

Targeted consultation on the implementation of the Sustainable Finance Disclosures Regulation (SFDR)

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The [Sustainable Finance Disclosures Regulation \(SFDR\)](#) started applying in March 2021 and requires financial market participants and financial advisers to disclose at entity and product levels how they integrate sustainability risks and principal adverse impacts in their processes at both entity and product levels. It also introduces additional product disclosures for sustainable financial products making sustainability claims.

This targeted consultation aims at gathering information from a wide range of stakeholders, including financial practitioners, non-governmental organisations, national competent authorities, as well as professional and retail investors, on their experiences with the implementation of the SFDR. The Commission is interested in understanding how the SFDR has been implemented and any potential shortcomings, including in its interaction with the other parts of the European framework for sustainable finance, and in exploring possible options to improve the framework.

The main topics to be covered in this questionnaire are:

1. current requirements of the SFDR
2. interaction with other sustainable finance legislation
3. potential changes to the disclosure requirements for financial market participants
4. potential establishment of a categorisation system for financial products

Sections 1 and 2 cover the SFDR as it is today, exploring how the regulation is working in practice and the potential issues stakeholders might be facing in implementing it. Sections 3 and 4 look to the future, assessing possible options to address any potential shortcomings. As there are crosslinks between aspects covered in the different sections, respondents are encouraged to look at the questionnaire in its entirety and adjust their replies accordingly.

Please note that::

- we advise you to **save your draft reply regularly** by clicking on the “**Save as draft**” button on the right side of the screen
- some questions of this online questionnaire are displayed only when a specific response is given to a previous question
- in order to ensure a fair and transparent consultation process **only responses received through our online questionnaire will be taken into account** and included in the report summarising the responses. Should you have a problem completing this questionnaire or if you require particular assistance, please contact fisma-sfdr@ec.europa.eu

More information on

- [this consultation](#)
- [the consultation document](#)
- [the related public consultation](#)
- [sustainability-related disclosure in the financial services sector](#)
- [the protection of personal data regime for this consultation](#)

About you

* Language of my contribution

- Bulgarian
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- Estonian
- Finnish
- French
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Irish
- Italian
- Latvian
-

- Lithuanian
- Maltese
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Slovak
- Slovenian
- Spanish
- Swedish

* I am giving my contribution as

- Academic/research institution
- Business association
- Company/business
- Consumer organisation
- EU citizen
- Environmental organisation
- Non-EU citizen
- Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- Public authority
- Trade union
- Other

* First name

Upasana

* Surname

Chauhan

* Email (this won't be published)

upasana.chauhan@linklaters.com

* Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA)

* Organisation size

- Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- Small (10 to 49 employees)
- Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- Large (250 or more)

Transparency register number

255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the [transparency register](#). It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

* Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Afghanistan | <input type="radio"/> Djibouti | <input type="radio"/> Libya | <input type="radio"/> Saint Martin |
| <input type="radio"/> Åland Islands | <input type="radio"/> Dominica | <input type="radio"/> Liechtenstein | <input type="radio"/> Saint Pierre and Miquelon |
| <input type="radio"/> Albania | <input type="radio"/> Dominican Republic | <input type="radio"/> Lithuania | <input type="radio"/> Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
| <input type="radio"/> Algeria | <input type="radio"/> Ecuador | <input type="radio"/> Luxembourg | <input type="radio"/> Samoa |
| <input type="radio"/> American Samoa | <input type="radio"/> Egypt | <input type="radio"/> Macau | <input type="radio"/> San Marino |
| <input type="radio"/> Andorra | <input type="radio"/> El Salvador | <input type="radio"/> Madagascar | <input type="radio"/> São Tomé and Príncipe |
| <input type="radio"/> Angola | <input type="radio"/> Equatorial Guinea | <input type="radio"/> Malawi | <input type="radio"/> Saudi Arabia |
| <input type="radio"/> Anguilla | <input type="radio"/> Eritrea | <input type="radio"/> Malaysia | <input type="radio"/> Senegal |
| <input type="radio"/> Antarctica | <input type="radio"/> Estonia | <input type="radio"/> Maldives | <input type="radio"/> Serbia |
| <input type="radio"/> Antigua and Barbuda | <input type="radio"/> Eswatini | <input type="radio"/> Mali | <input type="radio"/> Seychelles |
| <input type="radio"/> Argentina | <input type="radio"/> Ethiopia | <input type="radio"/> Malta | <input type="radio"/> Sierra Leone |
| <input type="radio"/> Armenia | <input type="radio"/> Falkland Islands | <input type="radio"/> Marshall Islands | <input type="radio"/> Singapore |
| <input type="radio"/> Aruba | <input type="radio"/> Faroe Islands | <input type="radio"/> Martinique | <input type="radio"/> Sint Maarten |
| <input type="radio"/> Australia | <input type="radio"/> Fiji | <input type="radio"/> Mauritania | <input type="radio"/> Slovakia |
| <input type="radio"/> Austria | <input type="radio"/> Finland | <input type="radio"/> Mauritius | <input type="radio"/> Slovenia |
| <input type="radio"/> Azerbaijan | <input type="radio"/> France | <input type="radio"/> Mayotte | <input type="radio"/> Solomon Islands |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

- Bahamas
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh

- Barbados
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Belize
- Benin
- Bermuda
- Bhutan

- Bolivia
- Bonaire Saint Eustatius and Saba
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Botswana
- Bouvet Island
- Brazil
- British Indian Ocean Territory
- British Virgin Islands
- Brunei
- Bulgaria

- Burkina Faso
- Burundi

- Cambodia
-

- French Guiana
- French Polynesia
- French Southern and Antarctic Lands

- Gabon
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Gibraltar
- Greece
- Greenland

- Grenada
- Guadeloupe

- Guam

- Guatemala
- Guernsey
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau

- Guyana

- Haiti
- Heard Island and McDonald Islands
- Honduras
- Hong Kong
- Hungary
-

- Mexico
- Micronesia
- Moldova

- Monaco
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Montserrat
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Myanmar/Burma

- Namibia
- Nauru

- Nepal

- Netherlands
- New Caledonia
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua

- Niger

- Nigeria
- Niue
- Norfolk Island
- Northern Mariana Islands
- North Korea
-

- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
- South Korea
- South Sudan
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Svalbard and Jan Mayen
- Sweden
- Switzerland

- Syria

- Taiwan
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania
- Thailand

- The Gambia

- Timor-Leste
- Togo

- Tokelau
- Tonga

- Trinidad and Tobago
-

- Cameroon
- Canada
- Cape Verde
- Cayman Islands
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- China
- Christmas Island
- Clipperton
- Cocos (Keeling) Islands
- Colombia
- Comoros
- Congo
- Cook Islands
- Costa Rica
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Croatia
- Cuba
- Curaçao
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Denmark
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Isle of Man
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jersey
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Kosovo
- Kuwait
- Kyrgyzstan
- Laos
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Palestine
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Pitcairn Islands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Puerto Rico
- Qatar
- Réunion
- Romania
- Russia
- Rwanda
- Saint Barthélemy
- Saint Helena
- Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States
- United States Minor Outlying Islands
- Uruguay
- US Virgin Islands
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Vatican City
- Venezuela
- Vietnam
- Wallis and Futuna
- Western Sahara
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

* Field of activity or sector

- Accounting
- Auditing
- Banking
- Credit rating agencies
- Insurance
- Pension provision
- Investing
- Investment management (e.g. hedge funds, private equity funds, venture capital funds, money market funds, securities)
- Financial advice
- Administration of benchmarks
- Providing of ESG data and/or ratings
- Structuring/issuance of securities
- Market infrastructure operation (e.g. CCPs, CSDs, Stock exchanges)
- Social entrepreneurship
- Other
- Not applicable

* To which category do you mainly belong or do you mainly represent:

- I am a financial market participant as defined in Article 2(1) of the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR)
- I am a financial adviser as defined in Article 2(11) of SFDR
- I am both a financial market participant as defined in Article 2(1) of the SFDR and a financial adviser as defined in Article 2(11) of SFDR
- I am another type of financial undertaking that does not fall under the definition of financial market participant of the SFDR
- I am a non-financial undertaking
- I am a non-professional investor
- I am a professional investor
- I am a national authority or supervisor
- I am an NGO
- I am an ESG data and/or ratings provider
- I am a benchmark administrator
- I am an academic
- My organisation is none of the above

Where applicable, please indicate your assets under management (in million EUR):

(If not applicable, please indicate N/A)

	Your assets under management (in million EUR)
[*] Overall	N/A
[*] Products disclosing under Article 8	N/A
[*] Products disclosing under Article 9	N/A

* Your business is oriented:

- predominantly towards professional investors
- predominantly towards retail investors
- equally to professional and retail investors

Please indicate your revenues, if applicable as published in your most recent financial statement (in million EUR):

N/A

Please indicate your balance sheet size, if applicable as published in your most recent financial statement (in million EUR):

N/A

* Do you have more than 500 employees on average during the financial year?

- Yes
- No

* Will your organisation be subject to the reporting requirements under the [Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive \(CSRD\)](#)?

(The CSRD requirements will apply to all large and all listed undertakings with limited liability (except listed micro-enterprises) according to categories defined in Article 3 of [Directive 2013/34/EU \(the Accounting Directive\)](#). Credit institutions and insurance undertakings with unlimited liability are also in scope subject to the same size criteria. Non-EU undertakings listed on the EU regulated markets and non-EU undertakings with a net turnover above EUR 150 million that carry out business in the EU will also have to publish certain sustainability-related information through their EU subsidiaries that are subject to CSRD (or - in the absence of such EU subsidiaries – through their EU branches with net turnover above EUR 40 million).

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

The Commission will publish all contributions to this targeted consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. **For the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association, 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its**

transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published.

Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

* Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

Anonymous

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

Public

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

I agree with the [personal data protection provisions](#)

Would you be available for follow-up questions under the contact information you provided above?

- Yes
 No

Section 1. Current requirements of the SFDR

The EU's sustainable finance policy is designed to attract private investment to support the transition to a sustainable, climate-neutral economy. The SFDR is designed to contribute to this objective by providing transparency to investors about the sustainability risks that can affect the value of and return on their investments ('outside-in' effect) and the adverse impacts that such investments have on the environment and society ('inside-out'). This is known as double materiality. This section of the questionnaire seeks to assess to what extent respondents consider that the SFDR is meeting its objectives in an effective and efficient manner and to identify their views about potential issues in the implementation of the regulation.

