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LIMITE

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#### **WORKING DOCUMENT**

| From:<br>To:  | General Secretariat of the Council<br>Working Party on Financial Services and the Banking Union (Sustainable Finance)<br>Financial Services Attachés |
|---------------|--|
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| Subject:      | ESG ratings: FR non-paper: Limited market study of existing ESG data products that are not sold as scores or ratings                                 |

#### Limited market study of existing ESG data products that are not sold as scores or ratings

The analysis covers existing data products that involve an assessment of companies' exposure and impact on ESG matters, as well as risks or opportunities linked to ESG matters, that are available on the market, but that are not covered by the definition of « ESG ratings » in the current proposal. It was performed using publicly-available information on the offers of the biggest ESG data providers, as well as a smaller one (Inrate). Please note that the analysis is only limited, given the large number of products that are available.

For simplification, the data products have been categorized in 5 different categories. We have also identified at least two platforms that could be described as « ESG data solutions », integrating both scores and data, where we would welcome clarity on how the regulation would apply.

### O. Categories of data products not currently included in the regulation

| 1. | Net-zero alignment tools                                   | 1 |
|----|--|---|
|    | Footprint tools  |   |
|    | Exposures to physical and transition risks                 |   |
|    | Exposure to controversies or to certain sectors/activities |   |
|    | Regulatory compliance tools                                |   |
|    | ESG data platforms   |   |

### 1. Net-zero alignment tools

These are products that are assessing whether a company is aligned with EU or international climate objectives. They include products on alignment with currently green activities, and assessment of the trajectory through the use of scenario analysis and targets. Such products have become widely used by the market for financial products that have an « alignment » approach.

**Output metrics**: metrics expressed in degrees Celsius, or projected reduction in emissions per year to meet targets, or percentage of turnout aligned with already-green activities.

| Product                         | Description                    | Output (metric)                         |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| MSCI's Implied temperature rise | Tool designed to show the      | Two outputs :                           |
|                                 | temperature alignment of       | - °C of warming (2100)                  |
|                                 | companies, portfolios and      | - Score : aligned/misaligned            |
|                                 | funds with global temperature  |   |
|                                 | goals (Paris Agreement)        | ightarrow One of the two ouptuts in the |
|                                 |                                | scope                                   |
| Bloomberg' Implied              | Implied Temperature Rise       | Nine metrics expressed in               |
| Temperature Rise Metrics        | Metrics help investors compare | degrees Celsius are provided for        |
|                                 | how companies are meeting      | each company, reflecting scope          |
|                                 | their carbon emission goals.   | 1+2, 3 and 1+2+3 carbon                 |
|                                 | Bloomberg provides metrics to  | emissions for short-term,               |
|                                 | develop investment strategies  | medium-term and long-term               |
|                                 |                                | scenarios (provided for over            |

|   | that align capital allocation with climate objectives.  | 3,000 listed and private companies)  |
|---|---|--|
| ISS's State of the art Transition analysis                    | Forward-looking assessment of the climate-related performance of companies, taking into account industry-specific challenges and risk profiles as well as companies' positive impact.  Assessment of a portfolio's alignment with three climate scenarios provided by the International Energy Agency (IEA), including the Sustainable Development Scenario (SDS) that aligns with the Paris Agreement. The analysis also includes a qualitative climate target assessment and temperature scores | Outputs: - Temperature scores - Qualitative target assessment  → One of the two ouptuts in the scope   |
| MSCI's <u>Climate Targets and Commitments Dataset</u>         | Evaluates companies' pledges to decarbonize and compares decarbonization commitments among companies. The dataset details and standardizes the publicly stated commitments of most publicly listed companies to provide a complete picture of their targets in a single view  | A « score card » which does not include a « defined ranking system of rating categories ».  → Not in the scope according to the current definition |
| MSCI's current green revenues product                         | The recent-year percentage of revenue, or maximum estimated percent, a company has derived from products or services related to alternative energy, energy efficiency, green building, pollution prevention, sustainable water or sustainable agriculture.  | Green activities alignment for worldwide companies   |
| S&P's Taxonomy Alignment  (also sold by many other providers) | Business activity revenue data in 125 countries mapped to the EU taxonomy including eligible revenues (\$, %), substantial contribution to climate change mitigation, do no significant harm and minimum social safeguard data resulting in a taxonomy alignment % and \$   | Taxonomy alignment for worldwide companies   |

Such alignment tools are also sold by other data providers as ratings (for instance, <u>Sustainalytics Low Carbon Transition Rating</u>).

