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REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

on European Green Bonds

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 114 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee¹,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

Whereas:

- (1) The transition to a climate-neutral, sustainable, resource-efficient, circular and fair economy is key to ensuring the long-term competitiveness of the economy of the Union and the well-being of its peoples. The Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (the ‘Paris Agreement’) was approved by the Union on 5 October 2016². Article 2(1), point (c), of the Paris Agreement sets out the objective of strengthening the response to climate change by, among other means, making finance flows consistent with the Union’s target of climate-neutrality by 2050 and climate-resilient development.

1 OJ C , , p. .

2 Council Decision (EU) 2016/1841 of 5 October 2016 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (OJ L 282, 19.10.2016, p. 1).

- (2) In its communication of 14 January 2020 titled ‘Sustainable Europe Investment Plan. European Green Deal Investment Plan’, the Commission envisaged the establishment of a standard for environmentally sustainable bonds to further increase investment opportunities and facilitate the identification of environmentally sustainable investments through a clear label. In its conclusions of 11 December 2020, the European Council invited the Commission to put forward a legislative proposal for a green bond standard.
- (3) Environmentally sustainable bonds are one of the main instruments for financing investments related to green technologies, energy efficiency and resource efficiency as well as sustainable transport infrastructure and research infrastructure. Financial and non-financial undertakings as well as sovereigns can issue such bonds. The various existing initiatives for environmentally sustainable bonds do not contain common definitions of environmentally sustainable economic activities. This prevents investors from easily identifying bonds the proceeds of which are aligned with, or contribute to, environmental objectives as laid down in the Paris Agreement.
- (4) Diverging rules on the disclosure of information, on the transparency and accountability of external reviewers of environmentally sustainable bonds, and on the eligibility criteria for environmentally sustainable projects, could impede the ability of investors to identify, trust, and compare environmentally sustainable bonds, and the ability of issuers to use environmentally sustainable bonds to transition their activities towards more environmentally sustainable business models.
- (5) In ensuring alignment with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, and given existing divergences and the absence of common rules, it is likely that Member States will adopt diverging measures and approaches, which will have a direct negative impact on, and create obstacles to, the proper functioning of the internal market, and be detrimental to issuers of environmentally sustainable bonds. The parallel development of market practices based on commercially driven priorities that produce divergent results may cause market fragmentation and risks further exacerbating inefficiencies in the functioning of the internal market. Divergent standards and market practices make it difficult to compare different bonds, create uneven market conditions for issuers, cause additional barriers within the internal market and risk distorting investment decisions.

- (6) The lack of harmonised rules for the procedures used by external reviewers for reviewing environmentally sustainable bonds and the diverging definitions of environmentally sustainable activities make it increasingly difficult for investors to effectively compare bonds across the Union with respect to their environmental objectives. The market for environmentally sustainable bonds is inherently international, with market participants trading bonds and making use of external review services from third-party providers across borders. Action at Union level could reduce the risk of fragmentation of the internal market for environmentally sustainable bonds and bond-related external review services, and ensure the application of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council³ in the market for such bonds.
- (7) A uniform set of specific requirements should therefore be laid down for bonds issued by financial and non-financial undertakings and sovereigns that decide to use on a voluntary basis the designation ‘European green bond’ or ‘EuGB’ for such bonds. Specifying quality requirements for European green bonds in the form of a Regulation should ensure that there are uniform conditions for the issuance of such bonds by preventing diverging national requirements that could result from the transposition of a Directive, and should also ensure that those conditions are directly applicable to issuers of such bonds. Issuers that voluntarily use the designation ‘European green bond’ or ‘EuGB’ should follow the same rules across the Union in order to increase market efficiency by reducing discrepancies and thereby also reducing the costs of assessing those bonds for investors.

3 Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (OJ L 198, 22.6.2020, p. 13).

- (8) In accordance with Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852, and in order to provide investors with clear, quantitative, detailed and common definitions, the requirements set out in Article 3 of that Regulation should be used to determine whether an economic activity qualifies as environmentally sustainable. Proceeds of bonds that use the designation ‘European green bond’ or ‘EuGB’ should exclusively be used to fund economic activities that either are environmentally sustainable and should thus be aligned with the environmental objectives set out in Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 or contribute to the transformation of activities to become environmentally sustainable. Those bonds should however be able to be used both to finance such environmentally sustainable activities directly through the financing of assets and expenditures that relate to economic activities that meet the criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities set out in Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 (‘taxonomy requirements’), or indirectly through financial assets that finance economic activities that meet those requirements. It is therefore necessary to specify the categories of expenditures and assets that can be financed with the proceeds of European green bonds.
- (9) The proceeds of European green bonds should be used to finance economic activities that have a lasting positive impact on the environment. Such lasting positive impact can be attained in several ways. Since fixed assets are long-term assets, a first way is to use the proceeds of such European green bonds to finance fixed tangible or fixed intangible assets that are not financial assets, provided that those fixed assets relate to economic activities that meet the taxonomy requirements. Since financial assets can be used to finance economic activities with a lasting positive impact on the environment, a second way is to use those proceeds to finance financial assets, provided that the proceeds of those or subsequent financial assets are allocated to economic activities that meet the taxonomy requirements. Such financial assets can be debt instruments, such as credit agreements, leases or bonds, equity instruments, or a combination thereof.

Since the assets of households can also have a long-term positive impact on the environment, those financial assets should also include the assets of households. Since capital expenditure and selected operating expenditure can be used to acquire, upgrade or maintain fixed assets, a third way is to use the proceeds of such bonds to finance capital and operating expenditures that relate to economic activities that meet the taxonomy requirements or that will meet those requirements within a reasonably short period from the issuance of the bond concerned, which can be extended however where duly justified by the specific features of the economic activities and investments concerned. For those reasons capital and operating expenditures should also include the expenditures of households.

- (9a) For certain economic activities for which there are no technical screening criteria under Regulation (EU) 2020/852 that have entered into force or for certain activities in the context of international support that contribute to the environmental objectives, a limited degree of flexibility should be provided for. Such flexibility should appropriately limited in size and scope in order to maintain a very high level of ambition for the European green bond standard. Consequently, the issuer should demonstrate that the activities contribute substantially to one or more of the environmental objectives, that they do not significantly harm any of the environmental objectives and that they are carried out in compliance with the minimum safeguards. This demonstration should be included in the European green bond factsheet and thus validated by an external reviewer via a positive opinion in the pre-issuance review.
- (9b) To facilitate the issuance of European green bonds by smaller issuers, the requirements to allocate the proceeds of European green bonds to environmentally sustainable economic activities should apply only to the net proceeds of such bonds. The net proceeds comprise the difference between the total bond proceeds and the direct issuance costs of the bond, which include the costs of financial intermediaries leading the issuance, advisory costs, legal costs, rating costs and the costs related to the external review. Issuers of European green bonds may decide to allocate the gross proceeds, without deduction of costs, to environmentally sustainable economic activities.

- (10) Sovereigns are frequent issuers of environmentally sustainable bonds and should therefore also be allowed to issue European green bonds, provided that the proceeds of such bonds are used to finance either assets or expenditure that meet the taxonomy requirements, or assets or expenditure that are expected to meet those requirements within a reasonably short period from the issuance of the bond concerned, which can be extended however where duly justified by the specific features of the economic activities and investments concerned.
- (11) Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 requires Member States and the Union to apply the taxonomy requirements to determine whether an economic activity qualifies as environmentally sustainable for the purposes of any measure setting out requirements for financial market participants or issuers in respect of financial products or corporate bonds that are made available as environmentally sustainable. It is therefore logical that the technical screening criteria referred to in Article 3, point (d), of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 should determine which fixed assets, expenditures and financial assets may be financed with the proceeds of European green bonds. In view of the expected technological progress in the field of environmental sustainability, the delegated acts adopted pursuant to Articles 10(3), 11(3), 12(2), 13(2), 14(2) or 15(2) of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 are likely to be reviewed and amended over time. Regardless of such changes, in order to provide legal certainty to issuers and investors and prevent amendments to the technical screening criteria from having a negative impact on the price of European green bonds that have already been issued, issuers should be able to apply the technical screening criteria applicable at the moment of issuance of the relevant European green bond when allocating the proceeds of such bonds to eligible fixed assets or expenditures. To ensure legal certainty for European green bonds the proceeds of which are allocated to financial assets, it is necessary to clarify that the underlying economic activities funded by those financial assets should comply with the technical screening criteria applicable at the moment those financial assets were created.

- (12) The time needed to transform an asset to align the economic activity to which it relates with the taxonomy requirements should not exceed five years, except in certain circumstances where it may take up to ten years, in line with the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2178⁴. For that reason, eligible capital expenditure should relate to economic activities that meet or are expected to meet the taxonomy requirements within five years from the issuance of the bond, unless a longer period of up to ten years is justified by the specific features of the economic activities and investments concerned.
- (13) Investors should be provided with all the information that is necessary to evaluate the use of proceeds of European green bonds, and to compare such bonds with each other. For that purpose, specific and standardised disclosure requirements need to be set out which provide transparency about how the issuer intends to allocate the proceeds of the bonds to eligible fixed assets, expenditures and financial assets and how those proceeds have actually been allocated. Such transparency can best be achieved by means of European green bond factsheets and annual allocation reports. To strengthen the comparability of European green bonds and to facilitate the localisation of relevant information, it is necessary to lay down templates for the disclosure of such information.
- (14) Investors should benefit from cost-effective access to reliable information about European green bonds. All issuers of European green bonds should therefore contract external reviewers to provide a pre-issuance review of the European green bond factsheet, and a post-issuance review of the European green bond annual allocation reports. In addition, sovereigns may use state auditors to confirm the allocation of proceeds of the bonds.

⁴ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2178 of 6 July 2021 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council by specifying the content and presentation of information to be disclosed by undertakings subject to Articles 19a or 29a of Directive 2013/34/EU concerning environmentally sustainable economic activities, and specifying the methodology to comply with that disclosure obligation (OJ L 443, 10.12.2021, p. 9).

- (15) Issuers of European green bonds should abide by their commitments to investors and allocate the proceeds of their European green bonds in accordance with the requirements of this Regulation. At the same time, issuers should not be penalised for allocating the proceeds of European green bonds to economic activities that do not yet meet the taxonomy requirements, but will do so within the five-year-period (or the extended ten-year-period) in the context of a CapEx Plan. Issuers should in any case allocate all proceeds of their European green bonds before the maturity of each bond.
- (16) Unlike issuers that are financial or non-financial undertakings, issuers that are sovereigns can use the proceeds of European green bonds to indirectly finance economic activities that are aligned with the taxonomy requirements through the use of programmes of tax expenditures or programmes of transfers, including subsidies. Where justified by (i) the complexity, scale and practical unfeasibility of a full assessment of the underlying activities on the one hand, and, (ii) on the other, the binding and sufficiently precise provisions in those terms and conditions relevant to the alignment of the final use of proceeds with the taxonomy requirements, sovereigns should ensure that economic activities funded by such programmes comply with the terms and conditions of those programmes. For that reason, when providing pre- and post-issuance reviews of European green bonds issued by sovereigns, external reviewers should not be required to assess the taxonomy-alignment of each economic activity funded by such programmes. Where that is the case, it should be sufficient for external reviewers to assess the alignment of the terms and conditions of the funding programmes concerned with the taxonomy requirements.
- (16a) In the context of activities of public development credit institutions, there may be a very large number of final borrowers directly or through intermediary institutions. Therefore, it should be made possible, where justified, to perform the assessment of the use of proceeds by means of a random sampling in accordance with best market practices..

- (17) Certain undertakings that have a portfolio of one or several European green bonds on the liability side of a balance sheet may not be able to identify, for each European green bond issue, the distinct financial assets on the asset side of a balance sheet to which the proceeds of that bond have been allocated. This is due to a mismatch between, on the one hand, the time to maturity and the volume of funding of those bonds, and on the other hand the time to maturity and volume of the financial assets on the balance sheet of the undertaking. Undertakings should in such cases be required to disclose the allocation of the aggregate proceeds of their portfolio of European green bonds to a portfolio of environmentally sustainable financial assets on the undertaking's balance sheet. Those undertakings should then demonstrate in annual allocation reports that the related environmentally sustainable financial assets complied with the taxonomy requirements at the time they were created. In order to ensure that all proceeds of European green bonds are allocated to environmentally sustainable economic activities, the undertakings should also demonstrate that the amount of those environmentally sustainable financial assets exceeds or equals the amount of European green bonds that have not yet matured. To ensure that the information provided remains complete and up to date, an external reviewer should review the annual allocation reports each year, except when there is no change in allocation in the portfolio of financial assets. That external reviewer should in particular focus on those financial assets that were not on the issuer's balance sheet in the previous annual allocation report.
- (18) To improve transparency, issuers should also disclose the environmental impact of their bonds by publishing, at least once during the lifetime of the bond, impact reports. In order to provide investors with all the relevant information to assess the environmental impact of European green bonds, impact reports should clearly specify the metrics, methodologies and assumptions applied in the assessment of the environmental impact. To strengthen the comparability of European green bonds and to facilitate the localisation of relevant information, it is necessary to lay down templates for the disclosure of such information.

- (19) State auditors are statutory entities with responsibility for and expertise in the supervision of public spending, and have legally guaranteed independence. Sovereigns that issue European green bonds should therefore be allowed to make use of such state auditors for the purposes of the external review of bonds issued by them. Such state auditors should not be registered or supervised under this Regulation.
- (20) To ensure the efficiency of the market for European green bonds, issuers should publish on their websites details about the European green bonds they issue. To ensure the reliability of information and investor confidence, they shall also publish the pre-issuance review as well as any post-issuance reviews.
- (21) To improve transparency on how external reviewers reach their conclusions, to ensure that external reviewers have adequate qualifications, professional experience and independence and to reduce the risk of potential conflicts of interests, and thus to ensure adequate investor protection, issuers of European green bonds should only make use of external reviewers, including from third countries, that have been registered and are subject to ongoing and proportionate supervision by the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), established by Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁵.
- (22) To strengthen transparency towards investors on how the alignment of the use of proceeds of bonds with the taxonomy requirements is assessed, external reviewers should disclose to users of pre-issuance reviews and post-issuance reviews the methodologies and key assumptions they use in their external review activities in sufficient detail, whilst taking due account of the protection of proprietary data and intellectual property.

⁵ Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 establishing a European Supervisory Authority (European Securities and Markets Authority), amending Decision No 716/2009/EC and repealing Commission Decision 2009/77/EC (*OJ L 331, 15.12.2010, p. 84*).

