

# SOLACTIVE AG | VIGEO EIRIS BELGIUM SA ETHICAL EUROPE EQUITY INDEX **CERTIFICATION STATEMENT 1st QUARTER 2020**

To the Index users, To the Index provider Solactive AG,



Forum ETHIBEL asbl is appointed by Solactive AG to execute independent monitoring and certification of the Ethical Europe Equity Index (SOLEEE Index) concerning its conformity with the non-financial aspects of the rulebook and the due diligence of the Index composition process.

### Index set-up

Selection universe of constituents. The Ethical Europe Equity Index is composed of shares of companies belonging to the Ethibel® Excellence Europe Register, or derived from the ESG research universe of Vigeo Eiris".

ESG criteria. In both cases, the constituents benefit from a global ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) score of (i) equal or higher than 40/100 and (ii) higher than the sector average, at the date of publication.

Ethical criteria. Constituents that do not belong to the Ethibel Register also: (i) have no significant involvement in activities related to armament, gambling, tobacco and to nuclear activities and (ii) are not involved in violations of environmental, labour or human rights standards.

Operational modalities. Solactive and Vigeo Eiris have agreed a script with monthly deliveries of the eligible universe and quarterly updates of the Index composition. At that occasion a review of the possible involvement of the concerned companies in disputable activities or in violations related to the ethical criteria is done. Constituents that do no longer comply with the criteria are excluded from the Index. Solactive publishes all Index updates, after audit and certification by Forum ETHIBEL.

### **Certification liabilities**

Role of Forum ETHIBEL. Forum ETHIBEL solely acts by its role as auditor and certification institute. The Ethibel label is not involved in any way in the assignment.

Meaning and scope. A certificate or a 'declaration of certification' is a written testimony of conformity of a product with its self-imposed rules and regulations and/or quality requirements.

Dedication. A Forum ETHIBEL certificate provides evidence that a financial product or instrument is in line with its non-financial criteria and processes as defined by its prospectus, rulebook, and regulations or otherwise stated specifications.

# Verification and quarterly revision

Forum ETHIBEL has executed the audit in full accordance with the contractual obligations and determinations.

This certification declaration is based on the Index composition at the Adjustment date of December 23rd, 2019 and conformity has been verified against the stated principles and the involved procedures. The reader is referred to the detailed description of the level of involvement and the exclusion thresholds in annex.

All evidence provided by Vigeo Eiris on the involved screening and monitoring processes and the related internal management systems regarding thoughtfulness and quality have been checked. While processing the audit, our additional inquiries were answered by Vigeo Eiris.



Company name	Country Ticker	Rating Sector	ISIN
A2A SPA	ΙΤ	Electric & Gas Utilities	IT0001233417
ALLIANZ SE	DE	Insurance	DE0008404005
ASSICURAZIONI GENERALI	IT	Insurance	IT0000062072
AXA SA	FR	Insurance	FR0000120628
COVIVIO SA	FR	Financial Services - Real Estate	FR0000064578
DEUTSCHE TELEKOM AG	DE	Telecommunications	DE0005557508
EDP ENERGIAS DE PORTUGAL	PT	Electric & Gas Utilities	PTEDP0AM0009
GALP ENERGIA SGPS	PT	Energy	PTGAL0AM0009
GLAXOSMITHKLINE PLC	GB	Pharmaceuticals & biotechnology	GB0009252882
INTESA SANPAOLO SPA	IT	Diversified Banks	IT0000072618
KLEPIERRE SA	FR	Financial Services - Real Estate	FR0000121964
MAPFRE SA	ES	Insurance	ES0124244E34
MEDIOBANCA SPA	IT	Retail & specialised banks	IT0000062957
NATURGY ENERGY GROUP SA	ES	Electric & Gas Utilities	ES0116870314
NN GROUP NV	NL	Insurance	NL0010773842
OMV AG	AT	Energy	AT0000743059
ORANGE SA	FR	Telecommunications	FR0000133308
RED ELECTRICA CORP SA	ES	Electric & Gas Utilities	ES0173093024
ROYAL KPN NV	NL	Telecommunications	NL0000009082
SCOR SE	FR	Insurance	FR0010411983
SNAM SPA	IT	Electric & Gas Utilities	IT0003153415
SWISS RE AG	CH	Insurance	CH0126881561
SWISSCOM AG	CH	Telecommunications	CH0008742519
TELEFONICA DEUTSCHLAND	DE	Telecommunications	DE000A1J5RX9
TELEFONICA SA	ES	Telecommunications	ES0178430E18
TELENOR ASA	NO	Telecommunications	NO0010063308
TELIA CO AB	SE	Telecommunications	SE0000667925
TERNA SPA	IT	Electric & Gas Utilities	IT0003242622
VEOLIA ENVIRONNEMENT SA	FR	Waste & Water Utilities	FR0000124141
ZURICH INSURANCE GROUP	CH	Insurance	CH0011075394

