

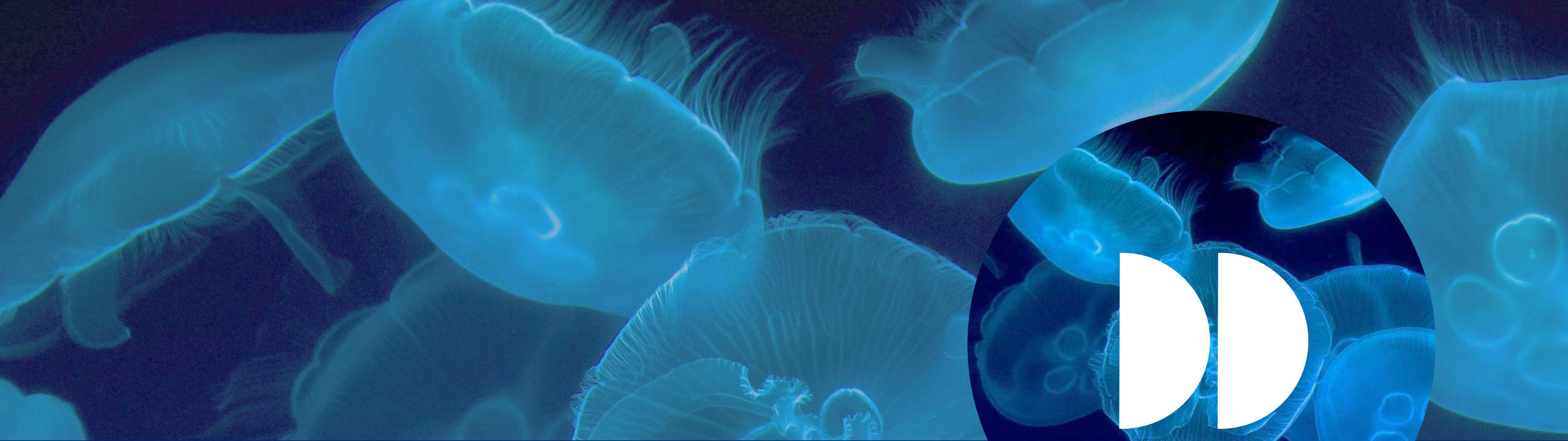
# **ESG Trends to Watch**

**Paris–Alignment remains at the forefront of institutional demand**

**Kristof Wouters**  
**Global Head of Pension & Insurance Relations**

**March 2025**





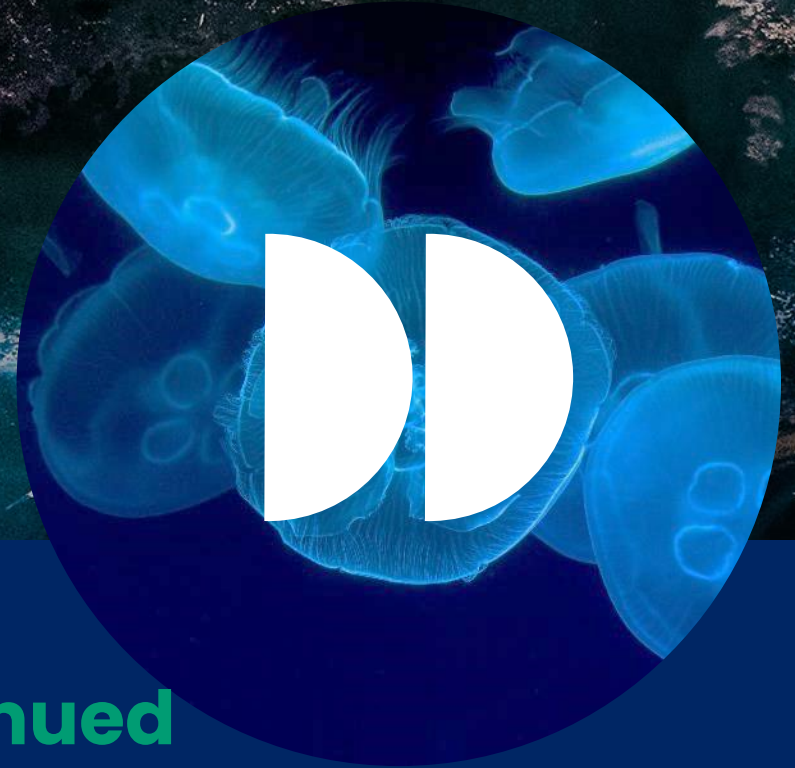
# 1 **Trump's anti-ESG rhetoric hitting US asset managers, European pension funds react**









