

Information concerning the sub-fund KBC Defensive Balanced Responsible Investing

1. Basic details

Name

KBC Defensive Balanced Responsible Investing

Date of incorporation

2 January 2017

Life

Unlimited

Delegation of the management of the investment portfolio

The intellectual management, with the exception of the creation of the sub-fund and its maintenance in terms of the technical, product-specific and legal aspects has been delegated by the management company to KBC Fund Management Limited, Sandwith Street, Dublin 2, D02 X489, Ireland.

Stock exchange listing

Not applicable.

2. Investment information

Sub-fund's object

The main objective of this sub-fund is to generate the highest possible return for its shareholders by investing directly or indirectly in transferable securities. This is reflected in its pursuit of capital gains and income.

Sub-fund's investment policy

Permitted asset classes

The sub-fund may invest in securities, money market instruments, units in undertakings for collective investment, deposits, financial derivatives, liquid assets and all other instruments insofar as permitted by the applicable laws and regulations and consistent with the object as described above.

Restrictions of the investment policy

The investment policy will be implemented within the limits set by law and regulations.
The sub-fund may borrow up to 10% of its net assets, insofar as these are short-term borrowings aimed at solving temporary liquidity problems.

Permitted derivatives transactions

Derivatives can be used both to achieve the investment objectives and to hedge risks.

Listed and unlisted derivatives may be used to achieve the objectives: these may be forward contracts, futures, options or swaps on securities, indexes, currencies or interest rates or other transactions involving derivatives. Unlisted derivatives transactions will only be concluded with prime financial institutions specialised in such transactions.

Subject to the applicable laws and regulations and the articles of association, the sub-fund always seeks to conclude the most effective transactions. All costs associated with the transactions will be charged to the sub-fund and all income generated will be paid to the sub-fund.

If the transactions result in a risk in respect of the counterparty, this risk can be hedged by using a margin management system that ensures that the sub-fund is the beneficiary of security (collateral) in the form of liquid instruments, such as, for instance, cash or investment grade bonds. The relationship with the counterparty or counterparties is governed by standard international agreements.

Derivatives may also be used to hedge the assets of the sub-fund against open exchange rate risks in relation to the currency in which the sub-fund is denominated.

Where derivatives are used, they must be easily transferable and liquid instruments. Using derivatives does not, therefore, have a negative impact on liquidity risk. The use of derivatives may, however, affect the spread of the portfolio across regions, sectors or themes. **Consequently, there may be an impact on concentration risk. Derivatives may not be used to protect capital, either fully or partially. They neither increase nor decrease capital risk. In addition, using derivatives has no negative impact on credit risk, settlement risk, custody risk, flexibility risk or inflation risk or risk dependent on external factors.**

The UCITS may conclude contracts that entail a credit risk in respect of issuers of debt instruments. Credit risk is the risk that the issuer of the debt instrument will default. This credit risk relates to parties whose creditworthiness at the time the contract is concluded is equal to that of the issuers whose debt instruments the UCITS can hold directly. Credit derivatives may possibly be used both to carry out the investment objectives and to cover the credit risk, but solely within the existing risk profile and without implying any shift to less creditworthy debtors than those the UCITS can invest in.

Selected strategy

The sub-fund sets out to achieve the highest possible return by investing in line with the investment view of KBC Asset Management NV (see www.kbc.be/investment-view). To this end, the fund invests directly or indirectly in various asset classes, such as shares and/or share-related investments ('stock component'), bonds and/or bond-related investments ('bond component'), money market instruments, cash and cash equivalents, and/or alternative investments (including real estate and financial instruments that are linked to price movements on commodity markets).

The target allocation for the asset classes is 30% for the stock component and 70% for the bond component.

This allocation may be significantly deviated from in line with the investment view of KBC Asset Management NV, as illustrated below.

Therefore, the sub-fund may invest a sizeable portion of its assets in asset classes that are not included in the target allocation (such as money market instruments and cash). The stock component may comprise up to 45% of the sub-fund.

When applying KBC Asset Management NV's investment view, the management bases their investment decisions on the analysis of the financial and economic developments and prospects for specific regions, sectors and themes. If conditions on the financial markets are uncertain, volatile or both, part of the portfolio may also be converted into investments with a lower level of risk (such as money market instruments and cash). If the stock component outperforms the bond component, or vice versa, the managers may likewise use part of the portfolio to buy additional assets in the best-performing of these two classes and sell assets in the worst-performing one.

When applying KBC Asset Management NV's investment view, the managers pay twice as much attention to the downside risk as to the upside potential. The more attention that is paid to downside risk, the larger the portion of the portfolio that may be converted into investments with a lower level of risk, such as cash and money market instruments, in times of uncertain and/or volatile markets. This part of the portfolio will ultimately amount to between 40% and 80% of the assets. This limit is indicative and may be reviewed annually based on the long-term trend of the financial markets. Any change to this indicative limit does not imply a change in the strategy of the sub-fund. However, under certain market conditions, the sub-fund's assets will not be invested in these asset classes in accordance with the pre-set target allocation.