#### Conclusion

With reference to the Adjustment date of December 23rd, 2019 and based on the above listed audit services, we declare that the Ethical Europe Equity Index has been revised in full compliance with stipulations of the ESG and ethical criteria and the operational modalities, set out in the Index rulebook.

> Brussels, December 23rd, 2019 Forum ETHIBEL asbl,

Kenny FREDERICKX, General Director

Laura UWASE, Research officer

<sup>&</sup>quot;Vigeo Eiris is a leading European expert in assessing responsible performance. Founded in 2002, Vigeo Eiris measures the performance and risks regarding to six domains of corporate social responsibility: environment, human rights, human resources, community impact, market behaviour and corporate governance (www.vigeo-eiris.com)



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Forum ETHIBEL is a Belgian independent association, created in 1992 and recognized as an expert in rating, independent audits and certification of products and services that meet ESG and ethical standards (www.forumethibel.org)

# ADDITIONAL RESEARCH ON DISPUTABLE ACTIVITIES AND COMPLIANCE TO ENVIRONMENTAL, HUMAN RIGHTS AND LABOUR STANDARDS

The **Ethical Europe Equity Index** will not include stocks of companies:

- 1. Having a major involvement in the following activities:
  - A. Armament,
  - B. Gambling,
  - C. Tobacco,
  - D. Nuclear.
- 2. Or not complying with:
  - E. The fundamental ILO convention,
  - F. The fundamental conventions of the UN about human rights.
- 3. Or having a major involvement in:
  - G. Environmental controversies, allegations or convictions.

A more detailed description of the level of involvement and the exclusion thresholds (based on turnover) are the following:

#### A. ARMAMENT

Sub-category	Description	Major Involvement
Controversial weapons	Involvement in the development, production, maintenance, use, distribution, storage, transportation or trade of controversial weapons: anti-personnel landmines, cluster munitions, biological, nuclear, chemical, blinding laser, incendiary and undetectable fragments weapons. This also covers arms that are not yet regulated by international treaties, but that are subject to stakeholder campaigns and discussions in international institutions regarding possible future regulation (e.g. depleted uranium weapons and white phosphorus weapons).	Always
Financing of controversial weapons	Major shareholders (≥3%) of any company involved in cluster munitions or anti-personnel landmines.	Always
Conventional weapons	Proportion of turnover derived from the production of conventional weapons. These are any weapons that are not controversial.	>0%
Key parts or services for weapons	Proportion of turnover derived from the production of key parts or services for conventional weapons. Key parts include subsystems of the whole weapon system, as well as end products that are essential to weapon systems (e.g. combat equipment). Key services include services that are essential to weapon systems and combat (e.g. communications services and flight simulation training).	≥10%
Production or sale of civilian firearms	Proportion of turnover derived from the manufacture or sale of civilian firearms or related products.  - Civilian firearms: firearms and associated products destined for use by civilians (hunting, sporting, self-defence etc.) and not primarily by government users (e.g. armed forces, law enforcement agencies or other state-authorised bodies).	>0%  If Type of civilian firearms (see below)  = "Firearms or ammunition" or "Semiautomatic weapons"  ≥10%  If Type of civilian firearms  = "Key parts"
Production of civilian firearms	Proportion of turnover derived from the manufacture of civilian firearms or related products only.	>0%  If Type of civilian firearms (see below) = "Firearms or ammunition" or "Semi-