- (23) External reviewers should have in place arrangements for their own sound corporate governance to ensure that their pre- and post-issuance reviews are independent, objective and of good quality. The senior management of external reviewers should therefore have relevant expertise in financial services and environmental matters and ensure that a sufficient number of employees with the necessary knowledge and experience perform the external review. For the same reason, the compliance function should be able to report its findings to either a supervisory organ or an administrative organ.
- (24) To ensure their independence, external reviewers should avoid conflicts of interests and manage such conflicts adequately when they are unavoidable. External reviewers should therefore disclose conflicts of interests in the pre- and post-issuance reports. They should keep records of all significant threats to their independence, to that of their employees and to that of other persons involved in the external review process. They should keep records of the safeguards applied to mitigate those threats.
- (25) It is necessary to avoid divergent application of this Regulation by national competent authorities. At the same time, it is necessary to lower transaction and operational costs of external reviewers, to strengthen investor confidence and to increase legal certainty. It is therefore appropriate to give ESMA general competence for the registration and ongoing supervision of registered external reviewers in the Union. Entrusting ESMA with the exclusive responsibility for those matters should ensure a level playing field in terms of registration requirements and ongoing supervision and eliminate the risk of regulatory arbitrage across Member States. At the same time, such exclusive responsibility should optimise the allocation of supervisory resources at Union level, thus making ESMA the centre of expertise and enhancing the efficiency of supervision.
- (26) ESMA should be able to require all information necessary to carry out its supervisory tasks effectively. It should therefore be able to demand such information from external reviewers, persons involved in external review activities, related third parties, third parties to whom the external reviewers have outsourced operational functions and persons otherwise closely and substantially related or connected to external reviewers or external review activities.

- (27) To enable ESMA to perform its supervisory tasks, and in particular to compel external reviewers to put an end to an infringement, to supply complete and correct information or to comply with an investigation or an on-site inspection, ESMA should be able to impose penalties or periodic penalty payments.
- (28) Issuers of European green bonds may need to engage the services of third-country external reviewers. It is therefore necessary to lay down a third-country regime for external reviewers on the basis of an equivalence assessment, recognition or endorsement under which third-country external reviewers may provide external review services.
- (29) In order to facilitate access for third-country external reviewers in the absence of an equivalence decision, it is necessary to lay down a process for the recognition by ESMA of external reviewers located in a third country.
- (30) In order to facilitate the provision of services by third-country external reviewers to issuers of European green bonds, an endorsement regime should be laid down, allowing, under certain conditions, registered external reviewers located in the Union to endorse services provided by a third country external reviewer. An external reviewer that has endorsed services provided by a third-country external reviewer should be fully responsible for such endorsed services and for ensuring that such third-country external reviewer complies with the requirements laid down in this Regulation.

- (31) In accordance with Article 290 TFEU, power should be delegated to the Commission to specify the procedure for the exercise of the power to impose fines or periodic penalty payments, including provisions on the rights of defence, temporal provisions, the collection of fines or periodic penalty payments, and detailed rules on the limitation periods for the imposition and enforcement of penalties and the type of fees, the matters for which fees are due, the amount of the fees which shall be proportionate to the turnover, and the manner in which those fees are to be paid. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level, and that those consultations be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making⁶. In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts, the European Parliament and the Council should receive all documents at the same time as Member States' experts, and their experts should systematically have access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts.
- (32) As a body with highly specialised expertise, it would be efficient and appropriate to entrust ESMA with the development of draft regulatory and implementing technical standards that do not involve policy choices for submission to the Commission.
- (33) ESMA should be mandated to develop draft regulatory technical standards to further specify, by taking into account the principle of proportionality, the criteria on which it can assess an application for registration by an external reviewer and the provision of information by that external reviewer to determine its level of compliance with the requirements of this Regulation.

⁶ OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1.

- (34) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁷.
- (35) ESMA should be mandated to develop draft implementing technical standards to specify the standard forms, templates and procedures for the provision of the information for the registration of external reviewers. The Commission should be empowered to adopt those implementing technical standards by means of an implementing act pursuant to Article 291 TFEU and in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.
- (36) In order to encourage external reviewers to provide their services to the issuers of European green bonds as of the entry into application of this Regulation, this Regulation sets out a transitional regime for the first 12 months following the entry into application of this Regulation.
- (36a) To ensure that issuers of European green bonds for which a prospectus is required pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2017/1129 comply with the disclosure requirements set out in this Regulation, competent authorities of the home Member State, designated in accordance with Article 36 of this Regulation, should have the necessary supervisory and investigatory powers.. The supervisory powers of the competent authorities may be exercised before or after the issuance of the relevant European green bonds. Competent authorities should not be required, under the supervisory powers granted by this Regulation, to verify the truthfulness or accuracy of the information that issuers are required to provide under this Regulation, nor that the obligations regarding the allocation of proceeds have been complied with.

⁷ Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by the Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13).

(37) This Regulation aims to ensure that uniform requirements apply to the use of the designation of ‘European green bond’ or ‘EuGB’. It also aims to establish a simple registration system and supervisory framework for external reviewers by entrusting a single supervisory authority with the registration and supervision of external reviewers in the Union. Finally, this Regulation aims to establish supervision of issuers of European green bonds for which a prospectus is required pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2017/1129. All aims should facilitate capital raising for projects that pursue environmentally sustainable objectives. Since those objectives cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States but can be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Title I
Subject matter and definitions

Article 1
Subject matter

This Regulation lays down uniform requirements for issuers of bonds that wish to use the designation ‘European green bond’ or ‘EuGB’ for their environmentally sustainable bonds made available to investors in the Union, and establishes a registration system and supervisory framework for external reviewers of European green bonds.

Article 2
Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions apply:

- (1) ‘issuer’ means any legal entity that issues bonds;
- (3) ‘sovereign’ means an entity mentioned in Article 1(2) paragraph (b) or an issuer of the type of bonds that are mentioned in Article 1(2) paragraph (d) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1129 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁸;
- (4) ‘taxonomy requirements’ means the criteria set out in Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852;

⁸ Regulation (EU)_2017/1129 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2017 on the prospectus to be published when securities are offered to the public or admitted to trading on a regulated market, and repealing Directive 2003/71/EC (OJ L 168 30.6.2017, p. 12).

- (5) ‘regulated market’ means a regulated market as defined Article 4(1), point (21), of Directive 2014/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council⁹
- (6) ‘offer to the public’ means offer of securities to the public as defined in Article 2, point (d), of Regulation (EU) 2017/1129;
- (7) ‘home Member State’ means a home Member State as defined in Article 2, point (m), of Regulation (EU) 2017/1129 ;
- (8) ‘host Member State’ means a host Member State as defined in Article 2, point (n), of Regulation (EU) 2017/1129;
- (9) ‘financial assets’ means debt or equity, or a combination thereof;
- (10) ‘capital expenditure’ means additions to fixed tangible or fixed intangible assets:
- (a) during the financial year considered before depreciation, amortisation and any re-measurements, including the additions resulting from revaluations and impairments for the financial year concerned, and excluding fair value; or
 - (b) resulting from business combinations;
- (11) ‘operating expenditure’ means direct non-capitalised costs which relate to research and development, education and training, building renovation measures, short-term leases, maintenance and repair, or any other direct expenditures relating to the day-to-day servicing of property, plant and equipment that are necessary to ensure the continued and effective functioning of such assets;(12) ‘made available to investors in the Union’ means:
- (a) any offer to the public within the Union, whether such offer is or is not exempted from the obligation to establish a prospectus pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2017/1129; or
 - (b) the admission to trading of the bonds on a trading venue located in the Union.

⁹ Directive 2014/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on markets in financial instruments and amending Directive 2002/92/EC and Directive 2011/61/EU (OJ L 173, 12.6.2014, p. 349).

- (13) ‘CapEx Plan’ means a plan to expand taxonomy-aligned activities or to allow taxonomy-eligible economic activities to become taxonomy-aligned as referred to and under the conditions specified in Annex I, point 1.1.2.2, to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2178¹⁰;
- (14) ‘bond’ means a non-equity security as defined in Article 2, point (c), of Regulation (EU) 2017/1129;
- (15) ‘issuance costs’ means costs that are directly related to the issuance of bonds, including fees paid to financial intermediaries leading the issuance, such as underwriting and placement costs, and advisory costs, legal costs, rating costs and costs related to the external review;
- (16) ‘trading venue’ means a trading venue as defined in Article 4(1), point (24) of Directive 2014/65/EU.

¹⁰ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2178 of 6 July 2021 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council by specifying the content and presentation of information to be disclosed by undertakings subject to Articles 19a or 29a of Directive 2013/34/EU concerning environmentally sustainable economic activities, and specifying the methodology to comply with that disclosure obligation (OJ L 443, 10.12.2021, p. 9).

Title II

Conditions for the use of the designation ‘European green bond’ or ‘EuGB’

Chapter I

Bond-related requirements

Article 3

Designation

The designation ‘European green bond’ or ‘EuGB’ shall be used only for bonds that comply with the requirements set out in this Title.

Article 4

Use of the proceeds of European green bonds

1. Before the maturity of a European green bond, the proceeds of that bond, after deducting issuance costs, such deduction being optionally made at the choice of the issuer, shall be only and fully allocated to:
 - (a) fixed assets, including those of households, that are not financial assets;
 - (b) capital expenditures, including those of households;
 - (c) operating expenditures incurred more recently than three years prior to the issuance of the European green bond; or
 - (d) financial assets.

2. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, a sovereign may also allocate the proceeds of European green bonds it has issued to:
- (a) fixed assets as referred to in Annex A, point 7.22, to Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹¹;
 - (b) non-produced non-financial assets as referred to in Annex A, point 7.24, to Regulation (EU) No 549/2013;
 - (c) tax relief as referred to in Annex A, point 20.167, to Regulation (EU) No 549/2013, that was granted more recently than three years prior to the issuance of the European green bond;
 - (d) subsidies as referred to in Annex A, point 4.30, to Regulation (EU) No 549/2013, that were transferred more recently than three years prior to the issuance of the European green bond;
 - (e) capital expenditures as referred to in Annex A, point 20.104, to Regulation (EU) No 549/2013;
 - (f) operating expenditures or intermediate consumption as referred to in Annex A, point 3.88, to Regulation (EU) No 549/2013, incurred more recently than three years prior to the issuance of the European green bond;
 - (g) current transfers within general government as referred to in Annex A, point 4.118, to Regulation (EU) No 549/2013, provided that the proceeds of those transfers are allocated in accordance with points (a) to (d) of paragraph 1, or points (a) to (f) of paragraph 2; or
 - (h) current international cooperation as referred to in Annex A, point 4.121, to Regulation (EU) No 549/2013.

11 Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the European Union (OJ L 174, 26.6.2013, p. 1).

Article 5

Financial assets

2. The proceeds of financial assets shall only be allocated to the uses listed in Article 4(1) and (2).
3. Where the proceeds of financial assets are allocated to one or more subsequent financial assets, those proceeds shall be allocated at the level of the final recipient to the uses listed in Article 4(1), points (a) to (c), or in Article 4(2) where the latter applies.

Article 6

Taxonomy-alignment of use of proceeds

1. The use of proceeds referred to in Article 4 shall relate to:
 - (a) economic activities that meet the taxonomy requirements; or
 - (b) in the case of capital expenditures or operating expenditures to economic activities that are expected to meet the taxonomy requirements within a certain period of time as set out in a CapEx Plan.

The period of time referred to in point (b) of the first subparagraph shall not exceed five years from the bond issuance, unless a longer period of up to ten years is justified by the specific features of the economic activities concerned as documented in the CapEx Plan.

The CapEx Plan referred to in the second subparagraph shall, for the purposes of this Regulation, (i) ensure that the economic activity referred to in point (b) of the first subparagraph meets the taxonomy requirements within the required period of time and (ii) describe the actions and expenditures that are necessary for that economic activity to meet the taxonomy requirements within the specified period of time.

- 1a. By way of derogation from Article 6(1), up to 20 % of the proceeds of European green bonds may be allocated to economic activities that comply with the taxonomy requirements, with the exception of the technical screening criteria referred to in Article 3, point (d), of Regulation (EU) 2020/852, that are:
- (a) economic activities for which no technical screening criteria have entered into force by the date of issuance of the European green bonds; or
 - (b) activities in the context of international support reported in accordance with internationally agreed guidelines, criteria and reporting cycles, including climate finance reported to the EU and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as referred to in Article 19(3) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999, and official development assistance (ODA) reported to the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

Where the issuer makes use of the provisions in this paragraph, it shall include a statement in the factsheet as specified in Annex I of this Regulation, describing in particular the non-alignment with the taxonomy's technical screening criteria, the activities concerned and the estimated percentage of the proceeds intended to finance such activities as a total and on a per-activity basis.

2. Where proceeds of a European green bond are allocated by means of financial assets either to capital expenditures or to operating expenditures the defined period of time referred to in paragraph 1, second subparagraph, shall start from the moment of the creation of the financial asset which initially introduced the CapEx Plan.

Article 7

Application of the taxonomy requirements

1. Issuers shall allocate bond proceeds to the uses set out in Article 4(1) points (a), (b) and (c), listed in Article 4(2), or to equity in accordance with the delegated acts adopted pursuant to Articles 10(3), 11(3), 12(2), 13(2), 14(2) or 15(2) of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 applicable at the point in time when the bond is issued.
2. When allocating bond proceeds to debt issuers shall apply the delegated acts adopted pursuant to Articles 10(3), 11(3), 12(2), 13(2), 14(2) or 15(2) of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 applicable at the point in time when the debt was created for the underlying activities concerned by that debt.

Where, at the time of the creation of the debt referred to in the first subparagraph, no delegated acts adopted pursuant to Articles 10(3), 11(3), 12(2), 13(2), 14(2) or 15(2) of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 were applicable to all or part of the underlying economic activities concerned by that debt, issuers shall apply, for those economic activities, the first delegated acts that entered into application after the creation of the debt pursuant to Articles 10(3), 11(3), 12(2), 13(2), 14(2) or 15(2) of Regulation (EU) 2020/852.

Chapter II

Transparency and external review requirements

Article 8

European green bond factsheet and pre-issuance review of the European green bond factsheet

1. Prior to issuing a European green bond issuers shall:
 - (a) complete the European green bond factsheet laid down in Annex I;
 - (b) ensure that the completed European green bond factsheet has been subject to a pre-issuance review with a positive opinion by an external reviewer.
2. A European green bond factsheet may relate to one or several European green bond issuances.
3. The pre-issuance review of the factsheet referred to in paragraph 1, point (b), shall contain:
 - (a) an assessment of whether the completed green bond factsheet complies with Articles 4 to 7 and Annex I; and
 - (b) the elements set out in Annex IV.

Article 9

Allocation reports and post-issuance review of allocation reports

1. For every 12-months annual period until (and including) the annual period of full allocation of the proceeds of the European green bond concerned, and at least until the completion of the CapEx Plan, if applicable, issuers of European green bonds shall draw up a European green bond allocation report using the template laid down in Annex II, demonstrating that the proceeds of any European green bonds concerned from their issuance date and until the end of the annual period the report refers to have been allocated in accordance with Articles 4 to 7. The first annual period starts on the date of issuance or, at the choice of the issuer on the 1st of January or at the date marking the start of the issuer's financial year. The date on which the first annual period starts shall not be later than the issuance date and shall be specified in the factsheet.
2. A European green bond allocation report may relate to one or several issuances of European green bonds.
3. Issuers of European green bonds shall obtain a post-issuance review by an external reviewer of the allocation report drawn up after the full allocation of the proceeds of the European green bond in accordance with Articles 4 to 7.
4. Where, following the publication of the allocation report in accordance with Article 13(1), point (c), the allocation of proceeds is corrected, issuers of European green bonds concerned shall, without undue delay, amend the allocation report and obtain a post-issuance review by an external reviewer of that amended allocation report.

