

Press Release

Stronger ESG Focus: VanEck realigns ETFs

- For three ETFs, the underlying index was updated with ESG criteria, one ETF will receive a new index
- The VanEck Semiconductor ETF is considered an Article 8 fund according to disclosure regulations, and the VanEck Hydrogen ETF even as an Article 9 fund

London, 30 March 2022 – Asset manager VanEck has augmented four of its ETFs with sustainability considerations by updating or replacing the underlying indexes. Having already changed the index of the US Wide Moat ETF in December 2021, the company has now realigned or replaced the underlying indices for the ETFs *VanEck European Equal Weight UCITS ETF*, *VanEck iBoxx EUR Corporates UCITS ETF*, *VanEck Semiconductor UCITS ETF* and for the *VanEck Hydrogen Economy UCITS ETF*. The latter three ETFs also received an updated Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) classification as a result of the change.

There are two important reasons why VanEck made the changes to the ETFs: On the one hand, the company is experiencing growing demand for sustainable investment opportunities. On the other hand, VanEck aims to improve its own sustainability footprint by increasingly aligning its product strategies with sustainable investment opportunities.

“These aspects are becoming more and more the norm for investors, leaving less room for non-ESG products,” explains Martijn Rozemuller, CEO Europe at VanEck Europe. “We expect demand for funds that incorporate ESG criteria to increase significantly in the future, while demand for funds that do not incorporate ESG considerations into the portfolio construction will continue to decline in the future.”

Specifically, the following changes were made to the four ETFs:

For the *VanEck European Equal Weight UCITS ETF*, index provider Solactive changed the methodology of the index to strengthen ESG screening and apply the same screening that VanEck already uses for the VanEck Sustainable World Equal Weight UCITS. The screening is based on the ten principles of the UN Global Compact, specific exclusions for controversial sectors, and the UNGC Score, according to which the five companies with the worst performance in the areas of environment, human rights, labour rights, and anti-corruption are also excluded. The name of the ETF changed to *VanEck Sustainable European Equity UCITS ETF* as of 22 March 2022. The Total Expense Ratio (TER) increased to 0.40% p.a.

For more information on the ETF, visit: <https://www.vaneck.com/de/de/teet/>

As of 28 February 2022, the *VanEck iBoxx EUR Corporates UCITS ETF* replaced its underlying index with the *iBoxx SD-KPI EUR Liquid Corporates Index*, which follows a similar strategy to the original Markit iBoxx EUR Liquid Corporates Index but incorporates environmental, social and governance factors. The new index adjusts the market weighting to ensure it has similar financial



and non-financial exposure to the EUR Corporates benchmark index. In addition, issuers with higher SD-KPI (Sustainable Development Key Performance Indicator) scores are weighted higher and issuers with lower SD-KPI scores are weighted lower. Following the change, the ETFs is now classified as an SFDR Article 8 fund.

For more information on the ETF, visit: <https://www.vaneck.com/de/de/tcbt/>

The index of the ***VanEck Hydrogen Economy UCITS ETF*** has introduced an ESG objective to its rules and the ETF was classified as a product with a sustainable investment objective under Article 9 of the SFDR as of 16 March 2022. The ETF includes companies involved in the production of hydrogen and related infrastructure, aiming to promote sustainable forms of energy production to reduce carbon emissions and ultimately help mitigate climate change. The selection process of the underlying index has been made more rigorous by excluding companies with very serious violations of social norms according to ISS Research, companies that make sales of controversial weapons, and companies that make more than 5 per cent of their sales in sectors such as tobacco, gambling, fossil fuel extraction or military equipment. In order to maintain the target index size of 25 stocks, an excluded company is replaced by the next eligible company from the index universe.

For more information on the ETF, visit: <https://www.vaneck.com/de/de/hdro/>

The ***VanEck Semiconductor UCITS ETF*** was classified as a product that promotes environmental and social characteristics in accordance with Article 8 of the SFDR on 28 March 2022, following the introduction of ESG screening in the underlying index. Since the index update, companies with very serious violations of social norms according to ISS Research and companies that make sales of controversial weapons are excluded. This also applies to companies that make more than 5 per cent of their sales in sectors such as tobacco, gambling, fossil energy production or military equipment. In order to maintain the target index size of 25 stocks, an excluded company is replaced by the next eligible company from the index universe.

For more information on the ETF, visit: <https://www.vaneck.com/de/de/smh/>

Equity market risk: The prices of securities in the Funds are subject to the risks inherent in investing in the securities market, including general economic conditions and sudden and unpredictable price drops. An investment in the fund may result in losses.

Industry or sector concentration risk: The assets of the Funds may be concentrated in one or more particular sectors or industries. The Funds may be subject to the risk that economic, political or other conditions adversely affecting the relevant sectors or industries may adversely affect the performance of the Funds to a greater extent than if the Fund's assets were invested in a wider variety of sectors or industries.

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About VanEck:

VanEck has been driven by innovation and stood for intelligent, prescient investment strategies ever since its founding in 1955. As an asset manager, it currently manages some 83 billion US dollars* worldwide, including exchange-traded funds (ETF), active funds and institutional accounts.

With over 100 ETFs around the world, the investment firm offers a comprehensive portfolio covering numerous sectors, asset classes and smart beta strategies. VanEck was one of the first asset managers to offer investors access to global markets. It has consistently aimed at identifying new trends and asset classes, such as gold investments in 1968, emerging markets in 1993 and ETFs in 2006, an approach that is still shaping the entire investment sector today.

Headquartered in New York City, VanEck maintains locations around the globe, including offices in Frankfurt, Madrid, Zurich, Amsterdam, Sydney and Shanghai.

For more information about VanEck and the fund, go to www.vaneck.com or the blog www.vaneck.com/etf-europe/blog.

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Investors must read the sales prospectus and key investor information before investing in a fund. These are available in English and the KIID in certain other languages as applicable and can be obtained free of charge at www.vaneck.com, from the local information agent Computershare Investor Services PLC or from the Management Company.

All performance information is historical and is no guarantee of future results. Investing is subject to risk, including the possible loss of principal. You must read the Prospectus and KIID before investing in a fund.

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