ERSTE
The ESG Letter
on Environmental, Social and Governance issues
Nr 1/2014

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Editorial

Gerold Permoser is Chief Investment Officer (CIO) of Erste Asset Management. In this function he is in charge of the asset management activities and investment strategies of all investment funds of the Erste Asset Management Group in Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia.

In Wife We Trust

My wife often disagrees with me, not the least when it comes to cars. Eleven years ago I brought a 1995 model into our marriage. My wife never liked the car. Now we have a new one. And you are reading an ERSTE RESPONSIBLE RETURN – The ESG-Letter about this topic.

To cut a long story short, my wife claimed that the old car was not only behind the times, but a new one would be safer, nicer to look at, more comfortable, and also more energy-efficient. I on the other hand pointed out that the production of a new car was more detrimental to the environment than the lower fuel consumption would be able to offset. Usually our discussions all follow the same pattern: I have better information, my wife has smarter arguments. Therefore I tried to answer one specific question: what about the carbon footprint of our 1995 model, and how much energy does the production of the new car consume?

Here is our insight: there is no such thing as a holistic and generally understandable carbon footprint at this point in time, nor is it likely to come into effect in the foreseeable future. And total energy consumption over the life cycle of a product is not that easily established either. This situation notwithstanding, more and more companies have been turning towards the issue of the carbon footprint. There are two reasons for that:

- On the one hand companies use the carbon footprint specifically as marketing tool. We have seen such developments in retail (Tesco, Casino), in IT (Apple and Lenovo), and in the food industry.
- On the other hand the carbon footprint serves as management tool. Companies such as Puma calculate their carbon footprint but do not make it public. This is based on the notion that the efficient use of resources also contributes to the success of the company. The scientific finding that companies with low emissions promise above-average ROIs supports this idea.

As you can see, I have informed myself. But my wife is smarter. How smart, is what I tend to realise whenever I fill up to 300 kilometres later than I used to do.

Sincerely

Mag. Gerold Permoser
Chief Investment Officer (CIO)

What is the carbon footprint?

Our co-operation partner WWF Austria explains

When defining the carbon footprint, EAM'S co-operation partner World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) Austria refers to WWF International's annual publication „Living Planet Report": The carbon footprint is the surface area of forest required of to absorb all carbon dioxide emissions, net of those absorbed by the oceans. It is part of the ecological footprint, which was developed by the scientists Mathis Wackernagel and William Rees in 1994. This concept illustrates the usage of the biosphere by man.

The carbon footprint can be calculated for countries, companies, products, and individuals. Carbon dioxide emissions make up the largest part of greenhouse gas emissions, which contribute to global warming. WWF Austria welcomes the integration of carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas balances in the accounting of organisations, companies, as well as products and their life cycles in order to make emissions quantifiable and facilitate an approach towards their reduction. To this day, no clear, internationally accepted definition of the carbon footprint has been found. Thus, in order to ensure a certain level of consistency, a straightforward, well-documented methodology in the collection of CO_2 emission data is crucial.

For 2014, the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) has set itself the goal of developing an international carbon footprint standard for products (ISO/TS 14067).

Sources: WWF Living Planet Report 2012, Global Footprint Network, Internationale Organisation für Normung (ISO), Photo: Fotolia

Investment Board

The EAM Investment Board gives a structured form to the ongoing and responsive dialogue with and among sustainability research agencies. The Board provides the opportunity for the consultation process between own research and external research to take place. It also discusses rating details, the ESG's assessment of the IPOs of new issuers and sustainability issues in general.

Footprint of the automotive sector

The first insight of our Investment Board is also the most sobering one: the carbon footprint is an interesting, but not exactly well-defined concept. There is no standardised and generally accepted method of calculation in place. The reasons are manifold:

No statutory regulations

So far no country has laid down carbon footprint specifications or boundaries in law. However, some countries like the UK, France, and Japan have already specified consumption standards and reporting duties (in the UK, approx. 1,600 companies listed on the London Stock Exchange have to show their emissions in their annual reports). But other than in other fields like for example in accounting, there are no standardised or transparent regulations in sight.

