

# MSCI EUR HY Corporate Bonds Select Screens Index Methodology





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### 1 Introduction

The MSCI EUR HY Corporate Bonds Select Screens Index (the "Index") is constructed from the MSCI EUR HY Select Corporate Bond Index (the "Parent Index") by incorporating business exclusion screens based on involvement in Controversial Weapons, Civilian Firearms, Nuclear Weapons, Tobacco, Adult Entertainment, Alcohol, Conventional Weapons, Gambling, Genetically Modified Organisms, Nuclear Power, Fossil Fuel Reserves, Fossil Fuel Extraction, Thermal Coal Based Power Generation, ESG Controversy Score and ESG Rating. The issuer weight is subsequently capped at 3%.

The Parent Index is constructed from the global credit universe of Corporate Bonds denominated in EUR by applying various selection criteria based on security type, credit rating, bond size, maturity and country of domicile.



# 2 Index Construction Methodology

Constructing the Indexes involves the following steps:

- Defining the MSCI EUR HY Select Corporate Bond Index
- Defining the MSCI EUR HY Corporate Bonds Select Screens Index

### 2.1 Defining the MSCI EUR HY Select Corporate Bond Index

The Parent Index is constructed using the methodology defined for MSCI EUR HY Corporate Bond Index in the MSCI Corporate Bond Indexes Methodology<sup>1</sup> except for the below changes:

- At rebalancing, each security included in the Parent Index will have a notional amount outstanding greater than or equal to EUR 400 million.
- Issuer Country of Domicile: Securities included in the Parent Index must belong to issuers domiciled in the Developed Market countries defined in Appendix I.
- Each Parent Index constituent must be rated either by S&P or Moody's. For bonds that are rated by both S&P and Moody's, the lower rating will be used to determine the index inclusion criteria.

S&P Rating		Moody's Rating	
Higher Rating	Lower Rating	Higher Rating	Lower Rating
Threshold	Threshold	Threshold	Threshold
BB+	B-	Ba1	B3

- Callable Perpetual Bonds are eligible for inclusion in the Parent Index.
- Junior Subordinated Bonds belonging to Banks (based on GICS Industry Group classification) are excluded from the index

# 2.2 Defining the MSCI EUR HY Corporate Bonds Select Screens Index

The Index is constructed from the Parent Index by applying the screening criteria defined in Appendix II. The exclusions are based on the data provided by MSCI ESG Research at the time of index rebalancing. The screened securities which are eligible for inclusion in the Index are weighted in proportion of their weight in the Parent Index. The issuers weights are subsequently capped at  $3\%^2$ .

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Refer to MSCI Corporate Bond Indexes Methodology available at: https://www.msci.com/index-methodology

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 2}$  The issuer capping is relaxed in steps of 1% if capping at 3% is infeasible.



# 2.3 Treatment of Unrated Companies

All securities that are not excluded by the specified MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research (BISR) criteria are eligible for inclusion in the index.

Companies not assessed by MSCI ESG Research on data for any of the following MSCI ESG Research products are not eligible for inclusion in the Indexes:

