

Zug, January 13th, 2023

Market Consultation on STOXX Benchmark ESG-X and STOXX Benchmark ESG-X ex Nuclear Power families of indices

Dear Sir and Madam,

STOXX Ltd., the operator of Qontigo's index business and a global provider of innovative and tradable index concepts, has received, as part of the responses to the market consultation from November 16th, 2022, feedback on one of the proposed screens. Recognizing the importance of the input provided, STOXX would like to seek further market opinion on it and will therefore conduct a follow-up consultation on proposed changes to the methodology of the STOXX Benchmark ESG-X family of indices, and STOXX Benchmark ESG-X ex Nuclear Power family of indices (including the EURO STOXX ESG-X ex Nuclear Power Single Factor indices and EURO iSTOXX ESG-X & Ex Nuclear Power Multi Factor index). These changes might affect the STOXX ESG-X Select Dividend indices, STOXX ESG-X Factor indices, and various iSTOXX indices, as the parent universe of these indices are the aforementioned families of indices.

The market consultation may or may not lead to changes in the index methodology.

Process and Timeline

STOXX invites relevant stakeholders and interested third parties to submit responses to consultation@stoxx.com.

The consultation is open to all market participants until January 27th, 2023.

STOXX intends to announce the results of the market consultation, as well as an announcement about potential changes to the index methodology, by February 3rd, 2023.

STOXX clarifies that potential changes resulting from this follow-up consultation will be implemented jointly with the changes decided following the conclusion of the initial consultation published on November 16th, 2022, no later than with the ordinary review on March 20th, 2023.

Motivation for the Market Consultation

Based on the responses from the market consultation on STOXX Benchmark ESG-X and STOXX Benchmark ESG-X ex Nuclear Power families of indices from November 16th, 2022, we seek the opinion of the market, in specific to a new ESG Risk Ratings screen.

Proposed Treatments/Amendments

Currently, there is no ESG Laggards screening in the impacted indices.

In the prior market consultation from November 16th, 2022, we proposed, among other things, to implement screen (a) ESG Laggards based on Sustainalytics ESG Rating dataset, which has received mixed responses. The majority mentioned using a screen based on Sustainalytics ESG Risk Rating, which is option (b).

	CURRENT SCREENS	PROPOSED SCREENS	REASONS	LINK WITH PAI
(a) ESG Laggards based on Sustainalytics ESG Ratings dataset		STOXX will exclude companies that have an ESG score of below 50 or no ESG score, sourced from Sustainalytics ESG Rating dataset	Exclude companies that score poorly on ESG based on Sustainalytics ESG Rating dataset. Sustainalytics' ESG Ratings measure how well companies proactively manage the environmental, social and governance issues that are the most material to their business (0-100)	
(b) ESG Risk Rating based on Sustainalytics ESG Risk Ratings dataset		STOXX will exclude companies that Sustainalytics identifies to have a "Severe" ESG Risk Rating, sourced from the Sustainalytics ESG Risk Ratings dataset	The ESG Risk Rating evaluates the degree of a company's unmanaged material ESG risk by assessing a company's exposure to, and management of, the ESG issues that are considered most material for that company from a financial perspective. Sustainalytics assess and categorizes companies into five risk categories (Negligible, Low, Medium, High, Severe).	

Impacted Indices

EURO STOXX 50 ESG-X
EURO STOXX Banks ESG-X
EURO STOXX ESG-X
EURO STOXX Large ESG-X
EURO STOXX Mid ESG-X
EURO STOXX Small ESG-X
EURO STOXX Total Market ESG-X
EURO STOXX Total Market Large ESG-X
EURO STOXX Total Market Mid ESG-X
STOXX Asia/Pacific 600 ESG-X
STOXX Australia 150 ESG-X
STOXX Australia Total Market ESG-X
STOXX Canada 240 ESG-X
STOXX Canada 60 ESG-X
STOXX Developed Markets 2400 ESG-X
STOXX Developed Markets Total Market ESG-X
STOXX Developed Markets Total Market Large ESG-X
STOXX Developed Markets Total Market Mid ESG-X
STOXX Emerging Markets 1500 ESG-X
STOXX Emerging Markets 50 ESG-X
STOXX Emerging Markets 800 LO ESG-X
STOXX Emerging Markets Total Market Large ESG-X
STOXX Emerging Markets Total Market Mid ESG-X
STOXX Europe 50 ESG-X
STOXX Europe 600 ESG-X
STOXX Europe 600 Banks ESG-X
STOXX Europe Large 200 ESG-X
STOXX Europe Mid 200 ESG-X
STOXX Europe Small 200 ESG-X
STOXX Europe Total Market ESG-X
STOXX France 90 ESG-X
STOXX Germany Total Market ESG-X
STOXX Global 1800 ESG-X
STOXX Global 3000 ESG-X
STOXX Italy 45 ESG-X
STOXX Japan 600 ESG-X
STOXX Nordic 30 ESG-X
STOXX Nordic Total Market ESG-X
STOXX North America 600 ESG-X
STOXX Singapore 75 ESG-X
STOXX Spain 30 ESG-X
STOXX UK 180 ESG-X
STOXX USA 500 ESG-X
STOXX USA 900 ESG-X
STOXX Asia/Pacific 600 ESG-X Ax Low Risk
STOXX Asia/Pacific 600 ESG-X Ax Momentum
STOXX Asia/Pacific 600 ESG-X Ax Multi-Factor
STOXX Asia/Pacific 600 ESG-X Ax Quality
STOXX Asia/Pacific 600 ESG-X Ax Size
STOXX Asia/Pacific 600 ESG-X Ax Value