Weak stakeholders

Stakeholders like the retail sector or NGOs lack the clout to pin down producers and hold them to one standard. Tesco, a pioneer when it comes to carbon footprints, has drastically watered down its intention to label all products, and will label only some product groups instead.

Rigid concept – flexible production

The large degree of flexibility of many modern production processes is also detrimental to the concept of the carbon footprint. If the processes are modified, the calculation of the carbon footprint has to be adjusted as well.

Alternative concepts

On top of that, the carbon footprint is in keen competition with alternative concepts, and companies often do not know what model covers their requirements. The bandwidth of options ranges from the emissions generated by the production process to the ecological footprint, which tries to include all environmental and resource issues. This concept is therefore much wider seeing as it also takes trade-offs such as lower CO2 emissions at the expense of higher water consumption into account.

Merits for companies

In spite of the aforementioned problems, the carbon footprint does have its merits for companies as marketing and management tool, as we suggested in the Editorial. This does not at least apply to the automotive industry: on the one hand a decreased carbon footprint is good PR – especially when it comes to arguing the ecological efficiency of the fleet. On the other hand the footprint also has financial ramifications, such as the purchase and sale of emission rights.

The hybrid car is still a niche product

It is a fact that global car manufacturers are under regulatory pressure to reduce the fuel consumption of their fleet. Strategies employed in the implementation of these specifications range from lighter and thus more energy-efficient materials to the hybrid and electric engine. One insight stands out in this context: in spite of the current hype, neither the hybrid nor the electric car will solve the carbon dioxide problem of the automotive industry, given that the market share of those products is too insignificant. In the USA, hybrid models currently account for 3% of total vehicles manufactured *(Baum & Associates, 2012)*.

Status:
Even though the CO_2 footprint does not figure as such, it still plays an important role within the EAM sustainability rating. In the sector of automobile manufacturers it corresponds to "fuel consumption & emissions", thus amounting to 22% of the overall calculation.

Engagement

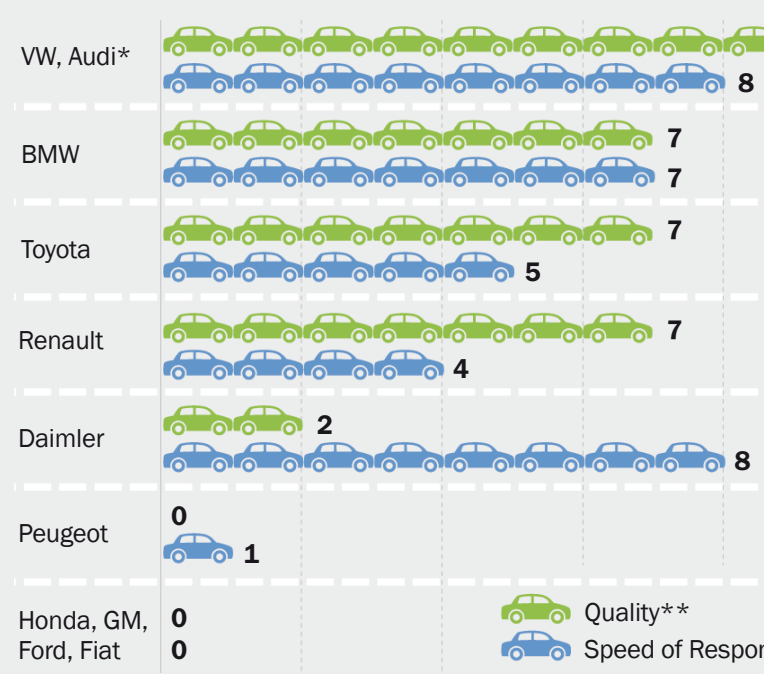
Engagement is of great importance for EAM's sustainable investment approach. It combines own initiatives with collaboration on a national and international level. The structured engagement process is based on the „EAM Engagement Guideline" which determines engagement issues, approach and procedures.

