



## **PRESS RELEASE**

## ODDO BHF Polaris fund range now includes a significant ESG approach

Paris, Frankfurt, Düsseldorf, Luxembourg, 15th April 2021. The Polaris funds are ODDO BHF AM's longstanding traditional funds, managed in Frankfurt by a stable and experienced team that has been through many different market phases since 2005<sup>1</sup>. These four diversified funds, with risk profiles adapted to different types of investors, now formally integrate ESG criteria into their investment process.

The ODDO BHF Polaris fund range, with 4 or 5 stars², is mainly invested in listed international equities and bonds, selected for their robustness and the quality of their fundamentals. With €3 billion of assets under management as of 31 March 2021, it has a 15-year track record¹, demonstrating the value of the stock selection process which we believe is at the heart of alpha generation.

With a Morningstar sustainability rating of 4 or 5 globes<sup>3</sup>, ODDO BHF Polaris Moderate, ODDO BHF Polaris Balanced<sup>4</sup>, ODDO BHF Polaris Dynamic<sup>4</sup> and ODDO BHF Polaris Flexible exclude more than 20% of their investment universe (MSCI ACWI index) based on rigorous ESG criteria. In addition, at least 90% of the securities in the portfolio are rated according to non-financial criteria. In line with ODDO BHF AM's sustainable investment policy, the four funds also exclude companies that do not comply with the United Nations Global Compact Principles. With the aim of obtaining an 'A' rating, the lowest-rated companies on the MSCI<sup>5</sup> scale are also excluded. Finally, the systematic dialogue with the companies in the portfolio allows the portfolio managers to ensure the ESG progress of the funds.

"The explicit integration of ESG criteria in the selection process of the ODDO BHF Polaris funds further strengthens our sustainability profile. We believe that well-managed companies with responsible practices can outperform over the long term," says Prof. Dr. Jan Viebig, CIO ODDO BHF AG and Head of Portfolio Management ODDO BHF TRUST, responsible for the Polaris fund range.

"We are convinced that taking ESG criteria into account in the investment process creates value for our clients. From now on, 52% of our assets in open-ended funds include ESG criteria at ODDO BHF Asset Management and we are delighted with this," adds Martina Macpherson, Head of ESG Strategy for Asset Management and Private Equity at ODDO BHF AM.





<sup>1</sup>Inception date of ODDO BHF Polaris Moderate

- <sup>2</sup> Morningstar™ rating as of 31/03/2021, Morningstar categories: ODDO BHF Polaris Moderate ★★★★ (EUR Cautious Allocation), ODDO BHF Exklusiv Polaris Balanced ★★★★ (EUR Moderate Allocation Global), ODDO BHF Exklusiv Polaris Dynamic ★★★★ (EUR Aggressive Allocation), ODDO BHF Polaris Flexible ★★★★ (EUR Flexible Allocation)
- <sup>3</sup> Morningstar Sustainability score as of 31/03/2021. The rating measures the sustainability performance of a fund's portfolio holdings, based on ESG criteria. ODDO BHF Polaris Moderate 4 Morningstar Globes, ODDO BHF Exklusiv: Polaris Balanced 5 Globes, ODDO BHF Exklusiv: Polaris Dynamic 5 Globes and ODDO BHF Polaris Flexible 5 Globes. Morningstar sustainability globes: © Morningstar. All rights reserved. Sustainability Score as of Dec. 31/2020, Sustainability Rating as of Dec. 30/2020. Sustainalytics provides company-level analysis that is used in the calculation of the Morningstar Sustainability Score
- <sup>4</sup> sub-funds of the FCP ODDO BHF Exklusiv.
- <sup>5</sup> MSCI ESG: MSCI ESG rating as of 19.02.2021 | Rating scale: AAA to AA= Leader (A company leading this industry in managing the most significant ESG risks and opportunities), A to BB= average (A company with a mixed or unexceptional track record of managing the most significant ESG risks and opportunities relative to industry peers). B to CCC = laggard (A company lagging its industry based on its high exposure and failure to manage significant ESG risks).