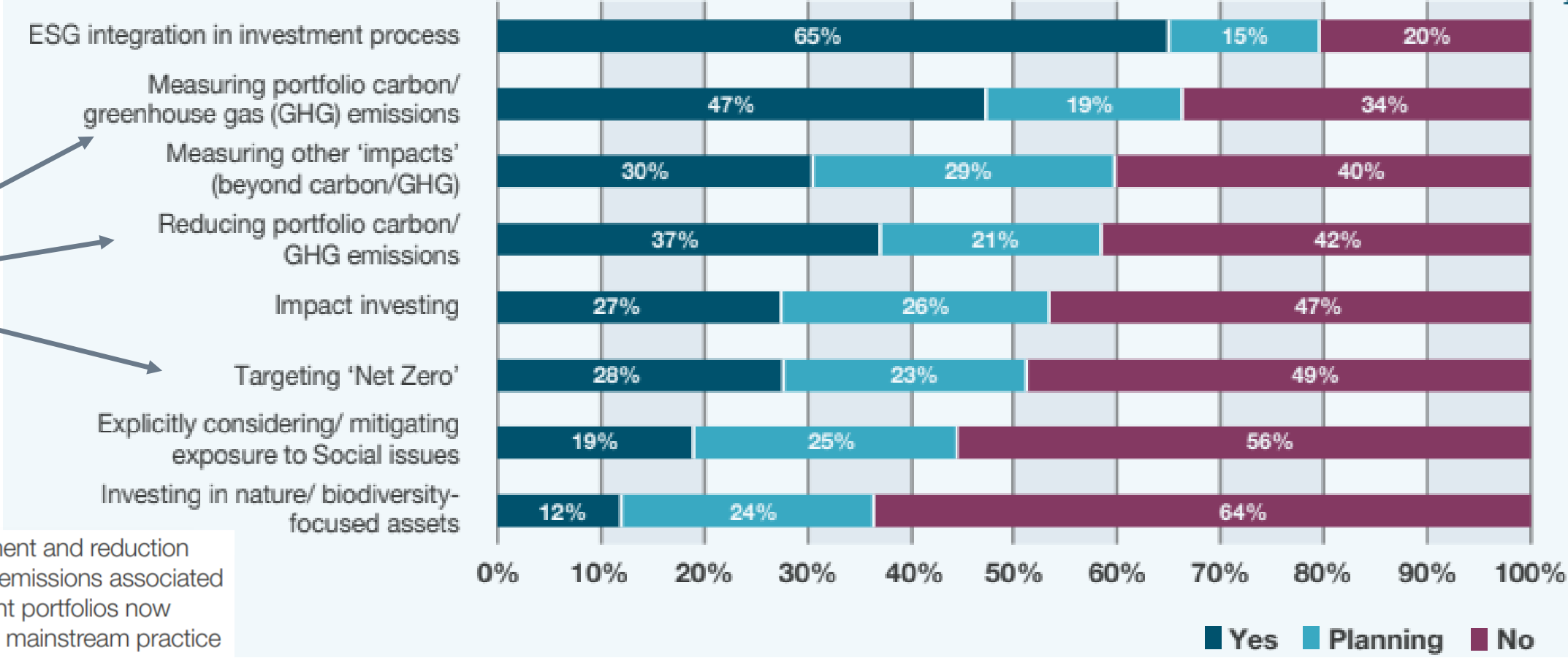


## 2 Investor surveys point to **continued strong demand** for various degrees of **Paris-Alignment**



# Investor surveys point to continued strong demand for various degrees of Paris-Alignment

More than 50% of institutional investors have already implemented, or are in the process of implementing, paris-alignment (net-zero) goals



The management and reduction of the carbon emissions associated with investment portfolios now sits fully within mainstream practice for many pension funds, insurers, endowments and other asset owners.

Source : bfinance 2024 Global Asset Owner Survey



# Investor surveys point to continued strong demand for various degrees of Paris-Alignment

Morgan Stanley Sustainable Signals:  
New Survey Shows Institutional  
Investors Expect Continued Growth in  
Sustainable Investing

Dec 3, 2024

- Majority of global asset managers (78%) and asset owners (80%) expect sustainable assets to increase over next two years
- **Net-Zero Targets** – Close to two-thirds of asset owners and managers have set a net-zero target, with almost all saying they have a plan to deliver their target. About 2% of institutional investors are reportedly already at net zero.

Source : Morgan-Stanley-sustainable-signals-survey-Dec.2024



# Demand for ESG investment approaches driven by EU regulation

## IORP II

### › **Article 19 Investment rules**

- 1- Member States **shall require** IORPs registered or authorised in their territories to invest in accordance with the 'prudent person' rule and in particular [...] (b) to take into account the potential long-term impact of investment decisions on environmental, social, and governance factors

### › **Article 21 General governance requirements**

- 1- [...] The system of governance **shall include** consideration of environmental, social and governance factors related to investment assets in investment decisions

### › **Article 25 Risk-management**

- 2- The risk-management system **shall cover** [...] (g) environmental, social and governance risks relating to the investment portfolio and the management thereof.

### › **Article 30 Statement of investment policy principles**

- Member States **shall provide** for this statement to contain, at least, such matters as [...] how the investment policy takes environmental, social and governance factors into account.

### › **Article 41 Information to be given to prospective members**

- Member States **shall require** IORPs to ensure that [prospective members] are informed, before they join that pension scheme, about: [...] information on whether and how environmental, climate, social and corporate governance factors are considered in the investment approach



# Demand for ESG investment approaches driven by EU regulation

## Solvency II

### › **Article 260 Risk management areas**

- 1-c) Investment risk management definition (vi) actions to be taken by the insurance or reinsurance undertaking to ensure that sustainability risks relating to the investment portfolio are properly identified, assessed and managed
- 1a- The insurance and reinsurance undertakings **shall integrate** in their policies referred to in points (a) and (c) of paragraph 1 [...] sustainability risks

### › **Article 275 Remuneration policy**

- 4- The remuneration policy **shall include** information on how it takes into account the integration of sustainability risks in the risk management system.