Engagement focus on "CO_2 standards in the European automotive sector"

Last year we saw intense discussions about the new carbon dioxide standards for the European automotive sector, which at the end of 2013 resulted in an agreement: by 2021 passenger cars may only emit a fleet average 95g of carbon dioxide – a calculation in which electric cars are weighted more heavily. This is tantamount to a consumption of 3.5l of diesel or 4l of petrol per 100km. For the EAM Responsible Investments team, these changes in the market served as an incentive to get in touch with car manufacturers. Erste Asset Management was able to discuss the influence of the new CO_2 standards on their strategy with BMW, Daimler, Renault, Toyota, and VW. All of these companies are glad about the agreement, seeing that it improves the planning reliability. That being said, VW and BMW point out that their ambition is to achieve the standards by 2020 – one year ahead of EU schedule. The various manufacturers differ in the approach to cutting the carbon dioxide emissions of their fleets. BMW and VW can be regarded as generalists: Their R&D efforts and investments are not only intensive, but also broad, covering all segments in order to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and make vehicles more efficient. Toyota on the other hand continues to focus on hybrid technology – the area where it is market leader. The intensity of the efforts to improve vehicle efficiency manifests itself in the R&D expenses. VW and Toyota each invested more than USD 9bn in 2012. While all the aforementioned companies also develop electric cars, these are not regarded as core investment. The reasons cited are high costs, lack of infrastructure, and subdued acceptance among customers. Renault has been taking a different view, betting largely on the mass production of electric cars.

> Until 2021 the automotive industry must clean up

The last issue we enquired about was whether the automotive sector was only interested in the reduction of exhaust fumes or whether steps have been taken to cut carbon dioxide emissions across the entire value chain of vehicle production. The responses we received came as a positive surprise. All companies that responded to our enquiry are trying to cut their resource consumption and emissions in general. Renault is ahead of the curve by measuring the carbon footprint for every vehicle since 2010, with the goal of reducing it by 10% within three years.



Status: Of all sectors contacted so far, automobile manufacturers have turned out to be the most active engagement partners. With the exception of Toyota, only European car manufacturers got back to us. Honda, GM, Fiat, and Ford did not react to our engagement. EAM will keep on trying to contact these companies. For the companies we are in touch with, we will continue to follow their CO_2 agenda.

An interesting detail is that those companies who entered the dialogue were leading the EAM Responsible Rating even before the engagement process started.

* We did not communicate with Audi, but were in dialogue with VW instead
** Quality refers to the engagement questionnaire and the ensuing communication

Company of the month: **Volkswagen AG**

The Company of the Month is selected due to recent developments and in connection with the **topic "Footprint of the Automotive Sector"**. The EAM Responsible Investments team analyses the strenghts and weaknesses of the selected company in terms of ESG.

The Volkswagen (VW) group from Wolfsburg unites twelve well-known brands under one roof: Volkswagen, Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles, Audi, SEAT, ŠKODA, Bentley, Bugatti, Lamborghini, Porsche, Ducati, Scania, and MAN. In the current SRI ranking of EAM the company was rated B–*, which makes it one of the best-rated car manufacturers. Areas for improvement are Corporate Governance and the substitution of fluorocarbon in vehicle air conditioning. Besides, the procurement process of controversial raw materials (especially metals for on-board electronics) suffers from a lack of transparency.

Source: Volkswagen AG

CO_2-Emissions

VW has set ambitious targets in terms of cutting the carbon dioxide emissions of newly produced vehicles. It has committed itself to reducing its fleet emissions to an average of 95 grams of carbon dioxide per kilometre by 2020. From 2015 onwards car manufacturers will be penalised if fleet CO2 emissions of newly licensed cars exceed 130g/km** – Volkswagen wants to be down to 120g/km by that point. In 2012 the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) included the group in its CDP Global 500 Climate Disclosure Leadership Index. The non-profit organisation's mission is to persuade companies and communities into publishing their environmental impact data such as greenhouse gas emissions and water consumption.

