

# State Street Global ESG Screened Defensive Equity Fund

## Informations publiées sur le site Internet pour un fonds visé à l'Article 8



### A. Résumé

La politique d'investissement du Compartiment State Street Global ESG Screened Defensive Equity Fund (le « **Compartiment** ») consiste à surperformer l'indice MSCI World Index (l'« **Indice** ») sur le moyen et long terme tout en excluant des titres sur la base d'une évaluation de leur adhésion aux critères ESG, à savoir les normes internationales concernant la protection environnementale, les droits de l'homme, les normes de travail, la lutte anti-corruption et les armes controversées.

Le Compartiment promeut des caractéristiques environnementales ou sociales, mais n'a pas l'investissement durable pour objectif.

Les caractéristiques environnementales et sociales promues par le Compartiment correspondent à un filtre négatif et basé sur des normes, appliqué au portefeuille pour écarter les titres sur la base d'une évaluation de leur adhésion aux critères ESG, c.-à-d. les normes internationales concernant la protection environnementale, les droits de l'homme, les normes de travail, la lutte contre la corruption et les armes controversées.

Le Gestionnaire financier investira activement, pour le compte du Compartiment, au moyen de la Stratégie défensive en actions décrite plus en détail sous la section 8.1 du Prospectus, dans le Supplément correspondant et sous la Section J ci-dessous. Cette stratégie se fonde sur des modèles quantitatifs d'allocation par pays, de sélection de titres et multifactoriels pour évaluer les valeurs. Les titres en portefeuille sont choisis en fonction de leur potentiel à produire des rendements excédentaires à ceux de l'Indice avec une volatilité réduite par rapport à l'Indice.

Le Gestionnaire financier emploie une méthodologie ESG contraignante qui vise à construire un portefeuille pour lequel au minimum 90 % des actifs du Compartiment sont investis dans des titres alignés sur les caractéristiques environnementales et sociales qu'il promeut. La partie restante (<10 %) du portefeuille, composée de trésorerie ainsi que d'équivalents de trésorerie existants détenus à la discrétion du Gestionnaire financier, ne sera pas alignée sur les caractéristiques environnementales et sociales promues. Si tant est que le Compartiment recoure à des instruments financiers dérivés, ceux-ci ne sauraient être utilisés pour atteindre les caractéristiques environnementales ou sociales qu'il promeut.

Le Compartiment ne s'engage pas à réaliser des investissements durables au sens du SFDR ou du Règlement Taxinomie.

La réalisation des caractéristiques environnementales et sociales est mesurée à l'aide du pourcentage du portefeuille investi en titres qui sont inclus dans le filtre négatif et basé sur des normes.

La politique d'investissement du Compartiment consiste à surperformer l'Indice sur le moyen et long terme tout en excluant des titres sur la base de l'évaluation de leur observation des normes ESG, à savoir les normes internationales en matière de protection environnementale, droits de l'homme,

normes de travail et anti-corruption ainsi que des armes controversées. Plus précisément, un filtre négatif et basé sur des normes est appliqué au portefeuille du Compartiment selon les critères d'exclusion suivants :

- armes controversées ;
- violations du Pacte mondial des Nations Unies (le « **PMNU** ») ;
- charbon thermique ;
- forage en Arctique ;
- pétrole et sables bitumineux ;
- graves controverses ESG ; et
- exclusions du Conseil d'éthique suédois.

Le Compartiment utilise des données de MSCI et Sustainalytics pour les filtres ESG. SSGA applique un processus de due diligence continu aux fournisseurs de données ESG, qui génère des rapports réguliers sur la qualité des données, et peut coopérer avec les fournisseurs de données concernées au sujet de tout problème lié aux données repéré par les équipes de SSGA.

Les données ESG peuvent être basées sur certaines hypothèses, prévisions, projections, perspectives et opinions, lesquelles s'appuient le cas échéant sur les tendances actuelles du marché ou sur les événements futurs anticipés. Étant donné la nature évolutive et innovante des modèles de données, des méthodologies et des hypothèses, ainsi que l'incertitude inhérente à la prédiction d'événements prospectifs, il ne peut être garanti que les données ESG sont toujours exactes ou correctes ni que les données ESG répondront aux objectifs ou aux exigences de quelque client ou investisseur donné que ce soit. De plus, il se peut que certaines données ne puissent être obtenues en raison du manque de disponibilité des sources de données.