### › **Article 275a Investments / Integration of sustainability risks in the prudent person principle**

- 1- When identifying, measuring, monitoring, managing, controlling, reporting and assessing risks arising from investments, [...] insurance and reinsurance undertakings **shall take into account** sustainability risks



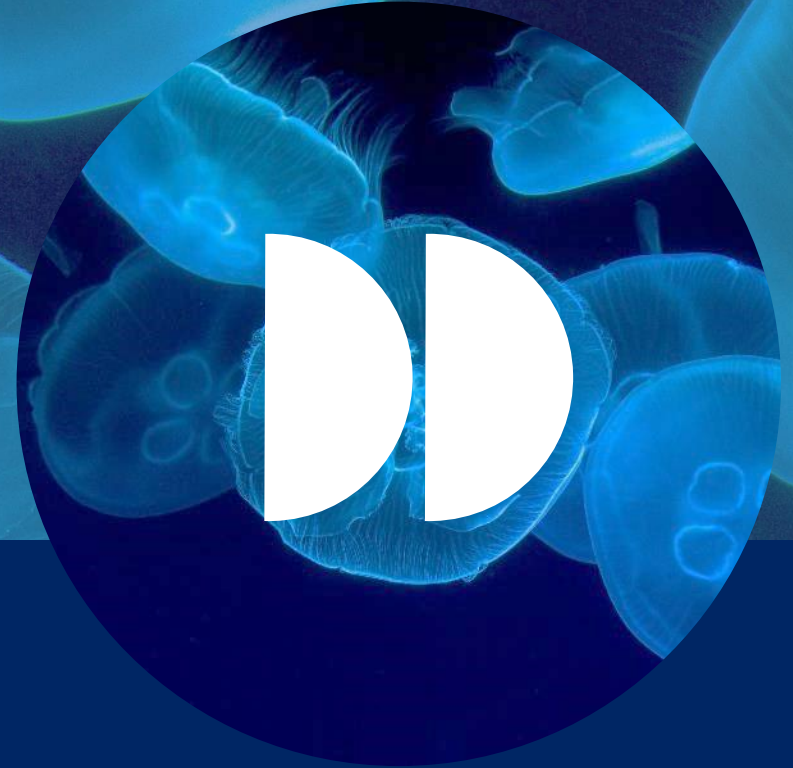


# Other EU regulatory initiatives related to pension and insurance

## From stress-tests to reporting

- › **Capital requirement:** “Internalize externalities”
  - Expected increase in capital requirement for insurance companies exposed to fossil fuel issuers
- › **Stress-tests** to assess the resilience of the financial sector to climate stress-tests
  - At EU level
    - › EIOPA (EU supervisory authority for pension funds and insurance companies) climate stress-tests in 2022 for pension funds
    - › EIOPA/EBA/ESMA Fit-for-55 stress-tests 2023
  - In France, ACPR performed a ‘pilot exercise’ in 2020, renewed in 2023 on climate related stress-tests
- › **Reporting** to evaluate alignment to taxonomy / Paris agreement
  - EU Template S.06.04.01 for insurance to report climate-change risks related to investments
  - Internal (prospective) risk evaluation from insurance companies (ORSA) should take sustainability / climate risks into account
  - French LEC29 reporting regarding sustainability / climate / biodiversity