5. By way of derogation from paragraph 3, every allocation report from issuers that allocate proceeds of a portfolio of one or several European green bonds to a portfolio of financial assets shall be subject to a post-issuance review by an external reviewer, except where there has been no change in allocation, meaning no addition or replacement was made to the portfolio of financial assets and no financial asset part of the portfolio during that annual period was amended or itself subject to a change in allocation, compared to the year covered by the previous allocation report. A statement regarding the absence of such change of allocation shall be included in each allocation report where applicable. The external reviewer shall pay particular attention to those financial assets that were not included in any previously published allocation report.
6. Issuers of European green bonds shall ensure that the annual allocation reports and, where applicable the post-issuance review(s), required under this Article are made public within 9 months following the end of each annual period specified in paragraph 1. Within this timeframe, issuers shall ensure that the external reviewer has at least 30 calendar days to review an allocation report.
- Issuers of European green bonds shall provide any amended allocation report, referred to in paragraph 4, without undue delay to an external reviewer. The amended allocation report and the post-issuance review shall be made public without undue delay.
- 6a. In case of an error in the pre-issuance or post-issuance review notified by the external reviewer in accordance with Article 24 of this Regulation, the issuer shall, without undue delay, make public the amended pre-issuance or post-issuance review, specifying the date on which such publication is made and the reason for and content of the amendment.

7. The post-issuance review referred to in paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 shall contain:
- (a) an assessment of whether the issuer has allocated the proceeds of the bond in accordance with Articles 4 to 7, based on the information provided to the external reviewer;
 - (b) an assessment of whether the issuer has complied with the intended use of proceeds set out in the green bond factsheet, based on the information provided to the external reviewer;
 - (ba) where applicable, an assessment, after the completion of the CapEx Plan, of whether assets or activities subject to that plan meet the taxonomy requirements based on the information provided to the external reviewer; and
 - (c) the elements set out in Annex IV.
8. Where bond proceeds are allocated to the expenditures referred to in Article 4(2) the post-issuance review may only assess compliance with Articles 4 to 7 of the terms and conditions under which those expenditures or transfers have been disbursed, where justified by (i) the complexity, scale and practical unfeasibility of a full assessment of the underlying activities, and (ii) the existence of binding provisions in those terms and conditions permitting the assessment of the alignment of the final use of proceeds with the taxonomy requirements.
9. Where bond proceeds are allocated in accordance with Article 5 in the context of activities of a public development credit institution, as defined in Article 429a(2) of Regulation (EU) 575/2013, the post-issuance review may assess compliance of the relevant activities with Articles 4 to 7 based on the principle of random sampling, in accordance with best market practices, if justified by the complexity, scale and practical unfeasibility of a full assessment of the underlying activities. Such assessment may be performed by taking into account data privacy measures in order to ensure a high level of protection of personal and other sensitive data that is not relevant for the purposes of the assessment.

Article 10

European green bond impact report

1. Issuers of European green bonds shall, after the full allocation of the proceeds of such bonds, and at least once during the lifetime of the bond, draw up and make public a European green bond impact report on the environmental impact of the use of the bond proceeds by using the template laid down in Annex III.
2. A single impact report may cover several issuances of European green bonds.

Article 11

Sovereigns as issuer

1. A sovereign shall obtain post-issuance reviews of European green bonds from:
 - (a) an external reviewer, or
 - (b) an external reviewer and a state auditor, whereby the state auditor shall review the allocation of bond proceeds and the external reviewer shall ascertain the compliance of economic activities funded through the bond with taxonomy requirements.
2. Paragraph (b) of Article 9(7) shall apply to the state auditor when performing post-issuance review of allocation reports.

Article 12

Prospectus and terms and conditions for European green bonds

1. Where a prospectus is to be published pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2017/1129 for the European green bond, that prospectus or, where relevant and at the choice of the issuer, the final terms of a base prospectus, shall clearly state, in the section describing the use of proceeds, that the European green bond is issued in accordance with this Regulation.
2. For the purposes of Article 19(1), point (c), of Regulation (EU) 2017/1129, ‘regulated information’ shall include the information contained in the European green bond factsheet referred to in Article 8(1), point (a) of this Regulation.
3. Where the obligation to publish a prospectus pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2017/1129 for the European green bond does not apply, the European green bond legal documentation, such as the terms and conditions of the bonds shall, in the section describing the use of proceeds, state that the European green bond is issued in accordance with this Regulation.
4. Issuers shall undertake towards the investors by means of a binding clause in the terms and conditions or the final terms of the European green bond to comply in all material respects with the requirements applicable to issuers set out in this Title.

Article 13

Publication on the issuer’s website and notification to ESMA and national competent authorities

1. Issuers of European green bonds shall publish on their website, in a distinct section titled ‘European green bonds’ and make available, free of charge, and, where applicable, as provided for in Article 21(3) and (4) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1129, for each item within the required delay and until at least 12 months after the maturity of the bonds concerned:
 - (a) the completed European green bond factsheet referred to in Article 8, before the issuance of the bond;

- (b) the pre-issuance review related to the European green bond factsheet referred to in Article 8, before the issuance of the bond;
- (c) the European green bond annual allocation reports referred to in Article 9;
- (d) the post-issuance reviews of the European green bond allocation reports referred to in Article 9;
- (e) the European green bond impact report referred to in Article 10;
- (f) the post-issuance review of the impact report if obtained; and
- (g) if a prospectus is published pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2017/1129, a link to the website where the prospectus can be consulted until at least the date mentioned in the first sub-paragraph of this Article,

and, in each case, any amendments or corrections to those documents.

2. The information contained in the documents referred to in paragraph 1, points (a), (c) and (e), shall be provided at least in the following language or languages:

- (a) where the European green bonds are offered to the public in only one Member State and are not admitted to trading on a trading venue in another Member State, in a language accepted by the competent authority of that Member State, or in a language customary in the sphere of international finance, at the choice of the issuer;
- (b) where the European green bonds are offered to the public in more than one Member State or are admitted to trading on a trading venue in a Member State different from the Member State in which they are offered to the public, either in one or more languages accepted by the competent authority of each Member State where an offer to the public is made and, if applicable where the European green bonds are admitted to trading on a trading venue, or in a language customary in the sphere of international finance, at the choice of the issuer.

3. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, where a prospectus for the European green bond is to be published in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/1129, the information contained in the documents referred to in paragraph 1 shall be provided in the language or languages of that prospectus.
4. Where Article 36 is applicable to a European green bond issue, the issuer shall notify the competent authority referred to in that Article of the publication of each of the documents referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article without undue delay following each publication.
5. The competent authority referred to in paragraph 4 shall notify ESMA of each notification received pursuant to that paragraph within 30 days of the receipt thereof.

Title III

External reviewers for European green bonds

Chapter I

Conditions for external review of European green bonds

Article 14

Registration

1. External reviewers for European green bonds shall, before taking up their activities, register with ESMA.
2. External reviewers registered with ESMA shall meet the conditions for registration laid down in Article 15(2) at all times.
3. State auditors shall not be subject to Titles III and IV of this Regulation.

Article 15

Application for registration as an external reviewer for European green bonds

1. An application for registration as an external reviewer for European green bonds shall contain:
 - (a) the full name of the applicant, the address of the registered office within the Union, the applicant's website and, where available, the legal entity identifier (LEI);
 - (b) the name and contact details of a contact person;
 - (c) the legal status of the applicant;
 - (d) the ownership structure of the applicant;

- (e) the identity of the members of the senior management of the applicant and their level of qualification, relevant experience and training;
- (f) the number of analysts, employees and other persons directly involved in assessment activities, and their level of relevant experience and training ;
- (g) a description of the procedures and methodologies implemented by the applicant to issue pre-issuance reviews as referred to in Article 8 and post-issuance reviews as referred to in Article 9;
- (h) the policies or procedures implemented by the applicant to identify, manage and disclose any conflicts of interests as referred to in Article 27;
- (i) where applicable, documents and information related to any existing or planned outsourcing arrangements for activities of the external reviewer covered by this Regulation, including information on entities assuming outsourcing functions; and
- (j) where applicable, information about other activities carried out by the applicant.

2. ESMA shall only register an applicant as an external reviewer where the following conditions are met:

- (a) the senior management of the applicant:
 - (i) is of sufficiently good repute;
 - (ii) is sufficiently skilled to ensure that the applicant can perform the tasks required of external reviewers pursuant to this Regulation;
 - (iii) has sufficient professional qualifications;
 - (iv) has relevant experience;

- (b) the number of analysts, employees and other persons directly involved in assessment activities, and their level of experience and training, are sufficient to perform the tasks required from external reviewers under this Regulation;
 - (c) the internal arrangements implemented to ensure compliance with the requirements of Chapter II of this Section are appropriate and effective.
3. ESMA shall assess whether the application is complete within 20 working days after its receipt.

Where the application is not complete, ESMA shall notify the applicant thereof and set a deadline by which the applicant is to provide additional information.

Where the application is complete, ESMA shall notify the applicant thereof.

4. ESMA shall register or refuse to register an applicant within 45 working days after receipt of the complete application.

ESMA may extend the period referred to in the first subparagraph by 15 working days where the applicant intends to use outsourcing to perform its activities as an external reviewer.

ESMA shall notify an applicant in writing of his or her registration as an external reviewer, or of its refusal to register an applicant. The decision to register or the refusal to register shall provide reasons and take effect on the fifth working day following its adoption.

5. ESMA shall develop draft regulatory technical standards specifying the criteria referred to in paragraph 2, points (a) and (b).

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by ... [*PO: Please insert date 12 months after the date of entry into force of this Regulation*].

Power is delegated to the Commission to supplement this Regulation by adopting the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

6. ESMA shall develop draft implementing technical standards to specify the standard forms, templates and procedures for the provision of the information referred to in paragraph 1.

When developing the draft implementing technical standards, ESMA shall take into account digital means of registration.

ESMA shall submit those draft implementing technical standards to the Commission by ...
[PO: Please insert date 12 months after the date of entry into force].

Power is conferred on the Commission to adopt the implementing technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 16

Material changes relevant for the registration

1. An external reviewer shall notify ESMA of any material changes in the information provided in accordance with Article 15(1) or in the facts concerning the information referred to in Article 15(1) before such changes are implemented.

ESMA shall analyse those material changes. Where ESMA objects to such material changes, it shall inform the external reviewer within two months of the notification of those changes and shall state the reasons for its objection. The changes referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph may only be implemented provided that ESMA does not object to those changes within that period.

2. ESMA shall develop draft implementing technical standards to specify the standard forms, templates and procedures for the provision of the information referred to in paragraph 1.

When developing the draft implementing technical standards ESMA shall take into account digital means of registration.

ESMA shall submit those draft implementing technical standards to the Commission by ...
[PO: Please insert date 24 months after the date of entry into force].

Power is conferred on the Commission to adopt the implementing technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 17

Language regime

An external reviewer shall submit the application for registration referred to in Article 15 in any of the official languages of the institutions of the Union. Regulation No 1 of 15 April 1958 determining the languages to be used by the European Economic Community¹² shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to any other communication between ESMA and the external reviewers and their staff.

¹² OJ 17, 6.10.1958, p. 385/58.

Chapter II

Organisational requirements, processes and documents concerning governance

Article 18

General principles

1. External reviewers shall employ appropriate systems, resources and procedures to comply with their obligations under this Regulation.
2. External reviewers shall monitor and evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of their systems, resources and procedures established in accordance with this Regulation at least annually and take appropriate measures to address any deficiencies.
3. ESMA shall develop draft regulatory technical standards specifying the criteria to assess the appropriateness, adequacy, and effectiveness of the systems, resources, and procedures of external reviewers referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by ... [*PO: Please insert date 24 months after the date of entry into force*].

Power is delegated to the Commission to supplement this Regulation by adopting the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 19

Senior management

1. The senior management of the external reviewer shall ensure:
 - (a) the sound and prudent management of the external reviewer;
 - (b) the independence of assessment activities;
 - (c) that conflicts of interest are properly identified, managed and disclosed; and
 - (d) that the external reviewer complies with the requirements of this Regulation at all times.

2. ESMA shall develop draft regulatory technical standards specifying the criteria to assess the sound and prudent management of the external reviewer referred to in paragraph 1, point (a).

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by [*PO: Please insert date 12 months after the date of entry into force*].

Power is delegated to the Commission to supplement this Regulation by adopting the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 20

Analysts and employees of external reviewers, and other persons directly involved in the assessment activities of external reviewers

1. External reviewers shall ensure that their analysts and employees, and any other natural person whose services are placed at their disposal or under their control and who are directly involved in assessment activities, have the necessary knowledge and experience for the duties assigned.
2. External reviewers shall ensure that the persons referred to in paragraph 1 are not allowed to initiate or participate in negotiations regarding fees or payments with any assessed entity, related third party or any person directly or indirectly linked to the assessed entity by control.
3. ESMA shall develop draft regulatory technical standards specifying the criteria to assess the appropriateness of the knowledge and experience of the persons referred to in paragraph 1.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by ... [*PO: Please insert date 12 months after the date of entry into force*].

Power is delegated to the Commission to supplement this Regulation by adopting the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 21

Compliance function

1. External reviewers shall establish and maintain a permanent and effective compliance function for the activities performed under this Regulation.
2. External reviewers shall ensure that the compliance function:
 - (a) has the means to discharge its responsibilities properly and independently;
 - (b) has the necessary resources and expertise and access to all relevant information;
 - (c) does not monitor or assess its own activities; and
 - (d) is not compensated in relation to the business performance of the external reviewer.
3. The findings of the compliance function shall be made available to either a supervisory organ or, where applicable, an administrative organ of the external reviewer.
4. ESMA shall develop draft regulatory technical standards specifying the criteria to assess whether the compliance function has the means to discharge its responsibilities properly and independently as referred to in paragraph 2, point (a), and the criteria to assess whether the compliance function has the necessary resources and expertise and has access to all relevant information as referred to in paragraph 2, point (b).

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by ...
[PO: Please insert date 24 months after the date of entry into force].

Power is delegated to the Commission to supplement this Regulation by adopting the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 22

Internal policies and procedures

1. External reviewers shall adopt and implement internal due diligence policies and procedures that ensure their business interests do not impair the independence or accuracy of the assessment activities.
2. External reviewers shall adopt and implement sound administrative and accounting procedures, internal control mechanisms and effective control and safeguard arrangements for information processing systems.
3. ESMA shall develop draft regulatory technical standards specifying the criteria to assess the sound administrative and accounting procedures, internal control mechanisms, and effective control and safeguard arrangements for information processing systems referred to in paragraph 2.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by ... [*PO: Please insert date 24 months after the date of entry into force*].

Power is delegated to the Commission to supplement this Regulation by adopting the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 23

Assessment methodologies and information used for pre-issuance or post-issuance reviews

1. External reviewers shall adopt and implement measures to ensure that their pre-issuance reviews as referred to in Article 8 and their post-issuance reviews as referred to in Article 9 provide an opinion based on a thorough analysis of all the information that is available to them and that, according to their methodologies, is relevant to their analysis.
2. External reviewers shall use information of sufficient quality and from reliable sources when providing pre-issuance or post-issuance reviews.
3. ESMA shall develop draft regulatory technical standards specifying the criteria for the assessment methodology referred to in paragraph 1 and for assessing whether the information referred to in paragraph 2 is of sufficient quality and whether the sources referred to in paragraph 2 are reliable.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by ... [*PO: Please insert date 24 months after the date of entry into force*].