Les politiques d'engagement de SSGA ne sont pas directement intégrées dans la stratégie d'investissement du Compartiment. Cependant, le programme d'intendance des actifs de SSGA consolide l'ensemble des activités actionnariales de vote et d'engagement, toutes classes d'actifs confondues, indépendamment de la stratégie d'investissement ou de la région géographique, y compris pour le Compartiment.

**Pour plus d'informations détaillées, veuillez vous référer aux sections pertinentes ci-dessous, au Prospectus et au Supplément correspondant.**



## **B. No sustainable investment objective**

The Fund promotes environmental or social characteristics, but does not have as its objective a sustainable investment.



## **C. Environmental or social characteristics of the financial product**

The environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Fund is a negative and norms-based screen applied to the portfolio of the Fund to screen out securities based on an assessment of their adherence to ESG criteria, i.e. international norms in relation to environmental protection, human rights, labour standards, anti-corruption and controversial weapons. The Fund may use additional ESG screens from time to time in order to exclude securities based on their involvement with an

activity that is deemed non-compliant with one or more of such ESG criteria.

For further details of the exclusions applied by the Investment Manager at any time please refer to Section G below.



## D. Investment Strategy

The Investment Manager, on behalf of the Fund, will invest actively using the Defensive Equity Strategy as further described in section 8.1 of the Prospectus and the Relevant Supplement and in Section J below. This strategy uses quantitative country allocation, stock selection and multi-factor models to evaluate stocks. Securities for the portfolio are chosen based on their potential to produce returns in excess of the Index with reduced volatility relative to the Index.

In implementing this strategy, securities in the Fund are selected primarily from the constituents of the Index and the Investment Manager applies the negative and norms-based ESG screen prior to the construction of the portfolio of the Fund and on an ongoing basis. This results in the exclusion of any securities from the portfolio based on an assessment of their adherence to certain ESG criteria defined by the Investment Manager. The Fund will screen out securities identified as being non-compliant with UNGC Principles relating to environmental protection, human rights, labour standards and anti-corruption, as well as controversial weapons. The Fund may use additional ESG screens from time to time in order to exclude securities based on their involvement with an activity that is deemed non-compliant with one or more of such ESG criteria.

The assessment of good governance practices is implemented through the negative screening utilised by the Fund. Companies deemed by the Investment Manager to not violate UNGC principles are considered to exhibit good governance.



## E. Proportion of investments

The Investment Manager employs a binding ESG methodology which aims to build a portfolio where at least 90% of the Fund's assets are invested in securities which are aligned with environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Fund. The remaining portion (<10%) of the portfolio, consisting of cash as well as cash equivalents in place held at the Investment Manager's discretion, will not be aligned with the promoted environmental and social characteristics.

To the extent that the Fund may use financial derivative instruments, these will not be used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Fund.

The Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments within the meaning of the SFDR or the Taxonomy Regulation.



## F. Monitoring of environmental or social characteristics

The attainment of the environmental and social characteristics is measured through the % of the portfolio invested in securities that are included in the negative and norms-based screen.

The environmental and social characteristics are embedded in the investment policy of the Fund and the associated sustainability indicators are monitored by the Investment Manager through its investment oversight program including pre- and post-trade compliance monitoring for ESG screens and regular reviews by a sub-committee of the Investment Manager.



## G. Methodologies

The investment policy of the Fund is to outperform the Index over the medium and long term while screening out securities based on an assessment of their adherence to ESG criteria i.e. international norms in relation to environmental protection, human rights, labour standards, anti-corruption and controversial weapons.

### **ESG Screens**

The ESG screens applied to the Fund include the following:

Controversial Weapons

UNGC Violations

Thermal Coal

Arctic Drilling

Oil and Tar Sands

Severe ESG Controversies

Swedish Ethical Council exclusions

Further details on the methodologies used for the ESG screens is as follows:

**Controversial Weapons:** Companies with focused involvement in the following controversial weapons are excluded.

**Landmines** Landmines are explosives that are designed to detonate at the presence, proximity or contact of a person or vehicle. After being planted, antipersonnel mines can remain undetonated for years, posing a serious risk to civilians after a conflict has ended.

**Biological and chemical weapons** Biological or chemical weapons are munitions that utilize pathogens such as viruses, bacteria, and disease-causing biological agents, toxins, or chemical substances that have toxic properties, to inflict death or harm. Either type can be dispersed in gas, liquid, or solid forms. As these munitions are based on organisms or chemicals, civilians are often unintended victims since the impact zone is constrained only by how far the particles can disperse. For biological weapons, person-to-person transmission of the illness can further exacerbate the civilian impact.

