

## **DISCLOSURE OF ODDO BHF AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT PURSUANT TO THE EUROPEAN REGULATION ON SUSTAINABILITY-RELATED DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS IN THE FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR (SFDR)**

### **A. Understanding of the SFDR and Taxonomy Regulation**

The Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on sustainability-related disclosures in the financial services sector (hereinafter: "SFDR") establishes harmonized rules for financial market participants (which include, in particular, financial portfolio managers) and financial advisors (which include, in particular, investment advisors) on transparency in the integration of sustainability risks and the consideration of adverse sustainability impacts in their processes and in the provision of information on the sustainability of financial products. The SFDR contains various provisions that are intended to provide investors with clarity, consistency and comparability with regard to the sustainability risks and sustainability profile of financial products. Significantly increased emphasis is placed on the disclosure of environmental, social and governance (ESG) aspects, whereby, notably, adverse sustainability impacts of investment decisions or recommendations must also be disclosed.

The SFDR provides, inter alia, for disclosures on the website of the financial market participant respectively financial advisor both at the company level and at the level of specific financial products, in particular those that take into account environmental or social characteristics. The SFDR forms part of the wider framework of EU's Sustainable Finance Action Plan, and therefore part of the corresponding package of measures which, besides the SFDR, also includes Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment (hereinafter: "Taxonomy Regulation"), the requirements of which may also be relevant in particular for transparency obligations under the SFDR. The applicable legal framework will, in perspective, also be supplemented and concretized by a variety of Delegated Regulations of the European Commission (Level 2 measures). To this extent, the regulations of the package of measures contain a broad spectrum of new and improved regulations that apply in all 27 EU member states and aim to create a level playing field for sustainable investments.

All of the EU's sustainability measures ultimately stem from the signing of the Paris Agreement in December 2015, as well as the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from September 2015, the core of which are, in turn, the Sustainable Development Goals. The SFDR and other related regulations and measures are also aligned with the European Green Deal, a concept presented in December 2019 with the goal of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions in the EU to zero by 2050, which as a result means that all greenhouse gas emissions produced in the EU must be offset by appropriate (carbon) sequestration measures.

### **B. Company and product-related scope of application of the SFDR**

The transparency requirements of the SFDR are essentially to be complied with by financial market participants and financial advisors. The classification as a financial market participant or financial advisor depends on the specific activity. To the extent ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft provides the service of financial portfolio management (financial portfolio management within the meaning of Article 2 No. 6 SFDR), ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft is to be qualified as a financial market participant, to the extent ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft provides the service of investment advice (within the meaning of Article 2 No. 16 SFDR), ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft is to be qualified as financial advisor.

Furthermore, the classification of financial products, which in particular also includes portfolios managed within the scope of Asset Management, into three categories is decisive for the SFDR:

- **Article 6 SFDR** covers financial products not covered by Article 8 or Article 9 of the SFDR.
- **Article 8 SFDR** covers financial products that advertise environmental and social characteristics, or a combination of these characteristics, among other features, provided that the companies in which investments are made apply good corporate governance practices.
- **Article 9 SFDR** covers financial products targeting bespoke sustainable investments.

Due to the investment process of ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft, all portfolios managed by ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft in the course of Asset Management fall under Article 6.

### **C. Statement of ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft on compliance with the SFDR on entity level**

The topic of sustainability, including the conservation of ecological resources and fair living conditions, is of central importance to ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft. As a company, ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft would like to contribute in this respect to a more sustainable, resource-efficient economy with the aim of reducing the risks and effects of climate change in particular.

In addition to observing sustainability goals in its corporate organisation itself, ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft, as a portfolio manager and investment advisor, sees itself with a special responsibility to actively promote sustainability in its many facets, including through the means of investment, and also to sensitise its clients to aspects of sustainability when structuring the business relationship, they have with ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft, thereby contributing to a more sustainable economy overall. To this end, ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft takes into account - in addition to traditional criteria - environmental and social criteria as well as aspects of responsible corporate governance in the companies in which ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft invests as part of its Asset Management activities. In the course of the implementation of this approach, ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft takes into account the applicable legal framework (including the SFDR).