Power is delegated to the Commission to supplement this Regulation by adopting the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 24

Errors in assessment methodologies or in their application

1. External reviewers that become aware of errors in their assessment methodologies or in their application that have a material impact on a pre-issuance review as referred to in Article 8 or a post-issuance review as referred to in Article 9 shall immediately notify and explain those errors to ESMA and the issuers of the affected European green bonds.
2. External reviewers shall publish the errors referred to in paragraph 1 on their websites, together with, where relevant, a revised pre-issuance or post-issuance review. The revised documents shall state the reasons for the changes.

Article 25

Outsourcing

1. External reviewers that outsource their assessment activities to third-party service providers shall ensure that any such third-party service provider has the ability and the capacity to perform those assessment activities reliably and professionally. Those external reviewers shall also ensure that the outsourcing does not materially impair the quality of their internal control and the ability of ESMA to supervise the compliance of those external reviewers with this Regulation.
2. External reviewers shall not outsource their compliance function.
3. External reviewers shall notify ESMA about the assessment activities that it intends to outsource, including a specification of the level of human and technical resources needed to carry out each of those activities and the justification for such outsourcing.

4. External reviewers that outsource assessment activities shall ensure that such outsourcing does not reduce or impair their ability to perform their function or roles as members of the external reviewer's senior management or management body.
5. External reviewers shall ensure that third party service providers cooperate with ESMA in connection with any outsourced assessment activities.
6. External reviewers shall remain responsible for any outsourced activity and shall adopt organisational measures to ensure:
 - (a) that they assess whether third party service providers carry out outsourced assessment activities effectively and in compliance with applicable Union and national laws and regulatory requirements and adequately addresses identified failures;
 - (b) the identification of any potential risks in relation to outsourced assessment activities;
 - (c) adequate periodic monitoring of the outsourced assessment activities;
 - (d) adequate control procedures with respect to outsourced assessment activities, including effective supervision of the outsourced assessment activities and of any potential risks within the third party service provider; and
 - (e) adequate business continuity of outsourced assessment activities.

For the purposes of point (e), external reviewers shall obtain information about the business continuity arrangements of third party service providers, assess their quality, and request improvements to such arrangements where necessary.

7. ESMA shall develop draft regulatory technical standards specifying:
- (a) the criteria to assess the ability and the capacity of third party service providers to perform the assessment activities reliably and professionally; and
 - (b) the criteria to ensure that the performance of assessment activities does not materially impair the quality of the external reviewers' internal control or the ability of ESMA to supervise the external reviewers' compliance with this Regulation.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by ... [*PO: Please insert date 12 months after the date of entry into force*].

Power is delegated to the Commission to supplement this Regulation by adopting the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 26

Record-keeping requirements

1. External reviewers shall keep adequate records of:
- (a) the identity of the persons participating in the determination and approval of the pre-issuance reviews referred to in Article 8 and the post-issuance reviews referred to in Article 9, and the date on which the decisions to approve the pre-issuance and post-issuance reviews were taken;
 - (b) the documentation for the established procedures and methodologies used by the external reviewers to carry out and draw up the pre-issuance and post-issuance reviews;

- (c) the internal documents, including non-public information and work papers, used to form the basis of any published pre-issuance or post-issuance review;
 - (d) records of the procedures and measures implemented by the external reviewers to comply with this Regulation; and
 - (e) copies of internal and external communications that relate to assessment activities, including electronic communications, received and sent by the external reviewer and its employees, that relate to assessment activities.
2. The records and documents referred to in paragraph 1 shall be kept until at least five years after the maturity of the bond concerned and shall be made available to ESMA upon its request. .
3. Where ESMA has withdrawn the registration of an external reviewer in accordance with Article 51(1), that external reviewer shall ensure that the records and documents are kept for an additional five years. Records and documents which set out the respective rights and obligations of the external reviewer and the issuer of the European green bond under an agreement to provide assessment services shall be retained for the duration of the relationship with that issuer.

Article 27

Conflicts of interest and confidentiality of information

1. External reviewers shall either identify and eliminate, or manage and disclose in a transparent manner in the pre-issuance and post-issuance reviews any actual or potential conflicts of interest, irrespective of whether that conflict of interest concerns their analysts or employees, any person that is contractually related to the external reviewers and that is directly involved in assessment activities, or persons approving pre-issuance reviews and post-issuance reviews.
2. Fees charged by external reviewers for assessment services shall not depend on the result of the pre-issuance or post-issuance review, or on any other result or outcome of the work performed.
3. Analysts, employees of the external reviewer and any other person contractually related to the external reviewers and directly involved in assessment activities shall be bound by the obligation of professional secrecy.
4. External reviewers shall ensure that their analysts and employees or any other natural person contractually related to the external reviewers and directly involved in assessment activities:
 - (a) take all reasonable measures to protect property and records in the possession of the external reviewer from fraud, theft or misuse, taking into account the nature, scale and complexity of their business and the nature and range of their assessment activities;

- (b) do not disclose any information about pre-issuance or post-issuance reviews, possible future pre-issuance or post-issuance reviews, to any parties other than the issuers that have requested the assessment by the external reviewer
- (c) do not use or share confidential information for any other purpose than assessment activities.

Article 28

Provision of other services

External reviewers that provide services other than assessment activities shall ensure that those other services do not create conflicts of interest with their assessment activities concerning European green bonds. Such external reviewers shall disclose in their pre-issuance and post-issuance reviews any other services provided for the assessed entity or any related third party.

Chapter III

Pre-issuance and post-issuance reviews

Article 29

References to ESMA or other competent authorities

In their pre-issuance review or post-issuance reviews, external reviewers shall not refer to ESMA or any competent authority in a way that could indicate or suggest that ESMA or any competent authority endorses or approves that review or any assessment activities of the external reviewer.

Article 30

Publication of pre-issuance reviews and post-issuance reviews

1. External reviewers shall publish and make available free of charge on their websites in a separate section titled ‘European green bonds - Pre-issuance reviews’ pre-issuance reviews that it issued.
- 1a. External reviewers shall publish and make available free of charge on their websites in a separate section titled ‘European green bonds - Post-issuance reviews’ post-issuance reviews that it issued.
2. The pre-issuance reviews referred to in paragraph 1 shall be made available to the public within a reasonable period of time prior to the beginning of the offer to the public or the admission to trading of the European green bond concerned.
3. The post-issuance reviews referred to in paragraph 1a shall be made available to the public without delay following the completion of the assessment of the allocation reports by the external reviewer.

4. The pre-issuance reviews referred to in paragraph 1 and the post-issuance reviews referred to in paragraph 1a shall remain publicly available until at least the maturity of the bonds after their publication on the website of the external reviewer.
5. External reviewers that decide to discontinue providing a pre-issuance review or a post-issuance review shall provide information about the reasons for that decision in the sections referred to in paragraphs 1 and 1a without delay following such decision.

Chapter IV

Provision of services by third-country external reviewers

Article 31

General provisions

1. A third-country external reviewer may provide its services in accordance with this Regulation to issuers that issue European green bonds where that third-country external reviewer is registered in the register of third-country external reviewers kept by ESMA in accordance with Article 59.
2. ESMA shall register a third-country external reviewer that has applied for the provision of external reviewer services in accordance with this Regulation throughout the Union in accordance with paragraph 1 only where:
 - (a) the Commission has adopted a decision in accordance with Article 32(1);
 - (b) the third-country external reviewer is registered or authorised to provide the external review services to be provided in the Union and is subject to effective supervision and enforcement ensuring full compliance with the requirements applicable in that third country; and

- (c) cooperation arrangements have been established pursuant to Article 32(3).
3. Where a third-country external reviewer is registered in accordance with this Article, no additional requirements on the third-country external reviewer in respect of matters covered by this Regulation shall be imposed.
 4. The third-country external reviewer referred to in paragraph 1 shall submit its application to ESMA after the adoption by the Commission of the decision referred to in Article 32 determining that the legal and supervisory framework of the third country in which the third-country external reviewer is registered or authorised is equivalent to the requirements described in Article 32(1).
 5. The third-country external reviewer shall submit its application referred to in the first paragraph of this Article by using the forms and templates referred to in Article 15.
 6. The applicant third-country external reviewer shall provide ESMA with all information necessary for its registration.
 7. Within 20 working days of receipt of the application, ESMA shall assess whether the application is complete. Where the application is not complete, ESMA shall set a deadline by which the applicant third-country external reviewer is to provide additional information.
 8. The registration decision shall be based on the conditions set out in paragraph 2.
 9. Within 45 working days of the submission of a complete application, ESMA shall inform the applicant third-country external reviewer in writing with a fully reasoned explanation whether the registration has been granted or refused.
 10. Third-country external reviewers providing services in accordance with this Article shall, before providing any service in relation to issuers of European green bonds established in the Union, offer to submit any disputes relating to those services to the jurisdiction of a court or arbitral tribunal in a Member State.

Article 32

Equivalence decision

1. The Commission may adopt a decision in relation to a third country stating that the legal and supervisory arrangements of that third country ensure that external reviewers registered or authorised in that third country comply with legally binding organisational and business conduct requirements which have equivalent effect to the requirements laid down in this Regulation and in the implementing measures adopted pursuant to this Regulation and that the legal framework of that third country provides for an effective equivalent system for the recognition of external reviewers registered or authorised under third-country legal regimes.

2. The organisational and business conduct framework of a third country may be considered to have equivalent effect where that framework fulfils the following conditions:
 - (a) entities providing external review services in that third country are subject to registration or authorisation and to effective supervision and enforcement on an ongoing basis;
 - (b) entities providing external review services are subject to adequate organisational requirements in the area of internal control functions; and
 - (c) entities providing external review services are subject to appropriate conduct of business rules.

3. ESMA shall establish cooperation arrangements with the relevant competent authorities of third countries whose legal and supervisory frameworks have been recognised as effectively equivalent in accordance with paragraph 1. Such arrangements shall specify:
- (a) the mechanism for the exchange of information between ESMA and the competent authorities of the third countries concerned, including access to all information regarding the third-country external reviewers registered or authorised in third countries that is requested by ESMA;
 - (b) the mechanism for prompt notification to ESMA where a third-country competent authority deems that a third-country external reviewer that it is supervising and ESMA has registered in the register referred to in Article 59 infringes the conditions of its registration or authorisation or other law to which it is obliged to adhere; and
 - (c) the procedures concerning the coordination of supervisory activities including, where appropriate, on-site inspections.
4. A third-country external reviewer established in a country whose legal and supervisory framework has been recognised to be effectively equivalent in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article, and which is registered in the register referred to in Article 59, shall be able to provide the services covered under the registration to issuers of European green bonds throughout the Union.
5. A third-country external reviewer shall no longer use the rights under Article 31 where the Commission withdraws its decision under paragraph 1 of this Article in relation to that third country.

Article 33

Withdrawal of registration of third country external reviewer

1. ESMA shall suspend or withdraw the registration of a third-country external reviewer in the register established in accordance with Article 59 where:
 - (a) ESMA has well-founded reasons based on documented evidence to believe that, in the provision of the services in the Union, the third-country external reviewer is acting in a manner which is clearly prejudicial to the interests of investors or the orderly functioning of markets;
 - (b) ESMA has well-founded reasons based on documented evidence to believe that, in the provision of services in the Union, the third-country external reviewer has seriously infringed the laws and regulations applicable to it in the third country and on the basis of which the Commission has adopted the decision in accordance with Article 32(1); or
 - (c) ESMA has referred the matter to the competent authority of the third country and that third-country competent authority has not taken the appropriate measures needed to protect investors and the proper functioning of the markets in the Union or has failed to demonstrate that the third-country external reviewer concerned complies with the requirements applicable to it in the third country.
- 1a. ESMA shall inform the third-country competent authority of its intention to withdraw the registration of the third-country external reviewer at least 30 days before the withdrawal.
2. ESMA shall inform the Commission of any measure adopted in accordance with paragraph 1 without delay and shall publish the decision on suspension or withdrawal on its website.
3. In case of suspension or withdrawal of a third-country external reviewer, the Commission shall assess whether the conditions under which a decision in accordance with Article 32(1) has been adopted continue to persist in relation to the third country concerned.

Article 34

Recognition of a third-country external reviewer

1. Until such time as an equivalence decision in accordance with Article 32(1) is adopted, a third-country external reviewer may provide its services in accordance with this Regulation provided that the third country external reviewer acquires recognition from ESMA in accordance with this Article.
2. A third-country external reviewer that intends to obtain recognition as referred to in paragraph 1 shall comply with the requirements laid down in Articles 15 to 30 and Articles 47 to 49.
3. A third-country external reviewer intending to obtain prior recognition as referred to in paragraph 1 shall have a legal representative domiciled in the Union. That legal representative shall:
 - (a) be responsible, together with the third-country external reviewer, for ensuring that the provision of services under this Regulation by the third-country external reviewer meets the requirements referred to in paragraph 2 and shall in that respect be accountable to ESMA for the conduct of the third-country external reviewer in the Union;
 - (b) act on behalf of the third-country external reviewer as the main point of contact with ESMA and any other person in the Union with regard to the external reviewer's obligations under this Regulation; and
 - (c) have sufficient knowledge, expertise and resources to fulfil its obligations under this paragraph.

4. An application for prior recognition from ESMA as referred to in paragraph 1 shall contain all information necessary to satisfy ESMA that the third country external reviewer has implemented all the necessary arrangements to meet the requirements referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 and shall, where applicable, indicate the competent authority responsible for its supervision in the third country.
5. ESMA shall assess whether the application for prior recognition from ESMA is complete within 20 working days after receipt of the application.

Where the application is not complete, ESMA shall notify the applicant thereof and set a deadline by which the applicant is to provide additional information.

Where the application is complete, ESMA shall notify the applicant thereof.

Within 45 working days of receipt of the complete application referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph, ESMA shall verify that the conditions laid down in paragraphs 2 and 3 are fulfilled.

ESMA shall notify an applicant of its recognition as a third-country external reviewer or of its refusal. The decision to recognise or the refusal to recognise shall provide reasons and take effect on the fifth working day following its adoption.

6. ESMA shall suspend or, where appropriate, withdraw the recognition granted in accordance with paragraph 5 where it has well-founded reasons, based on documented evidence, to consider that the third-country external reviewer is acting in a manner which is prejudicial to the interests of users of its services or the orderly functioning of markets or the third country external reviewer has seriously infringed the relevant requirements set out in this Regulation, or that the third-country external reviewer made false statements or used any other irregular means to obtain recognition.

7. ESMA shall develop draft regulatory technical standards specifying the information and the form and content of the application referred to in paragraph 4.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by ... [*PO: Please insert date 24 months after the date of entry into force of this Regulation*].

Power is delegated to the Commission to supplement this Regulation by adopting the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 35

Endorsement of services under this Regulation provided in a third country

1. An external reviewer located in the Union registered in accordance with Article 15 and entered in the register in accordance with Article 59, may apply to ESMA to endorse the services provided by a third country external reviewer on an ongoing basis in the Union, provided that:
 - (a) the endorsing external reviewer has verified and is able to demonstrate on an ongoing basis to ESMA that the provision of services under this Regulation by the endorsed third country external reviewer fulfils, on a mandatory or on a voluntary basis, requirements which are at least as stringent as the requirements of this Regulation;
 - (b) the endorsing external reviewer has the necessary expertise to monitor effectively the activity of the provision of services under this Regulation by that third country external reviewer and to manage the associated risks; and

- (c) the third-country external reviewer is relied upon for:
 - (i) specificities of the underlying markets or investments;
 - (ii) proximity of the endorsed reviewer to third-country markets, issuers or investors; or
 - (iii) expertise of the third-country reviewer in providing the services of external review or in specific markets or investments.
- 2. An external reviewer that makes an application for endorsement as referred to in paragraph 1 shall provide all information necessary to satisfy ESMA that, at the time of application, all the conditions referred to in that paragraph are fulfilled.
- 3. ESMA shall assess whether the application for endorsement referred to in paragraph 1 is complete within 20 working days after receipt of the application.

