Contribution ID: 941a99b2-354f-4845-8e31-49a65e83efd4

Date: 16/10/2020 15:53:16







JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPE SUPERVISORY AUTHORITIES

ESAs Survey on templates for Environmental and/or Social financial products under SFDR

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs) welcome comments on this survey setting out the details of the **presentation of the information** to be disclosed pursuant to Article 8(3), Article 9(5) and Article 11(4) of 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 (SFDR). This information concerns precontractual and periodic disclosures to be included in existing disclosures provided for under EU sectoral legislation and provided by, for example, AIFMs, UCITS management companies, insurance undertakings, IORPs or PEPP providers. The ESAs propose to standardise the disclosures by requiring the use of specific templates, recognising the need for standardisation of disclosures to promote comparability of different financial products in different Member States with respect to ESG information, in line with Recital 9 of the SFDR.

The colour of the font and of the template's background, as well as type of font to be used are not prescribed in the templates. These should be adapted by the financial market participants to fit the formatting of the underlying document to which the templates are integrated (prospectus, annual report, preenrolment disclosure for prospective pension scheme members, etc).

The final content of the templates is subject to the outcome of concurrent consumer testing exercise and the final report of the ESAs on the draft RTS under SFDR.

The consultation package includes:

• Three preliminary, illustrative mock-ups of pre-contractual and periodic disclosure templates of products promoting Environmental and/or Social (E/S) characteristics (under Article 8 and Article 11 of the SFDR). The templates for the disclosure of products with a sustainable investment objective (Article 9) are very similar to those for the products promoting E/S characteristics and have not been included in the on-line survey. N.B. These mock-ups are purely illustrative for the purposes of gathering feedback on the presentation of information. The pre-contractual mock-up is presented in two variations: with and without icons, to gather feedback on the use of the icons. Please note that some of the sections of the templates (notably on "benchmarks", are not applicable for all products when not relevant - as defined in the draft RTS).

An on-line survey

The ESAs particularly invite comments on presentational aspects of the mock-ups as the content of the mock-ups already reflects the current text of the draft RTS which were addressed in the recent public consultation on the on content, methodologies and presentation of disclosures under the SFDR that ran from 23 April until 1 September 2020.

Comments are most helpful if they:

- contain a clear rationale; and describe any alternatives the ESAs should consider.
- When describing alternative approaches, the ESAs encourage stakeholders to consider how the approach would achieve the key objectives of the SFDR regarding product disclosures, namely to prevent "greenwashing" and reduce information asymmetries for end investors.

Submission of responses

The consultation paper is available on the websites of the three ESAs and the Joint Committee. Comments must be sent using the EUsurvey by 16 October 2020.

Contributions not provided in the EUsurvey tool for comments, or after the deadline will not be processed.

Publication of responses

All contributions received will be published following the close of the consultation, unless you request otherwise in the respective field in the template for comments. A confidential response may be requested from us in accordance with ESAs rules on public access to documents. We may consult you if we receive such a request. Any decision we make not to disclose the response is reviewable by ESAs Board of Appeal and the European Ombudsman.

Data protection

The protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the ESAs is based on Regulation (EU) 2018/17253. Further information on data protection can be found under the Legal notice section of the EBA website and under the Legal notice section of the EIOPA website and under the Legal notice section of the ESMA website.

About you

* La	angu	age of my	contribution
		Bulgarian	
	0		

Croatian

Czech

Danish

Dutch

English

Estonian

	French
0	Gaelic
0	German
0	Greek
	Hungarian
	Italian
	Latvian
	Lithuanian
0	Maltese
	Polish
0	Portuguese
0	Romanian
	Slovak
	Slovenian
	Spanish
	Swedish
*I am g	iving my contribution as
0	Academic/research institution
0	Business association
•	Company/business organisation
0	Consumer organisation
0	EU citizen
0	Environmental organisation
0	Non-EU citizen
0	Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
0	Public authority
0	Trade union
0	Other
* First n	ame
Р	etter
* Surna	me
N	lattsson
* Email	(this won't be published)
p	etter.mattsson@fondbolagen.se
* Organ	isation name