**Cluster weapons** Cluster weapons are air-dropped explosives: bombs, missiles, rockets, or shells that carry sub munitions and disperse them over an area. The sub munitions have a wide impact zone, and often remain undetonated on the ground. These munitions can remain dangerous for years after the conflict has ended, posing a serious risk to civilians.

**Depleted Uranium** Depleted Uranium (DU) munitions are projectiles (bullets, rockets, etc.) that have been equipped with the radioactive chemical substance DU, a byproduct of the uranium enrichment process used to make nuclear weapons and nuclear-reactor fuel. Because of its high density, DU is often used as a penetrator in ammunition to help pierce armor. However, areas where depleted uranium munitions have been used are exposed to its radioactive qualities, causing people living in the area to be more prone to cancers, congenital birth defects, and other illnesses.

**Nuclear Weapons** A nuclear weapon is a device that is capable of releasing nuclear energy in an uncontrolled manner, due to fusion and/or fission reactions, making it a highly destructive explosive. The indiscriminate and disproportionate impact on civilians makes nuclear weapons a controversial weapon.

**White Phosphorus** White phosphorus (WP) is an allotrope of the chemical element phosphorus, which burns fiercely when exposed to oxygen. A WP munition is any projectile (eg flares, grenades, or mortars) that is equipped with WP, in order to act as a smoke-producing agent, or as tracer, illumination, or incendiary munition.

**UNGC Principles:** Companies directly complicit in violations of core international norms and conventions, as described in the UNGC Principles are excluded.

The UNGC is the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative with 13,000 participants from 170 countries. It consists of a set of internationally recognized principles that encompass important issues, such as human rights, labour, the environment, and anti-corruption practices. The 10 principles are as follows:

### **Human Rights**

**Principle 1:** Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

**Principle 2:** make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

### **Labour**

**Principle 3:** Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.

**Principle 4:** the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

**Principle 5:** the effective abolition of child labour; and

**Principle 6:** the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

### **Environment**

**Principle 7:** Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges.

**Principle 8:** undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

**Principle 9:** encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

### **Anti-Corruption**

**Principle 10:** Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

**Thermal Coal:** Companies involved in the extraction or power generation of thermal coal are excluded.

**Arctic Drilling:** Companies involved in oil and gas exploration in the Arctic regions are excluded.

**Oil and Tar Sands:** Companies for whom a meaningful portion of their average daily production comes from oil sands are excluded.

**Severe ESG Controversies:** Companies involved in incidents/events that may pose business or reputational risk due to the potential impact on stakeholders, the environment, or the company's operations are excluded.

**Swedish Ethical Council:** All companies on the recommended exclusion list by the Council on Ethics, Swedish National Pension Funds, are excluded. The Ethical Council is a body operated jointly by four Swedish national pension funds — AP1, AP2, AP3 and AP4 (known as the AP funds). The Council seeks to drive positive change in foreign companies implicated in violating international environmental and human rights conventions, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, United Nations treaties and the International Labour Organization's Core Conventions. Excluded companies from their investment universe are directly involved in the production or marketing of anti-personnel landmines and cluster munitions. Companies can also be divested if they violate the UNGC and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and where dialogue with the companies has not led to improvements

The exclusion list generated by the ESG screening process is updated once per quarter.

The ESG screen methodology (with the exception of the Swedish Ethical Council list which, as described above, is generated by the Council of Ethics, Swedish National Pension Funds) and screening criteria applied to the Fund are subject to SSGA's governance approval process. A description of the Swedish Ethical Council list can be found detailed above.



## **H. Data sources and processing**

The Fund utilises the following data sources to derive the ESG screens:

**Controversial Weapons** State Street Global Advisors receives universe-level data from two ESG screening data providers: Sustainalytics and MSCI. A screen is then applied to the data to generate

lists from each data provider of excluded securities for this category. State Street Global Advisors determines the parameters that define the screen which are then approved by the firm's Investment Committee. Companies are excluded if they appear on either or both of the lists from the two data providers.

**UNGC Violations** Data is sourced from Sustainalytics. A screen is then applied to the data to generate a list of excluded securities for this category. State Street Global Advisors determines the parameters that define the screen which are then approved by the firm's Investment Committee

**Thermal Coal** Data is sourced from Sustainalytics. A screen is then applied to the data to generate a list of excluded securities for this category. State Street Global Advisors determines the parameters that define the screen which are then approved by the firm's Investment Committee.

