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Euronext launches the BEL[®] ESG index

- **Designed to meet sustainable investment needs, the new BEL[®] ESG index tracks the Brussels-listed companies demonstrating the best Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices**
- **Relying on Sustainalytics data, the index is fully compliant with the 'Towards Sustainability' label by the Belgian Central Labelling Agency (CLA)**

Amsterdam, Brussels, Dublin, Lisbon, Milan, Oslo and Paris – 15 February 2023 – Euronext today announced the launch of the BEL[®] ESG index, a new index identifying and tracking the companies within the BEL[®] 20 and the BEL[®] Mid indices that have demonstrated the best ESG practices.

The BEL[®] ESG Index is designed to facilitate the adoption of mainstream ESG investment solutions by investors. It is the fifth ESG Index variant for national blue-chip indices, following the launch of the CAC[®] 40 ESG (France), the MIB[®] ESG (Italy), the AEX[®] ESG (The Netherlands) and the OBX[®] ESG (Norway).

For the index market data, Euronext has partnered with Sustainalytics, a leading global provider of ESG research, ratings and data. Sustainalytics provides the ESG assessment of companies for the composition of the index. The BEL[®] ESG has been designed to be fully compliant with the Central Labelling Agency's 'Towards Sustainability' label, a high-quality standard for sustainable financial products such as indices and funds.

The BEL[®] ESG's selection methodology is as follows:

- The index universe comprises companies within the BEL[®] 20 and BEL[®] Mid indices meeting specific free float market cap and velocity criteria¹.
- Exclusion filters are applied based on broad ESG standards and approaches adopted by institutional and private investors to exclude companies breaching Global Standards Principles² and companies with involvement in controversial activities (specific product involvement in Tobacco, Small Arms, Controversial Weapons, Military Contracting Weapons, Thermal Coal, Oil Sands, Shale Energy, Arctic Oil & Gas, Oil & Gas and Power Generation) according to Sustainalytics' data³.

¹ Companies with a free float market cap below 100.000 * BEL 20 level and companies with a free float velocity lower than 20% won't be selected

² UN Global Compact principles, UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and ILO Conventions

³ The methodology will evolve to integrate new EU regulations and standards as they emerge

- An additional filter is applied to companies based on their Sustainalytics Subindustry ESG Risk Rating percentile ranking⁴.
- Eligible companies are ranked based on their Sustainalytics ESG ratings. The first 20 are selected and are free-float market capitalisation weighted in the BEL[®] ESG Index⁵.

The composition of the index will be revised on a quarterly basis. The governance of the index will be aligned with the BEL Family rules.

The 20 companies composing the BEL[®] ESG on launch date are:

AB Inbev	Ackermans & van Haaren	Aedifica	Aperam
Barco	Bekaert	Bpost	Cofinimmo
Elia Group	Fagron	GBL	KBC Group
Lotus Bakeries	Proximus	Shurgard	Sofina
Solvay	Telenet	UCB	WDP

Stéphane Boujnah, CEO and Chairman of the Managing Board of Euronext N.V.: *“Euronext is committed to support companies taking ambitious steps towards more sustainable business models. By combining the recognized BEL brand with a stringent and consensual ESG methodology while maintaining liquidity, The BEL[®] ESG responds to the market’s growing demand for sustainable investment tools.*

As a leading index provider in Europe, we are determined to accelerate the transition to sustainable investments through the launch of indices such as this new BEL[®] ESG index. Other countries are successfully moving into the space of domestic ESG blue chip indices, following the launch of the CAC[®] 40 ESG in France, the AEX[®] ESG in the Netherlands, the OBX[®] ESG in Norway and the MIB[®] ESG in Italy.”

Ita Demyttenaere, Director Client Relations, Sustainalytics: *“We are pleased to support our partnership with Euronext through the launch of the BEL[®] ESG index – a significant milestone for the Belgian market thanks to its compliance with the Central Labelling Agency’s ‘Towards Sustainability’ label. Morningstar Sustainalytics’ ESG data and robust methodology advance the index’s credibility by considering the ESG risk exposure management of the largest companies based on market capitalisation.”*

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⁴ Companies with an ESG Risk Rating larger than or equal to 25% percentile within its Subindustry

⁵ Free float market cap weighting with 12% capping at annual review (quarterly capped back to 12% if weight above 15%)



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About Euronext

Euronext is the leading pan-European market infrastructure, connecting European economies to global capital markets, to accelerate innovation and sustainable growth. It operates regulated exchanges in Belgium, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Portugal. With close to 1,930 listed equity issuers and around €6.3 trillion in market capitalisation as of end December 2022, it has an unmatched blue chip franchise and a strong diverse domestic and international client base. Euronext operates regulated and transparent equity and derivatives markets, one of Europe's leading electronic fixed income trading markets and is the largest centre for debt and funds listings in the world. Its total product offering includes Equities, FX, Exchange Traded Funds, Warrants & Certificates, Bonds, Derivatives, Commodities and Indices. The Group provides a multi-asset clearing house through Euronext Clearing, and custody and settlement services through Euronext Securities central securities depositories in Denmark, Italy, Norway and Portugal. Euronext also leverages its expertise in running markets by providing technology and managed services to third parties. In addition to its main regulated market, it also operates a number of junior markets, simplifying access to listing for SMEs.

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