We are seeking the views of respondents on how the SFDR works in practice. In particular, we would like to know more about potential issues stakeholders might have encountered regarding the concepts it establishes and the disclosures it requires.

Question 1.1 The SFDR seeks to strengthen transparency through sustainability-related disclosures in the financial services sector to support the EU's shift to a sustainable, climate neutral economy.

In your view, is this broad objective of the regulation still relevant?

- 1 - Not at all
- 2 - To a limited extent
- 3 - To some extent
- 4 - To a large extent
- 5 - To a very large extent
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 1.2 Do you think the SFDR disclosure framework is effective in achieving the following specific objectives (included in its [Explanatory Memorandum](#) and mentioned in its recitals):

Note: In this questionnaire we refer to the term ‘end investor’ (retail or professional) to designate the ultimate beneficiary of the investments in financial products (as defined under the SFDR) made by a person for their own account.

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
Increasing transparency towards end investor with regard to the integration of sustainability risks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increasing transparency towards end investor with regard to the consideration of adverse sustainability impacts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strengthening protection of end investors and making it easier for them to benefit from and compare among a wide range of financial products and services, including those with sustainability claims	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Channelling capital towards investments considered sustainable, including transitional investments ('investments considered sustainable' should be understood in a broad sense, not limited to the definition of sustainable investment set out in Article 2(17) of SFDR)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<p>Ensuring that ESG considerations are integrated into the investment and advisory process in a consistent manner across the different financial services sectors</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>Ensuring that remuneration policies of financial market participants and financial advisors are consistent with the integration of sustainability risks and, where relevant, sustainable investment targets and designed to contribute to long-term sustainable growth</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Question 1.3 Do you agree that opting for a disclosure framework at EU level was more effective and efficient in seeking to achieve the objectives mentioned in Question 1.2 than if national measures had been taken at Member State level?

- 1 - Totally disagree
- 2 - Mostly disagree
- 3 - Partially disagree and partially agree
- 4 - Mostly agree
- 5 - Totally agree
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 1.4 Do you agree that the costs of disclosure under the SFDR framework are proportionate to the benefits it generates (informing end investors, channelling capital towards sustainable investments)?

- 1 - Totally disagree
- 2 - Mostly disagree
- 3 - Partially disagree and partially agree
- 4 - Mostly agree
- 5 - Totally agree
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

We are seeking the views of respondents on how the SFDR works in practice and the impact it has had.

Question 1.5 To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
The SFDR has raised awareness in the financial services sector of the potential negative impacts that investment decisions can have on the environment and/or people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Financial market participants have changed the way they make investment decisions and design products since they have been required to disclose sustainability risks and adverse impacts at entity and product level under the SFDR	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The SFDR has had indirect positive effects by increasing pressure on investee companies to act in a more sustainable manner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

We would also like to know more about potential issues stakeholders might have encountered regarding the concepts that the SFDR establishes and the disclosures it requires.

Question 1.6 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
Some disclosures required by the SFDR are not sufficiently useful to investors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Some legal requirements and concepts in the SFDR, such as 'sustainable investment', are not sufficiently clear	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The SFDR is not used as a disclosure framework as intended, but as a labelling and marketing tool (in particular Articles 8 and 9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Data gaps make it challenging for market participants to disclose fully in line with the legal requirements under the SFDR	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Re-use of data for disclosures is hampered by a lack of a common machine-readable format that presents data in a way that makes them easy to extract	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There are other deficiencies with the SFDR rules (please in text box following question 1.7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Question 1.7 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
The issues raised in question 1.6 create legal uncertainty for financial market participants and financial advisers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The issues raised in question 1.6 create reputational risks for financial market participants and financial advisers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The issues raised in question 1.6 do not allow distributors to have a sufficient or robust enough knowledge of the sustainability profile of the products they distribute	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The issues raised in question 1.6 create a risk of greenwashing and mis-selling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The issues raised in question 1.6 prevent capital from being allocated to sustainable investments as effectively as it could be	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The current framework does not effectively capture investments in transition assets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The current framework does not effectively support a robust enough use of shareholder engagement as a means to support the transition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Others



Please provide any additional explanations as necessary for questions 1.5, 1.6 and 1.7:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

General explanation for questions 1.5, 1.6 and 1.7

The Asset Management Group (AMG) of SIFMA notes that whilst the aims of SFDR are laudable and it has undoubtedly increased investor focus on sustainability issues, in some areas the framework could be significantly improved. Whilst SFDR disclosures are an improvement in terms of transparency as compared to having no standardised disclosures, they are nevertheless lengthy, complex and difficult for investors (particularly retail investors) to navigate, overly narrow, rigid and create significant compliance costs for the industry (which are ultimately borne by investors).

In addition, SFDR does not provide sufficient flexibility to deal with issues such as data gaps, engagement approaches or transition assets, or takes into account complex investment strategies. For example, reporting templates do not provide space to adequately explain the sustainability-related attributes of complex investment strategies. Data challenges and the risk of inadequate data in SFDR disclosures impact investor confidence and lead to market credibility issues.

SIFMA AMG notes that flexibility in SFDR disclosures is essential to an extent, in order to:

- i. appropriately harness the innovation of asset managers and capital markets to solve sustainability-related challenges; and
- ii. allow asset owners to allocate more capital towards sustainable investments in a manner that meets their individual preferences.

Furthermore, lack of clarity around core concepts, lack of alignment with other sustainable finance legislation and frequent changes in guidance and legislation have led to confusion, lack of consistency and significant compliance costs. These issues together feed into regional divergences in interpretation of the SFDR framework, and consequently, various enforcement challenges for the national competent authorities.

SIFMA AMG is of the view that SFDR disclosures should be tied to concepts that are clear and for which adequate data exists already and is accessible.

Question 1.6

SIFMA AMG notes that even if all the disclosures were to be made machine-readable, not all the financial market participants and distributors have the requisite technology, to extract data from such disclosures and re-use it.

Disclosures of principal adverse impacts (PAIs)

There are several disclosures concerning PAIs in the SFDR. As a general rule, the SFDR requires financial market participants who consider PAIs to disclose them at entity level on their website. It also includes a mandatory requirement for financial market participants to provide such disclosures when they have more than 500 employees (Article 4). The [Delegated Regulation](#) of the SFDR includes a list of these PAI indicators. These entity level PAI indicators are divided into three tables in the Delegated Regulation. Indicators listed in table 1 are mandatory for all participants, and indicators in tables 2 and 3 are subject to a materiality assessment by the financial market participant (at least one indicator from table 2 and one from table 3 must be included in every PAI statement).

Second, the SFDR requires financial market participants who consider PAIs at entity level to indicate in the pre-contractual documentation whether their financial products consider PAIs (Article 7) and to report the impacts in the corresponding periodic disclosures (Article 11). When reporting these impacts, financial market participants may rely on the PAI indicators defined at entity level in the Delegated Regulation.

Finally, in accordance with the empowerment given in Article 2a of SFDR, the Delegated Regulation requires that the do no significant harm (DNSH) assessment of the sustainable investment definition is carried out by taking into account the PAI indicators defined at entity level in Annex I of the Delegated Regulation.

In this context:

Question 1.8 To what extent do you agree with the following statements about entity level disclosures?

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
I find it appropriate that certain indicators are always considered material (i.e. "principal") to the financial market participant for its entity level disclosures, while having other indicators subject to a materiality assessment by the financial market participant (approach taken in Annex I of the SFDR Delegated Regulation)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would find it appropriate that all indicators are always considered material (i.e. "principal") to the financial market participant for its entity level disclosures	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would find it appropriate that all indicators are always subject to a materiality assessment by the financial market participant for its entity level disclosures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Question 1.8.1 When following the approach described in the first statement of question 1.8 above, do you agree that the areas covered by the current indicators listed in table 1 of the Delegated Regulation are the right ones to be considered material in all cases?

- 1 - Totally disagree
 - 2 - Mostly disagree
 - 3 - Partially disagree and partially agree
 - 4 - Mostly agree
 - 5 - Totally agree
 - Don't know / no opinion / not applicable
-

Question 1.9 To what extent do you agree with the following statements about product level disclosures?

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
The requirement to 'take account of' PAI indicators listed in Annex I of the Delegated Regulation for the DNSH assessment, does not create methodological challenges	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In the context of product disclosures for the do no significant harm (DNSH) assessment, it is clear how materiality of principal adverse impact (PAI) indicators listed in Annex I of the Delegated Regulation should be applied	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The possibility to consider the PAI indicators listed in Annex I of the Delegated Regulation for product level disclosures of Article 7 do not create methodological challenges	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is clear how the disclosure requirements of Article 7 as regards principal adverse impacts interact with the requirement to disclose information according to Article 8 when the product promotes environmental and/or social characteristics and with the requirement to disclose information according to Article 9 when the product has sustainable investment as its objective	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please provide any additional explanations as necessary for questions 1.8, 1.8.1 and 1.9:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

SIFMA AMG notes that in general, the entity-level disclosures provide limited insight to the investors on the principal adverse impacts of their investment decisions on sustainability factors. This is because data is aggregated at an entity level (which is not the level that investors invest in) and is not specific to a given product (which is the level that investors invest in). The entity level disclosures effectively just provide an aggregation of the preferences of investors using the relevant financial market participant (given they will reflect their wishes in investment decisions and product design).

In addition, due to issues relating to data availability and quality, it is also difficult for investors to compare entity-level statements published by different financial market participants in a meaningful manner in any case.

Against this context, SIFMA AMG submits that the European Commission should consider deletion of entity-level PAI disclosure requirements under SFDR, in entirety. However, if the European Commission were to retain the entity-level PAI disclosure requirements under SFDR, SIFMA AMG notes that they should be subject to materiality assessment, as indicated in our response to Question 1.8 above. The materiality threshold should be decided either by the manager or guided by companies' disclosures.

The issues relating to PAI also apply in relation to DNSH assessment, given the implication that firms should consider PAIs while undertaking DNSH analyses. SIFMA AMG notes that it is important to maintain flexibility in respect of DNSH assessments given the difficulty firms face in applying the assessments across different asset classes and industries.

The cost of disclosures under the SFDR today

Questions 1.10, 1.10.1 and 1.11 are intended for financial market participants and financial advisors subject to the SFDR.