- MSCI ESG Rating Score
- MSCI Controversy Score



# 3 Index Rebalancing & Maintenance

## 3.1 Monthly Index Reviews

- The composition of the Indexes is reviewed monthly, with an effective rebalancing impact on the first business day of the month (Rebalancing Date). For clarification, bonds are added to the Index at the closing of the last business day of every month, however, the return impact is on the first business day of the month.
- In general, change in the index composition is based on latest<sup>3</sup> data available (including MSCI ESG & Climate data) three days prior to the Rebalancing Date, which is defined as the Cut-Off Date. Any inclusion or exclusion criteria satisfied for a given security in the universe, after the Cut-Off Date (T-3), will generally become effective at the following monthly rebalancing; should conditions remain unchanged. In exceptional cases, for instance, cases of input data correction, MSCI can reduce the Cut-Off Date for Index rebalancing from T-3 to T-2, T-1 or T. In such instances, MSCI will notify Index clients of such changes via announcement.
- MSCI will disclose proforma Index rebalancing results starting the second business day of each month. MSCI will freeze the pro forma Index rebalancing results as of the Cut-Off Date.
- Bonds are added to or deleted from the Index only on monthly rebalancing dates. For the
  existing Index components any changes to Index eligibility will only be reflected in the next
  monthly rebalancing.
- Any inclusion or exclusion criteria satisfied for a given security in the universe, after the Cutoff Date, will generally become effective at the following monthly rebalancing; should conditions remain unchanged.
- Any cash that accrues within the index each month is re-invested on a pro-rata basis across
  the index constituents on the effective date of rebalancing. In essence, cash in the Index is
  swept out on rebalancing and the opening Index portfolio on the Rebalancing Date starts
  with zero accrued cash balance.
- Specific variants of total return calculation of the Index on the Rebalancing Date may be adjusted for transaction costs as securities are added to the Index at the offer price.

For further information on index total return calculation and corporate events handling please refer to the MSCI Fixed Income Index Calculation Methodology. For the holiday calendar used in the indexes, please refer to the MSCI Fixed Income Data Methodology<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> ESG and Climate data will utilize the most recent, quality-assured information available. For index rebalancing, the latest data that has successfully undergone quality assurance checks will be employed. In cases where recent data changes are still undergoing verification, only data that has passed the quality assurance process will be considered.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The methodologies are available at: <a href="https://www.msci.com/index-methodology">https://www.msci.com/index-methodology</a>



MSCI leverages the GICS®5 sector classification framework for construction of the Parent Index. Please refer to MSCI GICS Methodology⁴ for details.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 5}$  GICS, the global industry classification standard, jointly developed by MSCI Inc. and S&P Global.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The GICS methodology is available at: <a href="https://www.msci.com/gics">https://www.msci.com/gics</a>



### 4 MSCI ESG Research

The Indexes are products of MSCI Inc. that utilize information such as company ratings and research produced and provided by MSCI ESG Research LLC (MSCI ESG Research), a subsidiary of MSCI Inc. In particular, the Indexes use the following MSCI ESG Research products: MSCI ESG Ratings, ESG Controversies, and ESG Business Involvement Screening Research. MSCI Indexes are administered by MSCI Limited and MSCI Deutschland GmbH.

### 4.1 MSCI ESG Ratings

MSCI ESG Ratings aim to measure entities' management of environmental, social and governance risks and opportunities. MSCI ESG Ratings are based on a seven-point scale from 'AAA' to 'CCC', indicating how an entity manages relevant key issues relative to industry peers.

The MSCI ESG Ratings methodology can be found at: <a href="https://www.msci.com/legal/disclosures/esg-disclosures">https://www.msci.com/legal/disclosures/esg-disclosures</a>.

#### 4.2 MSCI ESG Controversies

MSCI ESG Controversies provide assessments of controversies concerning the potential negative environmental, social, and/or governance impact of company operations, products and services. The evaluation framework used in MSCI ESG Controversies is designed to be consistent with international norms represented by the UN Declaration of Human Rights, the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and the UN Global Compact. MSCI ESG Controversies Score falls on a 0-10 scale, with "0" being the most severe controversy.

The MSCI ESG Controversies methodology can be found in: https://www.msci.com/legal/disclosures/esg-disclosures.

# 4.3 MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research

MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research (BISR) aims to enable institutional investors to manage environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards and restrictions reliably and efficiently.

For more details on MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research, please refer to <a href="https://www.msci.com/legal/disclosures/esg-disclosures">https://www.msci.com/legal/disclosures/esg-disclosures</a>.