Volkswagen AG recorded sales of EUR 145.7bn in the first three quarters of fiscal 2013. The group operates 106 production facilities in 27 countries worldwide and counts some 570,000 employees. Volkswagen is one of the world's leading and Europe's biggest car manufacturer

Research & Development

In order to fulfil different kinds of requirements with respect to short- and long-distance mobility and customer needs the group pursues a comprehensive R&D strategy. Said strategy includes electric motors, highly efficient combustion engines, the combination of various forms of drive, plug-in hybrids, fuel cells, the development and increased use of environmentally friendly fuels, and electricity from renewable sources.

Efficient production

By the year 2018, Volkswagen wants to cut the environmental impact of every vehicle and of all of its components in manufacturing by 25% relative to 2010. For this purpose, the company launched the "Think Blue. Factory" programme in 2012. Along with saving energy, VW intends to generate renewable forms of energy, for example from solar power or waste heat. The group also wants to step up recycling and the efficient use of resources. In doing so, Volkswagen pools its experiences from all its production sites in an effort to continuously develop the programme.

** Please see p. 11 for the EAM-specific ESG Rating*

*** EU Directive 443 of 2009*

Key figures for Volkswagen AG
Source: Bloomberg

Sector	Automobile Manufacturers
ISIN	DE0007664039
Share price (14.2.2014)	202,10 €
PE (14.2.2014)	11,68
Dividend yield	1,76%

LASTING WORDS

Transmutation revisited

„In medieval times alchemy was considered an occupation worthy of the secular and cleric leaders“, says Gerold Permoser, Chief Investment Officer (CIO) der Erste Asset Management.

Indeed, Emperor Rudolf II is sometimes referred to as the “alchemist on the imperial throne”. The Emperor’s laboratory and his collection of curiosities of all sorts represented probably the most renowned Cabinet of Wonder of the Renaissance and the Baroque, filling several rooms in the Prague castle. The goal of the imperial alchemist was to turn base metals such as mercury into gold or silver through the act of transmutation. The legendary philosopher’s stone was supposed to be the means to this end.

> Research laboratories of big groups are the modern Cabinets of Wonder

Nowadays we often feel reminded of the times of alchemists. In the research laboratories of big groups, the modern Cabinets of Wonder of the powerful, the descendants of those alchemists have re-embarked on their quest for the philosopher’s stone and transmutation: the idea, this time around, is to turn gases into gold, or at least, money. A solution to the carbon dioxide problem does not only promise a better future – the spiritual element of the equation, as it were – but also economic success.

Today we know that transmutation is possible, and gold can in fact be produced from mercury by exposing it to radiation in nuclear reactors. This method is technically feasible, but it is not economically viable due to its inefficiency. We can see the same risk embedded in some approaches of modern transmutation. A lot of things work – but the question of their efficiency and sensibility is rarely asked. For example, huge amounts of money are thrown at the idea of the electric car – not the least at marketing the concept. This fails to address the issue that electric cars currently solve only a fraction of the carbon dioxide problem and also come with numerous flaws.

The history of the alchemist on the imperial throne teaches us that disregarding reality in the long run does not bring any solutions. Emperor Rudolf II was disempowered by his own family due to his inactivity in the empire, and his successor Matthias was entrusted with the task of solving the urgent problems of his days.

Foto: iStock

Responsible Investment Universe

Changes (excerpt)

The definition of our investment universe is the corner stone in building our funds.

INCLUDED

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014

Adidas AG (sector: apparel, accessories & luxury goods)
is one of the world's largest producers of sporting goods. The range of products includes a vast array of shoes, apparel as well as sports and lifestyle accessories..