The following two questions aim to assess the costs of the SFDR disclosure requirements distinguishing between one-off and recurring costs. One-off costs are incurred only once to implement a new reporting requirement, e.g. getting familiarised with the legal act and the associated regulatory or implementing technical standards, setting-up data collection processes or adjusting IT-systems. Recurring costs occur repeatedly every year once the new reporting is in place, e.g. costs of annual data collection and report preparation. In the specific case of precontractual disclosures for example, there are one-off costs to set up the process of publishing precontractual disclosures when a new product is launched, and recurring annual costs to repeat the process of publishing pre-contractual disclosures each time a new product is launched (depends on the number of products launched on average each year). These two questions apply both to entity and product level disclosures.

Question 1.10 Could you provide estimates of the one-off and recurring annual costs associated with complying with the SFDR disclosure requirements (EUR)?

Please split these estimates between internal costs incurred by the financial market participant and any external services contracted to assist in complying with the requirements (services from third-party data providers, advisory services, etc.).

If such a breakdown is not possible, please provide the total figures.

Please leave the cell blank for the data you are not able to provide.

	Estimated one off costs (in euros)	Estimated recurring annual costs (in euros)
Total internal costs		
Internal costs for personnel		
Internal costs for IT		
Total external costs		
External costs for data providers		
External costs for advisory services		

Total costs of SFDR disclosure requirements		
--	--	--

Question 1.10.1: Could you split the total costs between product level and entity level disclosures?

Please leave the cell blank for the data you are not able to provide.

	Product-level disclosures (in %)	Entity-level disclosures (in %)
Estimated percentage of costs		

If you wish, please provide additional details:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Whilst SIFMA AMG, as a trade association, is not in a position to give its own estimates, the European Commission should refer to individual responses provided by financial market participants.

At a high-level, SIFMA AMG notes that while SFDR aims for transparency to end investors, its implementation has been costly and that cost ultimately falls on the end investors. In fact, in addition to internal resources costs, the use of the mandatory pre-contractual and reporting template requires reliance on external providers, therefore, creating a new source of costs for financial market participants.

Furthermore, the lack of clarity surrounding SFDR has forced financial market participants to seek external legal advice, leading to further increase in the costs of implementation. SIFMA AMG therefore requests the European Commission to be mindful of the financial market participants' efforts and costs spent on the implementation of SFDR, in their review of the existing requirements.

Question 1.11 In order to have a better understanding of internal costs, could you provide an estimate of how many full-time-equivalents (FTEs - 1 FTE corresponds to 1 employee working full-time the whole year) are involved in preparing SFDR disclosures?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Whilst SIFMA AMG, as a trade association, is not in a position to give its own estimates, the European Commission should refer to individual responses provided by financial market participants.

Question 1.11.1 Could you please provide a split between:

Please leave the cell blank for the data you are not able to provide.

	Retrieving the data (in %)	Analysing the data (in %)	Reporting SFDR disclosures (in %)	Other (in %)
Estimated percentage				

Please specify what corresponds to “other” costs:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Data and estimates

Financial market participants' and financial advisers' ability to fulfil their ESG transparency requirements depends in part on other disclosure requirements under the EU framework. In particular, they will rely to a significant extent on the [Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive \(CSRD\)](#). However, entities are not reporting yet under those new disclosure requirements, or they may not be within the scope of the CSRD. Besides, even when data is already available today, it may not always be of good quality.

Question 1.12 Are you facing difficulties in obtaining good-quality data?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 1.12.1 If so, do you struggle to find information about the following elements?

	1 (not at all)	2 (to a limited extent)	3 (to some extent)	4 (to a large extent)	5 (to a very large extent)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
The entity level principal adverse impacts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The proportion of taxonomy-aligned investments (product level)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The contribution to an						

environmental or social objective, element of the definition of 'sustainable investment' (product level)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The product's principal adverse impacts, including when assessed in the context of the 'do no significant harm' test which requires the consideration of PAI entity level indicators listed in Annex I of the Delegated Regulation and is an element of the definition of 'sustainable investment' (product level)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The good governance practices of investee companies (product level)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Question 1.12.2 Is the SFDR sufficiently flexible to allow for the use of estimates?

- 1 - Not at all
- 2 - To a limited extent
- 3 - To some extent
- 4 - To a large extent
- 5 - To a very large extent
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 1.12.3 Is it clear what kind of estimates are allowed by the SFDR?

- 1 - Not at all
- 2 - To a limited extent
- 3 - To some extent
- 4 - To a large extent
- 5 - To a very large extent
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 1.12.4 If you use estimates, what kind of estimates do you use to fill the data gap?

a) For entity level principal adverse impacts:

	1 (not at all)	2 (to a limited extent)	3 (to some extent)	4 (to a large extent)	5 (to a very large extent)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
Estimates from data providers, based on data coming from the investee companies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Estimates from data providers, based on data coming from other sources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In-house estimates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internal ESG score models	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
External ESG score models	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

b) For taxonomy aligned investments (product level):

	1 (not at all)	2 (to a limited extent)	3 (to some extent)	4 (to a large extent)	5 (to a very large extent)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
Estimates from data providers, based on data coming from the investee companies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Estimates from data providers, based on data coming from other sources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In-house estimates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internal ESG score models	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
External ESG score models	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

c) For sustainable investments (product level):

	1 (not at all)	2 (to a limited extent)	3 (to some extent)	4 (to a large extent)	5 (to a very large extent)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
Estimates from data providers, based on data coming from the investee companies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Estimates from data providers, based on data coming from other sources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In-house estimates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internal ESG score models	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
External ESG score models	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

d) Other data points:

	1 (not at all)	2 (to a limited extent)	3 (to some extent)	4 (to a large extent)	5 (to a very large extent)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
Estimates from data providers,						

based on data coming from the investee companies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Estimates from data providers, based on data coming from other sources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In-house estimates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internal ESG score models	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
External ESG score models	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Question 1.12.5 Do you engage with investee companies to encourage reporting of the missing data?

- 1 - Not at all
- 2 - To a limited extent
- 3 - To some extent
- 4 - To a large extent
- 5 - To a very large extent
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Please provide further explanations to your replies to questions 1.12 to 1.12.5:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Question 1.12.1

SIFMA AMG agrees that financial market participants struggle to find information about the elements mentioned above, to a large extent. The issue is that whilst financial market participants are subject to mandatory SFDR disclosures,

- i. there are no equivalent mandatory disclosure requirements for investee companies, which makes it difficult for financial market participants to source information on the elements of the entity-level or product-

level disclosures; and

ii. as noted in the response to Question 1.12.2 and Question 1.12.3 above, the SFDR is also not clear on the usage of estimates. In fact, there is guidance in relation to taxonomy-alignment of investments, that states that estimates should not generally be used for the purpose of disclosure.

Even with the introduction of CSRD this situation is unlikely to change, given (1) CSRD will still only apply to a subset of investee companies; and (2) CSRD disclosures are subject to materiality thresholds and hence disclosure on issues such as PAIs will not be universal.

Question 1.12.4

Whilst SIFMA AMG, as a trade association, is not in a position to give its own estimates, the European Commission should refer to individual responses provided by financial market participants.

Question 1.13 Have you increased your offer of financial products that make sustainability claims since the disclosure requirements of Articles 8 and 9 of the SFDR began to apply (i.e. since 2021, have you been offering more products that you categorise as Articles 8 and 9 than those you offered before the regulation was in place and for which you also claimed a certain sustainability performance)?

- 1 - Not at all
- 2 - To a limited extent
- 3 - To some extent
- 4 - To a large extent
- 5 - To a very large extent
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 1.13.1 Please specify how the share of financial products making sustainability claims has evolved in the past years

(Please express it as a percentage of the total financial products you offered each year)

	Percentage of the total financial products
2020	
2021	
2022	
2023	

Question 1.13.2 If you have increased your offering of financial products making sustainability claims, in your view, has any of the following factors influenced this increase?

	1 (not at all)	2 (not really)	3 (partially)	4 (mostly)	5 (totally)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
SFDR requirements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Retail investor interest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Professional investor interest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Market competitiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other factors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please provide further explanations to your replies to questions 1.13, 1.13.1 and 1.13.2:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Questions 1.13.1 and 1.13.2

Whilst SIFMA AMG, as a trade association, is not in a position to give its own estimates, the European Commission should refer to individual responses provided by financial market participants.

Section 2. Interaction with other sustainable finance legislation

The SFDR interacts with other parts of the EU's sustainable finance framework. Questions in this section will therefore seek respondents' views about the current interactions, as well as potential inconsistencies or misalignments that might exist between the SFDR and other sustainable finance legislation. There is a need to assess the potential implications for other sustainable finance legal acts if the SFDR legal framework was changed in the future. Questions as regards these potential implications are included in section 4 of this questionnaire, when consulting on the potential establishment of a categorisation system for products, and they do not prejudge future positions that might be taken by the Commission.

The SFDR mainly interacts with the following legislation and their related delegated and implementing acts:

- the [Taxonomy Regulation](#)
- the [Benchmarks Regulation](#)
- the [Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive \(CSRD\)](#)
- the [Markets in Financial Instruments Directive \(MiFID 2\)](#) and the [Insurance Distribution Directive \(IDD\)](#)
- the [Regulation on Packaged Retail Investment and Insurance Products \(PRIIPs\)](#)

Other legal acts that are currently being negotiated may also interact with the SFDR in the future. They are not covered in this questionnaire as the detailed requirements of these legal acts have not yet been agreed. At this stage, it would be speculative to seek to assess how their interaction with SFDR would function.

Both the SFDR and the Taxonomy Regulation introduce key concepts to the sustainable finance framework. Notably, they introduce definitions of ‘sustainable investment’ (SFDR) and ‘environmentally sustainable’ economic activities (taxonomy). Both definitions require, inter alia, a contribution to a sustainable objective and a do no significant harm (DNSH) test. But while these definitions are similar, there are differences between them which could create practical challenges for market participants.

Question 2.1 The [Commission recently adopted a FAQ](#) clarifying that investments in taxonomy-aligned ‘environmentally sustainable’ economic activities can automatically qualify as ‘sustainable investments’ in those activities under the SFDR.

To what extent do you agree that this FAQ offers sufficient clarity to market participants on how to treat taxonomy-aligned investment in the SFDR product level disclosures?