		automatic weapons"
		≥10%  If Type of civilian firearms = "Key parts"
Type of civilian firearms	Type of civilian firearms or firearms-related products produced or sold (Firearms or ammunition/Semi-automatic weapons/Key parts/General parts).  - Firearms or ammunition.  - Semi-automatic weapons: weapons that can fire in semi-automatic mode and that present aggressive design that make them look like assault rifles.  - Key parts: barrels, optics, stocks, cartridge casings, gun-powders, etc.  - General parts: materials, gun cases, locks and safes, cleaning kits and oils, etc.	See above

#### **B. GAMBLING**

Sub-category	Description	Major Involvement
Gambling products & services	Proportion of turnover derived from gambling operations or products:  - Gambling operations: betting shops, horse and greyhound tracks, licensed bingo halls, casinos, gaming clubs and football pools, online gambling / betting services.  - Gambling products: manufacture or supply of gaming or amusement-with-prizes machines, manufacture of parts of gaming machines, supply of IT products specifically designed for use in gambling products, payment solutions for online gambling.	≥10% If Gambling operations (see below) =0%
Gambling operations	Proportion of turnover derived from gambling operations only.	>0%

# C. TOBACCO

Sub-category	Description	Major Involvement
Production or distribution of tobacco	Proportion of turnover derived from the production or distribution of tobacco.  - Production of tobacco: ownership of tobacco plantations and the manufacture of tobacco products, including revenues from the sale of own products.  - Distribution of tobacco: wholesaling and retail of tobacco products manufactured by other companies.	≥10%  If Production of tobacco (see below) =0%
Production of tobacco	Proportion of turnover derived from the production of tobacco only.	>0%

# D. NUCLEAR

Sub-category	Description	Major Involvement
Turnover from nuclear power	Proportion of turnover derived from nuclear power generation and sale, nuclear parts or services, or uranium mining.	≥5%  If it concerns  Nuclear power generation  AND/OR ≥=10%  If it concerns  Nuclear power sale  AND/OR ≥=10%  If it concerns  Major nuclear parts and services



Nuclear power generation and sale	Type of involvement in nuclear power (Generation/Sales).  - Generation: Companies that own or operate nuclear power stations.  - Sales: Companies that sell electricity generated in nuclear power plants owned or operated by third parties, i.e. companies purchasing nuclear-generated electricity for resale to their own clients.	See above
Nuclear parts and services	Type of products or services provided to the nuclear industry (Major nuclear parts and services/Minor nuclear parts and services/Conventional parts and services).  - Major nuclear parts and services: nuclear power reactors, nuclear fuels, control rooms, waste storage.	See above
Uranium mining	Owning or operating uranium mines.	> 0%

#### **E. NON-RESPECT OF ILO CONVENTIONS**

Companies must comply with the following fundamental ILO conventions (www.ilo.org):

- 29 Forced Labour Convention, 1930
- 87 Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948
- 98 Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949
- 100 Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951
- 105 Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957
- 111 Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958
- 138 Minimum Age Convention, 1973
- 182 Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999

#### F. NON-RESPECT OF CONVENTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Companies must comply with the International Bill of Human Rights. This IBHR consists of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two Optional Protocols. There are 9 core international human rights treaties. Each of these has established a committee of experts to monitor implementation of the treaty provisions by its States parties. Some of the treaties are supplemented by optional protocols dealing with specific concerns.

- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979)
- Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990)
- International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (not yet in force)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (not yet in force)

#### G. MAJOR INVOLVEMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROVERSIES, ALLEGATIONS, CONVICTIONS

Companies which are the subject of serious environmental controversies or accusations or convictions are excluded. Elements that affect the qualification 'serious' are: the scope of the impact; the frequency of accidents; transparency; corrective measures and compensations; cooperation with the authorities, local communities and the victims; adjustments on the level of environmental management systems.