- ☺ **Exclusion criterion** "infringement with employment rights" has lapsed
- ☺ Use of harmful substances in production and products is closely monitored
- ☺ Expansion of life cycle analysis in product development
- ☹ Frequent accusations with respect to working conditions among suppliers in South East Asia

Bell Aliant Inc (sector: integrated telecommunication services)
providers of regional telecommunication services such as telephony, internet access, and added-value services in North America

- ☺ High ratio of women in managerial positions
- ☺ Comprehensive product specifications with regard to reusability and recycling of telecommunication equipment
- ☺ Comprehensive protection guidelines and measures to ensure data security of customers
- ☹ Reduction of greenhouse emissions by 50% by the year 2020 (relative to 2007) is aimed at; however, information on the measures taken to achieve that goal and on the monitoring process do not suffice

Actions speak louder than words – and so do numbers: 42 per cent of the Canadian communications company Bell Aliant's managers and 30 per cent of its directors and board members are women. Their percentage of the entire workforce amounts to 37 per cent.

Source: Bell Aliant 2012 Corporate-Responsibility Report, p. 18, Photo: Fotolia

EXCLUDED

Koninklijke Philips N.V. (sector: industrial conglomerates)
is one of the largest technology companies in the world. The group is a market leader in medical engineering, energy-efficient light solutions, and lighting applications.

- ☹ Infringement with the **exclusion criterion** of "controversial business practices": accusations of paying bribes in Poland and engaging in price-fixing in Taiwan
- ☹ Scarce information about waste water management
- ☹ Frequent accusations of infringement with employment rights and environmental standards among the company's suppliers in the past
- ☺ Extensive strategy to cut energy consumption in its range of products

Responsible funds at a glance

Erste Asset Management recognized the importance of responsible fund management early on. Over the course of the past decade we have developed and successfully introduced a broad range of sustainable funds. The following funds are available in line with Erste Asset Management's „Responsible Investment Approach".

Equity funds

All funds are denominated in Euro.

Fund name	Since 1. 1., in %	2013, in %	2012, in %	2011, in %	2010, in %	2009, in %	Mgmt. fee, in %	Volume in mn.	Risk notes 1)
ERSTE RESPONSIBLE STOCK GLOBAL	–2.40	17.52	9.51	–4.90	16.61	29.66	1.50	217.3	
ERSTE RESPONSIBLE STOCK EUROPE	–1.11	18.55	20.88	–23.03	9.40	27.01	1.50	14.6	A
ERSTE RESPONSIBLE STOCK AUSTRIA	3.82	4.16	29.19	–38.75	16.63	36.08	1.50	15.5	A. B
ERSTE RESPONSIBLE STOCK EUROPE EMERGING	–2.02	–4.95	24.99	–31.51	16.65	55.19	1.80	11.4	A.
ERSTE RESPONSIBLE STOCK AMERICA*	–1.95	22.21					1.80	47.2*)	A
ERSTE WWF STOCK CLIMATE CHANGE	8.41	55.88	–7.35	–25.66	3.19	21.37	1.50	12.3	A
ERSTE WWF STOCK UMWELT	3.39	35.34	5.63	–23.39	14.25	17.84	1.50	56.2	A

Performance calculated according to the OeKB (Österreichische Kontrollbank AG) method, as of 31 January 2014. The management fee is included in the performance. Subscription fees applicable at the time of purchase of up to 5.00% and other fees that may reduce returns, such as individual account and deposit fees, are not included in this presentation. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of the future performance of a fund. Please note that it is not possible to draw any conclusions on the volatility or risk of an investment from annualized averages for multi-year periods.

* in USD, renaming und shift of focus as of 8 April 2013 (former name: ESPA STOCK AMERICA)

** Fund inception during fiscal year

1) Risk notes

A The ERSTE RESPONSIBLE STOCK EUROPE, ERSTE RESPONSIBLE STOCK AUSTRIA, ERSTE RESPONSIBLE STOCK EUROPE EMERGING, ERSTE RESPONSIBLE STOCK AMERICA, ERSTE WWF STOCK CLIMATE CHANGE, and ERSTE WWF STOCK UMWELT funds may display increased volatility due to the composition of the portfolio. As a result, share values may be subject to significant fluctuations even over short periods of time.