# 3 Latest Trend within EU's Regulatory Agenda Simplification & Deregulation







Corporate  
Europe  
Observatory

**DEREGULATION**

**WATCH**

**COMPETITIVENESS**

**SIMPLIFICATION**

**OVERREGULATION**

**RED TAPE**

**REGULATORY BURDENS**





# Simplification

Omnibus I and II

26 February 2025



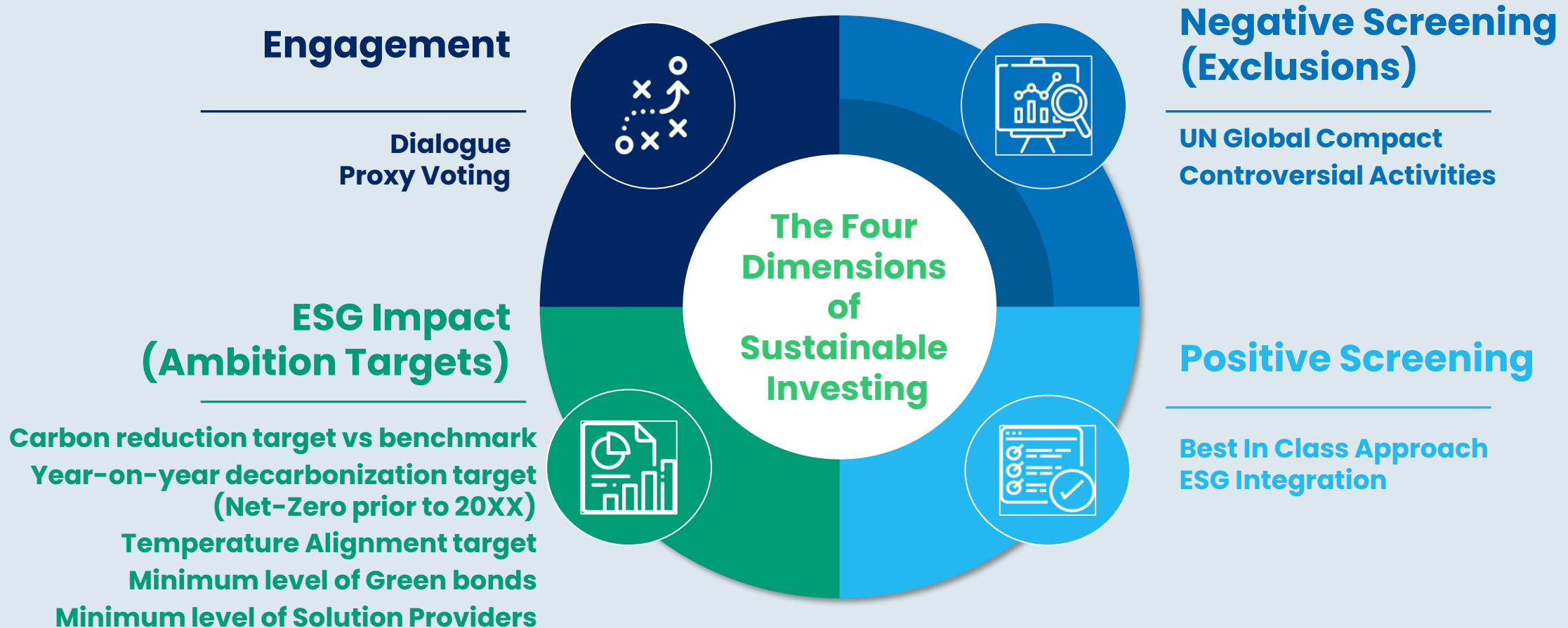




**4** Notwithstanding some negative years  
**ESG investment performance remains  
above average** over the medium- and  
long-term