- 1 - Totally disagree
- 2 - Mostly disagree
- 3 - Partially disagree and partially agree
- 4 - Mostly agree
- 5 - Totally agree
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

The Benchmarks Regulation introduces two categories of climate benchmarks – the EU climate transition benchmark (EU CTB) and the EU Paris-aligned benchmark (EU PAB) - and requires benchmark administrators to disclose on ESG related matters for all benchmarks (except interest rate and foreign exchange benchmarks). The SFDR makes reference to the CTB and PAB in connection with financial products that have the reduction of carbon emissions as their objective. Both legal frameworks are closely linked as products disclosing under the SFDR can for example passively track a CTB or a PAB or use one of them as a reference benchmark in an active investment strategy. More broadly, passive products rely on the design choices made by the benchmark administrators.

Question 2.2 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
The questions & answers published by the Commission in April 2023 specifying that the SFDR deems products passively tracking CTB and PAB to be making 'sustainable investments' as defined in the SFDR provide sufficient clarity to market participants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The approach to DNSH and good governance in the SFDR is consistent with the environmental, social and governance exclusions under the PAB/CTB	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The ESG information provided by benchmark administrators is sufficient and is aligned with the information required by the SFDR for products tracking or referencing these benchmarks	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Both the SFDR and the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) introduce entity level disclosure requirements with a double-materiality approach^[1]. The CSRD sets out sustainability reporting requirements mainly for all large and all listed undertakings with limited liability (except listed micro-enterprises)^[2], while the SFDR introduces sustainability disclosure requirements at entity level for financial market participants and financial advisers as regards the consideration of sustainability related factors in their investment decision-making process. Moreover, in order for financial market participants and financial advisers to meet their product and entity level disclosure obligations under the SFDR, they will rely to a significant extent, on the information reported according to the CSRD and its [European Sustainability Reporting Standards \(ESRS\)](#) (provided positive scrutiny of co-legislators of the [ESRS delegated act](#)).

¹ Transparency requirements relate to the sustainability risks that can affect the value of investments (SFDR) or companies (CSRD) ('outside-in' effect) and the adverse impacts that such investments or companies have on the environment and society ('inside-out').

² Credit institutions and insurance undertakings with unlimited liability are also in scope subject to the same size criteria. Non-EU undertakings listed on the EU regulated markets and non-EU undertakings with a net turnover above EUR 150 million that carry out business in the EU will also have to publish certain sustainability-related information through their EU subsidiaries that are subject to CSRD (or - in the absence of such EU subsidiaries – through their EU branches with net turnover above EUR 40 million).

Question 2.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
The SFDR disclosures are consistent with the CSRD requirements, in particular with the European Sustainability Reporting Standards	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There is room to streamline the entity level disclosure requirements of the SFDR and the CSRD	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Financial advisors (under MiFID 2) and distributors of insurance-based investment products (under IDD) have to conduct suitability assessments based on the sustainability preferences of customers. These assessments rely in part on sustainability-related information made available by market participants reporting under the SFDR.

Question 2.4 To what extent do you agree that the product disclosures required in the SFDR and [its Delegated Regulation](#) (e.g. the proportion of sustainable investments or taxonomy aligned investments, or information about principal adverse impacts) are sufficiently useful and comparable to allow distributors to determine whether a product can fit investors' sustainability preferences under MiFID 2 and the IDD?

- 1 - Totally disagree
- 2 - Mostly disagree
- 3 - Partially disagree and partially agree
- 4 - Mostly agree
- 5 - Totally agree
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 2.5 MIFID and IDD require financial advisors to take into account sustainability preferences of clients when providing certain services to them.

Do you believe that, on top of this behavioural obligation, the following disclosure requirements for financial advisors of the SFDR are useful?

	1 (not at all)	2 (to a limited extent)	3 (to some extent)	4 (to a large extent)	5 (to a very large extent)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
Article 3, entity level disclosures about the integration of sustainability risks policies in investment or insurance advice	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Article 4, entity level disclosures						

about consideration of principal adverse impacts	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Article 5, entity level disclosures about remuneration policies in relation to the integration of sustainability risks	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Article 6, product level pre-contractual disclosures about the integration of sustainability risks in investment or insurance advice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Article 12, requirement to keep information disclosed according to Articles 3 and 5 up to date	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Question 2.6 Have the requirements on distributors to consider sustainability preferences of clients impacted the quality and consistency of disclosures made under SFDR?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

PRIIPs requires market participants to provide retail investors with [key information documents \(KIDs\)](#). As part of the [retail investment strategy](#), the Commission has recently proposed to include a new sustainability section in the KID to make sustainability-related information of investment products more visible, comparable and understandable for retail investors. Section 4 of this questionnaire includes questions related to PRIIPs, to seek stakeholders' views as regards potential impacts on the content of the KID if a product categorisation system was established.

Please clarify your replies to questions in section 2 as necessary:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Question 2.1

SIFMA AMG believes that the high-level definition of sustainable investment as it currently stands is broad enough to cover a wide range of asset classes. It allows investment managers to develop bespoke sustainable investment approaches to those asset classes. SIFMA AMG is of the view that investment managers should continue to have flexibility to include sustainable investments that are non-EU Taxonomy aligned, particularly given that only EU companies will report EU Taxonomy alignment. This would otherwise pose significant challenges for global asset managers.

SIFMA AMG opposes a more prescriptive approach to the definition of sustainable investment. A prescriptive approach would restrict the development of sustainable funds and the development of the broader market. As mentioned above, SIFMA AMG also does not believe that the definition of sustainable investment should be defined solely by reference to the EU Taxonomy, with the EU Taxonomy covering only a limited number of activities.

SIFMA AMG agrees with the European Commission, however, that an investment which is Taxonomy-aligned, should in certain circumstances automatically qualify as a sustainable investment.

Question 2.3

SIFMA AMG mostly disagrees that the SFDR disclosures are consistent with the CSRD requirements, in particular with the ESRS. Whilst under SFDR, financial market participants are subject to mandatory disclosures, under CSRD, all disclosures are subject to materiality assessment (with the exception of the General Disclosures in ESRS 1). Since the materiality framework of CSRD reporting has already been finalised, SIFMA AMG suggest that for consistency a similar concept should be introduced for relevant SFDR disclosures.

Additionally, SIFMA AMG agrees that there is room to streamline the entity level disclosure requirements of the SFDR and the CSRD. As noted in the response to Question 1.8 and Question 1.8.1 above, the European Commission could delete the entity-level PAI disclosure requirements from SFDR in entirety and retain the parallel obligations under CSRD.

Section 3. Potential changes to disclosure requirements for financial market participants

3.1 Entity level disclosures

The SFDR contains entity level disclosure requirements for financial market participants and financial advisers. They shall disclose on their website their policies on the integration of sustainability risks in their investment decision-making process or their investment or insurance advice (Article 3). In addition, they shall disclose whether, and if so, how, they consider the principal adverse impacts of their investment decisions on sustainability factors. For financial market

participants with 500 or more employees, the disclosure of a due diligence statement, including information of adverse impacts, is mandatory (Article 4). In addition, financial market participants and financial advisers shall disclose how their remuneration policies are consistent with the integration of sustainability risks (Article 5).

Question 3.1.1 Are these disclosures useful?

	1 (not at all)	2 (not really)	3 (partially)	4 (mostly)	5 (totally)	Don't know No opinion Not applicable
Article 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Article 4	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Article 5	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please explain your replies to question 3.1.1 as necessary:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

SIFMA AMG notes that the disclosures provided pursuant to Article 3 and Article 5 are partially helpful. The manner in which financial market participants and financial advisers currently consider and integrate sustainability risks is relevant for understanding the overarching approach of financial market participants and financial advisers to risk management, including sustainability risks.

With respect to Article 4, SIFMA AMG notes that the investors invest in particular products, and to the extent they are concerned with sustainability impacts they are keen to understand how the specific investment strategy that they invest in impacts sustainability factors. The aggregate view that entity-level disclosures contain is not really helpful in providing such understanding and is based on data requirements that are applied indiscriminately and have little informational relevance for the investors.

Complementing the [consultation by the European Supervisory Authorities \(ESAs\) on the revision of the regulatory technical standards of the SFDR](#), the Commission is interested in respondents' views as regards the principal adverse impact indicators required by the current Delegated Regulation.

Question 3.1.2 Among the specific entity level principal adverse impact indicators required by the [Delegated Regulation of the SFDR](#) adopted pursuant to Article 4 (tables 1, 2 and 3 of Annex I), which indicators do you find the most (and least) useful?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

SIFMA AMG is of the opinion that the entity level disclosure requirement as per Article 4 should be removed as indicated above, as it does not offer any value to the investors and does not provide a proper overview of the reality.

Nevertheless – regarding the use of the PAI at product level, whilst there are not necessarily any PAIs that will always be applicable to all securities, the carbon-related PAIs (1-3) & UN Global Compact-related PAI (10) are useful due to applicability to a wide variety of sectors and availability of data. SIFMA AMG notes that investors regularly ask for this information outside of the context of SFDR. The materiality of many of the other ‘mandatory’ PAIs vary widely. Biodiversity, Water Emissions and Hazardous Waste ratio (PAIs 7-9), PAI 12 (Gender pay gap) are some of the PAIs that are of extremely limited use, due to issues such as lack of data and inapplicability to many industries. Overall, SIFMA AMG notes that PAIs that are not based on established, and internationally recognized concepts are not that helpful.

Several pieces of EU legislation require entity level disclosures, whether through transparency requirements on sustainability for businesses (for example the CSRD) or disclosure requirements regarding own ESG exposures (such as the Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR) and its Delegated Regulation).

Question 3.1.3 In this context, is the SFDR the right place to include entity level disclosures?

- 1 - Not at all
- 2 - Not really
- 3 - Partially
- 4 - Mostly
- 5 - Totally
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 3.1.4 To what extent is there room for streamlining sustainability-related entity level requirements across different pieces of legislation?

- 1 - Not at all
- 2 - To a limited extent
- 3 - To some extent
- 4 - To a large extent
- 5 - To a very large extent
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Please explain your replies to questions in section 3.1 as necessary:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Question 3.1.4

SIFMA AMG agrees that there is room for streamlining sustainability-related entity level requirements, to a large extent. With the incoming CSRD regime, there will be obligations that are similar to entity level disclosure obligations under SFDR. In SIFMA AMG's view, to avoid such duplication, the entity-level requirements should be covered under CSRD, and SFDR should be limited to product-level disclosures.