Within the above limits, the sub-fund pursues (directly or indirectly) responsible investment objectives based on a dualistic approach: a negative screening and a positive selection methodology.

This approach will be gradually implemented in the portfolio, starting 2 September 2022. KBC Asset Management NV has a team of specialist researchers responsible for this dualistic approach. They are assisted by an independent advisory board (the "**Responsible Investing Advisory Board**") comprised of up to twelve persons, who are not affiliated to KBC Asset Management NV, and whose sole responsibility is to supervise the dualistic approach and activities of the specialist researchers. The secretariat of the advisory board is handled by a representative of KBC Asset Management NV. Moreover, KBC Asset Management NV works with data suppliers with expertise in Responsible Investing that provide data to the specialized researchers, who process and complete

the data with publicly available information (including annual reports, press publications, etc.).

The sub-fund promotes a combination of environmental and social characteristics and, even though it does not have sustainable investments as an objective, it shall invest a minimum proportion of its assets in economic activities that contribute to the achievement of environmental or social objectives (i.e. 'sustainable investments').

The issuers in which it invests must follow good governance practices.

The sub-fund is compliant with the transparency obligations of article 8(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on sustainability-related disclosures in the financial services sector ('SFDR'). More information on how the sub-fund promotes environmental and social characteristics can be found in the 'Annex for Horizon KBC Defensive Balanced Responsible Investing'. This annex specifically covers the pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8, paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852.

Negative screening

In practical terms the end result of this negative screening procedure is that the sub-fund excludes issuers in advance from the Responsible Investment universe which fall foul of the exclusion policies available on www.kbc.be/investment-legal-documents > Exclusion policy for Responsible Investing funds.

The application of these policies means that issuers involved in such activities like the tobacco industry, weapons, gambling and adult entertainment are excluded from the sub-fund's investment universe. This screening also ensures that issuers who seriously violate fundamental principles of environmental protection, social responsibility and good governance are excluded from the sub-fund's investment universe.

These negative screening principles are not exhaustive and may be adapted from time to time under the supervision of the Responsible Investing Advisory Board.

Positive selection methodology

Within the defined investment universe and other limits described above, the responsible investment objectives of the sub-fund are the following:

(1) promote the integration of sustainability into the policy decisions of issuers (companies, governments, supranational debtors and/or agencies linked to governments), by preferring issuers with a better **ESG score**, where ESG stands for 'Environmental, Social and Governance', and

(2) promote climate change mitigation, by preferring issuers with lower **Carbon Intensity**, with the objective of meeting a predetermined carbon intensity target;

(3) support sustainable development, by including issuers that contribute to the **UN Sustainable Development Goals** and

(4) support sustainable development by encouraging the transition to a more sustainable world via **bonds financing green and/or social projects**.

The sub-fund's targets are available at www.kbc.be/investment-legal-documents > Investment policy for Responsible Investing funds.

(1) ESG-score

The contribution to the integration of sustainability into policy decisions of the issuers is measured based on an ESG score. This score represents the aggregated performance assessment of a given entity against a series of ESG criteria which are grounded to the extent possible against objective measures. The main factors underpinning the ESG criteria are:

- In the case of instruments issued by companies:
 - respect for the environment (e.g., reduction in greenhouse gas emissions);
 - attention to society (e.g., employee working conditions); and
 - corporate governance (e.g., independence and diversity of the board of directors).

The ESG score for companies is an ESG risk score supplied by a data provider.

- In the case of instruments issued by national governments, supranational debtors and/or agencies linked to governments, the following five pillars are used
 - overall economic performance and stability (e.g., quality of institutions and government);
 - socio-economic development and health of the population (e.g., education and employment);
 - equality, freedom and the rights of all citizens;
 - environmental policy (e.g., climate change); and
 - security, peace and international relations.

These lists are not exhaustive and may be changed under the supervision of the Responsible Investing Advisory Board.

To achieve this objective, the ESG score of the portfolio for companies is compared to a reference portfolio determined on the basis of the above-mentioned target spread

The ESG score for countries of the portfolio is compared to a reference portfolio of global government bonds (composed of the following benchmarks: 67% developed markets: J.P. Morgan GBI Global Unhedged EUR and 33% emerging markets: J.P. Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Composite Unhedged EUR).

More information on the ESG Score and the concrete goals of the sub-fund can be found at www.kbc.be/investment-legal-documents > Investment policy for Responsible Investing funds.

The targets can be revised upwards or downwards.

(2) Carbon Intensity

The objective to promote climate change mitigation, by favoring lower carbon intensity issuers, with the goal of meeting a predetermined carbon intensity target covers at least 90% of the portfolio. The objective does not apply to issuers for which data is not available.