# 2. Footprint tools

These are products that assess the level of emissions of given companies, which are used (i) as part of regulatory obligations for financial products (PAI) or (ii) as part of a more global assessment of the alignment of companies with our climate goals.

**Output metrics**: estimated GHG emissions of a company or a portfolio.

| Product                                | Description  | Output  |
|--|--|---|
| S&P's Trucost environmental            | S&P Global Trucost Environmental data provides absolute and intensity-based environmental metrics, including greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions*, land, water, air pollutants, waste disposal, natural resource and water use, fossil fuel reserves, power generation capacity and associated carbon metrics, alongside revenue generated from each sector or a company's operations | Data on key environmental metrics, including GHG emissions. |
| Sustainalytics' Carbon Emissions  Data | The product assesses and analyses companies' GHG emissions.  Morningstar Sustainalytics' multi-factor regression models for Scope 1, 2 and 3 GHG emissions follow a common framework   | Estimated carbon emissions                                  |
| MSCI's climate solutions               | This dataset represents a company's Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions as reported (if available) or estimated by our proprietary estimation model  | Estimated carbon emissions                                  |
| ISS's Carbon footprint data            | Scope 1&2 and Scope 3 emissions, including emission intensities  | Estimated carbon emissions                                  |
| Inrate's carbon foot print data        | Inrate supports investors by providing climate impact data like greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (in tCO2eq) and intensities for all scopes,   | Estimated carbon emissions                                  |

|                        | covering full supply chains, product usage |                                 |
|------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| MSCI's Total Portfolio |  | Estimated carbon footprint of a |
| Footprinting           | footprint of a total portfolio             | portfolio                       |

# 3. Exposures to physical and transition risks

Such products are used to assess ESG risks faced by companies, that could impact their value or affect different risk factors for lenders/insurers.

**Output metrics**: regulatory Pillar 3 metrics, indicators on physical risk exposure, indicators on transition risks exposure based on the carbon intensity, etc.

| Dradust                          | Description                      | Output                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Product                          | Description                      | Output                            |
| MSCI's sovereign exposure to     | 30 data points for sovereign     | Data points used to estimate      |
| transition risks                 | issuers to highlight a country's | countries' exposures to physical  |
|                                  | exposure to transition risk and  | and transition risks              |
|                                  | physical and economic            |                                   |
|                                  | vulnerability related to climate |                                   |
|                                  | change. The data is collected    |                                   |
|                                  | from sources such as the         |                                   |
|                                  | United Nations (UN), World       |                                   |
|                                  | Bank, Central Intelligence       |                                   |
|                                  | Agency (CIA), etc. It also       |                                   |
|                                  | includes a number of carbon      |                                   |
|                                  | emissions factors (CO2 and       |                                   |
|                                  | GHG), their corresponding        |                                   |
|                                  | intensities and trend            |                                   |
|                                  | calculation that can be used to  |                                   |
|                                  | calculate the carbon footprint   |                                   |
|                                  | of sovereign investments.        |                                   |
| S&P's Trucost Carbon Earnings at | S&P Global Trucost Carbon        | Indicator assessing the value of  |
| Risk                             | Earnings at Risk enables users   | earnings affected by a rise of    |
|                                  | to assess company-level          | carbon pricing                    |
|                                  | exposure to transition risk with |                                   |
|                                  | value-at-risk indicators derived |                                   |
|                                  | from region- and sector-         |                                   |
|                                  | specific revenue exposure to     |                                   |
|                                  | carbon pricing under three       |                                   |
|                                  | scenarios (low, medium, high).   |                                   |
| Bloomberg's Climate Risk         | Quantification of climate-       | Indicators on physical risk       |
| Exposure Indicators              | related physical risk exposure   | exposure covering 50,000          |
|                                  | across all IPCC scenarios.       | companies, and used for           |
|                                  |                                  | TCFD/CSRD reporting               |
| MSCI's Climate Risk              | Measure the climate change       | Indicators on exposures to        |
| Management Management            | risk and opportunities exposure  | transition risks linked to carbon |
|                                  | of a portfolio                   | exposures.                        |
|                                  | or a portiono                    | chposuics.                        |

Such products are also sold as ratings by other providers (see for instance: https://www.sustainalytics.com/esg-data; <u>Carbon Risk Rating | ISS (issgovernance.com)</u>. See also Point 5 on Pillar 3 Regulatory Products.

### 4. Exposure to controversies or to certain sectors/activities

These tools are used to select or exclude companies from portfolios, according to a pre-defined set of criteria (involvement in some activities, compliance with international conventions or with selected « moral » values, etc.).