3.2 Product level disclosures

The SFDR includes product level disclosure requirements (Articles 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11) that mainly concern risk and adverse impact related information, as well as information about the sustainability performance of a given financial product. The regulation determines which information should be included in precontractual and periodic documentation and on websites.

The SFDR was designed as a disclosure regime, but is being used as a labelling scheme, suggesting that there might be a demand for establishing sustainability product categories. Before assessing whether there might be merit in setting up such product categories in Section 4, Section 3 includes questions analysing the need for possible changes to disclosures, as well as any potential link between product categories and disclosures. The need to ask about potential links between disclosures and sustainability product categories is the reason why this section contains some references to 'products making sustainability claims'. However, this does not pre-empt in any way a decision about how a potential categorisation system and an updated disclosure regime would interact if these were established. The Commission services are openly consulting on all these issues to further assess potential ways forward as regards the SFDR.

The Commission services would therefore like to collect feedback on what transparency requirements stakeholders consider useful and necessary. We would also like to know respondents' views on whether and how these transparency requirements should link to different potential categories of products.

The general principle of the SFDR is that products that make sustainability claims need to disclose information to back up those claims and combat greenwashing. This could be viewed as placing additional burden on products that factor in sustainability considerations. This is why, in the following questions Commission services ask respondents about the usefulness of uniform disclosure requirements for products across the board, regardless of related sustainability claims, departing from the general philosophy of the SFDR as regards product disclosures. Providing proportionate information on the sustainability profile of a product which does not make sustainability claims could make it easier for some investors to understand products' sustainability performance, as they would get information also about products that are not designed to achieve any sustainability-related outcome. This section also contains questions exploring whether it could be useful to require financial market participants who make sustainability claims about certain products to disclose additional information (i.e. in case a categorisation system is introduced in the EU framework, the need to require additional information about products that would fall under a category).

Question 3.2.1 Standardised product disclosures - Should the EU impose uniform disclosure requirements for all financial products offered in the EU, regardless of their sustainability-related claims or any other consideration?

- 1 - Not at all
- 2 - To a limited extent
- 3 - To some extent
- 4 - To a large extent
- 5 - To a very large extent
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 3.2.1 a) If the EU was to impose uniform disclosure requirements for all financial products offered in the EU, should disclosures on a limited number of principal adverse impact indicators be required for all financial products offered in the EU?

- 1 - Not at all
- 2 - To a limited extent
- 3 - To some extent
- 4 - To a large extent
- 5 - To a very large extent
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Please specify which principal adverse impact indicators should be required for all financial products offered in the EU:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Question 3.2.1 b) Please see a list of examples of disclosures that could also be required about all financial products for transparency purposes.

In your view, should these disclosures be mandatory, and/or should any other information be required about all financial products for transparency purposes?

	1 (not at all)	2 (to a limited extent)	3 (to some extent)	4 (to a large extent)	5 (to a very large extent)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
Taxonomy-related disclosures	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engagement strategies	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Exclusions	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information about how ESG-related information is used in the investment process	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please explain as necessary your replies to questions 3.2.1 and its sub-questions:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

SIFMA AMG notes that extension of the product-level disclosure requirements to all financial products offered in the EU would be impractical, as for products that do not have sustainable characteristics large swathes of the disclosures would be effectively irrelevant. In SIFMA AMG's view, information about how ESG-related information is used in the investment process is perhaps the only element that would be of some relevance for products with no sustainability claims. Such extension could result in product-level disclosures that do not contain helpful information whilst reducing readability for investors and increasing compliance costs.

Question 3.2.2 Standardised product disclosures - Would uniform disclosure requirements for **some financial products be a more appropriate approach, regardless of their sustainability-related claims (e.g. products whose assets under management, or equivalent, would exceed a certain threshold to be defined, products intended solely for retail investors, etc.)?**

(Please note that next question 3.2.3 asks specifically about the need for disclosures in cases of products making sustainability claims.)

- 1 - Not at all
- 2 - To a limited extent
- 3 - To some extent
- 4 - To a large extent
- 5 - To a very large extent

- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 3.2.2 a) If the EU was to impose uniform disclosure requirements for **some financial products, what would be the criterion/criteria that would trigger the reporting obligations?**

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

SIFMA AMG does not agree with imposing uniform disclosure requirements. However, for completeness, SIFMA AMG notes that if the European Commission were to impose uniform disclosure requirements for some financial products, disclosures should be limited to meaningful information that is relevant and authentic to the individual strategy. Imposing uniform quantitative or other disclosures without any regard to the strategy in question will result in unnecessary costs for the financial market participants and will be irrelevant and confusing to the investors.

Question 3.2.2 b) If the EU was to impose uniform disclosure requirements for **some financial products, should a limited number of principal adverse impact indicators be required?**

- 1 - Not at all
- 2 - To a limited extent
- 3 - To some extent
- 4 - To a large extent
- 5 - To a very large extent
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 3.2.2 c) Please see a list of examples of disclosures that could also be required about the group of financial products that would be subject to standardised disclosure obligations for transparency purposes (in line with your answer to Q 3.2.2 above).

In your view, should these disclosures be mandatory, and/or should any other information be required about that group of financial products?

	1 (not at all)	2 (to a limited extent)	3 (to some extent)	4 (to a large extent)	5 (to a very large extent)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
Taxonomy-related disclosures	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Engagement strategies	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Exclusions	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information about how ESG-related information is used in the investment process	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please explain as necessary your replies to questions 3.2.2 and its sub-questions:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Similar to our response to Question 3.2.1 and its sub-questions, SIFMA AMG do not agree with the idea of extending product-level disclosure requirement to products based on considerations other than their sustainability claims. We are of the view that such disclosures would be impractical and not useful to investors. In SIFMA AMG's view, information about how ESG-related information is used in the investment process is perhaps the only element that would be of some relevance for products with no sustainability claims.

The following and last section of this questionnaire (section 4) includes questions about the potential establishment of a sustainability product categorisation system at EU level based on certain criteria that products would have to meet. It presents questions about different ways of setting up such system, including whether additional category specific disclosure requirements should be envisaged. There are therefore certain links between questions in this section (section 3) and questions in the last section of the questionnaire (section 4).

Question 3.2.3 If requirements were imposed as per question 3.2.1 and/or 3.2.2, should there be some additional disclosure requirements when a product makes a sustainability claim?

- 1 - Totally disagree
- 2 - Mostly disagree
- 3 - Partially disagree and partially agree
-

- 4 - Mostly agree
- 5 - Totally agree
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Please explain as necessary your replies to question 3.2.3:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

As noted above, SIFMA AMG is of the view that there should not be standardised disclosure requirements for all financial products, as that would defeat the purpose of having disclosure requirements to allow investors to distinguish products that factor in sustainability considerations from factors that do not. As only products that make a sustainability claim should be subject to disclosure requirements, there should be no need for additional disclosure requirement to that effect. However, if the European Commission were to introduce standardised disclosures, for products that make sustainability claims, additional ESG-related disclosure requirements would be valuable and much needed for end-investors.

Sustainability product information disclosed according to the current requirements of the SFDR can be found in precontractual and periodic documentation and on financial market participants' websites, as required by Articles 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Question 3.2.4 In general, is it appropriate to have product related information spread across these three places, i.e. in precontractual disclosures, in periodic documentation and on websites?

- 1 - Not at all
- 2 - To a limited extent
- 3 - To some extent
- 4 - To a large extent
- 5 - To a very large extent
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 3.2.5 More specifically, is the current breakdown of information between precontractual, periodic documentation and websites disclosures appropriate and user friendly?

- 1 - Not at all
- 2 - To a limited extent
- 3 - To some extent
- 4 - To a large extent
-

5 - To a very large extent

Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Please explain as necessary your replies to questions 3.2.4 and 3.2.5:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

SIFMA AMG notes that currently, the information required to be published on the website broadly overlaps with information required in precontractual disclosures. This potentially leads to the following issues:

- (i) confusion for investors as they receive two sets of disclosures in different formats that do not substantively provide different information,
- (ii) increased risk of unintentional inaccuracies by the financial market participants, and
- (iii) increased challenges for the regulators, as they need to ensure consistent monitoring and enforcement of SFDR, with respect to separate disclosures that are broadly similar, in terms of the substance.

In view of the approach to streamlining and digitisation of disclosures at the EU-level, the European Commission could consider streamlining the product related information requirement further by combining website and precontractual disclosures (for example, precontractual disclosures could simply be made available via a website).

Current website disclosures make it mandatory for product sustainability information to be publicly available. This includes portfolios managed under a portfolio management mandate, which can mean a large number of disclosures, as each of the managed portfolios is considered a financial product under the SFDR. A [Q&A published by the Commission in July 2021](#) (see question 3 of section V of the consolidated questions and answers (Q&A) on the SFDR and its Delegated Regulation published on the ESAs websites) clarified that where a financial market participant makes use of standard portfolio management strategies replicated for clients with similar investment profiles, transparency at the level of those standard strategies can be considered a way of complying with requirements on websites disclosures. This approach facilitates the compliance with Union and national law governing the data protection, and where relevant, it also ensures confidentiality owed to clients.

Question 3.2.6 To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
It is useful that product disclosures under SFDR are publicly available, (e.g. because they have the potential to bring wider societal benefits)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Confidentiality aspects need to be taken into account when specifying the information that should be made available to the public under the SFDR	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sustainability information about financial products should be made available to potential investors, investors or the public according to rules in sectoral legislation (e.g.: UCITS, AIFM, IORPs directives); the SFDR should not impose rules in this regard	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please explain as necessary your replies to question 3.2.6:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

SIFMA AMG agrees that leaving how sustainability information about financial products should be made available to investors to rules in sectoral legislation would be more appropriate, as they would allow for nuances in relation to these products to be captured. For instance, whilst public disclosures may be appropriate for UCITS which have a mass retail audience, they may not be appropriate for many kinds of AIFs with restricted marketing. SIFMA AMG also acknowledges that reliance on sectoral legislation would ensure that whilst similar level of disclosure is required for similar products, different requirements apply to different product types, taking into account their specific features. For example, UCITs, AIFs, pension funds and other similar products will be subject to similar requirements under their respective sectoral rules, and MiFID segregated accounts will be subject to different requirements than a fund. Additionally, SIFMA AMG notes that making product-level disclosures publicly available could pose a risk for the integrity of reputationally and commercially sensitive information that belongs to financial market participants.