Where the application is not complete, ESMA shall notify the applicant thereof and set a deadline by which the applicant is to provide additional information.

Where the application is complete, ESMA shall notify the applicant thereof.

Within 45 working days of receipt of the complete application, ESMA shall examine the application and adopt a decision either to authorise the endorsement or to refuse it. ESMA shall notify an applicant of its decision regarding endorsement referred to in paragraph 1. The decision shall provide reasons and take effect on the fifth working day following its adoption.

- 4. Services provided under this Regulation by an third-country external reviewer that has been endorsed shall be considered to be services provided by the endorsing external reviewer. The endorsing external reviewer shall not use the endorsement with the intention of avoiding the requirements of this Regulation.

5. An external reviewer that has endorsed services provided under this Regulation by a third-country external reviewer shall remain fully responsible for such services and for compliance with the obligations under this Regulation.
6. Where ESMA has well-founded reasons to consider that the conditions in paragraph 1 of this Article are no longer fulfilled, it shall have the power to require the endorsing external reviewer to suspend or to cease the endorsement.
7. An external reviewer that endorses services provided under this Regulation by a third-country external reviewer shall publish the information referred to in Article 30 on its website.
8. An external reviewer that endorses services provided under this Regulation by a third-country external reviewer shall report to ESMA annually on the services it has endorsed in the previous twelve months.

Title IV

Supervision by competent authorities and ESMA

Chapter I

Competent authorities

Article 36

Supervision by competent authorities

1. Competent authorities of the home Member State designated pursuant to Article 31 of Regulation (EU) 2017/1129 shall supervise that issuers of European green bonds for which a prospectus is required pursuant to that Regulation comply with their obligations under Chapter II of Title II of this Regulation.
2. Under their supervisory powers pursuant to paragraph 1, competent authorities shall assess the completeness, the consistency and the comprehensibility of the information provided by the issuers.
3. The powers conferred under paragraphs 1 and 2 may be exercised before or after the issuance of the European green bond concerned.

Article 37

Powers of competent authorities

1. In order to fulfil their duties under this Regulation, competent authorities shall have, in accordance with national law, at least the following supervisory and investigatory powers:
 - (a) to require issuers to include the information referred to in Annex I in the European green bond factsheet;
 - (ab) to require issuers to provide and publish pre- and post-issuance reviews by an external reviewer in accordance with this Regulation;
 - (b) to require issuers to publish annual allocation reports or include in annual allocation reports the information about all the elements referred to in Annex II;
 - (c) to require issuers to publish an impact report or include in the impact report the information about all the elements referred to in Annex III;
 - (ca) to require issuers to file the required documents and notify the competent authority of the publication in accordance with Article 13(4) of this regulation;
 - (d) to require auditors and senior management of the issuer to provide information and documents;
 - (e) to suspend for a maximum of ten consecutive working days an offer or admission to trading on regulated market of European green bonds on any single occasion where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the issuer's obligation under Chapter II of Title II of this Regulation have been infringed;

- (f) to prohibit or suspend for a maximum of ten consecutive working days advertisements or require issuers of European green bonds or financial intermediaries concerned to cease or suspend advertisements for a maximum of 10 consecutive working days on any single occasion where there are reasonable grounds for believing that the issuer's obligation under Chapter II of Title II of this Regulation have been infringed;
- (g) to make public the fact that an issuer of European green bonds is failing to comply with its obligations under Chapter II of Title II of this Regulation and, following a three-month-notice period given to the issuer to rectify any identified lack of compliance, make public the fact that the bond in question should no longer be considered a European green bond; and
- (h) to carry out on-site inspections or investigations at sites other than the private residences of natural persons, and for that purpose to enter premises in order to access documents and other data in any form, where a reasonable suspicion exists that documents and other data related to the subject-matter of the inspection or investigation may be relevant to prove an infringement of this Regulation.

Where necessary under national law, the competent authority may ask the relevant judicial authority to decide on the use of the powers referred to in the first subparagraph.

2. Competent authorities shall exercise their functions and powers referred to in paragraph 1 in any of the following ways:
 - (a) directly;
 - (b) in collaboration with other authorities;
 - (c) under their responsibility by delegation to such authorities;
 - (d) by application to the competent judicial authorities.

3. Member States shall ensure that appropriate measures are in place so that competent authorities have all the supervisory and investigatory powers that are necessary to fulfil their duties.
4. A person making information available to the competent authority in accordance with this Regulation shall not be considered to be infringing any restriction on the disclosure of information imposed by contract or by any legislative, regulatory or administrative provision, and shall not be subject to liability of any kind related to such notification.

Article 38

Cooperation between competent authorities

1. Competent authorities shall cooperate with each other for the purposes of this Regulation. They shall exchange information without undue delay and cooperate in investigation, supervision and enforcement.

Member States that have chosen, in accordance with Article 41(3), to lay down criminal sanctions for infringements of this Regulation shall ensure that appropriate measures are in place so that competent authorities have all the necessary powers to liaise with judicial authorities within their jurisdiction to receive specific information related to criminal investigations or proceedings commenced for alleged infringements of this Regulation and provide the same to other competent authorities to fulfil their obligation to cooperate with each other for the purposes of this Regulation.

2. A competent authority may refuse to act on a request for information or a request to cooperate with an investigation only where:
 - (a) complying with the request is likely to adversely affect its own investigation, enforcement activities or a criminal investigation;
 - (b) judicial proceedings have already been initiated in respect of the same actions and against the same persons before the authorities of the Member State addressed; or
 - (c) a final judgment has already been delivered in relation to such persons for the same actions in the Member State addressed.
3. The competent authority may request assistance from the competent authority of another Member State with regard to on-site inspections or investigations.

Where a competent authority receives a request from a competent authority of another Member State to carry out an on-site inspection or an investigation, it may:

- (a) carry out the on-site inspection or investigation itself;
- (b) allow the competent authority which submitted the request to participate in an on-site inspection or investigation;
- (c) allow the competent authority which submitted the request to carry out the on-site inspection or investigation itself;
- (d) appoint auditors or experts to carry out the on-site inspection or investigation; or
- (e) share specific tasks related to supervisory activities with the other competent authorities.

4. The competent authorities may refer to ESMA in situations where a request for cooperation, in particular to exchange information, has been rejected or has not been acted upon within a reasonable time. Without prejudice to Article 258 TFEU, ESMA may in such situations act in accordance with the power conferred on it by Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.
5. ESMA is empowered to develop draft regulatory technical standards to specify the information to be exchanged between competent authorities in accordance with paragraph 1.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by ... [*PO: Please insert date 36 months after the date of entry into force of this Regulation*].

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.6. ESMA may develop draft implementing technical standards to establish standard forms, templates and procedures for the cooperation and exchange of information between competent authorities.

ESMA shall submit those draft implementing technical standards to the Commission by ... [*PO: Please insert date 36 months after the date of entry into force of this Regulation*].

Power is conferred on the Commission to adopt the implementing technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 39

Professional secrecy

1. All information exchanged between the competent authorities under this Regulation that concerns business or operational conditions and other economic or personal affairs shall be considered confidential and shall be subject to professional secrecy, except where the competent authority states at the time of communication that such information may be disclosed or such disclosure is necessary for legal proceedings.
2. The obligation of professional secrecy shall apply to all persons who work or who have worked for the competent authority or for any third party to whom the competent authority has delegated its powers. Information covered by professional secrecy may not be disclosed to any other person or authority except by virtue of Union or national law.

Article 40

Precautionary measures

1. A competent authority of the host Member State that has clear and demonstrable grounds for believing that irregularities have been committed by an issuer of a European green bond or that it has infringed its obligations under this Regulation shall refer those findings to the competent authority of the home Member State and to ESMA.
2. Where, despite the measures taken by the competent authority of the home Member State, an issuer of a European green bond persists in infringing this Regulation, the competent authority of the host Member State, after informing the competent authority of the home Member State and ESMA, shall take all appropriate measures to protect investors and shall inform the Commission and ESMA thereof without undue delay.

3. A competent authority that disagrees with any of the measures taken by another competent authority pursuant to paragraph 2 may bring the matter to the attention of ESMA. ESMA may act in accordance with the powers conferred on it **by** Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 41

Administrative sanctions and other administrative measures

1. Without prejudice to the supervisory and investigatory powers of competent authorities pursuant to Article 37, and the right of Member States to provide for and impose criminal sanctions, Member States shall, in accordance with national law, provide for competent authorities to have the power to impose administrative sanctions and take appropriate other administrative measures which shall be effective, proportionate and dissuasive. Those administrative sanctions and other administrative measures shall apply to:
- (a) infringements by issuers of their obligations under Chapter II of Title II of this Regulation;
 - (b) failure to cooperate or comply with an investigation, with an inspection or with a requirement under Article 37(1).

Member States may decide not to lay down rules for administrative sanctions as referred to in the first subparagraph where the infringements referred to in point (a) or point (b) of that subparagraph are already subject to criminal sanctions in their national law by ... [*PO: please insert the date of application of this Regulation*]. Where they so decide, Member States shall notify, in detail, to the Commission and to ESMA, the relevant parts of their criminal law.

By ... [*PO: please insert the date of application of this Regulation*], Member States shall notify, in detail, the rules referred to in the first and second subparagraph to the Commission and to ESMA. They shall notify the Commission and ESMA without delay of any subsequent amendment thereto.

2. Member States shall, in accordance with national law, ensure that competent authorities have the power to impose the following administrative sanctions and other administrative measures in relation to the infringements listed in paragraph 1, point (a):
- (a) a public statement indicating the natural or legal person responsible and the nature of the infringement in accordance with Article 37(1), point (g);
 - (b) an order requiring the natural or legal person responsible to cease the conduct constituting the infringement;
 - (c) maximum administrative pecuniary sanctions of at least twice the amount of the profits gained or losses avoided because of the infringement where those can be determined;
 - (d) in the case of a legal person, maximum administrative pecuniary sanctions of at least EUR 500 000, or, in the Member States whose currency is not the euro, the corresponding value in the national currency on ... [PO: please insert the date of entry into force of this Regulation], or 0.5 % of the total annual turnover of that legal person according to the last available financial statements approved by the management body.
 - (e) in the case of a natural person, maximum administrative pecuniary sanctions of at least EUR 50 000, or, in the Member States whose currency is not the euro, the corresponding value in the national currency on ... [PO: please insert date of entry into force of this Regulation].

For the purposes of point (d), where the legal person is a parent undertaking or a subsidiary of a parent undertaking which is required to prepare consolidated financial accounts in accordance with Directive 2013/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council¹³, the relevant total annual turnover shall be the total annual turnover or the corresponding type of income in accordance with the relevant Union law in the area of accounting according to the last available consolidated accounts approved by the management body of the ultimate parent undertaking.

3. Member States may provide for additional sanctions or measures and for higher levels of administrative pecuniary sanctions than those provided for in this Regulation.

Article 42

Exercise of supervisory powers and powers to impose sanctions

1. Competent authorities, when determining the type and level of administrative sanctions and other administrative measures, shall take into account all relevant circumstances including, where appropriate:
 - (a) the gravity and the duration of the infringement;
 - (b) the degree of responsibility of the person responsible for the infringement;
 - (c) the financial strength of the person responsible for the infringement, as indicated by the total turnover of the responsible legal person or the annual income and net assets of the responsible natural person;
 - (d) the impact of the infringement on the interests of retail investors;

¹³ Directive 2013/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on the annual financial statements, consolidated financial statements and related reports of certain types of undertakings, amending Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Directives 78/660/EEC and 83/349/EEC (OJ L 182, 29.6.2013, p. 19).

- (e) the importance of the profits gained, losses avoided by the person responsible for the infringement or the losses for third parties derived from the infringement, insofar as they can be determined;
- (f) the level of cooperation of the person responsible for the infringement with the competent authority, without prejudice to the need to ensure disgorgement of profits gained or losses avoided by that person;
- (g) previous infringements by the person responsible for the infringement; and
- (h) measures taken after the infringement by the person responsible for the infringement to prevent its repetition.

2. In the exercise of their powers to impose administrative sanctions and other administrative measures under Article 41, competent authorities shall cooperate closely to ensure that the exercise of their supervisory and investigative powers and the administrative sanctions and other administrative measures that they impose are effective and appropriate under this Regulation. They shall coordinate their action in order to avoid duplication and overlaps when exercising their supervisory and investigative powers and when imposing administrative sanctions and other administrative measures in cross-border cases.

Article 43

Right of appeal

Member States shall ensure that decisions taken under this Regulation are properly reasoned and subject to a right of appeal before a court.

Article 44

Publication of decisions

1. A decision imposing an administrative sanction or other administrative measure for infringement of this Regulation shall be published by competent authorities on their official websites immediately after the person subject to that decision has been informed of that decision. The publication shall include information on the type and nature of the infringement and the identity of the persons responsible. That obligation shall not apply to decisions imposing measures that are of an investigatory nature.
2. Where the publication of the identity of the legal persons, or identity or personal data of natural persons, is considered by the competent authority to be disproportionate following a case-by-case assessment conducted on the proportionality of the publication of such data, or where such publication would jeopardise the stability of financial markets or an on-going investigation, Member States shall ensure that the competent authorities:
 - (a) defer the publication of the decision to impose a sanction or a measure until the moment where the reasons for non-publication cease to exist;
 - (b) publish the decision to impose a sanction or a measure on an anonymous basis in a manner which is in conformity with national law, where such anonymous publication ensures an effective protection of the personal data concerned; or

- (c) not publish the decision to impose a sanction or measure in the event that the options laid down in points (a) and (b) are considered to be insufficient to ensure:
 - (i) that the stability of financial markets would not be put in jeopardy; or
 - (ii) the proportionality of the publication of such decisions with regard to measures which are deemed to be of a minor nature.

In the case of a decision to publish a sanction or measure on an anonymous basis, as referred to in point (b) of the first subparagraph, the publication of the relevant data may be deferred for a reasonable period where it is expected that within that period the reasons for anonymous publication shall cease to exist.

3. Where the decision to impose a sanction or measure is subject to an appeal before the relevant judicial or other authorities, competent authorities shall also publish, immediately, on their official website such information and any subsequent information on the outcome of such appeal. Moreover, any decision annulling a previous decision to impose a sanction or a measure shall also be published.
4. Competent authorities shall ensure that any publication in accordance with this Article shall remain on their official website for a period of at least five years after its publication. Personal data contained in the publication shall be kept on the official website of the competent authority only for the period which is necessary in accordance with the applicable data protection rules.

Article 45

Reporting sanctions to ESMA

1. The competent authority shall, on an annual basis, provide ESMA with aggregate information regarding all administrative sanctions and other administrative measures imposed in accordance with Article 41. ESMA shall publish that information in an annual report.