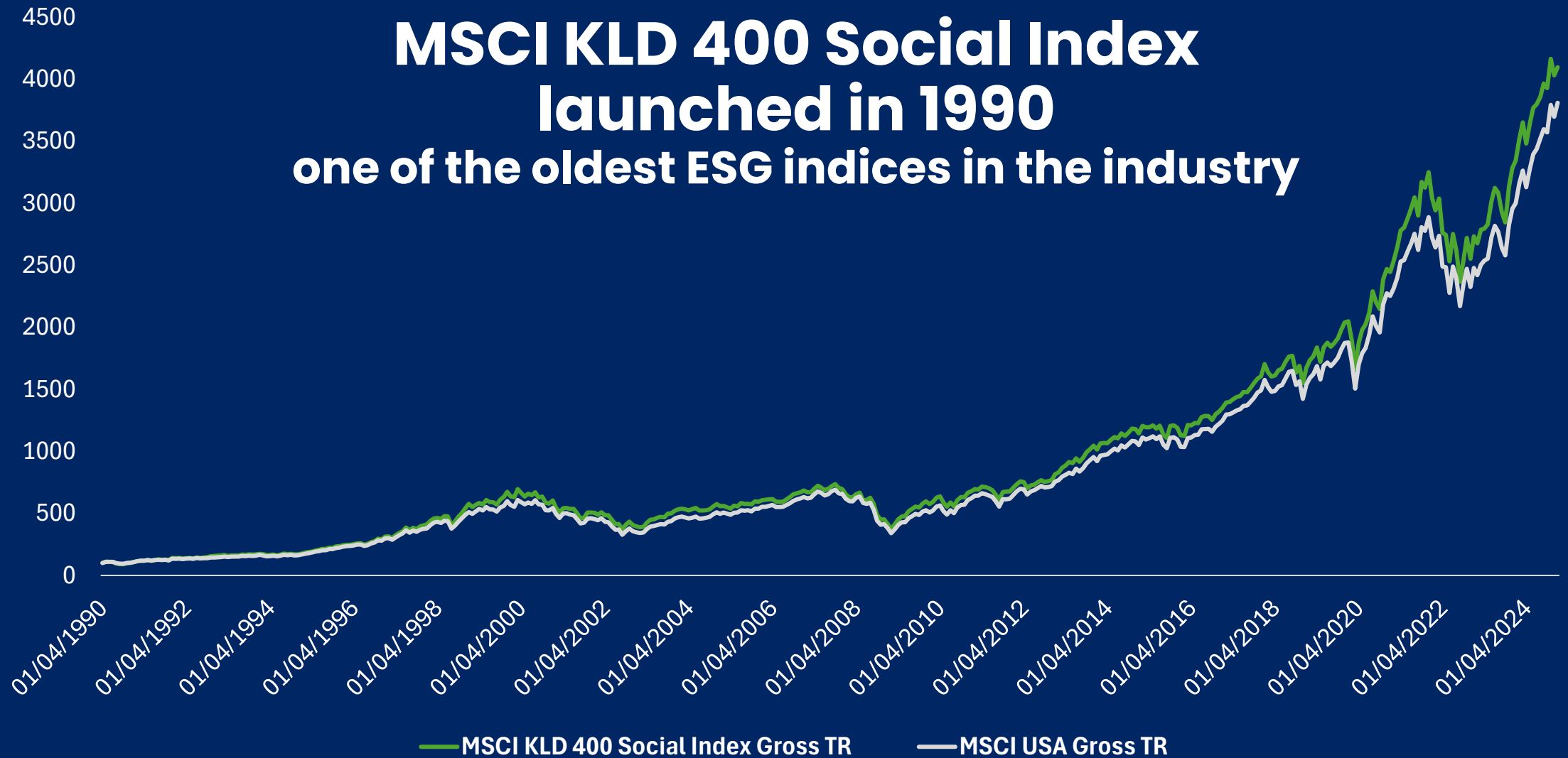


# The Four Dimensions of Sustainable Investing

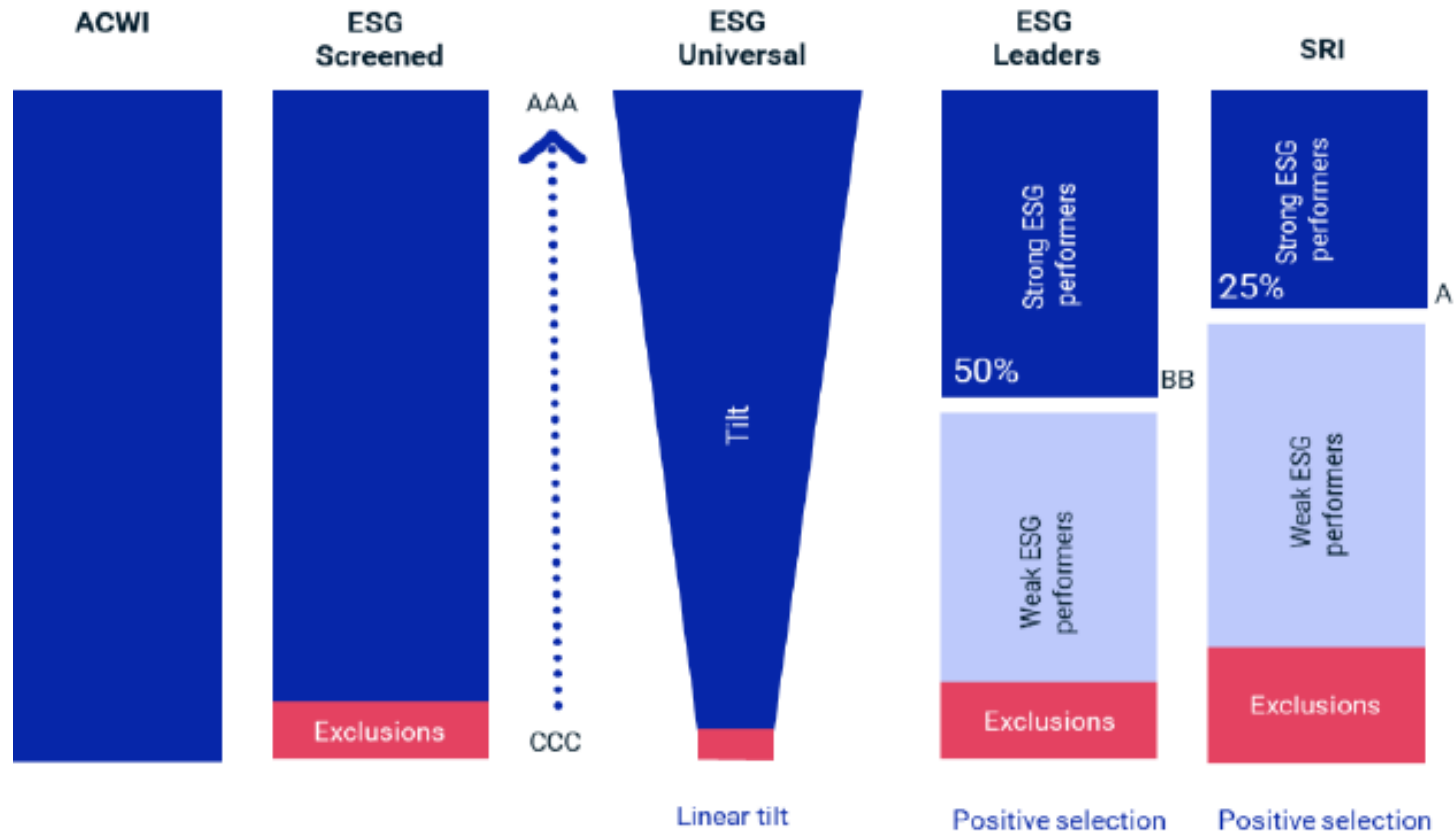




# MSCI KLD 400 Social Index launched in 1990 one of the oldest ESG indices in the industry



# MSCI's ESG benchmark terminology & construction



# EUROPE

	MSCI Europe	MSCI ESG Screened	MSCI ESG Universal	MSCI ESG Leaders	MSCI SRI	MSCI Climate Change	MSCI Paris Aligned	Candriam Sustainable Fossil Free
Number of Constituents	414	384	412	212	101	396	272	76
%Market Cap Removed		12,3%	0,9%	50,9%	75,8%	10,1%	28,4%	37,8%
Sum Top 10 Weights	21,0%	23,3%	22,9%	34,4%	49,6%	26,4%	22,3%	30,0%
Max Weight	2,7%	3,1%	3,2%	5,5%	11,0%	4,3%	2,9%	3,4%
Tracking Error	-	0,9%	0,9%	2,0%	4,9%	2,4%	2,6%	5,6%
10 Year Performance (ann)	6,6%	6,6%	7,2%	6,8%	8,2%	6,8%	7,2%	8,7%
Rank 10 Year Performance	8th	7th	4th	5th	2nd	6th	3rd	1st