Current product-level disclosures have been designed to allow for comparability between financial products. The SFDR requires pre-contractual disclosures to be made in various documents for the different financial products in scope of the regulation. The disclosure requirements are the same, even though these documents have widely varying levels of detail or complexity, i.e. a UCITS prospectus can be several hundred pages long, while the Pan-European Pension Product Key Information Document (PEPP KID) comprises a few pages.

Question 3.2.7 To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
The same sustainability disclosure topics and the exact same level of granularity of sustainability information (i.e. same number of datapoints) should be required in all types of precontractual documentation to allow for comparability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The same sustainability disclosure topics should be required in all types of precontractual documentation to allow for comparability	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please explain as necessary your replies to question 3.2.7:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

SIFMA AMG notes that in addition to the goal of increasing comparability of products that have sustainability disclosures, they are also focussed on enhancement of transparency. Therefore, it is to be noted that rigid definitions and lack of flexibility in how investment strategies are described and how available data is disclosed, in the interest of comparability, would have an adverse impact on the interests of investors, who expect financial market participants to be transparent in their sustainability disclosures.

Question 3.2.8 Do you believe that sustainability related disclosure requirements at product level should be independent from any entity level disclosure requirements, (i.e. product disclosures should not be conditional on entity disclosures, and vice-versa)?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Please explain as necessary your replies to question 3.2.8:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

SIFMA AMG strongly agree that product level disclosures should be independent from entity level disclosures. The sustainability profile of individual products will be shaped by the design and preferences of investors investing in that individual product, rather than the approach of other products that may be aggregated into entity level disclosures. There would be no logic to making a sustainable product's disclosures effectively dependent on the approach that the manager of that product takes in relation to entirely different products that do not have any sustainability features.

The SFDR is intended to facilitate comparisons between financial products based on their sustainability considerations. In practice, investors, and especially retail investors, may not always have the necessary expertise and knowledge to interpret SFDR product-level disclosures, whether it is about comparing these disclosures to industry averages or credible transition trajectories.

Question 3.2.9 Do you think that some product-level disclosures should be expressed on a scale (e.g. if the disclosure results for similar products were put on a scale, in which decile would the product fall)?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 3.2.10 If you are a professional investor, where do you obtain the sustainability information you find relevant?

	1 (not at all)	2 (to a limited extent)	3 (to some extent)	4 (to a large extent)	5 (to a very large extent)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
From direct enquiries to market participants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Via SFDR disclosures provided by market participants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Question 3.2.11 If you are a professional investor, do you find the SFDR requirements have improved the quality of information and transparency provided by financial market participants about the sustainability features of the products they offer?

- 1 - Not at all
- 2 - Not really
- 3 - Partially
- 4 - Mostly
- 5 - Totally
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Please explain as necessary your replies to questions 3.2.10 to 3.2.11:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Not Applicable.

For disclosures to be effective, they need to be accessible and useable to end investors. We are seeking respondents' views about the need to further improve the accessibility and usability of this information, in particular in a digital context.

These questions are intended to complement question 42 in the [ESAs' joint consultation paper on the review of the SFDR Delegated Regulation \(JC 2023 09\)](#) which asks for criteria for machine readability of the SFDR Delegated Regulation disclosures.

Question 3.2.12 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
Article 2(2) of the SFDR Delegated Regulation already requires financial market participants to make disclosures under the SFDR in a searchable electronic format, unless otherwise required by sectoral legislation. This is sufficient to ensure accessibility and usability of the disclosed information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It would be useful for all product information disclosed under the SFDR to be machine-readable, searchable and ready for digital use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It would be useful for some of the product information disclosed under the SFDR to be machine-readable and ready for digital use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It would be useful to prescribe a specific machine-readable format for all (or some parts) of the reporting under the SFDR (e.g. iXBRL)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It would be useful to make all product information disclosed under the SFDR available in the upcoming European Single Access Point as soon as possible	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Entity and product disclosures on websites should be interactive and offer a layered approach enabling investors to access additional information easily on demand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

It would be useful that a potential regulatory attempt to digitalise sustainability disclosures by financial market participants building on the European ESG Template (EET) which has been developed by the financial industry to facilitate the exchange of data between financial market participants and stakeholders regarding sustainability disclosures



Question 3.2.13 Do you think the costs of introducing a machine-readable format for the disclosed information would be proportionate to the benefits it would entail?

- 1 - Not at all
- 2 - Not really
- 3 - Partially
- 4 - Mostly
- 5 - Totally
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Please provide any comments or explanations to explain your answers to questions 3.2.12 and 3.2.13:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Question 3.2.12

SIFMA AMG notes that whilst it would be useful to make all product information disclosed under the SFDR available in the upcoming European Single Access Point (ESAP), making ESAP the sole legal depository for disclosures may lead to undue burden on the financial market participants in relation to maintenance.

Question 3.2.13

The machine-readable format for the disclosed information, would only be helpful to the extent that it streamlines exchange of information with distributors and consequently replaces the EET.

Current product-level disclosures have been designed to allow for comparability between financial products. These financial products and the types of investments they pursue can present differences.

Question 3.2.14 To what extent do you agree with the following statement?

“When determining what disclosures should be required at product level it should be taken into account: ...”

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
Whether the product is a wrapper offering choices between underlying investment options like a Multi-Option Product	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether some of the underlying investments are outside the EU	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether some of the underlying investments are in an emerging economy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether some of the underlying investments are in SMEs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether the underlying investments are in certain economic activities or in companies active in certain sectors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other considerations as regards the type of product or underlying investments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please explain your reply to question 3.2.14:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

As noted previously, SIFMA AMG are of the view that the current SFDR disclosure requirements do not allow sufficient flexibility to deal with issues such as data gaps and transition assets. Making disclosures more flexible by reference to underlying investments would be helpful. For example, in relation to disclosures outside the EU or in relation to SMEs certain sustainability information is less likely to be available (such as Taxonomy alignment). Catering for this in disclosure requirements would therefore be helpful, and help present a more accurate set of information for investors.

4. Potential establishment of a categorisation system for financial products

4.1 Potential options

The fact that Articles 8 and 9 of the SFDR are being used as de facto product labels, together with the proliferation of national ESG/sustainability labels, suggests that there is a market demand for such tools in order to communicate the ESG/sustainability performance of financial products. However, there are persistent concerns that the current market use of the SFDR as a labelling scheme might lead to risks of greenwashing (the Commission services seek respondents' views on this in section 1). This is partly because the existing concepts and definitions in the regulation were not conceived for that purpose. Instead, the intention behind them was to encompass as wide a range of products as possible, so that any sustainability claims had to be substantiated. In addition, a proliferation of national labels risks fragmenting the European market and thereby undermining the development of the [capital markets union](#).

The Commission services therefore seek views on the merits of developing a more precise EU-level product categorisation system based on precise criteria. This section of the questionnaire asks for stakeholders' views about both the advantages of establishing sustainability product categories and about how these categories should work. When asking about sustainability product categories, the Commission is referring to a possible distinction between products depending on their sustainability objectives or sustainability performances.

Replies to questions in this section will help assess which type of investor would find product categories useful. Some questions relate to different possibilities as to how the system could be set-up, including whether disclosure requirements about products making sustainability claims should play a role. There are therefore certain links between questions in this section and section 3 on disclosures. Accordingly, respondents are invited to reply to questions in both sections, so that the Commission services can get insights into how they view disclosures and product categories separately, but also how they see the interlinkages between the two.

Given the high demand for sustainability products, questions in this section assume that any potential categorisation system would be voluntary. This is because financial market participants would likely have an interest in offering products with a sustainability claim. The questions in this section presume that only products that claim to fall under a given sustainability product category would be required to meet the corresponding requirements. However, this should not be seen as the Commission's preferred policy approach, as the Commission is only consulting on these topics at this stage.

If the Commission was to propose the development of a more precise product categorisation system, two broad strategies could be envisaged. On the one hand, the product categorisation system could build on and develop the distinction between Articles 8 and 9 and the existing concepts embedded in them (such as environmental/social characteristics, sustainable investment or do no significant harm), complemented by additional (minimum) criteria that more clearly define the products falling within the scope of each article. On the other hand, the product categorisation system could be based on a different approach, for instance focused on the type of investment strategy (promise of positive contribution to certain sustainability objectives, transition focus, etc.), based on criteria that do not necessarily relate to those existing concepts. In such a scenario, concepts such as environmental/social characteristics or sustainable investment and the distinction between current Articles 8 and 9 of SFDR may disappear altogether from the transparency framework.

Question 4.1.1 To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
Sustainability product categories regulated at EU level would facilitate retail investor understanding of products' sustainability-related strategies and objectives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sustainability product categories regulated at EU level would facilitate professional investor understanding of products' sustainability-related strategies and objectives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sustainability product categories regulated at EU level are necessary to combat greenwashing	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sustainability product categories regulated at EU level are necessary to avoid fragmenting the capital markets union	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sustainability product categories regulated at EU level are necessary to have efficient distribution systems based on investors' sustainability preferences	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There is no need for product categories. Pure disclosure requirements of sustainability information are sufficient	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Question 4.1.2 If a categorisation system was established, how do you think categories should be designed?

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
Approach 1: Splitting categories in a different way than according to existing concepts used in Articles 8 and 9, for example, focusing on the type of investment strategy of the product (promise of positive contribution to certain sustainability objectives, transition, etc.) based on criteria that do not necessarily relate to those existing concepts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Approach 2: Converting Articles 8 and 9 into formal product categories, and clarifying and adding criteria to underpin the existing concepts of environmental/social characteristics, sustainable investment, do no significant harm, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please explain as necessary your replies to questions 4.1.1 and 4.1.2.

Please keep in mind that there are further questions in this section that elaborate on these first two questions:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Question 4.1.1

SIFMA AMG notes that the extent to which sustainability product categories regulated at the EU-level would facilitate retail and professional investors' understanding of products' sustainability-related strategies and objectives, would depend on the nature of the product categories and how effective such categorisation is. We do not want Article 8 and Article 9 of SFDR to disappear altogether, as we are of the view that having disclosure-based regime is helpful in catering for products that may not fall within more narrowly defined product categories. There should be space to still disclose the ESG approach of products that do not fall into a specific "label" or category. Additionally, having Article 8 and Article 9 of SFDR as the starting point would ensure that there is level playing field of disclosures for financial market participants and financial advisors. However, SIFMA AMG is in favour of complementing Articles 8 and 9 of SFDR through introduction of a supplementary product categorisation system as we agree with the concerns that the Commission raises regarding Articles 8 and 9 being misconstrued and inappropriately used as a "label". Having said that, we do not think that such a categorisation regime is strictly "necessary" to combat greenwashing, ensure efficient distribution or prevent fragmentation. With respect to the categorisation system, there should be full harmonisation at the EU-level, because having different disclosures and labels for different products across the Member States could lead to the risk of greenwashing. For example, in France, the AMF ESG Doctrine currently requires that products being sold as green products to French investors meet a higher standard than that which is required under the relevant provisions of the SFDR. This leads to a situation that the information that investors in France receive is necessarily different than the information that investors in other Member States receive.