Where Member States have chosen, in accordance with Article 41(3), to provide for criminal sanctions for the infringements of the provisions referred to in that paragraph, their competent authorities shall provide ESMA annually with anonymised and aggregated data regarding all criminal investigations undertaken and criminal sanctions imposed. ESMA shall publish data on criminal sanctions imposed in an annual report.

2. A competent authority that has disclosed administrative sanctions, other administrative measures or criminal sanctions to the public shall simultaneously report those sanctions or measures to ESMA.
3. Competent authorities shall inform ESMA of all administrative sanctions or other administrative measures imposed but not published in accordance with Article 44(2), first subparagraph, point (c), including any appeal in relation thereto and the outcome thereof. Member States shall ensure that competent authorities receive information and the final judgment in relation to any criminal sanction imposed and submit it to ESMA. ESMA shall maintain a central database of sanctions communicated to it solely for the purposes of exchanging information between competent authorities. That database shall be accessible to competent authorities only and it shall be updated on the basis of the information provided by the competent authorities.

Chapter II

ESMA

Article 46

Exercise of the powers referred to in Articles 47, 48 and 49

The powers conferred on ESMA, any of its officials or any other person authorised by ESMA by Articles 47, 48 and 49 shall not be used to require the disclosure of information or documents that are subject to legal privilege.

Article 47

Requests for information

1. ESMA may by simple request or by decision require the following persons to provide all information that is necessary to carry out its duties under this Regulation:
 - (a) persons who effectively conduct the business of the external reviewer;
 - (b) members of the supervisory body, management body or administrative body of the external reviewer;
 - (c) members of the senior management of the external reviewer;
 - (d) any person directly involved in assessment activities of the external reviewer;
 - (e) legal representatives and employees of entities to which an external reviewer has outsourced certain functions in accordance with Article 25;

- (f) persons otherwise closely and substantially related or connected to the process of managing the external reviewer;
- (g) anyone that acts like, or pretends to be, an external reviewer, without being registered as such, and any person that performs any of the functions referred to in points (a) to (f) for such person.

2. When sending a simple request for information under paragraph 1, ESMA shall:

- (a) refer to this Article as the legal basis of that request;
- (b) state the purpose of the request;
- (c) specify what information is required;
- (d) set a time limit within which the information is to be provided;
- (e) inform the person from whom the information is requested that there is no obligation to provide the information but that in case of a voluntary reply to the request the information provided must not be incorrect or misleading; and
- (f) indicate the potential fine provided for in Article 52, where the answers to the questions asked are incorrect or misleading.

3. When requiring the provision of information by decision under paragraph 1, ESMA shall:

- (a) refer to this Article as the legal basis of that request;
- (b) state the purpose of the request;
- (c) specify what information is required;
- (d) set a time limit within which the information is to be provided;

- (e) indicate the periodic penalty payments provided for in Article 53 where the production of the required information is incomplete;
 - (f) indicate the fine provided for in Article 52 where the answers to questions asked are incorrect or misleading;
 - (g) indicate the right to appeal the decision before Board of Appeal accordance with Articles 58 and 59 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010 and to have the decision reviewed by the Court of Justice of the European Union in accordance with Articles 60 and 61 of that Regulation.
4. The persons referred to in paragraph 1 or their representatives and, in the case of legal persons or associations having no legal personality, the persons authorised to represent them by law or by their constitution, shall provide the information requested. Lawyers duly authorised may provide the information on behalf of their clients. The latter shall remain fully responsible if the information provided proves to be incomplete, incorrect or misleading.
5. ESMA shall, without delay, send a copy of the simple request or of its decision to the competent authority of the Member State where the persons referred to in paragraph 1 concerned by the request for information are domiciled or established.

Article 48

General investigations

1. In order to carry out its duties under this Regulation, ESMA may conduct necessary investigations of persons referred to in Article 47(1). To that end, the officials and other persons authorised by ESMA shall be empowered to:
 - (a) examine any records, data, procedures and any other material relevant to the execution of its tasks irrespective of the medium on which they are stored;
 - (b) take or obtain certified copies of or extracts from such records, data, procedures and other material;
 - (c) summon and ask any person referred to in Article 47(1) or their representatives or staff for oral or written explanations on facts or documents relating to the subject matter and purpose of the inspection and to record the answers;
 - (d) interview any other natural or legal person who consents to be interviewed for the purpose of collecting information relating to the subject matter of an investigation;
 - (e) request records of telephone and data traffic.

2. The officials of and other persons authorised by ESMA for the purposes of the investigations referred to in paragraph 1 shall exercise their powers upon production of a written authorisation specifying the subject matter and purpose of the investigation. That authorisation shall also indicate the periodic penalty payments provided for in Article 53 where the production of the required records, data, procedures or any other material, or the answers to questions asked of the persons referred to in Article 47(1), are not provided or are incomplete, and the fines provided for in Article 52 where the answers to questions asked of the persons referred to in Article 47(1) are incorrect or misleading.

3. The persons referred to in Article 47(1) shall submit to investigations initiated on the basis of a decision of ESMA. The decision shall specify the subject matter and purpose of the investigation, the periodic penalty payments provided for in Article 53, the legal remedies available under Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010 and the right to have the decision reviewed by the Court of Justice of the European Union.
4. In good time before the investigation, ESMA shall inform the competent authority referred to in Article 36 of the Member State where the investigation is to be carried out of the investigation and of the identity of the authorised persons. Officials of the competent authority concerned shall, upon the request of ESMA, assist those authorised persons in carrying out their duties. Officials of the competent authority concerned may also attend the investigations upon request.
5. If a request for records of telephone or data traffic referred to in paragraph 1, point (e), requires a competent authority to be authorised by a judicial authority in accordance with national law, ESMA shall also apply for such authorisation. ESMA may also apply for such authorisation as a precautionary measure.

6. Where authorisation as referred to in paragraph 5 is applied for, the national judicial authority shall verify that the decision of ESMA is authentic and that the coercive measures envisaged are neither arbitrary nor excessive having regard to the subject matter of the investigations. In its verification of the proportionality of coercive measures, the national judicial authority may ask ESMA for detailed explanations, in particular relating to the grounds ESMA has for suspecting that an infringement of this Regulation has taken place and the seriousness of the suspected infringement and the nature of the involvement of the person subject to the coercive measures. However, the national judicial authority shall not review the necessity for the investigation or demand that it be provided with the information on ESMA's file. The lawfulness of ESMA's decision shall be subject to review only by the Court of Justice following the procedure set out in Article 61 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 49

On-site inspections

1. In order to carry out its duties under this Regulation, ESMA may conduct all necessary on-site inspections at the business premises, land or property of the legal persons referred to in Article 47(1). Where the proper conduct and efficiency of the inspection so require, ESMA may carry out the on-site inspection without prior announcement. ESMA shall take such decisions after consulting the competent authority of the Member State where the inspection is to be conducted.
2. The officials of and other persons authorised by ESMA to conduct an on-site inspection may enter any business premises, land or property of the legal persons subject to an investigation decision adopted by ESMA and shall have all the powers referred to in Article 48(1). They shall also have the power to seal any business premises, property and books or records for the period of, and to the extent necessary for, the inspection.

3. In sufficient time before the inspection, ESMA shall give notice of the inspection to the competent authority of the Member State where the inspection is to be conducted.
4. The officials of and other persons authorised by ESMA to conduct an on-site inspection shall exercise their powers upon production of a written authorisation specifying the subject matter and purpose of the inspection and the periodic penalty payments provided for in Article 53 where the persons concerned do not submit to the inspection. In good time before the inspection, ESMA shall give notice of the inspection to the competent authority of the Member State where the inspection is to be conducted.
5. The persons referred to in Article 47(1) shall submit to on-site inspections ordered by decision of ESMA. The decision shall specify the subject matter and purpose of the inspection, appoint the date on which it is to begin and indicate the periodic penalty payments provided for in Article 53, the legal remedies available under Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010 as well as the right to have the decision reviewed by the Court of Justice of the European Union. ESMA shall take such decisions after consulting the competent authority of the Member State where the inspection is to be conducted.
6. Officials of, as well as those authorised or appointed by, the competent authority of the Member State where the inspection is to be conducted shall, at the request of ESMA, actively assist the officials of and other persons authorised by ESMA. To that end, they shall enjoy the powers set out in paragraph 2. Officials of that competent authority may also attend the on-site inspections upon request.
7. ESMA may also require competent authorities to carry out specific investigatory tasks and on-site inspections as provided for in this Article and in Article 48(1) on its behalf. To that end, competent authorities shall enjoy the same powers as ESMA as set out in this Article and in Article 48(1).

8. Where the officials of, and other accompanying persons authorised by, ESMA find that a person opposes an inspection ordered pursuant to this Article, the competent authority of the Member State concerned shall afford them the necessary assistance, requesting, where appropriate, the assistance of the police or of an equivalent enforcement authority, to enable them to conduct their on-site inspection.
9. If the on-site inspection provided for in paragraph 1 or the assistance provided for in paragraph 8 requires authorisation by a judicial authority in accordance with applicable national law, ESMA shall also apply for such authorisation. ESMA may also apply for such authorisation as a precautionary measure.
10. Where authorisation as referred to in paragraph 9 is applied for, the national judicial authority shall verify that ESMA's decision is authentic and that the coercive measures envisaged are neither arbitrary nor excessive having regard to the subject matter of the inspection. In its verification of the proportionality of the coercive measures, the national judicial authority may ask ESMA for detailed explanations. Such a request for detailed explanations may in particular relate to the grounds ESMA has for suspecting that an infringement of this Regulation has taken place, as well as to the seriousness of the suspected infringement and the nature of the involvement of the person who is subjected to the coercive measures. The national judicial authority shall, however, not review the necessity for the investigation or demand that it be provided with the information on ESMA's file. The lawfulness of ESMA's decision shall be subject to review only by the Court of Justice following the procedure set out in Article 61 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 50

Exchange of information

1. Competent authorities referred to in Article 36, ESMA, and other relevant authorities shall, without undue delay, provide one another with the information required for the purposes of carrying out their duties.
2. Competent authorities referred to in Article 36, ESMA, other relevant authorities and other bodies or natural and legal persons receiving confidential information in the exercise of their duties under this Regulation shall use it only in the course of their duties.

Article 51

Supervisory measures by ESMA

1. Where, in accordance with Article 55(8), ESMA finds that a person has committed one of the infringements listed in Article 52(2), it shall take one or more of the following actions:
 - (a) withdraw the registration of an external reviewer;
 - (b) withdraw the recognition of an external reviewer located in a third country;
 - (c) temporarily prohibit the external reviewer from pursuing the activities under this Regulation throughout the Union, until the infringement has been brought to an end;
 - (d) adopt a decision requiring the person to bring the infringement to an end;
 - (e) adopt a decision imposing fines pursuant to Article 52;
 - (f) adopt a decision imposing periodic penalty payments pursuant to Article 53; and
 - (g) issue public notices.

2. ESMA shall withdraw the registration or recognition of an external reviewer where:
- (a) the external reviewer has expressly renounced the registration or recognition or has not made use of the registration or recognition within 36 months after registration or recognition has been granted;
 - (b) the external reviewer has obtained the registration or recognition by making false statements or by any other irregular means; or
 - (c) the external reviewer no longer meets the conditions under which it was registered or recognised.

Where ESMA withdraws the registration or recognition of the external reviewer, it shall provide full reasons in its decision. The withdrawal shall have immediate effect.

3. When adopting a decision as referred to in paragraph 1, ESMA shall take into account the nature and seriousness of the infringement, having regard to:
- (a) the duration and frequency of the infringement;
 - (b) whether financial crime has been occasioned, facilitated or otherwise attributable to the infringement;
 - (c) whether the infringement has been committed by intent or negligence;
 - (d) the degree of responsibility of the person responsible for the infringement;
 - (e) the financial strength of the person responsible for the infringement, as indicated by the total turnover of the responsible legal person or the annual income and net assets of the responsible natural person;

- (f) the impact of the infringement on the interests of retail investors;
- (g) the importance of the profits gained, losses avoided by the person responsible for the infringement or the losses for third parties derived from the infringement, to the extent that they can be determined;
- (h) the level of cooperation of the person responsible for the infringement with ESMA, without prejudice to the need to ensure disgorgement of profits gained or losses avoided by that person;
- (i) previous infringements by the person responsible for the infringement; and
- (j) measures taken after the infringement by the person responsible for the infringement to prevent its repetition.

4. Without undue delay, ESMA shall notify any action taken pursuant to paragraph 1 to the person responsible for the infringement, and shall communicate it to the competent authorities of the Member States and to the Commission. It shall publicly disclose any such action on its website within ten working days from the date when it was adopted.

The disclosure to the public referred to in the first subparagraph shall include the following:

- (a) a statement affirming the right of the person responsible for the infringement to appeal the decision;
- (b) where relevant, a statement affirming that an appeal has been lodged and specifying that such an appeal does not have suspensive effect; and
- (c) a statement asserting that it is possible for ESMA's Board of Appeal to suspend the application of the contested decision in accordance with Article 60(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 52

Fines

1. Where, in accordance with Article 55(8), ESMA finds that an external reviewer and persons referred to in Article 47(1) have, by intent or negligence, committed one or more of the infringements listed in paragraph 2, it shall adopt a decision imposing a fine in accordance with paragraph 3 of this Article.

An infringement shall be considered to have been committed intentionally if ESMA finds objective factors which demonstrate that a person acted deliberately to commit the infringement.

2. The infringements referred to in paragraph 1 are:
 - (a) non-compliance with Article 16(1), and Articles 18 to 30 of this Regulation;
 - (b) the submission of false statements when applying for registration as an external reviewer, or the use of any other irregular means to obtain such registration;
 - (c) failure to provide information in response to a decision requiring information pursuant to Article 47 or the provision of incorrect or misleading information in response to a request for information or a decision;
 - (d) the obstruction of or non-compliance with an investigation pursuant to Article 48, paragraph 1, point (a), (b), (c), or (e);
 - (e) non-compliance with Article 49, by not providing an explanation on facts or documents related to the subject matter and purpose of an inspection, or by providing an incorrect or misleading explanation;
 - (f) taking up the activity of external reviewers or pretending to be an external reviewer, without having been registered as an external reviewer.

3. The minimum amount of the fine referred to in paragraph 1 shall be EUR 20 000. The maximum amount shall be EUR 200 000.

When determining the level of a fine pursuant to paragraph 1, ESMA shall take into account the criteria set out in Article 51(3).

4. Where a person has directly or indirectly benefited financially from the infringement, the amount of the fine shall be at least equal to that financial benefit.
5. Where an act or omission constitutes a combination of several infringements, only the fine for the highest fined infringement shall apply.

Article 53

Periodic penalty payments

1. ESMA shall, by decision, impose a periodic penalty payment in order to compel:
 - (a) a person to put an end to an infringement, in accordance with a decision taken pursuant to Article 51(1), point (d);
 - (b) a person as referred to in Article 47(1):
 - (i) to provide complete information which has been required by a decision pursuant to Article 47;
 - (ii) to submit to an investigation and in particular to produce complete records, data, procedures or any other material required and to complete and correct other information provided in an investigation launched by a decision pursuant to Article 48; or
 - (iii) to submit to an on-site inspection ordered by a decision taken pursuant to Article 49.

