United Kingdom. Up to 25% of the fund's assets may be invested in money market instruments and bank balances or in financial instruments that do not meet the aforementioned criteria. Please refer to the special section of the sales prospectus for more information on the main investment strategy. At least 80% of the fund's net assets are invested in assets that fulfill the promoted environmental and social characteristics set out in the following sections. The portfolio's compliance with the binding elements of the investment strategy for achieving the promoted environmental and social characteristics and adherence to the PAB exclusions is continuously checked as part of the monitoring of the fund's investment guidelines.



Proportion of investments

This fund invests at least 80% of its net assets in investments that are aligned with the promoted environmental and social characteristics. Within this category, at least 15% of the fund's assets qualify as sustainable investments in the sense of article 2(17) SFDR. Up to 20% of the fund's net assets may be invested in all permissible assets for which either the DWS ESG assessment methodology is not applied or for which ESG data coverage is incomplete. A more detailed description of the specific asset allocation of this fund can be found in the Special Section of the Sales Prospectus.

Derivatives are currently not used to attain the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the fund.

Monitoring of environmental or social characteristics

For the purpose of the investment guideline monitoring, a coding process is established in which the investment policy as described in the prospectus and the investment limits contained therein are coded in accordance into the investment management system. This applies in particular to the respective ESG investment limits. The investment limits are monitored daily pre- and post-trade in the investment management system to ensure compliance with the investment guidelines. In pre-trade monitoring, it is ensured that the investment limits are complied with before trading. However, if a breach has been detected, the breach will be investigated for its cause and scope, addressed and corrected in accordance with legal/regulatory requirements and guidelines.

Methodologies

The attainment of the promoted environmental and social characteristics as well as the sustainable investment is assessed via the application of an in-house ESG assessment methodology and ESG specific exclusion thresholds as further described in the section “What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?”. The methodology applies different assessment approaches that are used as sustainability indicators which are:

- **Norm Controversy Assessment** used as an indicator for a company's exposure to norm-related issues towards international standards.
- **ESG Quality Assessment** used as an indicator for comparison of an issuer's environmental, social and governance aspects in relation to its peer group.
- **Freedom House Status** used as an indicator for the political and civil liberties of a country.
- **Exposure to controversial sectors** used as an indicator for a company's involvement in controversial sectors.
- **Exposure to companies subject to the EU Paris-aligned Benchmark exclusion criteria** as set forth in article 12(1) of Commission Delegated Regulation 2020/1818 (PAB-Exclusions).
- **Sustainability Investment Assessment** used as an indicator to measure the proportion of sustainable investments pursuant to article 2(17) SFDR.

Data sources and processing

DWS sources sustainability information from different data vendors. Each of the commercial data vendors established upstream controls to ensure quality of their processes and of the data that is being provided. In addition, DWS has set up different quality control processes for inbound ESG data and ESG assessments derived by the DWS ESG Engine. The ESG assessments are quality controlled and/or validated by responsible teams and/or councils. Based on current understanding of the regulatory guidelines on estimates, DWS classifies all data that is not publicly reported by investee companies under (regulatory) reporting requirements as estimated data (including data received from data vendors if they do not disclose their coverage of estimated data). Therefore, up to 100% of the data used may be reported as estimated data.

Limitations to methodologies and data

DWS ESG assessments are based on external vendor data and/or DWS internal assessments and research. In both cases, potential expert-based subjectivity weighs in. The prevalence of potential subjectivity constitutes a limitation if not properly mitigated. DWS mitigates this potential challenge by selecting the methodology deemed most reasonable for the relevant DWS ESG assessment under consideration, e.g. by seeking for cross vendor consensus in order to avoid bias or by applying a worst off assessment approach in order to gather different facets deemed relevant by different ESG providers regarding the same topic. ESG assessments based on DWS internal research follow at least a four-eye principle approach and are regularly reviewed by the relevant DWS ESG council. Further data limitations, including limited data coverage for certain asset classes and investments, outdated data and structural data update issues, may apply.

Due Diligence

The due diligence carried out on the underlying assets of a financial product is governed by relevant internal policies, key operating documents and handbooks. The due diligence is based on the availability of ESG data which the fund management sources from external ESG data vendors. In addition to the external quality assurance by the vendors, the fund management has processes and governance bodies in place that control the quality of the ESG signals.

Engagement policies

An engagement activity can be initiated with the individual issuers regarding matters such as strategy, financial and non-financial performance, risk, capital structure, social and environmental impact as well as corporate governance including topics like disclosure, culture and remuneration. The engagement activity can be exercised by company meetings.

Designated reference benchmark

This fund has not designated a reference benchmark to determine whether it is aligned with the environmental and social characteristics that it promotes.