**Arctic Drilling** Data is sourced from Sustainalytics. A screen is then applied to the data to generate a list of excluded securities for this category. State Street Global Advisors determines the parameters that define the screen which are then approved by the firm's Investment Committee.

**Oil and Tar Sands** Data is sourced from Sustainalytics. A screen is then applied to the data to generate a list of excluded securities for this category. State Street Global Advisors determines the parameters that define the screen which are then approved by the firm's Investment Committee.

**Severe ESG Controversies** Data is sourced from Sustainalytics. A screen is then applied to the data to generate a list of excluded securities for this category. State Street Global Advisors determines the parameters that define the screen which are then approved by the firm's Investment Committee

**Swedish Ethical Council** The exclusion list of the Swedish Ethical Council is determined by the Swedish Ethical Council and provided by Sustainalytics to State Street Global Advisors

SSGA receives ESG data from a wide variety of data providers covering various themes including, but not limited to, climate, controversies and governance and leverages multisource data architecture for the analysis and dissemination of ESG data.

SSGA implements an ongoing due diligence process in relation to ESG data providers resulting in regular data quality reports. Such process tracks correlation and coverage dimensions of key ESG and climate metrics and scores between a selection of data providers over time for the covered universe. SSGA may engage with the relevant data providers in relation to any data issues identified by the SSGA teams.



## I. Limitations to methodologies and data

ESG data may be based on certain assumptions, forecasts, projections, views and opinions which may be based on current market trends or anticipated future events. To assess company involvement in different activities and to estimate revenue shares as accurately as possible, data providers strive to obtain information directly from companies and issuers. Sources of data include annual reports, regulatory filings, sustainability reports, press releases, investor presentations, company websites, and other company disclosures. Given the developing and innovative nature of



data models, methodologies and assumptions and the inherent uncertainty in predicting forward-looking events, it cannot be guaranteed that the ESG data is always accurate or correct or that the ESG data will satisfy the aims or requirements of any specific client or investor. Furthermore, there may be data that cannot be sourced due to the lack of availability of data sources.



## J. Due diligence

The Investment Manager, on behalf of the Fund, will invest actively using the Defensive Equity Strategy as further described in section 8.1 of the Prospectus and the Relevant Supplement.

This strategy uses quantitative country allocation stock selection and multi-factor models to evaluate the attractiveness of stocks. The quantitative models integrate a review of ESG criteria through the measurement of ESG risks by integrating ESG metrics into the assessment of stock returns. Investments are chosen based on their potential to produce returns in excess of the Index with reduced volatility relative to the Index. The securities in the portfolios are selected primarily from the securities in the Index. The Fund may invest in or gain exposure to securities registered in or trading in markets other than those included in the Index. The Investment Manager has broad discretion regarding deviation from the Index and thus any deviation from the performance of the Index may be significant. Defined risk parameters include limits on country, sector and security weights on an absolute basis and relative to the Index. The Investment Manager employs a negative and norms-based screen prior to the construction of the portfolio and on an ongoing basis.



## K. Engagement policies

**Is engagement part of the environmental or social investment strategy?**

Yes

No

While SSGA engagement policies are not directly embedded into the Fund's investment strategy, for SSGA the informed exercise of voting rights coupled with targeted and value-driven engagement is the most effective mechanism of creating value and managing Sustainability Risk for the investors. SSGA's Asset Stewardship programme consolidates all voting and engagement activities across asset classes, irrespective of investment strategy or geographic region. The engagement strategy is built on SSGA's ability to prioritise and allocate resources to companies and issues that have the greatest potential impact. SSGA's Asset Stewardship programme is underpinned by 3 separate pillars, that is, (i) providing information and guidance to investee companies on the development of ESG practices across key issues, (ii) engaging with portfolio companies to encourage transparent, accountable, high performing boards and companies, and (iii) by exercising voting rights in a manner that reflects long term investment objectives for the purpose of influencing the activity or behaviour of the issuers. To support this process, SSGA has developed proprietary in-house tools to help identify companies for active engagement based on various financial and ESG indicators.





**L. Reference benchmark**

**Has a reference benchmark been designated for the purpose of attaining these characteristics promoted by the Fund?**

- Yes
- No

The MSCI World Index is a trademark of MSCI Inc.