2. The periodic penalty payment shall be imposed for each day of delay.
3. The amount of the periodic penalty payments shall be 3 % of the average daily turnover in the preceding business year, or, in the case of natural persons, 2% of the average daily income in the preceding calendar year. It shall be calculated from the date stipulated in the decision imposing the periodic penalty payment.
4. A periodic penalty payment shall be imposed for a maximum period of six months following the notification of ESMA's decision. Following the end of the period, ESMA shall review the measure.

Article 54

Disclosure, nature, enforcement and allocation of fines and periodic penalty payments

1. ESMA shall disclose to the public every fine and periodic penalty payment that has been imposed pursuant to Articles 52 and 53, unless such disclosure to the public would seriously jeopardise the financial markets or cause disproportionate damage to the parties involved. Such disclosure shall not contain personal data within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001.
2. Fines and periodic penalty payments imposed pursuant to Articles 52 and 53 shall be of an administrative nature.
3. Where ESMA decides to impose no fines or penalty payments, it shall inform the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission, and the competent authorities of the Member State concerned accordingly and shall set out the reasons for its decision.
4. Fines and periodic penalty payments imposed pursuant to Articles 52 and 53 shall be enforceable.

For the purposes of enforcement of fines and periodic penalty payments, ESMA shall apply the rules of civil procedure in force in the Member State or third-country in which it is carried out.

5. The amounts of the fines and periodic penalty payments shall be allocated to the general budget of the Union.

Article 55

Procedural rules for taking supervisory measures and imposing fines

1. Where, in carrying out its duties under this Regulation, ESMA finds that there are serious indications of the possible existence of facts liable to constitute one or more of the infringements listed in Article 52(2), ESMA shall appoint an independent investigating officer within ESMA to investigate the matter. The investigating officer shall not be involved or have been involved in the direct or indirect supervision or registration process of the external reviewer concerned and shall perform his or her functions independently from ESMA's Board of Supervisors.
2. The investigating officer shall investigate the alleged infringements, taking into account any comments submitted by the persons subject to investigation, and shall submit a complete file with his or her findings to ESMA's Board of Supervisors.
3. In order to carry out his or her tasks, the investigating officer may exercise the power to require information in accordance with Article 47 and to conduct investigations and on-site inspections in accordance with Articles 48 and 49. When using those powers, the investigating officer shall comply with Article 46.
4. Where carrying out his or her tasks, the investigating officer shall have access to all documents and information gathered by ESMA in its supervisory activities.
5. Upon completion of his or her investigation and before submitting the file with his or her findings to ESMA's Board of Supervisors, the investigating officer shall give the persons subject to investigation the opportunity to be heard on the matters being investigated. The investigating officer shall base his or her findings only on facts on which the persons subject to investigation have had the opportunity to comment.

6. The rights of defence of the persons concerned shall be fully respected during investigations under this Article.
7. Upon submission of the file with his or her findings to ESMA's Board of Supervisors, the investigating officer shall notify that fact to the persons who are subject to investigations. The persons subject to investigations shall be entitled to have access to the file, subject to the legitimate interest of other persons in the protection of their business secrets. The right of access to the file shall not extend to confidential information affecting third parties.
8. On the basis of the file containing the investigating officer's findings and, when requested by the persons concerned, after having heard those persons in accordance with Article 56, ESMA shall decide if one or more of the infringements listed in Article 52(2) has been committed by the persons subject to investigation, and in such case, shall take a supervisory measure in accordance with Article 51 and impose a fine in accordance with Article 52.
9. The investigating officer shall not participate in the deliberations of ESMA's Board of Supervisors or in any other way intervene in the decision-making process of ESMA's Board of Supervisors.
10. The Commission shall adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 60 by ... [*PO: please insert date 12 months after the date of entry into force of this Regulation*] to further specify the procedure for the exercise of the power to impose fines or periodic penalty payments, including provisions on the rights of defence, temporal provisions, the collection of fines or periodic penalty payments, and detailed rules on the limitation periods for the imposition and enforcement of penalties.

11. ESMA shall refer matters for criminal prosecution to the relevant national authorities where, in carrying out its duties under this Regulation, it finds that there are serious indications of the possible existence of facts liable to constitute criminal offences. In addition, ESMA shall refrain from imposing fines or periodic penalty payments where a prior acquittal or conviction arising from identical facts, or from facts which are substantially the same, has acquired the force of *res judicata* as the result of criminal proceedings under national law.

Article 56

Hearing of the persons subject to the proceedings

1. Before taking any decision pursuant to Articles 51 to 53, ESMA shall give the persons subject to the proceedings the opportunity to be heard on ESMA's findings. ESMA shall base its decisions only on findings on which the persons subject to the proceedings have had the opportunity to comment.
2. Paragraph 1 shall not apply if urgent action pursuant to Article 51 is needed in order to prevent significant and imminent damage to the financial system. In such a case ESMA may adopt an interim decision and shall give the persons concerned the opportunity to be heard as soon as possible after taking its decision.
3. The rights of defence of the persons subject to the proceedings shall be fully respected during the proceedings. They shall be entitled to have access to ESMA's file, subject to the legitimate interest of other persons in the protection of their business secrets. The right of access to the file shall not extend to confidential information or internal preparatory documents of ESMA.

Article 57

Review by the Court of Justice of the European Union

The Court of Justice of the European Union shall have unlimited jurisdiction to review decisions whereby ESMA has imposed a fine or a periodic penalty payment. It may annul, reduce or increase the fine or periodic penalty payment imposed.

Article 58

Registration, recognition, and supervisory fees

1. ESMA shall charge fees to external reviewers for the expenditure relating to their registration, recognition and supervision and for any costs that it may incur in carrying out its tasks pursuant to this Regulation.
2. Any fee charged by ESMA to an applicant external reviewer, a registered external reviewer or a recognised external reviewer shall cover all administrative costs incurred by ESMA in its activities in relation to that particular applicant or external reviewer. Any fee shall be proportionate to the turnover of the external reviewer concerned.
3. The Commission shall, after consulting ESMA, adopt a delegated act on fees, in accordance with Article 60 by ... [*PO: please insert date 12 months after date of entry into force of this Regulation*].

That delegated act shall specify in particular the type of fees, the matters for which fees are due, the amount of the fees, the manner in which they are to be paid.

The delegated act shall specify the threshold of the annual turnover of external reviewers at group level, below which no supervisory fee shall be charged, and shall also specify the manner in which the annual turnover shall be calculated for the purposes of applying that threshold.

Article 59

ESMA register of external reviewers and third-country external reviewers

1. ESMA shall maintain on its website a publicly accessible register that shall list:
 - (a) all the external reviewers registered in accordance with Article 15;
 - (b) external reviewers that are temporarily prohibited from pursuing their activities in accordance with Article 51;
 - (c) external reviewers that have had their registration withdrawn in accordance with Article 51;
 - (d) third-country external reviewers allowed to provide services in the Union in accordance with Article 31;
 - (e) third-country external reviewers recognised in accordance with Article 34;
 - (f) external reviewers registered in accordance with Article 15 that endorse services of third-country external reviewers in accordance with Article 35;
 - (g) third-country external reviewers that have had their registration withdrawn and that shall no longer use the rights under Article 31, where the Commission adopts a decision on withdrawal in relation to that third country as referred to in Article 32;
 - (h) third-country external reviewers whose recognition has been suspended or withdrawn; and
 - (i) external reviewers registered in accordance with Article 15 that may no longer endorse services of third-country external reviewers.

2. The register shall contain contact details of external reviewers, their websites and the dates by which the decisions of ESMA concerning those external reviewers take effect.
3. For third-country reviewers, the register shall also contain information on the services that third-country external reviewers may provide and the contact details of the competent authority responsible for their supervision in the third country.

Title V

Delegated Acts

Article 60

Exercise of the delegation

1. The power to adopt delegated acts is conferred on the Commission subject to the conditions laid down in this Article.
2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in Articles 55(10) and 58(3) shall be conferred on the Commission for an indeterminate period of time from ... [*PO: please insert the date of entry into force of this Regulation*].
3. The delegation of power referred to in Articles, 55(10) and 58(3) may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the *Official Journal of the European Union* or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.
4. Before adopting a delegated act, the Commission shall consult experts designated by each Member State in accordance with the principles laid down in the Inter-institutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making.
5. As soon as it adopts a delegated act, the Commission shall notify it simultaneously to the European Parliament and to the Council.

6. A delegated act adopted pursuant to Articles, 55(10) and 58(3) shall enter into force only if no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or by the Council within a period of three months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or if, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by three months at the initiative of the European Parliament or of the Council.
7. When developing draft regulatory and implementing technical standards pursuant to this Regulation, ESMA shall take into account the principle of proportionality.

Title VI

Final provisions

Article 61a

Review

By ... [*OJ: please insert the date 36 months after the date of application of this Regulation*], the Commission shall, after consulting ESMA, submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council on:

- (a) the practical impact of this Regulation on European green bond issuances by small and medium sized enterprises;
- (b) the appropriateness and the impact on external reviewers and on ESMA's budget of the provisions of fees in Article 58 (3);
- (c) the practical impact of provisions in paragraph 1a of Article 6 on the use of European green bonds and of the environmental quality of the proceeds used in accordance with paragraph 1a of Article 6. Taking into account the state of progress of the taxonomy framework and in particular the development of related delegated acts and their uptake by stakeholders, this report shall also justify whether the provisions in Article 6(1a) do not prevent the transition towards the financing of environmentally sustainable activities.

Article 62

Transitional provision

1. An external reviewer that intends to provide services in accordance with this Regulation from the date of application until ... [*OJ please insert date 12 months after the application date of this Regulation, thank you*], shall only provide such services after having notified ESMA to that effect and having provided the information referred to in Article 15(1).
2. Until ... [*OJ please insert date 12 months after the application date of this Regulation, thank you*] external reviewers referred to in paragraph 1 shall comply with Articles 16 to 30 with the exception of the requirements laid down by the delegated acts referred to in Article 16(2), Article 18(3), Article 19(2), Article 20(3), Article 21(4), Article 22(3), Article 23(3) and Article 25(7).
3. After ... [*OJ please insert date 12 months after the application date of this Regulation, thank you*] external reviewers referred to in paragraph 1 shall only provide services in accordance with this Regulation after having being registered in accordance with Article 15 and comply with Article 14 and Articles 16 to 30 as supplemented by the delegated acts referred to in paragraph 2.
4. After ... [*OJ please insert date 12 months after the application date of this Regulation, thank you*] ESMA shall examine whether external reviewers referred to in paragraph 1, and the services provided by those providers until ... [*OJ please insert date 12 months after the application date of this Regulation, thank you*] comply with this Regulation. Where ESMA considers that the external reviewer or the services provided referred to in the first subparagraph do not comply with this Regulation, ESMA shall take action in accordance with Article 52.

5. ESMA may, at any time, enforce compliance by external reviewers with the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article by imposing supervisory measures in accordance with the provisions of Title IV of this Regulation.

Article 63

Transitional provision for third country external reviewers

1. A third-country external reviewer that intends to provide services in accordance with this Regulation from the date of application until ... [*OJ: please insert the date 12 months after the date of application of this Regulation*], shall only provide such services after having notified ESMA to that effect and having provided the information referred to in Article 15 (1).
2. Third country external reviewers referred to in paragraph 1 shall:
 - (a) comply with Articles 16 to 30 with the exception of the requirements laid down by the delegated acts referred to in Article 16(2), Article 18 (3), Article 19(2), Article 20(3), Article 21(4), Article 22(3), Article 23(3) and Article 25(7).
 - (b) have a legal representative located in the Union that shall comply with Article 34 (3), points (a) to (c).
3. After ... [*OJ: please insert the date 12 months after the date of application of this Regulation*] Articles 32, 34 and 35 shall apply.

4. After ... [OJ: please insert the date 12 months after the date of application of this Regulation] ESMA shall examine whether external reviewers referred to in paragraph 1, and the services provided by those providers until ... [OJ: please insert the date 12 months after the date of application of this Regulation] comply with this Regulation.

Where ESMA considers that the external reviewer or the services provided referred to in the first subparagraph do not comply with this Regulation, ESMA shall take actions in accordance with Article 52.

5. ESMA may, at any time, enforce compliance by third-country external reviewers with the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article by imposing supervisory measures in accordance with the provisions of Title IV of this Regulation.

Article 64

Entry into force and application

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall apply from ... [OJ: please insert the date 18 months after the date of entry into force of this Regulation].

Member States shall take the necessary measures to comply with Articles 37 and 41 by ... [OJ: please insert the date of application of this Regulation].

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at ...,

For the Parliament

The President

For the Council

The President

ANNEX I

EUROPEAN GREEN BOND FACTSHEET

1. General Information

- [A statement that the document and its contents are not subject to any approval or endorsement from ESMA or any other competent authority]
- [Date of the publication of the European green bond factsheet]
- [The legal name of the issuer] [where available, legal entity identifier (LEI)] [website address providing investors with information on how to get in contact, and a telephone number]
- [Where available: name of the bond(s) assigned by the issuer and/or the international securities identification number(s) (ISIN)]
- [The identity and contact details of the external reviewer, including website address providing investors with information on how to get in contact, and a telephone number]
- [An estimate of the amount of cumulative issuance costs that are not allocated to the environmentally sustainable economic activities mentioned in Article 6(1), as permitted under Article 4(1), together with an explanation as to why these amounts are not allocated to the activities mentioned in Article 6(1)]
- [Where article 36 applies, the name of the competent authority of the home Member State]
- [Where the proceeds of the bonds are intended to be allocated in accordance with Article 6(1a), the following statement: “This EuGB makes use of the flexibility permitting a partial non-alignment with the taxonomy technical screening criteria, as further described in Section 4 of this factsheet.”]

2. Adherence to the requirements of Regulation (EU) .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council*

[A statement showing that the issuer of bonds, to which this factsheet applies, voluntarily adheres to the requirements of this Regulation]

3. Environmental strategy and rationale

- [Information on how the intended allocation of the proceeds of the bonds aligns with the broader environmental strategy of the issuer]
- [The environmental objectives referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 pursued by the issuer with the proceeds of the bonds]

4. Intended allocation of bonds proceeds

[Where the proceeds of the bonds are intended to be allocated in accordance with Article 6(1a), a statement that the [net] proceeds of the bond are intended to partially finance economic activities which are not aligned with taxonomy's technical screening criteria, describing such non-alignment, the activities concerned and the estimated percentage of the proceeds intended to finance such activities as a total and on a per-activity basis, including a breakdown describing which paragraph in Article 6(1a) is being used. Furthermore, an explanation on why taxonomy's technical screening criteria cannot be applied and an explanation on how the issuer intends to ensure that those activities comply with Article 3, points (a), (b) and (c), of Regulation (EU) 2020/852]

4.1 Estimated Time until full allocation of proceeds

- [The period within which the proceeds are expected to be allocated after the issuance of each bond]
- [If the date above is more than five years after the date of the issuance of the bond: a justification for the longer period, based on the specific features of the economic activities concerned, accompanied by relevant documentation in an annex]

4.2 Process for selecting green projects, programmes and activities and estimated environmental impact

- [A description of the processes by which the issuer will determine how projects and activities align with the taxonomy requirements]
- [A description of the relevant technical screening criteria referred to in Articles 10 to 15 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852, and a specification of which delegated acts adopted under Articles 10(3), 11(3), 12(2), 13(2), 14(2) and 15(2) of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 are taken into account (having regard to Article 6(1a))]
- [Where available: information on the methodology and assumptions to be used for the calculation of key impact metrics in accordance with delegated acts adopted under Articles 10(3), 11(3), 12(2), 13(2), 14(2) and 15(2) of Regulation (EU)

2020/852, and for any additional impact metrics.]