In relation to the first two and last questions – we partially agree and disagree, as the extent to which having product categories would be helpful, would depend on the specifics and nature of the categories. The European Commission will have to strike a balance between granularity and comprehensiveness, because as the product categories will have to both provide clarity to investors on the products within that category, and cover most of the products being offered in the EU, they cannot be too broad or extremely granular. SIFMA AMG would also encourage the European Commission to engage with regulators in other jurisdictions as well (for example, Hong Kong and Singapore) to develop the product categories based on globally recognised standards. Ideally, the European Commission would introduce a limited number of (and not more than 5) product categories conducive to end-investors' understanding. SIFMA AMG notes that this would:

- (i) simplify cross-border distribution;
- (ii) be more efficient;
- (iii) reduce costs for financial market participants;
- (iv) prevent overlap in relation to the classification of the products; and
- (v) reduce the overall risk of greenwashing.

Question 4.1.2

SIFMA AMG does not fully agree with Approach 1 given, for the reasons noted above, we do not want those categories to disappear altogether. Additionally, SIFMA AMG does not agree with Approach 2 as the resulting product categories risk being either too broad (if they are broadly defined) or excluding too many products if narrowly defined (given there would only be two categories). Depending on the clarifications and if no proportionality is in place, there exists a risk of making Articles 8 and 9 categories impractical for

financial market participants and financial advisers to implement them and unhelpful to investors. The approach proposed by SIFMA AMG is to build on the requirements under Article 8 and Article 9 of SFDR, in a way that the resulting categories are complementary, as described in response to Question 4.1.1 above.

If a categorisation system was established according to approach 1 of question 4.1.2

Question 4.1.3 To what extent do you agree that, under approach 1, if a sustainability disclosure framework is maintained in parallel to a categorisation system, the current distinction between Articles 8 and 9 should disappear from that disclosure framework?

- 1 - Totally disagree
- 2 - Mostly disagree
- 3 - Partially disagree and partially agree
- 4 - Mostly agree
- 5 - Totally agree
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 4.1.4 To what extent would you find the following categories of sustainability products useful?

	1 (not at all)	2 (to a limited extent)	3 (to some extent)	4 (to a large extent)	5 (to a very large extent)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
A - Products investing in assets that specifically strive to offer targeted, measurable solutions to sustainability related problems that affect people and/or the planet, e.g. investments in firms generating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<p>and distributing renewable energy, or in companies building social housing or regenerating urban areas.</p>						
<p>B - Products aiming to meet credible sustainability standards or adhering to a specific sustainability-related theme, e.g. investments in companies with evidence of solid waste and water management, or strong representation of women in decision-making.</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>C - Products that exclude investees involved in activities with negative effects on people and/or the planet</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>D - Products with a transition focus aiming to bring measurable improvements to the sustainability</p>						

<p>profile of the assets they invest in, e.g. investments in economic activities becoming taxonomy-aligned or in transitional economic activities that are taxonomy aligned, investments in companies, economic activities or portfolios with credible targets and/or plans to decarbonise, improve workers' rights, reduce environmental impacts.</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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If you think there are other possible useful categories, please specify:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

SIFMA AMG notes that in general, the categories should preferably be aligned with categories in other regions (for example, UK), and be flexible to allow authentic expression of product characteristics and should not be overly prescriptive.

Question 4.1.5 To what extent do you think it is useful to distinguish between sustainability product category A and B described above?

- 1 - Not at all
- 2 - To a limited extent
- 3 - To some extent
- 4 - To a large extent
- 5 - To a very large extent
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 4.1.6 Do you see merits in distinguishing between products with a social and environmental focus?

- 1 - Totally disagree
- 2 - Mostly disagree
- 3 - Partially disagree and partially agree
- 4 - Mostly agree
- 5 - Totally agree
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 4.1.7 How many sustainability product categories in total do you think there should be?

- 1 category
- 2 categories
- 3 categories
- 4 categories
- 5 categories
- More than 5 categories
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 4.1.8 Do you think product categories should be mutually exclusive, i.e. financial market participants should choose only one category to which the product belongs to in cases where the product meets the criteria of several categories (independently from subsequent potential verification or supervision of the claim)?

- Yes
- No
- There is another possible approach
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Please explain your replies to questions 4.1.5, 4.1.6, 4.1.7 and 4.1.8:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Question 4.1.6

SIFMA AMG is of the view that there is merit in allowing for distinctions between products with a social and environmental focus. However, categorisation based on such distinction should also allow for products that have both social and environmental focus. For such products, making it mandatory for financial market participants and financial advisers to pick either social or environmental focus, will force them to make an

artificial distinction that may not accurately present the nature of their product to investors.

Question 4.1.7

SIFMA AMG submits that the proposed categories (described under Question 4.1.4) seem reasonable, but how effective the categorization is in practice, would depend on the details of these categories, and how they fit together.

Question 4.1.8

SIFMA AMG submits that the proposed product categories (described under Question 4.1.4) should not be treated as mutually exclusive, i.e., financial market participants should not have to choose only one category to which the product belongs to in cases where the product meets the criteria of several categories. In the absence of such a possibility, in the case of products that potentially meet the criteria of several categories, it would be difficult to decide which category should be prioritised over others, and therefore, used by the financial market participant for labelling. Additionally, this might lead to a situation where there are similar / identical products that belong to different categories, thus causing confusion among investors, and creating the risk of misselling.

Question 4.1.9 If a categorisation system was established that builds on new criteria and not on the existing concepts embedded in Articles 8 and 9, is there is a need for measures to support the transition to this new regime?

- 1 - Totally disagree
- 2 - Mostly disagree
- 3 - Partially disagree and partially agree
- 4 - Mostly agree
- 5 - Totally agree
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Please explain your reply to question 4.1.9 as necessary:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

SIFMA AMG notes that any new concepts should allow for authentic transparency that are tied to the ambitions of the product and can be self-selected. The European Commission should avoid creating new rigid terminology or narrowly constructed categories.

Question 4.1.10 What should be the minimum criteria to be met in order for a financial product to fall under the different product categories?

Could these minimum criteria consist of:

For product category A of question 4.1.4:

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
Taxonomy alignment	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engagement strategies	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Exclusions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pre-defined, measurable, positive environmental, social or governance-related outcome	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please explain your answers for product category A:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

SIFMA AMG notes that having rigid minimum criteria will invariably lead to the risk of certain strategies being arbitrarily disadvantaged, data challenges and potentially unrealistic thresholds that will actually hinder meaningful choice in the marketplace.

For product category B of question 4.1.4:

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
Taxonomy alignment	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engagement strategies	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Exclusions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pre-defined, measurable, positive environmental, social or governance-related outcome	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please explain your answers for product category B:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

SIFMA AMG notes that specific outcomes in investment funds are difficult to guarantee. We believe that self-selected targets would be more practical for asset managers and that there should not be any liability for failure to meet these targets.

For product category C of question 4.1.4:

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
Taxonomy alignment	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engagement strategies	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Exclusions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pre-defined, measurable, positive environmental, social or governance-related outcome	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please explain your answers for product category C:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

For product category D of question 4.1.4:

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
Taxonomy alignment	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engagement strategies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Exclusions	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pre-defined, measurable, positive environmental, social or governance-related outcome	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Please explain your answers for product category D:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Question 4.1.11 Should criteria focus to any extent on the processes implemented by the product manufacturer to demonstrate how sustainability considerations can constrain investment choices (for instance, a minimum year-on-year improvement of chosen Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), or a minimum exclusion rate of the investable universe)?

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't No op ↑ appl
Category A of question 4.1.4	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Category B of question 4.1.4	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Category C of question 4.1.4	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Category D of question 4.1.4	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Question 4.1.11 a) If the criteria should focus on the processes implemented by the product manufacturer, what process criteria would you deem most relevant to demonstrate the stringency of the strategy implemented?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

SIFMA AMG do not believe that blanket requirements would be appropriate across the categories as proposed in question 4.1.4. For example, for Category A, SIFMA AMG notes that when the fund manager defines what the targeted, measurable solution looks like, it would be inappropriate for the regulation to require particular minimum improvement rates as both the ability for improvements to be made and the KPIs used would vary widely depending on the impact sought. Similarly, for Category B products, SIFMA AMG notes that what minimum percentage of alignment is appropriate would depend on the theme or concept of sustainable investment that is being used by the product.

If a categorisation system was established according to approach 2 of question 4.1.2

Question 4.1.12 If a categorisation system was established based on existing Articles 8 and 9, are the following concepts of the SFDR fit for that purpose?

	1 (not at all)	2 (to a limited extent)	3 (to some extent)	4 (to a large extent)	5 (to a very large extent)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
The current concept of 'environmental and/or social characteristics'	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The current concept of 'sustainable investment'	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The current element of 'contribution to an environmental or social objective' of the sustainable investment concept	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The current element 'do no significant						

<p>harm' of the sustainable investment concept, and its link with the entity level principal adverse impact indicators listed in tables 1, 2 and 3 of Annex I of the Delegated Regulation</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>The current element of 'investee companies' good governance practices' of the sustainable investment concept</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Question 4.1.12 a) If you consider that the elements listed in question 4.1.12 are not fit for purpose, how would you further specify the different elements of the ‘sustainable investment’ concept, what should be the minimum criteria required for each of them?