Period	MSCI Europe	MSCI ESG Screened	MSCI ESG Universal	MSCI ESG Leaders	MSCI SRI	MSCI Climate Change	MSCI Paris Aligned	Candriam Sustainable Fossil Free
2015	8,2%	9,4%	10,4%	12,2%	14,8%	NA	12,3%	NA
2016	2,6%	1,2%	1,2%	0,2%	0,1%	0,7%	0,9%	NA
2017	10,2%	10,1%	10,5%	9,0%	11,1%	10,4%	10,5%	NA
2018	-10,6%	-11,0%	-10,6%	-9,4%	-7,3%	-11,7%	-10,4%	NA
2019	26,1%	26,0%	27,8%	28,0%	29,7%	27,6%	28,9%	34,5%
2020	-3,3%	-1,7%	-0,3%	0,3%	1,4%	-1,0%	1,7%	12,1%
2021	25,1%	24,8%	25,7%	24,8%	27,3%	25,1%	25,4%	29,3%
2022	-9,5%	-11,6%	-10,8%	-12,1%	-14,0%	-13,2%	-13,3%	-19,0%
2023	15,8%	17,7%	16,3%	16,7%	19,0%	16,7%	17,5%	15,6%
2024	8,6%	9,0%	9,5%	6,3%	8,4%	10,9%	7,2%	15,3%

Source: Bloomberg (Missing history for calculations was filled up with broad benchmark history), own calculations.



# USA

	MSCI USA	MSCI ESG Screened	MSCI ESG Universal	MSCI ESG Leaders	MSCI SRI	MSCI Climate Change	MSCI Paris Aligned
Number of Constituents	590	536	584	292	174	570	217
%Market Cap Removed		7,5%	0,7%	48,9%	75,7%	4,4%	33,5%
Sum Top 10 Weights	34,5%	37,3%	27,4%	43,1%	46,4%	41,0%	41,4%
Max Weight	6,8%	7,3%	5,2%	10,8%	23,2%	6,7%	7,2%
Tracking Error	-	1,1%	1,1%	2,6%	5,6%	3,2%	2,6%
10 Year Performance (ann)	12,5%	13,1%	12,7%	12,4%	13,5%	14,3%	13,5%
Rank 10 Year Performance	6th	4th	5th	7th	2nd	1st	3rd

Period	MSCI USA	MSCI ESG Screened	MSCI ESG Universal	MSCI ESG Leaders	MSCI SRI	MSCI Climate Change	MSCI Paris Aligned
2015	0,7%	1,5%	NA	-2,0%	-3,7%	2,6%	3,1%
2016	10,9%	10,7%	NA	11,0%	12,6%	10,4%	12,1%
2017	21,2%	21,2%	NA	19,8%	23,4%	23,1%	24,7%
2018	-5,0%	-4,7%	-4,2%	-3,7%	-1,9%	-4,2%	-3,0%
2019	30,9%	31,3%	31,9%	30,9%	32,5%	32,5%	33,7%
2020	20,7%	22,2%	21,5%	18,2%	25,8%	25,8%	25,1%
2021	26,5%	27,1%	27,5%	31,2%	35,3%	28,0%	24,6%
2022	-19,8%	-21,1%	-19,9%	-20,6%	-23,6%	-24,5%	-23,6%
2023	26,5%	29,6%	25,8%	28,5%	32,8%	35,8%	28,7%
2024	24,6%	26,1%	24,1%	23,1%	18,4%	30,5%	24,2%

Source: Bloomberg (Missing history for calculations was filled up with broad benchmark history), own calculations.