B The ERSTE RESPONSIBLE STOCK AUSTRIA fund is an index fund pursuant to Paragraph 128, section 5 line 1 in conjunction with Paragraph 75 of the InvFG 2011 (Investment Fund Act, Austria). The aim of the investment strategy is to emulate the VÖNIX (VBV Austrian Sustainability Index).

Bond funds, mixed funds

All funds are denominated in Euro.

Fondsname	Since 1.1., in %	2013, in %	2012, in %	2011, in %	2010, in %	2009, in %	Mgmt. fee, in %	Volume in mn.	Risk note 2)
ERSTE RESPONSIBLE RESERVE **	0.31	0.31	5.33	0.60	2.21	10.99	0.24	81.5	–
ERSTE RESPONSIBLE BOND	1.32	0.42	10.57	0.94	1.72	9.07	0.60	139.7	–
ERSTE RESPONSIBLE BOND EURO-CORPORATE	1.44	1.45	12.89	*			0.60	139.3	–
ERSTE RESPONSIBLE BOND EMERGING CORPORATE*	0.04	*					0.96	21.1	–
ERSTE RESPONSIBLE BALANCED	–0.25	1.65	*				1.00	5.9	a)

Performance calculated according to the OeKB (Österreichische Kontrollbank AG) method, as of 31 January 2014. The management fee is included in the performance. Subscription fees applicable at the time of purchase of up to 5.00% and other fees that may reduce returns, such as individual account and deposit fees, are not included in this presentation. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of the future performance of a fund. Please note that it is not possible to draw any conclusions on the volatility or risk of an investment from annualized averages for multi-year periods.

* Fund inception during the fiscal year
** formerly: ERSTE RESPONSIBLE LIQUID, renamed on 5 July 2013

2) Risk note

a) The ERSTE RESPONSIBLE BALANCED fund may invest significant amounts in investment funds (UCITS, UCIs) pursuant to Paragraph 71 of the InvFG 2011 (Investment Fund Act, Austria).

Microfinance funds

All funds are denominated in Euro.

Fondsname	Since 1.1., in %	2013, in %	2012, in %	2011, in %	2010, in %	2009, in %	Mgmt. fee, in %	Volume in mn.	Risk note 3)
ERSTE RESPONSIBLE MICROFINANCE		2.54	3.20	2.48	0.79		1.00	25.9	x)

Performance calculated according to the OeKB (Österreichische Kontrollbank AG) method, as of 30 December 2013. The management fee is included in performance. Subscription fees applicable at the time of purchase of up to 5.00% and other fees that may reduce returns, such as individual account and deposit fees, are not included in this presentation. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of the future performance of a fund. Please note that it is not possible to draw any conclusions on the volatility or risk of an investment from annualized averages for multi-year periods.

3) Risk notes

x) The ERSTE RESPONSIBLE MICROFINANCE fund may invest significant amounts in investment funds (UCITS, UCIs) pursuant to Paragraph 7 line 1 of the InvFG 2011 (Investment Fund Act, Austria).

The Austrian Financial Market Authority (FMA) herby warns: The ERSTE RESPONSIBLE MICROFINANCE invests entirely in assets pursuant to Paragraph 166, Section 1 line 3 of the InvFG 2011 (Alternative Investments), which represent a higher investment risk compared to traditional investments. In particular, these investments may result in a loss or even a total loss of capital invested.

EAM Funds carrying the Novethic SRI Label 2013

The Novethic SRI Label is awarded to Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) funds that demonstrate a systematic integration of Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations in fund management. The label provides investors with a guarantee of transparency and of the traceability of their investments.

It is based on four criteria:

- Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) assessment of at least 90% of the portfolio
- a transparent SRI selection process
- regular information on the SRI qualities of investments
- full publication of the portfolio's composition

Further information on www.novethic.com

EAM Rating for Fonds with the Novethic SRI Label 2013

All funds are denominated in Euro.