Against this background, ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft declares the following with regard to the requirements of the SFDR:

#### **I. Consideration of sustainability risks (disclosure pursuant to Article 3 SFDR)**

In order to support sustainable investments, Art. 3 SFDR contains the obligation to disclose information on the integration of sustainability risks in investment decision-making processes in course of Asset Management and the inclusion of sustainability risks in the performance of investment advisory activities. The approach applied by ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft is explained in more detail below.

##### **1. Sustainability Risks**

Environmental conditions, social upheaval and/or poor corporate governance can have a negative impact on the value of our clients' investments and assets in several respects. These risks can have a direct impact on the net assets, financial position and results of operations, and also on the reputation of the investment assets.

Accordingly, Article 2 No. 22 SFDR defines sustainability risks as environmental, social or governance events or conditions, the occurrence of which could have an actual or potential material adverse effect on the value of the investment.

The area of the environment ("environmental") concerns, for example, climate protection, the protection of biodiversity and the protection of water and marine resources. Sustainability risks in this area are divided into physical risks and transition risks.

- Physical risks arise in particular with regard to individual extreme weather events and their consequences (such as periods of heat and drought, flooding, storms, hail, forest fires, avalanches) as well as with regard to long-term changes in climatic and ecological conditions (such as precipitation frequency and amounts, weather instability, sea-level rise, changes in ocean and air currents, acidification of the oceans, increase in average temperatures with regional extremes). These can have direct consequences (such as impairment or destruction of operational/production facilities of individual companies or entire regions) as well as indirect consequences (such as in the form of a breakdown of supply chains, the abandonment of water-intensive business activities or armed conflicts). In addition, those who cause environmental damage or companies that have promoted climate change may be held responsible by the state for the consequences.
- Transition risks exist in particular in connection with the transition to a low-carbon economy: for example, political measures can lead to an increase in the price and/or shortage of fossil fuels (examples: coal phase-out, CO<sub>2</sub> tax) or to high investment costs due to the necessary renovation of buildings and facilities. New technologies can displace known ones (example: electromobility), changed preferences of contractual partners or customers and societal expectations can endanger companies and their business models that do not adapt to such changes in a suitable way or not in time.
- There is also an interdependence between physical risks and transition risks, as a sharp increase in physical risks would require a more abrupt change in the economy, which in turn leads to higher transition risks.

Events, developments or behaviour that can be assigned to the areas of social affairs ("social") and corporate governance ("governance") can also have a negative impact on the assets, financial and earnings situation of a company if the probability of their occurrence is not sufficiently priced into the valuation of the assets or liabilities concerned. Such risks in the area of social affairs result, for example, from non-compliance with recognised labour standards (e.g. child and forced labour) or binding requirements in the area of occupational safety or health protection. In the area of corporate governance, such risks can arise from tax evasion or corruption, among other things. Such risks materialise, for example, in the form of compensation payments or fines, which usually also has an impact on the reputation of the company concerned.

Sustainability risks can impact and/or contribute significantly to traditional risks of an investment (such as industry, issuer or liquidity risk). Various sustainability risks can also occur cumulatively. Sustainability risks may affect entire sectors, industries and/or regions, and may be subject to widely varying manifestations.

## **2. ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft's approach regarding the consideration of sustainability risks**

Since such risks to the assets, financial and earnings situation, and also to the reputation of the investment assets cannot ultimately be completely ruled out, ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft has developed strategies which provide ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft with the possibility to identify and limit sustainability risks.

In order to limit risks, ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft attempts to identify and, if possible, exclude investments in companies that exhibit an increased risk potential. With specific exclusion criteria, which focus in particular on the business model of a specific investment object, ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft sees itself in a position to also align investment decisions and/or investment recommendations with environmental, social or company-related values. For this purpose, it generally also makes use of data from recognized data providers. ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft currently applies the following exclusion criteria for new investments at the individual security level:

- **Sector exclusions:** companies with significant turnover in weapons, gambling, pornography, tobacco and coal are excluded from investment. The question of when a turnover is considered significant is resolved on a sector-specific basis: for most sectors currently a turnover share of more than 5% is considered to be significant, but for some sectors respectively sub-sectors of these sectors other thresholds are considered to be relevant in some cases (for example, an investment in companies that generate revenues in the field of certain weapons is completely excluded).
- **Non-compliance with the principles of the United Nation's Global Compact:** companies that violate the principles of the United Nation's Global Compact are excluded from investment.
- **Biodiversity:** exclusion of companies that claim to operate in or near biodiversity-sensitive areas and have been involved in controversies with serious or very serious adverse impacts on the environment.
- **Poor sustainability ratings:** companies and countries with poor sustainability ratings are excluded from investment (according to MSCI ESG Research methodology: "CCC" sustainability rating as well as "B" sustainability rating if at least one of the E-, S- or G-values is lower than 3 [out of 10]).

