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DWS Fixed Maturity Diversified Bonds 2027

This financial product promotes environmental and social characteristics and qualifies as product in accordance with Article 8(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088.

No sustainable investment objective

This financial product promotes environmental or social characteristics, but does not have as its objective sustainable investment.

Environmental or social characteristics of the financial product

This sub-fund promotes environmental and social characteristics related to climate, governance and social norms as well as sovereign matters through the avoidance of (1) issuers exposed to excessive climate and transition risks, (2) issuers exposed to highest severity of norm issues (i.e. as regards compliance with international standards of corporate governance, human rights and labour rights, customer and environment safety and business ethics), (3) sovereign issuers with high or excessive controversies regarding political and civil liberties, (4) issuers moderately, highly or excessively exposed to controversial sectors and controversial activities, and/or (5) issuers involved in controversial weapons. This sub-fund has not designated a reference benchmark for the purpose of attaining the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted.

Investment strategy

This sub-fund pursues a strategy based on bonds and to pay out sustainable distributions and to preserve capital invested at the sub-fund's maturity in 2027 (no guarantee). Interest-bearing securities which are denominated in or hedged against the euro, such as government bonds, corporate bonds, asset-backed securities and covered bonds, shall be acquired for the sub-fund. At least 70% of the directly purchased bonds have an investment grade rating, and a maximum of 30% may have a high yield rating, except for European Government bonds / T-Bills. But not more than 10% may have a minimum rating of CCC+, CCC or CCC- or the equivalent rating of a different rating agency. Further details regarding the main investment strategy are specified in the Special Section of the Sales Prospectus. The sub-fund's assets are predominantly allocated into investments that comply with the defined standards in respect to the promoted environmental and social characteristics as described in the following sections. The sub-fund's strategy in relation to the promoted environmental or social characteristics is integral part of the ESG assessment methodology, which is continuously monitored via the sub-fund's investment guidelines.



Proportion of investments

This sub-fund invests at least 51% of its net assets in investments that are aligned with the promoted environmental and social characteristics. Up to 49% of the sub-fund's net assets may be invested in all permissible assets for which either the DWS ESG assessment methodology is not applied or for which ESG data coverage is incomplete. A more detailed description of the specific asset allocation of this sub-fund can be found in the Special Section of the Sales Prospectus.

Derivatives are currently not used to attain the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the sub-fund.

Monitoring of environmental or social characteristics

For the purpose of the investment guideline monitoring, a coding process is established in which the investment policy as described in the prospectus and the investment limits contained therein are coded in accordance into the investment management system. This applies in particular to the respective ESG investment limits. The investment limits are monitored daily pre- and post-trade in the investment management system to ensure compliance with the investment guidelines. In pre-trade monitoring, it is ensured that the investment limits are complied with before trading. However, if a breach has been detected, the breach will be investigated for its cause and scope, addressed and corrected in accordance with legal/regulatory requirements and guidelines.

Methodologies

The attainment of the promoted environmental and social characteristics is assessed via the application of a proprietary ESG assessment methodology as further described in section "What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?". The methodology applies a variety of assessment categories that are used as sustainability indicators to assess the attainment of the promoted environmental and social characteristics, which are as follows:

- **DWS Climate and Transition Risk Assessment** is used as indicator for an issuer's exposure to climate and transition risks
- **DWS Norm Assessment** is used as indicator for an issuer's exposure to norm-related issues
- **DWS Sovereign Assessment** is used as indicator for a sovereign issuer's extent of controversies regarding governance, such as political and civil liberties
- **Exposure to controversial sectors** is used as indicator for an issuer's involvement in controversial sectors and controversial activities
- **Involvement in controversial weapons** is used as indicator for an issuer's involvement in controversial weapons

Data sources and processing

DWS sources sustainability information from different data vendors. Each of the commercial data vendors established upstream controls to ensure quality of their processes and of the data that is being provided. In addition, DWS has set up different quality control processes for inbound ESG data and ESG assessments derived by the DWS ESG Engine. The ESG assessments are quality controlled and/or validated by responsible teams and/or councils. Based on current understanding of the regulatory guidelines on estimates, DWS classifies all data that is not publicly reported by investee companies under (regulatory) reporting requirements as estimated data (including data received from data vendors if they do not disclose their coverage of estimated data). Therefore, up to 100% of the data used may be reported as estimated data.

Limitations to methodologies and data

DWS ESG assessments are based on external vendor data and/or DWS internal assessments and research. In both cases, potential expert-based subjectivity weighs in. The prevalence of potential subjectivity constitutes a limitation if not properly mitigated. DWS mitigates this potential challenge by selecting the methodology deemed most reasonable for the relevant DWS ESG assessment under consideration, e.g. by seeking for cross vendor consensus in order to avoid bias or by applying a worst off assessment approach in order to gather different facets deemed relevant by different ESG providers regarding the same topic. ESG assessments based on DWS internal research follow at least a four-eye principle approach and are regularly reviewed by the relevant DWS ESG council. Further data limitations, including limited data coverage for certain asset classes and investments, outdated data and structural data update issues, may apply.

Due Diligence

The due diligence carried out on the underlying assets of a financial product is governed by relevant internal policies, key operating documents and handbooks. The due diligence is based on the availability of ESG data which the sub-fund management sources from external ESG data vendors. In addition to the external quality assurance by the vendors, the sub-fund management has processes and governance bodies in place that control the quality of the ESG signals.

Engagement policies

Engagement with investee companies is carried out centrally by DWS according to DWS's established policies, procedures, and governance framework, as described in the DWS Stewardship Statement related to stewardship activities, which also include the exercise of voting rights. As such, engagement and other stewardship activities are exercised based on the aggregated holdings managed by the DWS legal entities in scope of the DWS Stewardship Statement. Engagement, or stewardship generally, is therefore not conducted or reported at the individual product level.

While stewardship is conducted at entity level, engagement and voting activities may still relate to corporate issuers (investee companies) held in the portfolio of this sub-fund.

In particular, DWS conducts engagement with corporate issuers across both equity and fixed income holdings. Engagement activities are carried out exclusively in relation to directly held equity and fixed income positions. DWS does not conduct engagement with corporate issuers where exposure arises exclusively through indirect holdings, e.g. corporate issuers held in the portfolio of target funds.

Engagement activities are intended to identify and address financially material risks and opportunities relevant to long term value creation. While engagement is applied across both equity and fixed income instruments, stewardship activities are inherently more limited for fixed income instruments due to the absence of shareholder voting rights.

The description of the policies regarding the exercise of voting rights and engagement activities of the Management Company is available to investors online at www.dws.com/footer/legal-resources. Information on the exercise of voting rights and on engagement activities carried out is published in aggregated form at the level of the DWS legal entities covered by those policies described in the DWS Stewardship Statement, which includes DWS Investment S.A as Management Company.

Designated reference benchmark

This sub-fund has not designated a reference benchmark to determine whether it is aligned with the environmental and social characteristics that it promotes.