

DWS Invest ESG Emerging Markets Top Dividend

This sub-fund promotes environmental and social characteristics and qualifies as product in accordance with article 8(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088.

Summary

This document shall give investors among other things a concise overview about Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) characteristics that the investment strategy is targeting, the functioning of the ESG database including its data sources and screening criteria for the underlying assets, as well as how the database is integrated in the investment guideline monitoring process.

Investment policy

The sub-fund invests primarily in equities of issuers having their registered office or their principal business activity in emerging-market countries or which, as holding companies, predominantly hold interests in companies registered in an emerging-market country and which are expected to achieve an above-average dividend yield. Emerging-market countries are defined as all those countries considered by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank or the International Finance Corporation (IFC) as non-developed industrialized countries at the time of the investment. In doing so, the following aspects shall be considered when selecting the equities: Dividend yield above the market average, sustainability of dividend yield and growth, historical and estimated future earnings growth, attractive price/earnings ratio.

The sub-fund does not have a reference benchmark.

Environmental or social characteristics of the financial product

The sub-fund's assets are predominantly invested in securities from issuers that comply with defined minimum standards in respect to environmental, social and corporate governance characteristics.

The ESG performance of an issuer is evaluated independently from financial success based on a variety of characteristics. These characteristics include, for example, the following fields of interest:

Environment:

- Conservation of flora and fauna;
- Protection of natural resources, atmosphere and inshore waters;
- Limitation of land degradation and climate change;
- Avoidance of encroachment on ecosystems and loss of biodiversity.

Social:

- General human rights;
- Prohibition of child labour and forced labour;
- Imperative Non-discrimination;
- Workplace health and safety;
- Fair workplace and appropriate remuneration.

Corporate Governance:

- Corporate Governance Principles by the International Corporate Governance Network;
- Global Compact Anti-Corruption Principles.

Methodologies used to assess, measure and monitor ESG characteristics

The sub-fund management seeks to attain a variety of the environmental, social and corporate governance characteristics by assessing potential investments via proprietary ESG investment methodology. This methodology incorporates portfolio investment standards according to an ESG database, which uses data from multiple leading ESG data providers as well as internal and public sources to derive proprietary combined scores for various environmental, social and corporate governance characteristics.

These encompass assessments for (i) controversial sectors (which include coal, tobacco, defence industry,

Before implementing any new rules, overwriting vendor input in exceptional circumstances or doing enhancements to the algorithm, the ESG methodology panel (EMP) examines and approves the amendments to the ESG database at first. This process is documented and externally audited.

Engagement policies

An engagement activity can be initiated with the individual issuers regarding matters such as strategy, financial and non-financial performance, risk, capital structure, social and environmental impact as well as corporate governance including topics like disclosure, culture and remuneration. The dialogue can be exercised by, for example, proxy voting, company meetings or engagement letters.

Limitations to methodologies and data

ESG signals that DWS uses in its investment management are sourced or derived from data that DWS receives pursuant to licenses with third-party commercial ESG data providers. Sources: ISS ESG, Morningstar Sustainalytics, S&P Trucost Limited, MSCI ESG Research Inc. and Arabesque S-Ray as well as information publicly available. These signals do not constitute investment advice or recommendations by such providers. All rights in the data and reports provided by third-party licensors vest in such licensors and/or their content providers. None of such licensors or their affiliates, or their content providers, accept any liability for any errors, omissions or interruptions in such data/reports as to completeness, accuracy or timeliness. No copying or further distribution of such data/reports is permitted without such third-party licensors' express written consent.