Copyright © Morningstar, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

The information, data, analyses and opinions with reference to Morningstar contained herein (1) include the confidential and proprietary information of Morningstar, (2) may not be copied or redistributed, (3) do not constitute investment advice offered by Morningstar, (4) are provided solely for informational purposes and therefore are not an offer to buy or sell a security, and (5) are not warranted to be correct, complete or accurate. Except as otherwise required by law, Morningstar shall not be responsible for any trading decisions, damages or other losses resulting from, or related to, this information, data, analyses or opinions or their use. "Although ODDO BHF Asset Management and its information providers, including without limitation, MSCI ESG Research LLC and its affiliates (the ""ESG Parties""), obtain information (the ""Information"") from sources they consider reliable, none of the ESG Parties warrants or guarantees the originality, accuracy and/or completeness, of any data herein and expressly disclaim all express or implied warranties, including those of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. The Information may only be used for your internal use, may not be reproduced or re-disseminated in any form and may not be used as a basis for, or a component of, any financial instruments or products or indices. Further, none of the information can in and of itself be used to determine which securities to buy or sell or when to buy or sell them. None of the ESG Parties shall have any liability for any errors or omissions in connection with any data herein, or any liability for any direct, indirect, special, punitive, consequential or any other damages (including lost profits) even if notified of the possibility of such damages. ©2020 MSCI ESG Research LLC. Reproduced by permission.





## **About ODDO BHF Asset Management**

ODDO BHF AM is part of the independent Franco-German financial group ODDO BHF that was founded in 1849. ODDO BHF AM is an asset management leader in Europe. It comprises ODDO BHF AM GmbH in Germany, ODDO BHF AM SAS and ODDO BHF Private Equity SAS in France and ODDO BHF AM Lux in Luxembourg, which together manage assets totaling € 58.4 billion. ODDO BHF AM offers its institutional and wholesale clients a unique range of high-performance investment solutions in all main asset classes, i.e. fundamental and thematic equities, quantitative equities, fixed income, multi-asset solutions, private equity and private debt. A UN-PRI signatory since 2010 ODDO BHF AM has integrated sustainable investment criteria into a wide range of strategies. Its ESG approach focuses on ESG criteria integration, engagement with companies and a climate policy supporting the energy transformation. On a combined basis, 61% of assets under management are from institutional clients and 39% from distribution partners. The teams operate from investment centers in Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Paris and Luxembourg with additional locations in Milan, Geneva, Zurich, Madrid, Stockholm and Abu Dhabi. ODDO BHF AM puts the long-term support of its clients at the heart of its priorities. Its independence allows its teams to be responsive, flexible and innovative in order to constantly find solutions tailored to the customers' needs.

www.am.oddo-bhf.com

## **About ODDO BHF**

ODDO BHF is an independent Franco-German financial services group, with a history stretching back over 170 years. It was created from the alliance of a French family-owned business built up by five generations of stockbrokers and a German bank specialising in Mittelstand companies. With 2,500 employees (1,300 in Germany and Switzerland and 1,200 in France and Tunisia), and more than 125 billion euros in assets under management, ODDO BHF operates in three main businesses, based on significant investment in market expertise: private banking, asset management and corporate and investment banking. The Group has a specific ownership structure as 65% of its capital is held by the Oddo family and 25 % by employees. This "partnership" ethos guarantees the long-term involvement of its teams. In 2020, ODDO BHF generated net banking income of 624 million euros, and at 31 December 2020, the Group had over 940 million euros of shareholders' equity.

www.oddo-bhf.com

\*\*\*\*\*

**Media Contact** 

CITIGATE DEWE ROGERSON
Yoann Besse
+33 1 53 32 78 89
yoann.besse@citigatedewerogerson.com