**Output metrics**: list of companies based on their exposure to pre-selected sectors or criteria.

| Product   | Description  | Output   |
|---|--|--|
| Sustainalytics' Carbon Solutions<br>Involvement   | Examines the company's involvement in carbon solutions, including renewable energy and low carbon alternatives, such as green transportation, green real estate and energy efficiency.   | A list of companies exposed in carbon solutions  |
| Sustainalytics' Fossil Fuel Involvement: assess different types of company involvement in fossil fuels, including thermal coal, oil and gas, oil sands, shale energy, deep water production and Arctic offshore exploration | Assesses different types of company involvement in fossil fuels, including thermal coal, oil and gas, oil sands, shale energy, deep water production and Arctic offshore exploration   | A list of companies exposed to fossil fuels  |
| ISS' Ethical Screening solutions  Ethical screening (individual screens to certain sectors): individual screens, or catholic values screen/package  | Assesses companies' involvement in industry sectors and products such as alcohol, tobacco, gambling, pornography, weapons, animal welfare, correctional facilities, factory farming & pork, predatory lending, for-profit prisons, cannabis, GMOs, pesticides, and countries of concern. | A list of companies exposed to « controversial activities »  |
| MSCI ESG Business Involvement Screening Research  | Portfolio screening for ESG controversies and allegations of breaches of international conventions  Compliance with ESG guidelines, such as the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI)  | A list of companies following an assessment of compliance with ESG international guidelines (assessing breach of some international conventions) |

| Sustainalytics's | controversies | Identification of companies    | List of companies involved in |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <u>research</u>  |               | involved in ESG-related        | ESG-related incidents (ESG    |
|                  |               | incidents. These incidents are | controversies), according to  |
|                  |               | assessed through a framework   | specific methodology.         |
|                  |               | that considers the severity of |                               |
|                  |               | incidents, the corporation's   |                               |
|                  |               | accountability and whether     |                               |
|                  |               | they form part of a pattern of |                               |
|                  |               | corporate misconduct.          |                               |

In some cases, such products can also be sold as a rating or a score where the measured exposure is associated to a value (for instance, classification of the level of exposure to controversies : MSCI's ESG controversies score).

## 5. Regulatory compliance tools

Most ESG Data providers offer data sets that are « ready » for use to comply with EU's regulatory reporting obligations : SFDR PAI for asset managers, CRR Pillar 3 data for banks, Taxonomy alignment, etc.

Output metrics: EU ESG regulatory reporting data

| Inrate's ESG Data & Compliance  | ESG compliance data product,    | EU Sustainable Finance           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Solutions (inrate.com)          | that includes SFDR PAI          | framework regulatory indicators. |
|                                 | indicators, taxonomy            |                                  |
|                                 | indicators, BMR ESG indicators, |                                  |
|                                 | etc.                            |                                  |
| MSCI's Sustainable Finance      | Data and reporting for SFDR,    | EU Sustainable Finance           |
| <u>Solutions</u>                | Taxonomy, MiFID II and EBA      | framework regulatory indicators. |
|                                 | Pillar 3 requirements           |                                  |
| ISS' Regulatory solutions       | SFDR PAI, National labels       | EU Sustainable Finance           |
|                                 | indicators, BMR ESG data        | framework regulatory indicators. |
|                                 | points, etc.                    |                                  |
| Bloomberg's ESG Regulatory      | SFDR PAI, Taxonomy alignment    | EU Sustainable Finance           |
| Solutions                       |                                 | framework regulatory indicators. |
| Sustainalytics' EBA Pillar III  | Indicators for Pillar 3         | EU Sustainable Finance           |
| <u>Disclosures Solutions</u>    | (Taxonomy alignment,            | framework regulatory indicators. |
| exposure to fossil fuels, etc.) |                                 |                                  |

## 6. ESG data platforms

Many platforms leverage on their extensive data sources, estimated data products, and scores to put in place online platforms to evaluate companies' ESG profile. It is currently unclear how the regulation would apply to them.

| Such platform uses both scores and indicators.   |
|--|
| Our platform provides unparalleled capabilities, allowing you to compare and benchmark ESG |
|  |

|                              | risk exposure and impact within and across sectors, understand the impact of ESG on a company's risk profile and inform stewardship and engagement activities.  - Compare ESG risk exposure and impact within and across sectors  - Gain a holistic view of companies' ESG and climate risk exposure to better identify and prioritize engagement activities  - Assess ESG risks and opportunities with the ability to deep dive into impact of financial materiality and ESG assessments |
|------------------------------|---|
| LSEG 's ESG Disclosure score | The assessment tool provides an estimated score for companies outside of FTSE Russell's research universe. The tool provides an indicative score that can be personalised.  |