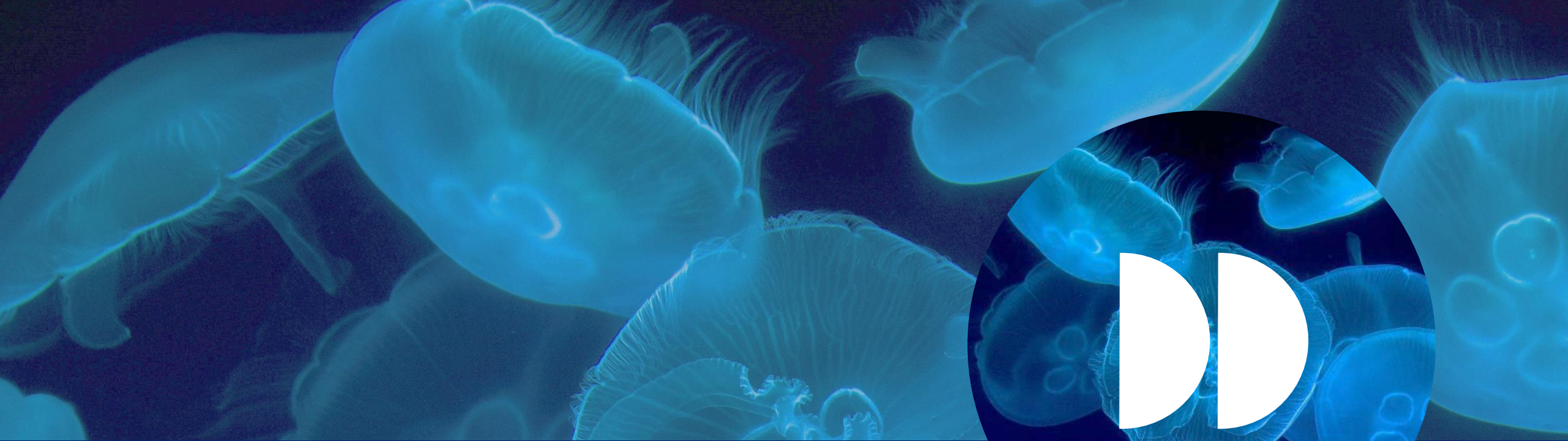
## EUROPE

	MSCI Europe	MSCI ESG Screened	MSCI ESG Universal	MSCI ESG Leaders	MSCI SRI	MSCI Climate Change	MSCI Paris Aligned	Candriam Sustainable Fossil Free
Implied Temperature (C4F)	2,7	2,5	2,6	2,3	2,3	2,3	2,1	2,3
MSCI ESG Score	7,8	8	8,2	8,7	9,3	8,1	8,3	8,1
MSCI Environmental Pillar Score	6,4	6,7	6,7	6,8	6,9	7	7,1	7,5
Carbon Footprint (t CO2e/\$M EVIC)	52	43	45	35	13	30	10	7
Carbon Intensity - WACI (t CO2e/\$M Sales)	84	81	77	55	32	63	37	24
Fossil Fuel-Based Sector Exposure (NACE) %	9,9	8,4	8,1	7,8	4	3,6	4	1
MSCI Social Pillar Score	5,1	5,3	5,4	5,6	6,2	5,2	5,4	5,5
MSCI Governance Pillar Score	6,6	6,6	6,7	7	7,4	6,6	6,7	6,6

## USA

	MSCI USA	MSCI ESG Screened	MSCI ESG Universal	MSCI ESG Leaders	MSCI SRI	MSCI Climate Change	MSCI Paris Aligned
Implied Temperature (C4F)	3,9	3,8	3,9	3,6	3,9	3,6	3,5
MSCI ESG Score	6,5	6,5	6,9	7,5	8,2	6,5	6,9
MSCI Environmental Pillar Score	6,1	6,3	6,1	6,6	6,7	6,5	6,7
Carbon Footprint (t CO2e/\$M EVIC)	23,7	15,2	26,5	16,1	17,1	8,1	4,7
Carbon Intensity - WACI (t CO2e/\$M Sales)	105,4	70,1	107,7	78,9	77,2	45,3	34,7
Fossil Fuel-Based Sector Exposure (NACE) %	4,5	2,3	5	3,3	3,4	0,8	2
MSCI Social Pillar Score	4,9	4,9	5,2	5,5	5,9	4,9	5,1
MSCI Governance Pillar Score	5,4	5,3	5,7	5,5	6	5,3	5,4