Finnish

255 character(s) maximum

3

	Fondbolagens förening - Swedish Investment Fund Association (SIFA)											
* Orc	חפו	isation size										
Οίξ	jaii (A)		-)									
	<u></u>	Micro (1 to 9 employees	•									
		Small (10 to 49 employe	,	20)								
		Medium (50 to 249 emp	лоуе	es)								
		Large (250 or more)										
Tro	noi	naranay radiatar numbe	or.									
		parency register number	31									
Ch	neck	character(s) maximum k if your organisation is on the	e <u>tran</u>	sparency register. It's a volur	ntary	database for organisation	s seekir	g to influence EU decision-				
m	akin	ng.										
	7	49488617800-91										
* Coi	unt	ry of origin										
		e add your country of origin,	or tha	t of your organisation.								
	0	Afghanistan		Djibouti		Libya		Saint Martin				
	0	Åland Islands		Dominica		Liechtenstein		Saint Pierre and				
								Miquelon				
	0	Albania		Dominican Republic		Lithuania		Saint Vincent and				
								the Grenadines				
	0	Algeria	0	Ecuador	0	Luxembourg	0	Samoa				
	0	American Samoa	0	Egypt	0	Macau	0	San Marino				
		Andorra	0	El Salvador	0	Madagascar	0	São Tomé and				
		A I		Face to del Octobre		Malaud		Príncipe				
		Angola		Equatorial Guinea Eritrea		Malawi		Saudi Arabia				
		Anguilla Antarctica				Malaysia Maldives		Senegal				
				Estonia Eswatini		Mali		Serbia				
		Antigua and Barbuda	0		0			Seychelles				
		Argentina	0	Ethiopia Falkland Islands	0	Malta		Sierra Leone				
		Armenia			0	Marshall Islands	0	Singapore				
		Aruba	0	Faroe Islands	0	Martinique	0	Sint Maarten				
		Australia	0	Fiji	0	Mauritania	0	Slovakia				
		Austria		Finland	_	Mauritius	0	Slovenia				
		Azerbaijan	0	France	0	Mayotte	0	Solomon Islands				
		Bahamas		French Guiana	0	Mexico	0	Somalia				
		Bahrain	0	French Polynesia	_	Micronesia	_	South Africa				
		Bangladesh	0	French Southern and	0	Moldova	0	South Georgia and				
				Antarctic Lands				the South Sandwich Islands				
		Barbados		Gabon		Monaco		South Korea				
		Belarus				Mongolia		South Sudan				
				Georgia		•						
	0	Belgium		Germany		Montenegro		Spain				

Montserrat

Ghana

Belize

Sri Lanka

0	Benin	(A)	Gibraltar	(A)	Morocco	(A)	Sudan
0	Bermuda	0	Greece	0	Mozambique	0	Suriname
0	Bhutan	0	Greenland	<u></u>	Myanmar/Burma		Svalbard and Jan
	Dilutari		Greenland		wyaninai/buma		Mayen
	Bolivia	0	Grenada		Namibia	0	Sweden
	Bonaire Saint		Guadeloupe		Nauru	\bigcirc	Switzerland
	Eustatius and Saba						
	Bosnia and		Guam		Nepal		Syria
	Herzegovina						
	Botswana		Guatemala		Netherlands		Taiwan
	Bouvet Island		Guernsey		New Caledonia		Tajikistan
	Brazil		Guinea		New Zealand		Tanzania
0	British Indian Ocean Territory	0	Guinea-Bissau	0	Nicaragua		Thailand
	British Virgin Islands	0	Guyana		Niger		The Gambia
	Brunei	0	Haiti		Nigeria		Timor-Leste
	Bulgaria	0	Heard Island and	0	Niue	\bigcirc	Togo
			McDonald Islands				
	Burkina Faso	0	Honduras		Norfolk Island		Tokelau
	Burundi		Hong Kong		Northern Mariana	\bigcirc	Tonga
					Islands		
	Cambodia		Hungary		North Korea		Trinidad and Tobago
	Cameroon		Iceland		North Macedonia		Tunisia
	Canada		India		Norway		Turkey
	Cape Verde	0	Indonesia		Oman		Turkmenistan
	Cayman Islands		Iran		Pakistan		Turks and Caicos
							Islands
	Central African	0	Iraq		Palau		Tuvalu
	Republic			_		_	
0	Chad	0	Ireland	0	Palestine	0	Uganda
0	Chile	0	Isle of Man	0	Panama		Ukraine
	China		Israel		Papua New Guinea		United Arab Emirates
	Christmas Island		Italy		Paraguay		United Kingdom
	Clipperton	0	Jamaica		Peru		United States
	Cocos (Keeling)		Japan		Philippines		United States Minor
	Islands						Outlying Islands
0	Colombia	0	Jersey	0	Pitcairn Islands	0	Uruguay
0	Comoros	0	Jordan	0	Poland	0	US Virgin Islands
0	Congo	0	Kazakhstan	0	Portugal	0	Uzbekistan
0	Cook Islands	0	Kenya	0	Puerto Rico	0	Vanuatu
	Costa Rica	0	Kiribati	0	Qatar	0	Vatican City
	Côte d'Ivoire	0	Kosovo	0	Réunion	0	Venezuela
	Croatia	0	Kuwait	0	Romania	0	Vietnam
	Cuba	0	Kyrgyzstan	0	Russia	0	Wallis and Futuna
	Curaçao	0	Laos	0	Rwanda	0	Western Sahara
	Cyprus		Latvia		Saint Barthélemy		Yemen

