

Announcement by BlackRock Asset Management Deutschland AG
Adjustments to Net Asset Values of Certain German-Domiciled iShares Exchange Traded Funds
Issued on 7 July 2021

Summary

BlackRock Asset Management Deutschland AG (“**BAMDE**”) is today announcing that adjustments are being made to the net asset values of certain German-domiciled iShares exchange traded funds set out in the table below (“**Funds**”), due to an agreement reached with Swiss Federal Tax Administration “**SFTA**” which clarifies the position on the Funds’ outstanding Swiss withholding tax (“**WHT**”) reclaims.

Background

The Funds invest in securities issued by Swiss issuers. Dividends of Swiss issuers are subject to 35% Swiss WHT. In accordance with the double tax treaty in place between Germany and Switzerland, BAMDE, the Funds’ management company, may apply on behalf of the Funds, within three years from the end of a calendar year in which Swiss WHT arises, to reclaim Swiss WHT in respect of the proportion of German tax residents invested in each Fund. Accordingly, relief of up to 20% Swiss WHT in respect of the proportion of German tax residents in the Funds has generally been obtainable in the past via retrospective tax reclaims filed with the SFTA, leaving a minimum tax rate of 15%.

The SFTA had informed BAMDE that, in order to refund Swiss WHT, it required further granular data on German-domiciled investors of the Funds than what was previously required. Since the SFTA’s change in its approach to refunds, BAMDE had been in close dialogue with the SFTA and made extensive efforts to find a workable solution. BAMDE has completed the data gathering exercise to obtain the required additional granular data. This data was delivered to SFTA which has confirmed that the data is accepted and has now commenced refunding certain Funds and is expected to refund the other Funds shortly for Swiss WHT reclaims based on the German tax resident levels in the Funds evidenced by such data.

Adjustment to the Net Asset Values of the Funds

As a result of the SFTA introducing new granular data requirements, BAMDE had to reassess in 2020 the most probable outcome of its Swiss WHT reclaims under German accounting rules, based on the proposal it had submitted and feedback from the SFTA that this proposal was viable in principle. That assessment resulted in partial write downs of the Swiss WHT reclaim accruals in the net asset values of the Funds in April 2020.

The data obtained from BAMDE’s data gathering exercise varies slightly from the earlier estimates of “most probable outcome” used to calculate the partial write downs of Swiss WHT reclaim accruals in April 2020. Therefore, BAMDE has to make further and final adjustments to Swiss WHT reclaim accruals in the Funds from 2015. For most Funds, there will be a small adjustment downwards and, for a small number of funds, there will be a small adjustment upwards. The impact of such write-downs/increases is that the net asset values of the Funds set out below will be adjusted downwards/upwards by the amounts in the table, as at the respective adjustment dates.

Fund Name	ISIN	Base Currency	Projected Adjustment to Net Asset Value (base currency)¹	Projected Adjustment to Net Asset Value (basis points)^{1,2}	Effective Date of Adjustment
iShares STOXX Europe 50 UCITS ETF (DE)	DE0005933949	EUR	(291,971.96)	(27.68)	07-Jul-21
iShares STOXX Europe 600 Health Care UCITS ETF (DE)	DE000A0Q4R36	EUR	176,185.81	2.43	07-Jul-21
iShares SLI UCITS ETF (DE)	DE0005933964	CHF	184,011.03	6.29	07-Jul-21
iShares STOXX Europe 600 Food & Beverage UCITS ETF (DE)	DE000A0H08H3	EUR	(847,759.11)	(24.81)	07-Jul-21
iShares STOXX Europe 600 Insurance UCITS ETF (DE)	DE000A0H08K7	EUR	(6,021.02)	(0.20)	07-Jul-21
iShares STOXX Europe Large 200 UCITS ETF (DE)	DE0005933980	EUR	60,094.04	7.87	07-Jul-21
iShares STOXX Europe 600 UCITS ETF (DE)	DE0002635307	EUR	(4,824,081.63)	(7.48)	07-Jul-21
iShares STOXX Europe Select Dividend 30 UCITS ETF (DE)	DE0002635299	EUR	(200,599.36)	(4.73)	07-Jul-21
iShares STOXX Europe 600 Chemicals UCITS ETF (DE)	DE000A0H08E0	EUR	(6,236.15)	(0.41)	07-Jul-21
iShares STOXX Europe 600 Financial Services UCITS ETF (DE)	DE000A0H08G5	EUR	34,328.89	5.07	07-Jul-21
iShares STOXX Europe 600 Construction & Materials UCITS ETF (DE)	DE000A0H08F7	EUR	(15,518.85)	(0.82)	07-Jul-21
iShares STOXX Global Select Dividend 100 UCITS ETF (DE)	DE000A0F5UH1	EUR	(157,965.43)	(0.85)	08-Jul-21
iShares Dow Jones Global Titans 50 UCITS ETF (DE)	DE0006289382	EUR	(194,543.94)	(2.21)	08-Jul-21
iShares STOXX Europe Small 200 UCITS ETF (DE)	DE000A0D8QZ7	EUR	86,040.68	1.38	07-Jul-21
iShares STOXX Europe Mid 200 UCITS ETF (DE)	DE0005933998	EUR	(57,452.43)	(0.99)	07-Jul-21
iShares STOXX Europe 600 Industrial Goods & Services UCITS ETF (DE)	DE000A0H08J9	EUR	43,796.73	1.03	07-Jul-21
iShares STOXX Europe 600 Personal & Household Goods UCITS ETF (DE)	DE000A0H08N1	EUR	8,157.50	0.67	07-Jul-21
iShares STOXX Europe 600 Telecommunications UCITS ETF (DE)	DE000A0H08R2	EUR	(100,199.01)	(1.48)	07-Jul-21
iShares STOXX Europe 600 Real Estate UCITS ETF (DE)	DE000A0Q4R44	EUR	1,023.52	0.12	07-Jul-21
iShares STOXX Europe 600 Technology UCITS ETF (DE)	DE000A0H08Q4	EUR	(2,152.73)	(0.09)	07-Jul-21
iShares STOXX Europe 600 Media UCITS ETF (DE)	DE000A0H08L5	EUR	(85.95)	(0.05)	07-Jul-21
iShares STOXX Europe 600 Retail UCITS ETF (DE)	DE000A0H08P6	EUR	(781.86)	(0.16)	07-Jul-21
iShares STOXX Europe 600 Banks UCITS ETF (DE)	DE000A0F5UJ7	EUR	(57,733.26)	(0.45)	07-Jul-21

¹ Write-downs are represented by values in brackets in the table, increases by positive values

² Based on the valuation date of 05-Jul-21

The proportion of German tax residents for each Fund based on the data accepted by the SFTA will be applied to accruals of reclaimable Swiss WHT for the relevant Fund until the end of 2021, in accordance with German accounting rules. It is anticipated that a similar data exercise would be re-run to substantiate the proportion of German tax residents in the Funds for the Swiss WHT reclaims, where this is required by SFTA.

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