	Your answer
‘contribution to an environmental or social objective’, element of the sustainable investment concept	SIFMA AMG notes that the issue is not that the concept is not fit per se. The high-level definition of sustainable investment is broad enough to cover a wide range of asset classes and allows investment managers to develop bespoke sustainable investment approaches to those asset classes. SIFMA AMG notes that investment managers should also have the flexibility to include sustainable investments that are non-EU Taxonomy aligned particularly given that only EU companies will report EU Taxonomy alignment. This would otherwise pose significant challenges for global asset managers. It is the availability of data that poses an issue, with respect to assessing an investment’s qualification as a sustainable investment.
‘do no significant harm’, element of the sustainable investment concept	See above. For completeness, SIFMA AMG notes that the current concept of “do no significant harm” as linked to the PAI is not relevant for all types of assets and in fact leads to complexity and confusion amongst investors.
‘investee companies’ good governance practices’, element of the sustainable investment concept	See above.

Question 4.1.12 b) Should the good governance concept be adapted to include investments in government bonds?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 4.1.12 c) Should the good governance concept be adapted to include investments in real estate investments?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 4.1.13 How would you further specify what promotion of 'environmental/social characteristics' means, what should be the minimum criteria required for such characteristics and what should be the trigger for a product to be considered as promoting those characteristics?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

SIFMA AMG submits that further specification is not required in relation to what promotion of "environmental and/or social characteristic" means given existing regulatory guidance.

Question 4.1.14 Do you think that a minimum proportion of investments in taxonomy aligned activities shall be required as a criterion to:

	Yes	No	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
...fall under the potential new product category of Article 8?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

...fall under the potential new product category of Article 9?



Question 4.1.15 Apart from the need to promote environmental/social characteristics and to invest in companies that follow good governance practices for Article 8 products and the need to have sustainable investments as an objective for Article 9 products, should any other criterion be considered for a product to fall under one of the categories?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Not applicable. SIFMA AMG notes that our view is that Article 8 and Article 9 of SFDR should not be used as categories for products to fall into for the purpose of labelling. Instead Articles 8 and 9 of SFDR should be used as disclosure regimes with any categorisation system being complimentary.

4.2 General questions about the potential establishment of sustainability products categories

If a sustainability products categorisation system was established, products will need to be distinguished according to a set of pre-established criteria.

Question 4.2.1 In addition to these criteria, and to other possible cross-cutting /horizontal disclosure requirements on financial products, should there be some additional disclosure requirements when a product falls within a specific sustainability product category? This question presents clear links with question 3.2.3 in section 3.

- 1 - Totally disagree
- 2 - Mostly disagree
- 3 - Partially disagree and partially agree
- 4 - Mostly agree
- 5 - Totally agree
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 4.2.1 a) Please see a list of examples of disclosures that could be required when a product falls within a specific sustainability product category.

Should this information be required when a product falls within a specific sustainability product category, and/or should any other information be required about those products?

	1 (not at all)	2 (to a limited extent)	3 (to some extent)	4 (to a large extent)	5 (to a very large extent)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
Taxonomy-related disclosures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engagement strategies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Exclusions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information about how the criteria required to fall within a specific sustainability product category have been met	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Question 4.2.2 If a product categorisation system was set up, what governance system should be created?

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
Third-party verification of categories should be mandatory (i.e. assurance engagements to verify the alignment of candidate products with a sustainability product category and assurance engagements to monitor on-going compliance with the product category criteria)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Market participants should be able to use this categorisation system based on a self-declaration by the product manufacturer supervised by national competent authorities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please explain your answer to Question 4.2.2:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Question 4.2.1

SIFMA AMG submits that having exhaustive disclosures with elements being required for all products regardless of relevance would not be helpful. Hence, we partially agree that disclosures on certain topics could be tailored to different product categories. But on the other hand, such tailoring should allow for flexibility (e.g. catering for products that fall in multiple categories). This would allow room for nuance to be captured, depending on the specific category that the product falls under.

Question 4.2.2

SIFMA AMG does not believe that third party verification is necessary, given that financial market participants are regulated entities subject to supervision by national competent authorities. Third party verification would only increase costs (which would ultimately be borne by investors).

Question 4.2.3 If a categorisation system was established, to what extent do you agree with the following statement?

“When determining the criteria for product categories it should be taken into account...”

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
whether the product is a wrapper offering choices between underlying investment options like a Multi-Option Product	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
whether the underlying investments are outside the EU	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
whether the underlying investments are in an emerging economy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
whether the underlying investments are in SMEs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
whether the underlying investments are in certain economic activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
other considerations as regards the type of product or underlying investments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please explain your answer to question 4.2.3:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

SIFMA AMG believes that it is important that the criteria for product categories take into account whether the underlying investments are in the EU or not. This is particularly relevant if the criteria are based on the EU Taxonomy because this has limited territorial application.

4.3 Consequences of the establishment of a sustainability products categorisation system

As highlighted in section 2, any potential changes to the current disclosure regime and the creation of a categorisation system would need to take into account the interactions between the SFDR and other sustainable finance legislation. The following questions address these interactions for different legal acts, in such a scenario of regulatory changes in the arena of financial product disclosures and categorisation.

Question 4.3.1 The objective of the PRIIPs KID is to provide short and simple information to retail investors.

Do you think that if a product categorisation system was established under the SFDR, the category that a particular product falls in should be included in the PRIIPS KID?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Please explain your answer to question 4.3.1:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

With respect to PRIIPS, SIFMA AMG welcomes the insertion of the reference to the SFDR classification to increase transparency to retail investors, to the extent the information requested is not unduly burdensome for the financial market participants to provide. If the intention is to establish a product categorisation system which functions as a "label", then SIFMA AMG are of the view it would make sense to include this in the PRIIPS KID as a "key" piece of information on the product.

Question 4.3.2 If new ESG Benchmarks were developed at EU level (in addition to the existing Paris-aligned benchmarks (PAB) and climate transition benchmarks (CTB), how should their criteria interact with a new product categorisation system?

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
The criteria set for the ESG benchmarks and the criteria defined for sustainability product categories should be closely aligned	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Question 4.3.3 Do you think that products passively tracking a PAB or a CTB should automatically be deemed to satisfy the criteria of a future sustainability product category?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 4.3.4 To what extent do you agree that, if a categorisation system is established, sustainability preferences under MiFID 2/IDD should refer to those possible sustainability product categories?

- 1 - Totally disagree
- 2 - Mostly disagree
- 3 - Partially disagree and partially agree
- 4 - Mostly agree
- 5 - Totally agree
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

4.4 Marketing communications and product names

Market participants are increasingly informing their clients about sustainability, both in the context of the SFDR and voluntarily in marketing communications and names. Potentially, any expression related to sustainability provided by market participants to describe and promote the entity or its products and services could mislead clients and other stakeholders if it does not appropriately consider the reasonable expectations.

The SFDR does address the issue of marketing communications in Article 13, prohibiting contradictions between such marketing communications and disclosures under the regulation. Article 13 also includes an empowerment for the European Supervisory Authorities to draft implementing technical standards on how marketing communication should be presented. This empowerment has not been used up to now.

Question 4.4.1 Do you agree that the SFDR is the appropriate legal instrument to deal with the accuracy and fairness of marketing communications and the use of sustainability related names for financial products?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 4.4.2 To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	1 (totally disagree)	2 (mostly disagree)	3 (partially disagree and partially agree)	4 (mostly agree)	5 (totally agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
The introduction of product categories should be accompanied by specific rules on how market participants must label and communicate on their products	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The use of terms such as 'sustainable', 'ESG', 'SDG', 'green', 'responsible', 'net zero' should be prohibited for products that do not fall under at least one of the product categories defined above, as appropriate	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Certain terms should be linked to a specific product category and should be reserved for the respective category	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Question 4.4.3 Would naming and marketing communication rules be sufficient to avoid misleading communications from products that do not fall under a product sustainability category?

- 1 - Totally disagree
- 2 - Mostly disagree
- 3 - Partially disagree and partially agree
- 4 - Mostly agree
- 5 - Totally agree
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Please explain your replies to questions 4.4.1, 4.4.2 and 4.4.3:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

As noted previously, SIFMA AMG is opposed to doing away with the Article 8 and 9 categories entirely, as a categorisation system will not necessarily capture all sustainable products, and hence room must be left for a disclosure regime for products which do not meet the criteria of specific labels. Hence, whilst it is reasonable to restrict the use of certain terms and impose rules about how the categorisation system is presented (e.g. if all impact products fall into an “impact” category, then it would make sure to restrict the use of the word impact in fund names outside of this), we do not think it would be appropriate to impose blanket restrictions on more general ESG or sustainability related terms.

SIFMA AMG agrees to an extent that the naming and marketing communication rules will be sufficient to avoid misleading communications, in relation to financial products, that do not fall under a product sustainability category. However, this is subject to these rules being applied consistently across the EU, as opposed to these rules being impact by local gold-plating.

Additional information

Should you wish to provide additional information (e.g. a position paper, report) or raise specific points not covered by the questionnaire, you can upload your additional document(s) below. **Please make sure you do not include any personal data in the file you upload if you want to remain anonymous.**

The maximum file size is 1 MB.

You can upload several files.

Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed

Useful links

[More on this consultation \(https://finance.ec.europa.eu/regulation-and-supervision/consultations/finance-2023-sfd-implementation_en\)](https://finance.ec.europa.eu/regulation-and-supervision/consultations/finance-2023-sfd-implementation_en)

[Consultation document \(https://finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/99bc25fe-4dd8-4b57-ab37-212b5ab05c41_en?2023-sfdr-implementation-targeted-consultation-document_en.pdf\)](https://finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/99bc25fe-4dd8-4b57-ab37-212b5ab05c41_en?2023-sfdr-implementation-targeted-consultation-document_en.pdf)

[More on sustainability-related disclosure in the financial services sector \(https://finance.ec.europa.eu/sustainable-finance/disclosures/sustainability-related-disclosure-financial-services-sector_en\)](https://finance.ec.europa.eu/sustainable-finance/disclosures/sustainability-related-disclosure-financial-services-sector_en)

[Specific privacy statement \(https://finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/a08edb89-59d8-44f8-873f-7a0f08b2f4c1_en?2022-sfdr-implementation-specific-privacy-statement_en.pdf\)](https://finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/a08edb89-59d8-44f8-873f-7a0f08b2f4c1_en?2022-sfdr-implementation-specific-privacy-statement_en.pdf)

[Related targeted consultation \(https://finance.ec.europa.eu/regulation-and-supervision/consultations-0/public-consultation-implementation-sustainable-finance-disclosures-regulation-sfdr_en\)](https://finance.ec.europa.eu/regulation-and-supervision/consultations-0/public-consultation-implementation-sustainable-finance-disclosures-regulation-sfdr_en)

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