Czechia	Lebanon	Saint Helena	Zambia
		Ascension and	
		Tristan da Cunha	
Democratic Republic	Lesotho	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Zimbabwe
of the Congo			
Denmark	Liberia	Saint Lucia	

* Publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

Anonymous

Only your type of respondent, country of origin and contribution will be published. All other personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number) will not be published.

Public

Your personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number, country of origin) will be published with your contribution.

I agree with the personal data protection provisions

Survey - introduction

The illustrative mock-ups relate to disclosure documents for a fictitious exchange traded fund (ETF).

Most ETFs are index funds. This means that they usually replicate the index by holding the same securities in the same proportions as a certain stock market index. This product replicates a fictitious index, called TRXI World Fossil Fuel Free Index, which replicates the total market index TRXI World Index, but excludes from it companies that own solid fossil fuel reserves.

The three documents that you can download are illustrative mock-ups of ESG information from the following underlying documents:

- Prospectus of the ETF which provides information before buying the product
- Annual report of the ETF which provides information on the product for the last 12 months

The mock-ups are named as follows:

- Mock-up 1: pre-contractual disclosure for a product promoting Environmental or/and Social characteristics (with icons)
- Mock-up 2: pre-contractual disclosure for a product promoting Environmental or/and Social characteristics (without icons)
- Mock-up 3: periodic disclosure for a product promoting Environmental or/and Social characteristics (with icons)

Before answering the questions, please click on these three links to download the three illustrative mock-ups (PDF):

Illustrative mock-up_1 Pre-contractual with icons.pdf
Illustrative mock-up_2 Pre-contractual without icons.pdf
Illustrative mock-up_3 Periodic with icons.pdf

Questions

Q1. How useful is the highly standardised presentation of the information in this					
format?					
between 1 and 1 choices					
Useless					
Fairly useless					
Neither useless nor useful					
Fairly useful					
Very useful					
Please explain:					

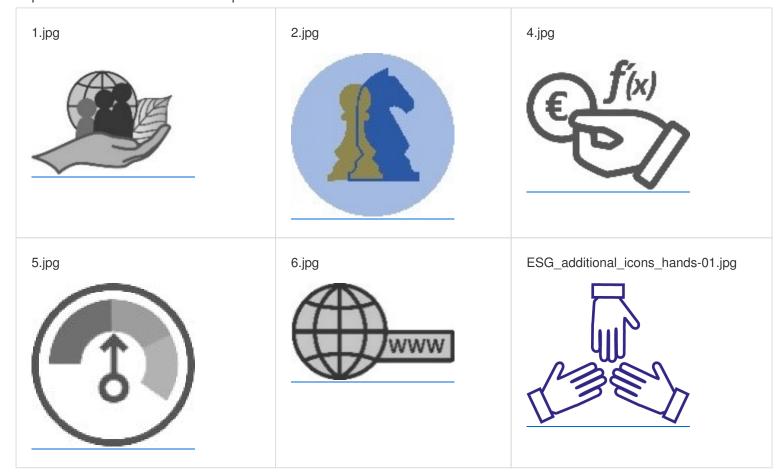
Templates should be limited in length and detail and discretion should, where appropriate, be left to financial market participants. Information on the strategy used to promote ESG characteristics or to pursue sustainable investment objectives should be included (i.e. whether products make use of ESG-integration, exclusions, best-in-class strategies, etc.)
SIFA notes that the templates are less standardised than for instance the templates used to meet the Swedish legal requirements on ESG disclosures, as the templates at hand are based on the use of freetext information as opposed to checkboxes etc. Although the freetext approach provides a more comprehensive picture of the products' ESG characteritics, large amounts of text risk being perceived as less accessible and comparable by investors, particularly retail investors.
SIFA also notes that the wording in the templates in some parts deviate from the terminology used in the level 1 rules. It is, for the purpose of legal clarity, of utmost importance that key terms are aligned throughout the legal framework.