The sustainability criteria are, in principle (to the extent that corresponding data are available) also to be applied to indirect investments (e.g. funds, certificates). In this context, the above criteria - modified accordingly - apply to indirect investments consolidated at the level of the respective investment instrument.

The identification of suitable investments may also consist of ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft investing in or recommending investment funds whose investment policy is already equipped with a suitable and recognized sustainability filter to reduce sustainability risks. The identification of suitable investments to limit sustainability risks may also consist of ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft using ESG ratings from recognized rating agencies for the pre-selection of financial instruments used in course of Asset Management or recommended as part of investment advice. The concrete details result from the individual agreements.

## **II. Statement on principal adverse sustainability impacts of ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft as financial market participant (disclosure pursuant to Article 4 SFDR)**

In order to promote sustainable investments, Article 4 SFDR contains the obligation to disclose information on the consideration of the principal adverse sustainability impacts in the course of Asset Management. The approach applied by ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft is explained in more detail below.

### **1. Summary**

This statement issued by ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft (LEI: 529900XLAZ15LYK8XK27) in its function as financial market participant serves to fulfil the obligation to disclose the approach taken by ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft in taking into account the principal adverse sustainability impacts of investment decisions as provided for in Article 4 SFDR. It applies to all portfolios managed by ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft within the scope of Asset Management (financial products as defined by the SFDR).

The disclosure obligation pursuant to Article 4 SFDR will be supplemented or specified in the future by corresponding implementing regulations of the European Commission (Level 2 measures), which are neither in force nor applicable at the time of publication of this statement and therefore cannot be fully considered in the context of this statement.

ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft takes into account the principal adverse impacts (hereinafter also: "PAI") of its investment decisions on sustainability factors since 30 June 2021 (for details, see the statements below). In the context of future declarations, ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft will also disclose these impacts in quantitative terms - in accordance with the respective applicable legal requirements.

As can be derived from the explanations below, ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft considers various types of adverse impacts when making investment decisions. In particular, as any Level 2 measures are currently neither in force nor applicable, there are currently no formal requirements in this regard, so ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft has developed its own approach. It should be noted in particular that PAIs are taken into account as additional criteria in the context of the selection of financial instruments, but without PAIs necessarily always having a higher weighting than other aspects of decisive relevance in the context of investment decisions.

### **2. Description of principal adverse sustainability impacts**

The investment decisions taken by ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft in the context of Asset Management may have adverse impacts on the environment (e.g. climate, water, biodiversity) as well as on social and employee concerns, and may also be detrimental to the fight against corruption and bribery. Therefore, ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft has a fundamental interest in fulfilling its responsibility as a portfolio manager and in helping to avoid such impacts in the context of its investment decisions.

The principal adverse effects will be reviewed by ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft on a quarterly basis since 30 June 2021. Currently, ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft estimates the principal adverse effects to be taken into account in investment decisions in course of Asset Management as follows:

- **Greenhouse gas emissions**

The companies in which investments are made within in course of Asset Management (hereinafter: "Portfolio Companies") produce greenhouse gas emissions (within the meaning of Article 3 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/842 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018).

- **Revenues in the field of fossil fuels**

Portfolio Companies may generate parts of their revenues in the fossil fuel sector, for example through the extraction or sale of thermal coal.

- **Revenues in the fields of weapons, gambling, pornography or tobacco**

Portfolio Companies may generate part of their revenues from weapons, gambling, pornography or tobacco.

- **Non-compliance with the principles of the United Nation's Global Compact**

Portfolio Companies are subject to the risk of non-compliance with the minimum standards relating to human rights, labour law, environmental protection and anti-corruption in accordance with the principles of the United Nation's Global Compact.