# **Appendix I: List of Developed Market Countries**<sup>5</sup>

Country Name				
Australia	Latvia			
Austria	Lithuania			
Belgium	Luxembourg			
Canada	Macao Sar			
Croatia	Malta			
Cyprus	Netherlands			
Denmark	New Zealand			
Estonia	Norway			
Finland	Portugal			
France	Singapore			
Germany	Slovakia			
Greece	Slovenia			
Hong Kong	Spain			
Iceland	Sweden			
Ireland	Switzerland			
Israel	United Kingdom			
ltaly	USA			
Japan				

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Refer to the MSCI Fixed Income Market Classification Framework for detail. The document is available at https://www.msci.com/indexes/index-resources/market-classification.



# **Appendix II: ESG-based Exclusion Criteria**

#### **Controversial Weapons:**

All companies with any tie to Controversial Weapons as defined below:

#### Cluster Bombs

 MSCI ESG Research's cluster bomb research identifies issuers that are involved in the production of cluster bombs and munitions, or the essential components of these products.

#### Landmines

 MSCI ESG Research's landmines research identifies issuers that are involved in the production of anti - personnel landmines, anti - vehicle landmines, or the essential components of these products.

#### Depleted Uranium Weapons

 MSCI ESG Research's depleted uranium weapons research identifies issuers involved in the production of depleted uranium weapons and armor.

#### Chemical and Biological Weapons

 MSCI ESG Research's chemical and biological weapons research identifies issuers that are involved in the production of chemical and biological weapons, or the essential components of these products.

#### Blinding Laser Weapons

 MSCI ESG Research's blinding laser weapons research identifies issuers that are involved in the production of weapons utilizing laser technology to cause permanent blindness.

#### Non-Detectable Fragments

 MSCI ESG Research's non-detectable fragments research identifies issuers that are involved in the production of weapons that use non-detectable fragments to inflict injury.

#### Incendiary Weapons (White Phosphorus)

 MSCI ESG Research's incendiary weapons research identifies issuers that are involved in the production of weapons using white phosphorus.

#### Involvement criteria:

- Producers of the weapons.
- Producers of key components of the weapons (only applies to cluster bombs, landmines, depleted uranium weapons as well as chemical and biological weapons).
- Ownership of 20% or more of a weapons or components producer

The minimum limit is raised to 50% for financial companies having an ownership in a company that manufactures controversial weapons or key components of controversial weapons.



 Owned 50% or more by a company involved in weapons or components production

#### **Revenue limits:**

Any identifiable revenues, i.e., zero tolerance

#### **Civilian Firearms:**

- All companies classified as "Producer" of firearms and small arms ammunitions for civilian markets. It does not include companies that cater to the military, government, and law enforcement markets.
- All companies deriving 5% or more aggregate revenue from the production and distribution (wholesale or retail) of firearms or small arms ammunition intended for civilian use.

#### **Nuclear weapons:**

- All companies that manufacture nuclear warheads and/or whole nuclear missiles.
- All companies that manufacture components that were developed or are significantly modified for exclusive use in nuclear weapons (warheads and missiles).
- All companies that manufacture or assemble delivery platforms that were developed or significantly modified for the exclusive delivery of nuclear weapons.
- All companies that provide auxiliary services related to nuclear weapons.
- All companies that manufacture components that were not developed or not significantly
  modified for exclusive use in nuclear weapons (warheads and missiles) but can be used in
  nuclear weapons.
- All companies that manufacture or assemble delivery platforms that were not developed or not significantly modified for the exclusive delivery of nuclear weapons but have the capability to deliver nuclear weapons.
- All companies that manufacture components for nuclear-exclusive delivery platforms.

#### Tobacco

- All companies classified as a "Producer".
- All companies deriving 5% or more aggregate revenue from the production, distribution, retail, supply and licensing of tobacco-related products.

#### **Adult Entertainment**

- All companies deriving 5% or more revenue from the production of adult entertainment materials.
- All companies deriving 15% or more aggregate revenue from the production, distribution and retail of adult entertainment materials.