- [Where applicable, information on any related standardisation or certification process in project or activity selection]
- [Where available, an estimation of expected positive environmental impacts in aggregated form.]

4.3 Intended qualifying green projects, programmes and activities

[Where available to the issuer, the following information shall be provided at project/activity level, unless confidentiality agreements, competitive considerations, or a large number of underlying qualifying projects limit the amount of detail that can be made available, or unless the factsheet applies to several future bonds for which the exact allocation is not yet defined at the time of the drafting of the factsheet, in which case the information shall be provided at least at aggregate or project/activity category level, with an explanation of why project-level information is not given

For qualifying types of projects and activities:

- their environmental objectives referred to in Article 9 of Regulation 2020/852;
- their sectors and, where applicable, the respective NACE codes in accordance with the statistical classification of economic activities established by Regulation (EC) No 1893/2006¹⁴;
- their countries;
- where available, the indicative or intended percentage of proceeds to be allocated to projects and activities financed before the issuance of the bonds;
- where the issuer is a sovereign, and the proceeds of the bonds are planned to be allocated to tax relief as referred to in Article 4(2), point (c), an estimation of the

¹⁴ Regulation (EC) No 1893/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 establishing the statistical classification of economic activities NACE Revision 2 and amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3037/90 as well as certain EC Regulations on specific statistical domains (OJ L 393, 30.12.2006, p. 1).

expected volume of revenue loss associated with the eligible tax relief;

- where available, links to websites with relevant information;
- where available, links to relevant public documents with more detailed information.]

4.4 Unallocated proceeds

[Information on how the temporary use of unallocated proceeds will not affect the delivery of the environmental objectives]

5. Information on reporting

- [A link to the issuer’s website referred to in Article 13(1)]
- [An indication of whether allocation reports will include project-by-project information on amounts allocated and the expected positive environmental impacts]
- [The date on which the first annual period referred to in Article 9(1) starts, which shall not be later than the issuance date.]
-

6. Other relevant information

- [Where applicable, a detailed description of the CapEx Plan referred to in Article 6(1), point b, including the main parameters used by the issuer to determine the alignment of the relevant assets or activities with the taxonomy requirements by the end of the period contemplated in that Article]
- [Any other relevant information]

ANNEX II

EUROPEAN GREEN BOND ANNUAL ALLOCATION REPORT

[where the allocation report is revised, the title shall reflect this]

1. General Information

- [A statement that the document and its contents are not subject to any approval or endorsement from ESMA or any other competent authority]
- [Date of the publication of the allocation report] [where applicable, date of the publication of the final allocation report or date of the publication of the revised allocation report]]
- [The legal name of the issuer] [where available, LEI], [website address providing investors with information on how to get in contact, and a telephone number]
- [Name of the bonds assigned by the issuer] [where available, ISIN]
- [where the allocation report has been subject to post-issuance review, the identity and contact details of the external reviewer, including a website address providing investors with information on how to get in contact, and a telephone number]
- [The first and the last date of the annual period to which the allocation report refers to]

2. Adherence to the requirements of the European green bonds Regulation

[A statement showing that proceeds have been allocated according to the requirements of this Regulation]

3. Allocation of the proceeds of the bonds

A. For issuers except those referred to in point B below:

[The following information shall be provided at project or activity level, unless confidentiality agreements, competitive considerations, or a large number of underlying qualifying projects limit the amount of detail that can be made available, in which case the information shall be provided at least at aggregate level, with an explanation of why project or activity-level information is not given. Where bond proceeds are allocated to expenditures as referred to in Article 4(2) the information may be provided at programme level.

- the environmental objectives referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council*;
- the types and sectors of projects and activities, and where applicable the respective NACE codes in accordance with the statistical classification of economic activities established by Regulation (EC) No 1893/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁵;
- the countries where bonds proceeds have been allocated;
- the respective amount allocated from the proceeds of the bonds, and the percentage of proceeds allocated respectively to projects and activities financed after bonds issuances and projects and activities financed before bonds issuances;
- where the issuer is a sovereign, and bond proceeds are allocated to tax relief referred to in Article 4(2), point (c), an estimation of the volume of revenue loss associated with eligible tax relief;
- where a bond co-finances qualifying projects, an indication of the proportion financed by the bond;

¹⁵ Regulation (EC) No 1893/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 establishing the statistical classification of economic activities NACE Revision 2 and amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3037/90 as well as certain EC Regulations on specific statistical domains (OJ L 393, 30.12.2006, p. 1).

- for assets that are concerned by a CapEx Plan: the progress in the implementation of the plan during the reporting period, and the estimated date of completion;
- confirmation of compliance with Article 3, point (c), of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 (minimum safeguards)
- an indication of which delegated acts adopted in accordance with Articles 10(3), 11(3), 12(2), 13(2), 14(2) or 15(2) of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 were used to determine the taxonomy technical screening criteria, and their dates of application;
- where the proceeds of the bonds are allocated in accordance with Article 6(1a), a statement that the proceeds have partially financed economic activities which are not aligned with taxonomy’s technical screening criteria, describing such non-alignment, the activities concerned and the percentage and amount of the proceeds financing such activities as a total and on a per-activity basis, including a breakdown describing which paragraph in Article 6(1a) is being used. Furthermore, an explanation on how the issuer has ensured that the activities concerned comply with Article 3, points (a) to (c), of Regulation (EU) 2020/852.]

B. For issuers that allocate proceeds of a portfolio of one or several European green bonds to a portfolio of financial assets as referred to in Article 9(5):

[The section “Allocation of proceeds of the bonds” shall contain the following information:

- At the beginning of the section, where applicable in accordance with Article 9(5), a statement that the composition of the portfolio of financial assets has not changed, compared to the year covered by the previous allocation report.
- An overview over all outstanding European green bonds in the portfolio of the issuer, indicating their individual and combined value and their date of maturity.
- An overview over the eligible assets in the portfolio on the issuer’s balance sheet, indicating:
 - a) their total amortised value,

- b) the environmental objectives referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852,
 - c) their types, sectors and countries,
 - d) where bonds co-finance qualifying projects, an indication of the proportion financed by the bonds, where available,
 - e) an indication of which delegated acts adopted in accordance with Articles 10(3), 11(3), 12(2), 13(2), 14(2) or 15(2) of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 were used to determine the taxonomy technical screening criteria, at least at sector and country level, and where applicable, at individual asset level,
 - f) where proceeds of the assets are allocated in accordance with Article 6(1a), a statement that the proceeds have partially financed economic activities which are not aligned with taxonomy's technical screening criteria, describing such non-alignment, the activities concerned and the percentage and amount of the proceeds financing such activities as a total and on a per-activity basis, including a breakdown describing which paragraph in Article 6(1a) is being used. Furthermore, an explanation on how the issuer has ensured that the activities concerned comply with Article 3, points (a) to (c), of Regulation (EU) 2020/852.
 - g) where relevant, the value of each asset, or group of assets.
- A comparison of the total value of outstanding European green bonds issued by the issuer and the total amortised value of eligible financial assets . The comparison shall show that the latter is either equal to or higher than the former.
 - For the purposes of the aforementioned comparison, the total outstanding value of European green bonds shall be based on the yearly average of quarter-end values of such bonds issued by that issuer, and the total amortised value of the financial assets shall be based on the yearly average of quarter-end values of such assets on the issuer's balance sheet.]

4. Other relevant information

ANNEX III

EUROPEAN GREEN BOND IMPACT REPORT

[Where the impact report is revised, the title shall reflect this.]

1. General Information

- [A statement that the document and its contents are not subject to any approval or endorsement from ESMA or any other competent authority]
- [Date of the publication of the impact report] [where applicable, Date of the publication of the revised impact report]
- [The legal name of the issuer] [where available, LEI], [website address providing investors with information on how to get in contact, and a telephone number]
- [Name of the bonds assigned by the issuer] [where available, ISIN]
- [where the impact report was assessed by an external reviewer, the identity and contact details of the external reviewer, including website address providing investors with information on how to get in contact, and a telephone number]

2. Environmental strategy and rationale

- [Information on how the bonds aligns with the broader environmental strategy of the issuer as set out in the factsheet]
- [Where applicable, an explanation of any changes to broader environmental strategy of the issuer since the publication of the factsheet]
- [The environmental objectives referred to in Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 pursued by the issuer with the proceeds of the bonds]

3. Allocation of bond proceeds

[The following information shall be provided at project or activity level, unless confidentiality agreements, competitive considerations, or a large number of underlying qualifying projects and activities limit the amount of detail that can be made available, in which case the information shall be provided at least at aggregate level, with an explanation of why project activity-level information is not given. Where bond proceeds are allocated to expenditures as referred to in Article 4(2) the information may be provided at programme level. The provision of detailed content under this section can be replaced by a reference to the respective allocation report, provided that all information requested in this section are available in that allocation report:

- The environmental objectives referred to in Article 9 of Regulation 2020/852,
- The types and sectors of projects and activities, and countries where bond proceeds have been allocated
- The respective amount allocated from the proceeds of the bonds, and the percentage of proceeds allocated respectively to projects and activities financed after bonds issuances and projects and activities financed before bonds issuances
- Where the issuer is a sovereign, and bond proceeds are allocated to the tax relief referred to in Article 4(2), point (c), an estimation of the volume of revenue loss associated with eligible tax relief
- Where a bond co-finances qualifying projects or activities, an indication of the proportion financed by the bond
- Where applicable, an indication of those assets that were concerned by a CapEx or OpEx plan, the duration of each plan, and the date of completion of each asset
- An indication of which delegated acts adopted in accordance with Articles 10(3), 11(3), 12(2), 13(2), 14(2) or 15(2) of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 were used to determine the taxonomy technical screening criteria, and their application date

- Where bond proceeds are allocated in accordance with Article 6(1a), a statement that the proceeds have partially financed economic activities which are not aligned with taxonomy’s technical screening criteria, describing such non-alignment, the activities concerned and the percentage and amount of the proceeds financing such activities as a total and on a per-activity basis, including a breakdown describing which paragraph in Article 6(1a) is being used. Furthermore, an explanation on how the issuer has ensured that the activities concerned comply with Article 3, points (a) and (b), of Regulation (EU) 2020/852]

4. Environmental impact of bond proceeds

- [An estimation of positive and adverse environmental impacts in aggregated form]
- [Information on the methodology and assumptions used to evaluate the impacts of projects and activities]
- [Information about the positive and adverse environmental impacts and, where available, related metrics of the projects and activities. Where this information is not available at project or activity level, this must be justified.
- Where bond proceeds are allocated in accordance with Article 6(1a), the issuer shall report this information separately for those projects and activities]

5. Other relevant information

ANNEX IV:

CONTENTS OF PRE-ISSUANCE AND POST-ISSUANCE REVIEWS

The title 'Pre-issuance review' or 'Post-issuance review' shall appear prominently at the top of the first page of the document.

1. General Information

- [A statement that the document and its contents are not subject to any approval or endorsement from ESMA or any other competent authority]
- [Date of the publication of the pre-issuance review or post-issuance review]
- [For post-issuance reviews: date of the publication of the related European green bond factsheet and where applicable of the related allocation report and impact report]
- [The legal name of the issuer]
- [Name of the bond assigned by the issuer] [where available, ISIN]
- [The identity and contact details of the external reviewer, including website address providing investors with information on how to get in contact, and a telephone number]
- [The name and job title of the lead analyst in a given assessment activity]
- [The name and position of the person primarily responsible for approving the pre-issuance review or post-issuance review]
- [The date on which the pre-issuance review or the post-issuance review was first released for distribution and, where relevant, when it was last updated]
- [Other services provided by the external reviewer for the assessed entity or any related third party together with a description of any potential conflicts of interests where applicable]

2. Introductory statements

[For pre-issuance reviews:

- A statement that an external reviewer has assessed the completed European green bond factsheet laid down in Annex I in accordance with this Regulation;
- A statement that this pre-issuance review represents an independent opinion of the external reviewer;
- A statement that the independent opinion of the external review is to be relied upon only to a limited degree;]

[For post-issuance reviews:

- A statement that an external reviewer has assessed the completed allocation report laid down in Annex II in accordance with this Regulation;
- A statement that this post-issuance review represents an independent opinion of the external reviewer;
- A statement that the independent opinion of the external review is to be relied upon only to a limited degree;]

3. Statements on the alignment of use of proceeds with the Taxonomy Regulation

[a statement regarding the alignment of the use of proceeds of the European green bonds with the Taxonomy Regulation, and in particular, in each case based on the information provided by the issuer to the external reviewer:

- (a) where the opinion expressed by the independent reviewer is positive, a statement that the bonds meet – or are expected to meet in the case of a CapEx Plan – the requirements of the Taxonomy Regulation;

where the opinion expressed by the independent reviewer is negative, a statement that the bonds do not meet – or are not expected to meet in the case of a CapEx Plan – the requirements of the Taxonomy Regulation; In such cases, if the issuer intends to use the ‘European green bond’ designation, it shall take the necessary steps and obtain a new pre-issuance review, that expresses a positive opinion by the independent reviewer, before the issuer can apply the designation ‘European green bond’ to those bonds]

4. Sources, assessment methodologies, and key assumptions

- [Information about the sources relied upon to prepare the pre-issuance review or the post-issuance review, including links to measurement data and the methodology applied, when available]
- [An explanation of the assessment methodologies and key assumptions]
- [An explanation of the assumptions and taxonomy requirements used, of the limits and uncertainties surrounding the methodologies used and a clear statement that the external reviewer considers the quality of information provided by the issuer or related third party is sufficient to perform the pre-issuance review or the post-issuance review and the extent to which, if any, the external reviewer has attempted to verify the information so provided]

5. Assessment and opinion

[In each case based on the information provided by the issuer to the external reviewer:]

[For pre-issuance reviews:

- an assessment of whether the completed factsheet complies with Articles 4 to 7 of this Regulation
- the opinion of the external reviewer on the assessment mentioned above]

Where bond proceeds are intended to be allocated in accordance with Article 6(1a), the assessment and opinion shall be provided in a dedicated section.

[For post-issuance reviews:

- an assessment of whether the issuer has allocated the proceeds of the bonds in accordance with Articles 4 to 7 of this Regulation, based on the information provided to the external reviewer
- an assessment of whether the issuer has complied with the intended use of proceeds set out in the factsheet, based on the information provided to the external reviewer
- for assets or activities that are subject to a CapEx Plan an assessment upon its completion of whether those assets or activities meet the taxonomy requirements
- the opinion of the external reviewer on the two assessments referred to directly above]

Where bond proceeds are allocated in accordance with Article 6(1a), the assessment and opinion shall be provided in a dedicated section. The assessment shall indicate whether the proceeds have been allocated in accordance with the stated environmental objectives and provide an opinion on the environmental quality of the bond proceeds.

6. Any other information

[Any other information that the reviewer may deem relevant to its pre or post-issuance review]