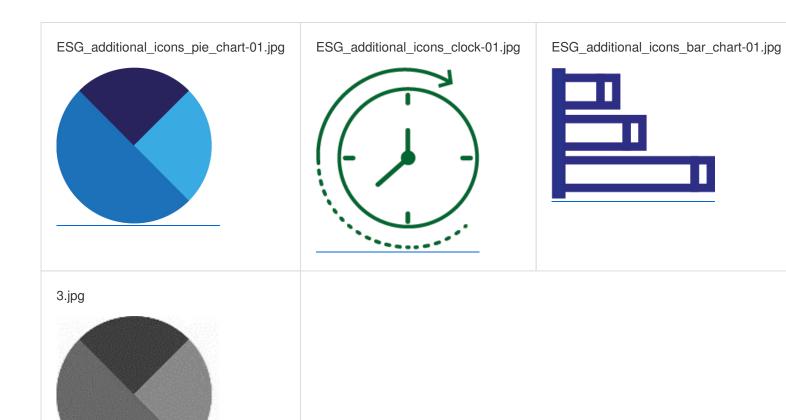
*Q2. More specifically, how useful is the presentation of the information with the use of **icons** as visual aids (in mock-up 1 and 3)?

The pictures below show examples of the icons used in the templates.

between 1 and 1 choices							
1	Useless						
	Fairly useless						
	Neither useless nor useful						
	Fairly useful						
	Very useful						

Examples of the icons used in mock-up 1 and 3





Ple	Please explain:								

SIFA would advice against the mandatory use of icons in the templates. The icons risk misleading the of disclosures, moving their attention away from more important information and reducing the space	
available to report on the products' features. For many asset managers it will be technically challeng	
include the icons into existing formats for the periodic and pre-contractual information they are produ	
Furthermore, mandatory icons may also potentially clash with accessibility requirements for the visu impaired, reduce documents' readability across different devices, and result in consistency issues w	-
visual branding of individual firms, which typically defines what icons can be used in reports	

* G	3. More	specifically,	how useful	is the p	presentation	of the	information	with the	use o	f graphs
а	s visual	aids?								

The graphs	below are	examples	of the	araphs	used in	the .	templates.

between 1 and 1 choices						
Useless						
Fairly useless						
Neither useless nor useful						
Fairly useful						
Very useful						

Examples of the graphs used



Ple	Please explain:						

In many cases multiple characteristics as well as multiple me product. Mixing different characteristics and methods in the sand may be difficult for investors to understand. If integration be that 100 % of the portfolio is screened. This may be misled to see the difference between article 8 and 9 products. SIFA be useful to illustrate only some investment strategies and of are limited (i.e. maximum five), but would be highly impractice case of certain strategies (e.g. negative screenings) or when as in the case of the sector analysis	came graphic representation may be challenging or best in class strategies are used, it may well ading and possibly make it difficult for investors also notes that graphical representations can ally in specific situations where data categories al, difficult to read and potentially misleading in

*Q4. More specifically, how useful is the presentation of the information with the use of **explana tory notes**, in the column at the right side of the document, which are presented on a grey background)?

The picture below shows an example of one of the explanatory notes used in the templates.

between 1 and 1 choices					
Useless					
Fairly useless					
Neither useless no	or useful				
Fairly useful					
Very useful					

The category #1 Aligned with E/S characteristics includes any investment that is aligned with the characteristic:

- The Subcategory #1A covers investments that are qualified as sustainable. A sustainable investment means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental objective, measured for example by key resource efficiency indicators such as CO2 emissions, or the use of water, or an investment that contributes to a social objective, such as tackling inequality or that fosters social cohesion.
- The sub-category #1B
 Other E/S characteristics
 covers investments
 aligned with the
 environmental or social
 characteristics that do
 not meet the criteria of
 'sustainable investment'.