#### Alcohol:



- All companies deriving 5% or more revenue from the production of alcohol related products.
- All companies deriving 15% or more aggregate revenue from the production, distribution, retail and supply of alcohol-related products.

#### **Conventional Weapons:**

- All companies deriving 5% or more revenue from the production of conventional weapons and components.
- All companies deriving 15% or more aggregate revenue from weapons systems, components, and support systems and services.

#### Gambling:

- All companies deriving 5% or more revenue from ownership of operation of gamblingrelated business activities.
- All companies deriving 15% or more aggregate revenue from gambling related business activities.

#### **Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)**

 All companies deriving 5% or more revenue from activities like genetically modifying plants, such as seeds and crops, and other organisms intended for agricultural use or human consumption.

#### **Nuclear Power:**

- All companies generating 5% or more of their total electricity from nuclear power in a given year.
- All companies that have 5% or more of installed capacity attributed to nuclear sources in a given fiscal year.
- All companies deriving 15% or more aggregate revenue from nuclear power activities.

#### Fossil Fuel Reserves Ownership:

• All companies with evidence of owning proven & probable coal reserves and/or proven oil and natural gas reserves used for energy purposes.

#### **Fossil Fuel Extraction:**

- All companies deriving any revenue (either reported or estimated) from thermal coal mining and unconventional oil and gas extraction.
- Thermal Coal Mining: Revenue from the mining of thermal coal (including lignite, bituminous, anthracite and steam coal) and its sale to external parties. It does not cover revenue from metallurgical coal; coal mined for internal power generation (e.g. in the case of vertically integrated power producers); intra-company sales of mined thermal coal; and revenue from coal trading.



 Unconventional Oil & Gas Extraction: Revenue from oil sands, oil shale (kerogen-rich deposits), shale gas, shale oil, coal seam gas, and coal bed methane. It does not cover all types of conventional oil and gas production including Arctic onshore/offshore, deep water, shallow water and other onshore/offshore.

#### **Thermal Coal Power:**

• All companies deriving 5% or more revenue (either reported or estimated) from thermal coal-based power generation.

#### **ESG Controversies:**

• All companies having faced very severe controversies pertaining to ESG issues – defined as companies with an ESG Controversy Score of 0.

#### **ESG Rating:**

• Securities of companies having an MSCI ESG Rating of "BB", "B", "CCC" or unrated.



# **Appendix III: Methodology Set**

The Indexes are governed by a set of methodology and policy documents ("Methodology Set"), including the present index methodology document as mentioned below:

- Description of methodology set –
   https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/FIInfo
- MSCI Fixed Income Data Methodology –
   https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/FIDATA
- MSCI Fixed Income Calculation Methodology –
   https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/FIINDEXCALC
- MSCI Fixed Income Glossary of Terms –
   https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/FIGLOSS
- MSCI Fixed Income Index Policies –
   https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/FIINDEXPOLICY
- MSCI Corporate Bond Indexes Methodology– https://www.msci.com/index/methodology/latest/FIIGCORP
- ESG Factors in Methodology\*

The Methodology Set for the Indexes can also be accessed from MSCI's webpage https://www.msci.com/index-methodology in the section 'Search Methodology by Index Name or Index Code'.

\*'ESG Factors in Methodology' contains the list of environmental, social, and governance factors considered, and how they are applied in the methodology (e.g., selection, weighting or exclusion). It can be accessed in the Methodology Set as described above



# **Appendix IV: Changes to the Document**

#### The following sections have been modified as of July 2025:

- The Index Name was updated, effective July 2025; MSCI EUR HY Sustainable SRI Select Corporate Bond Index Methodology has been renamed as MSCI EUR HY Corporate Bonds Select Screens Index Methodology.
- Added Section 2.3 to clarify treatment of companies with ratings and research not available from MSCI ESG Research
- Updated links for ESG Data Disclosures in Section 4
- Added Appendix III to clarify the Methodology Set of the Index
- Updated the branding template.



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