- **Biodiversity**

Portfolio companies may operate in or near biodiversity-sensitive areas and/or become involved in controversies with serious or very serious adverse impacts on the environment

ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft has taken various measures to manage the PAIs identified. ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft has established corresponding guidelines for the investment process in its Asset Management. The relevant guidelines for the investment universe relevant to Asset Management and the investment decisions made therein are made available to all portfolio managers and are continuously developed with them. The relevant components of the investment process form a sound basis for sustainability-oriented decisions within the selection process.

The relevant specifications take particular account of data from service providers specialising in sustainability analyses (currently MSCI ESG Research). On this basis, all investments are analysed in terms of their environmental, social and corporate governance sustainability as part of Asset Management. An own ESG approach is used for individual financial instruments, which serves to take into account the most principal adverse impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors (at the same time it serves to include sustainability risks in investment decisions). This approach is essentially based on the application of exclusion criteria at the individual title level:

- **Sector exclusions:** companies with significant turnover in weapons, gambling, pornography, tobacco and coal are excluded from investment. The question of when a turnover is considered significant is resolved on a sector-specific basis: for most sectors currently a turnover share of more than 5% is considered to be significant, but for some sectors respectively sub-sectors of these sectors other thresholds are considered to be relevant in some cases (for example, an investment in companies that generate revenues in the field of certain weapons is completely excluded).

- Non-compliance with the principles of the United Nation's Global Compact: companies that violate the principles of the United Nation's Global Compact are excluded from investment.
- Biodiversity: exclusion of companies that claim to operate in or near biodiversity-sensitive areas and have been involved in controversies with serious or very serious adverse impacts on the environment.
- Poor sustainability ratings: companies and countries with poor sustainability ratings are excluded from investment (according to MSCI ESG Research methodology: "CCC" sustainability rating as well as "B" sustainability rating if at least one of the E-, S- or G-values is lower than 3 [out of 10]).

The sustainability criteria are, in principle (to the extent that corresponding data are available) also to be applied to indirect investments (e.g. funds, certificates). In this context, the above criteria - modified accordingly - apply to indirect investments consolidated at the level of the respective investment instrument.

In perspective, ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft will continue to develop its approach, whereby it is significantly dependent on corresponding data and its quality. Beyond that, ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft is currently in the process of closely reviewing the data situation and to tap into a more comprehensive supply of relevant data.

Against this backdrop, subject to resolution of any outstanding issues required for implementation, ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft intends to further improve its internal policies and measures to address adverse impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors based on the available data available in a greater extent.

Finally, it should be noted that ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft always makes investment decisions in the best interests of its clients in course of Asset Management, which means that PAIs are taken into account as additional criteria alongside other factors relevant to the decision. This means in particular that PAIs are not necessarily given greater weight than other decision-relevant factors in every case.

### **3. Description of guidelines for identifying and prioritising the principal adverse sustainability impacts**

Die ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft takes a holistic approach to sustainability issues, which is anchored in various guidelines and procedures. ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft's sustainability strategy describes the relevant principles, sets out requirements and defines responsibilities to be observed in connection with sustainability issues (including reporting, the use of ESG ratings, dealing with reputational risks and other aspects relevant when considering ESG requirements). In particular, it sets out criteria for identifying and prioritising the principal adverse sustainability impacts

### **4. References to international standards**

Die ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft bases its due diligence and reporting obligations on internationally recognised principles for sustainable business and banking activities. An example of this are the principles of the United Nation's Global Compact.

**III. Statement on principal adverse sustainability impacts in ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft's function as financial advisor (disclosure pursuant to Article 4 SFDR)**

ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft does currently not consider principal adverse sustainability impacts in its Investment Advice. ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft is monitoring current regulatory developments and clarification of open legal issues. In the future, ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft intends to take into account adverse sustainability impacts in course of Investment advice.

**IV. Consideration of sustainability risks in our remuneration policy**

ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft's remuneration strategy enables sustainability risks to be taken into account and, to this end, provides for the possibility of receiving variable remuneration for employees in the respective financial year that compliance with a framework for sustainability risks can be taken into account as a parameter for variable remuneration as part of the target agreement.

Details of ODDO BHF Aktiengesellschaft's current remuneration policy are available at this [link](#).

**V. Further Information**

If you would like further information, please feel free to [contact](#) us.