Please explain:

SIFA notes that the explanatory notes in the mock-ups contain new definitions and concepts. It is unclear to us if this is an attempt to harmonise definitions or if the information in the columns only serve as examples of what sort of information a disclosing entity may use the explanatory notes-section for. It is SIFA:s opinion that the explanatory notes should follow the same format of explanations/definitions provided in other parts of the Prospectus. As stated above, SIFA also stresses the importance of alignment between the terms used in the templates and the definitions in the level 1 regulation.
If we assume that the intention is to harmonise definitions, the SIFA finds the added definition of "binding elements" particularly problematic. An investment fund does not have a predefined lifetime and consequently the definition of "binding elements" used in the template would prevent any changes to the fund's ESG policies, which would be unfortunate in this area of rapid development

* Q5. Are there any presentational aspects that might make it hard to understand the sustainability-aspects of products?

For example, with regards the distinction between the sub-categories of investments, namely between #1A and #1B?

The pictures below show examples of the use of #1A and #1B sub-categories in the templates.

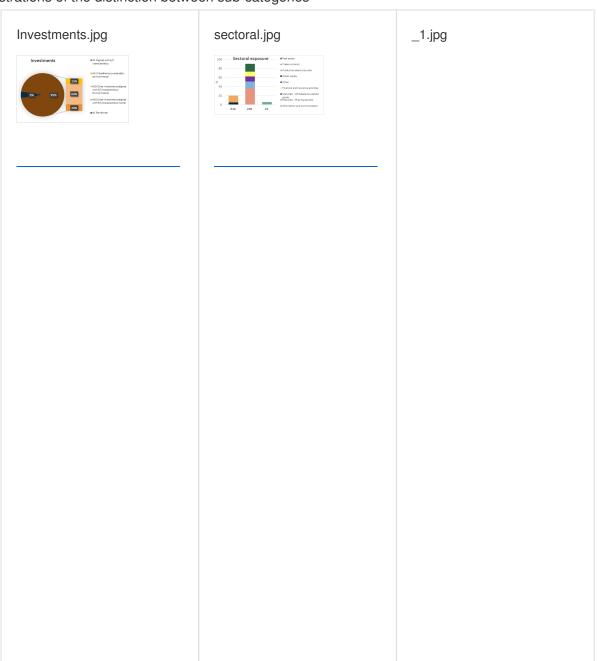
between 1 and 1 choices

Yes

No

Other

Illustrations of the distinction between sub-categories



The category #1 Aligned with E/S characteristics includes any investment that is aligned with the characteristic:

- The Subcategory #1A covers investments that are qualified as sustainable. A sustainable investment means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental objective, measured for example by key resource efficiency indicators such as CO2 emissions, or the use of water, or an investment that contributes to a social objective, such as tackling inequality or that fosters social cohesion.

- The sub-category #1B
Other E/S characteristics
covers investments
aligned with the
environmental or social
characteristics that do
not meet the criteria of
'sustainable investment'.

Ple	Please explain:							

guide ermined
vith

To improve clarity and conciseness, SIFA recommends to place a limit to the document's length to maximum two or three pages, instead of six.
With regards to the list of the top 25 investments in mock-up 3, it shall be noted that categorisation based solely on sector and country would not be relevant for all types of funds. It is also unclear how the calculation of the - on average - top 25 investments is to be made.
SIFA also once again stresses the importance of alignment between the wording of the level 1 regulation and the terms used in the templates. The templates use the wording "this product has ESG objective" and "this product has ESG characteristics" to distinguish between article 9 and article 8 products. This is an inconsistency vis-a-vis the wording "product has sustainable investments as its objective" and "this product promotes", which risks creating further legal confusion.

	? Can you sug		se particular	challenges c	ould be over	
aining th	ne core aspects	of the stand	ardised temp	plate format?		

As indicated in our reply to Questions 2 and 3, SIFA believes that a shorter and simpler template, which does not mandate the use of icons and graphical representations, would improve the usability of the	
templates presented via digital media, to the benefit of users with specific accessibility needs and to impl	rove
readability across different digital devices. SIFA also recommends, at least initially, to allow the use of a flexible format such as a searchable PDF for pre-contractual and periodic reports, rather more technical	
formats.	

Useful links

<u>Consultation Paper Draft RTS (https://www.esma.europa.eu/press-news/consultations/joint-esa-consultation-esg-disclosures)</u>

Background Documents

Mock-up_1_Pre-contractual_with_icons

Mock-up_2_Pre-contractual_without_icons

Mock-up 3 Periodic with icons

Contact

Contact Form