Fund name	Average ESG-Rating		Exclusion Rate
	Funds	Funds-Universe	
ERSTE RESPONSIBLE STOCK GLOBAL	C+	C–	70.1%
ERSTE RESPONSIBLE STOCK EUROPE	C+	C–	62.4%
ERSTE RESPONSIBLE BOND	C+	C–	67.3%
ERSTE RESPONSIBLE BOND EURO-CORPORATE	C+	C–	68.1%

Average ESG-Rating and Exclusion Rate

The **Average ESG Rating of the Fund** refers to all securities actually held by the fund, whereas the **Average ESG Rating of the Fund Universe** denotes the average of all securities that are rated for the fund, based on the stringent sustainability criteria of Erste Asset Management.

The **Exclusion Rate** indicates how many securities from the respective fund universe are rate "not investable" for the respective fund. For example, a 60% exclusion ratio means that only 40% of all potential securities are investable for the fund.

EAM-specific ESG Rating

The **EAM-specific ESG Rating** ranges from A+ to E. It scrutinises exclusively those companies that have already been rated by the three rating agencies cooperating with Erste Asset Management. In evaluating ESG criteria, EAM takes a very stringent approach. Thus, only 40% of the approx. 2,800 companies currently rated (i.e. the EAM Total Universe) are investable (with a rating from A+ to C-). At the moment, the average rating of the EAM Total Universe is D+. The investable universe is further restricted by exclusion criteria. Only very few companies achieve our current top rating of B+.

A excellent
B good
C satisfactory
D inadequate, not investable
E insufficent, not investable

Glossary

Engagement
In the context of sustainable investments, Engagement means that the investor tries to convince the management of a company to take action in the fields of social responsibility, environment or transparency. On a national basis, the Erste Asset Management Responsible Investments Team carries out its engagement activities itself, on a global basis the team co-operates with a specialised provider.

ESG
ESG is an abbreviation of Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance and refers to sustainability in business.

Exclusion criteria
The Erste Asset Management responsible funds do not invest in sectors or companies that violate certain (exclusion) criteria, e. g. violation of labour regulation, nuclear energy, etc. These criteria include ethical, social and governance risk factors.

Investment Board
In this board, the Erste Asset Management Responsible Investments Team discusses topical issues and current developments, IPOs, etc. with sustainability specialists and financial experts.

Investment universe
An investment universe designates the amount of investable companies and countries. In order to become part of the Erste Asset Management Responsible Investment Universe, companies need to perform above average with regards to sustainability. From this selection the fund manager picks those companies with the best prospects according to their fundamental financial data. The Erste Asset Management Responsible Investment Universe is updated on a monthly basis, which enables quick reaction to changes within the respective companies.

SRI
Socially Responsible Investments

SRI Rating agency / SRI Rating
An SRI rating agency or SRI research agency analyses and rates the activities of companies according to social, ecological and ethical criteria (e.g. A = best grade to D = worst grade). SRI ratings help investors to assess a company's exposure to environment and stakeholders. The Erste Asset Management Responsible Investments Team co-operates with several SRI-rating agencies covering different key aspects. In contrast to SRI rating agencies, finance rating agencies (e. g. Moody's, Fitch, S&P, etc.) focus on companies' financial data only.

Voting
In the context of sustainable investments, voting refers to the exercise of voting rights at shareholder meetings. Possible targets are an increased transparency in management compensation or in case of nominations for the board of directors. Like in its Engagement activities, the Erste Asset Management Responsible Investments Team cooperates with specialised partners in the area of voting.

Sustainability labels for our products

ERSTE RESPONSIBLE STOCK GLOBAL
ERSTE RESPONSIBLE STOCK EUROPE
ERSTE RESPONSIBLE BOND
ERSTE RESPONSIBLE BOND EURO-CORPORATE

Our long-term partners in sustainability

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