Source: MSCI, C4F



# 5 Defending the defensible: Is the defense sector sustainable?

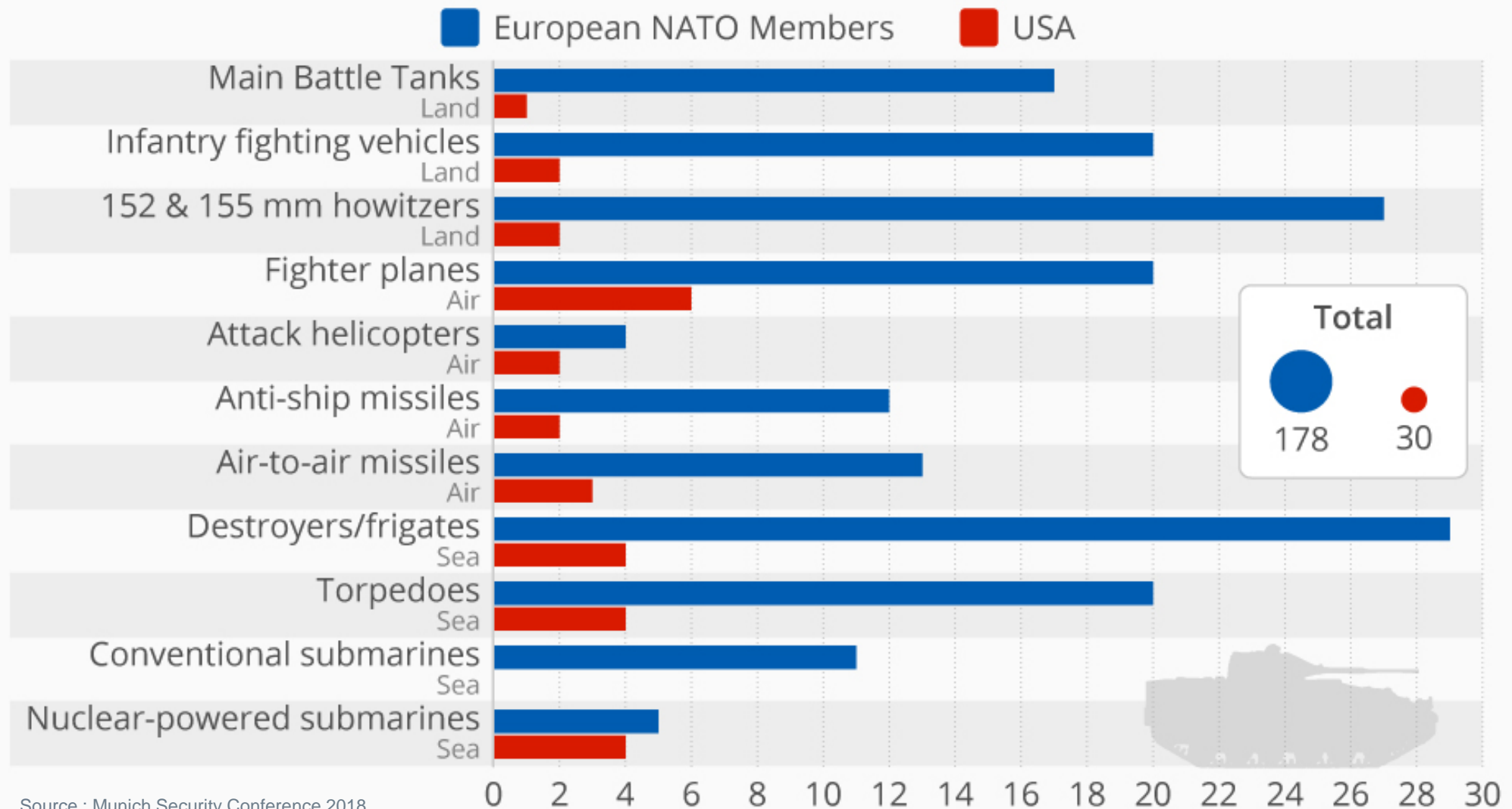






# Europe Has Six Times As Many Weapon Systems As The U.S.

Number of different weapon systems in service in 2016



Source : Munich Security Conference 2018







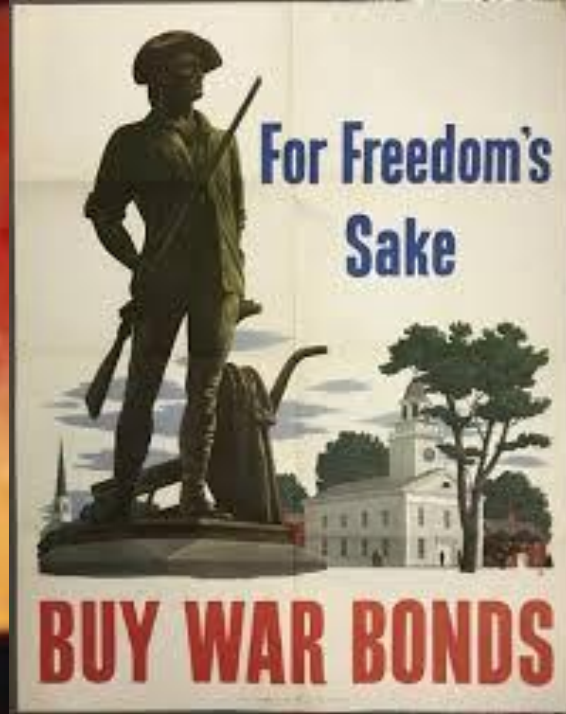
LET'S  
~~ALL~~  
FIGHT

BUY WAR BONDS



before it's TOO LATE!

BUY  
WAR  
BONDS  
and STAMPS



For Freedom's  
Sake

BUY WAR BONDS



To Have  
and to Hold!

WAR BONDS



Just be sure  
you put at least  
10% of it in  
WAR BONDS!

TOP THAT 10%!



THIS IS MY FIGHT TOO!

PUT AT LEAST 10%  
EVERY PAYDAY IN WAR BONDS



I WANT YOU

to BUY  
WAR BONDS NOW



Don't Let That Shadow Touch Them

Buy WAR BONDS





6

## Panel discussion

Wim Vermeir, Jan Longeval, Wim Van Hyfte





**Wim Vermeir**

Chief Investment  
Officer

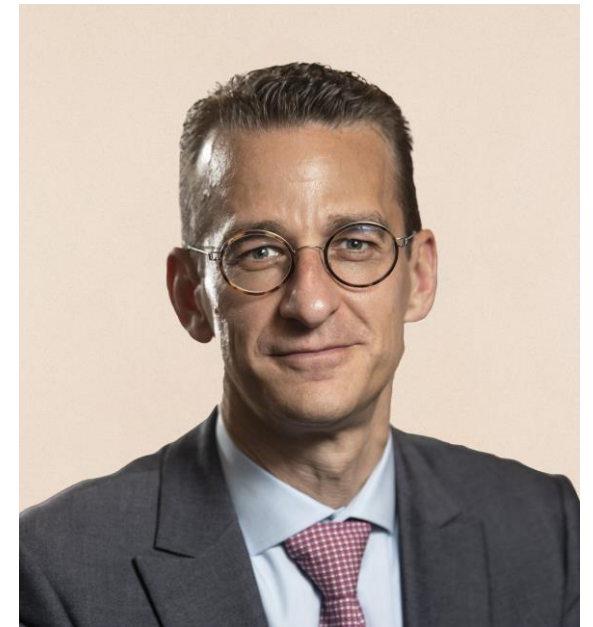
AG Insurance



**Jan Longeval**

Founder

Kounselor  
Consulting BV



**Wim Van Hyfte**

Global Head of ESG  
Investments & Research  
Candriam

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Dubai  
Frankfurt  
Geneva  
Zurich  
Madrid  
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