STOXX Europe 600 ESG-X Ax Low Risk
STOXX Europe 600 ESG-X Ax Momentum
STOXX Europe 600 ESG-X Ax Multi-Factor
STOXX Europe 600 ESG-X Ax Quality
STOXX Europe 600 ESG-X Ax Size
STOXX Europe 600 ESG-X Ax Value
STOXX Global 1800 ESG-X Ax Low Risk
STOXX Global 1800 ESG-X Ax Momentum
STOXX Global 1800 ESG-X Ax Multi-Factor
STOXX Global 1800 ESG-X Ax Quality
STOXX Global 1800 ESG-X Ax Size
STOXX Global 1800 ESG-X Ax Value
STOXX Japan 600 ESG-X Ax Low Risk
STOXX Japan 600 ESG-X Ax Momentum
STOXX Japan 600 ESG-X Ax Multi-Factor
STOXX Japan 600 ESG-X Ax Quality
STOXX Japan 600 ESG-X Ax Size
STOXX Japan 600 ESG-X Ax Value
STOXX USA 500 ESG-X Ax Low Risk
STOXX USA 500 ESG-X Ax Momentum
STOXX USA 500 ESG-X Ax Multi-Factor
STOXX USA 500 ESG-X Ax Quality
STOXX USA 500 ESG-X Ax Size
STOXX USA 500 ESG-X Ax Value
STOXX USA 900 ESG-X Ax Low Risk
STOXX USA 900 ESG-X Ax Momentum
STOXX USA 900 ESG-X Ax Multi-Factor
STOXX USA 900 ESG-X Ax Quality
STOXX USA 900 ESG-X Ax Size
STOXX USA 900 ESG-X Ax Value
EURO STOXX ESG-X Select Dividend 30
STOXX Asia/Pacific ESG-X Select Dividend 30
STOXX Europe ESG-X Select Dividend 30
STOXX North America ESG-X Select Dividend 40
STOXX Global ESG-X Select Dividend 100
iSTOXX Europe 600 ESG-X GR Decrement 5%
iSTOXX Europe 600 ESG-X NR Decrement 4.75%
iSTOXX Global ESG Eurozone Leg Equal Weight
iSTOXX Global ESG US Leg Equal Weight
iSTOXX Global ESG Japan Leg Equal Weight
iSTOXX Global ESG 120
iSTOXX Global ESG 120 Decrement
iSTOXX Global ESG Eurozone Leg 50
iSTOXX Global ESG US Leg 50
iSTOXX Global ESG Japan Leg 50
iSTOXX Global ESG 150
iSTOXX Global ESG 150 Decrement
iSTOXX France ESG 40
iSTOXX France ESG 40 Decrement 50
EURO STOXX ESG-X ex Nuclear Power
STOXX Europe 600 ESG-X ex Nuclear Power
STOXX Germany Total Market ESG-X ex Nuclear Power

STOXX Global 1800 ESG-X ex Nuclear Power
STOXX USA 500 ESG-X ex Nuclear Power
EURO iSTOXX ESG-X & Ex Nuclear Power Multi Factor
EURO STOXX ESG-X & Ex Nuclear Power Minimum Variance Unconstrained
EURO STOXX ESG-X & Ex Nuclear Power Momentum
EURO STOXX ESG-X & Ex Nuclear Power Quality
EURO STOXX ESG-X & Ex Nuclear Power Value

Questions

1. Are you in favour of having an ESG Risk Ratings screen (b) instead of the ESG Laggards screen (a)?

Please provide the rationale for your answer.