The contribution of issuers to climate change mitigation is measured based on their carbon intensity. For companies, carbon intensity is defined as absolute greenhouse gas emissions (in tonnes CO₂ equivalent), divided by revenues (in mln USD). For countries, it is defined as the greenhouse gas emissions (in tonnes CO₂ equivalent), divided by the Gross Domestic Product (in current prices, in mln USD).

The targets for instruments issued by companies are different from those for instruments issued by national governments, supranational debtors and/or government-linked agencies.

More information on Carbon Intensity and the concrete goals of the sub-fund can be found at www.kbc.be/investment-legal-documents > Investment policy for Responsible Investing funds.

The targets may be revised upwards or downwards.

(3) UN Sustainable Development Goals

To support sustainable development, the sub-fund commits to investing a minimum proportion of the portfolio in issuers that contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The UN Sustainable Development Goals include both social and environmental objectives. Instruments of issuers that meet these requirements are designated as "sustainable investments," according to Article 2.17 of the SFDR.

Companies that contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals are defined as those that are aligned with at least one of the 15 first UN Sustainable Development Goals, while not being misaligned with any of these UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Governments are assessed on the five pillars as described in the ESG score, which contain indicators that can be linked to the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. If a government scores sufficiently well on one of these pillars and not significantly poor on the other pillars, the bonds of this government and its sub-governments and agencies are considered to be instruments that contribute to sustainable development. Bonds of supranational governments contribute to the UN's Sustainable development goals if one of the two criteria is met:

- at least half of its members contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (weighted by voting power/full paid-in capital/percentage of population (in order of availability)).
- the mission statement of the supranational institution has a sustainable objective and less than half of its members fall in the worst half of the screening for controversial regimes.

In addition, the Responsible Investing Advisory Board can award the "sustainable development" label to instruments.

More information about this and the concrete goals of the sub-fund can be found at www.kbc.be/investment-legal-documents > Investment policy for Responsible Investing funds .

The targets may be revised upwards or downwards.

(4) Bonds financing green and/or social projects

To encourage the transition to a more sustainable world, the sub-fund commits to invest a minimum proportion of the portfolio in bonds financing green and/or social projects. Bonds whose proceeds will be used exclusively to finance (a combination of) green and social projects that are aligned with the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) Green Bond Principles and Social Bond Principles on the Use of Proceeds are considered bonds financing green and/or social projects. Instruments that meet these requirements are labelled 'sustainable investments', in line with article 2(17) SFDR.

More information on bonds financing green and/or social projects and the concrete goals of the sub-fund can be found at www.kbc.be/investment-legal-documents > Investment policy for Responsible Investing funds.

The targets may be revised upwards or downwards.

Potential Exceptions

It cannot be ruled out, however, that very limited investments may be made temporarily in assets that do not meet the above criteria. The reasons for this include the following:

- Developments as a result of which an issuer can no longer be regarded as eligible after purchase;
- Corporate events, such as a merger of one company with another, where the merged company can no longer be considered an eligible issuer based on the above criteria;
- Incorrect data as a result of which assets are invested (unintentionally and erroneously) in assets purchased when it should not have been eligible for the sub-fund;
- A planned update of the screening criteria as a result of which assets should be excluded from the sub-fund, but which the management company chooses to refrain from selling immediately in the best interest of the customer;
- External circumstances such as market movements and updates of external data can lead to investment solutions failing to achieve the abovementioned targets.

In these cases, the fund manager will replace the assets concerned with more appropriate assets as soon as possible, always taking into account the sole interest of the investor.

In addition, for the purpose of efficient portfolio management, the fund manager may to a significant degree use

derivatives relating to assets issued by issuers that would not be eligible for inclusion in the sub-fund, in so far as there is no serviceable and comparable alternative available on the market. In addition, the counterparties with which the derivative transactions are entered into may not necessarily be issuers having a responsible nature.

The stock component is invested in a worldwide selection of shares that may come from any region, sector or theme.

For details of the bond component, please see the 'Characteristics of the bonds and debt instruments' section below.

The fund is actively managed without referring to any benchmark.

The responsible character is guaranteed by the aforementioned Responsible Investing methodology.

Taxonomy related information

At the date of this prospectus, the sub-fund does not specifically seek to invest in environmentally sustainable economic activities within the meaning of the EU Taxonomy Framework. The percentage invested in environmentally sustainable activities within the meaning of the EU Taxonomy Framework at all times is 0%. The underlying investments of this sub-fund do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. This will be monitored on a regular basis and as soon as sufficiently reliable, timely and verifiable data from issuers or investee companies is available and final regulatory technical standards are published providing more detailed guidance on the Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 of the European Parliament and of the Council on sustainability disclosure in the financial services sector and on how Taxonomy information should be made public, the prospectus will be updated.

Transparency of adverse sustainability impacts:

The sub-fund considers the principal adverse impacts of its investment decisions on sustainability factors by taking into account the principal adverse impact indicators ('PAI'), as described in the Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on sustainability disclosure in the financial services sector ('SFDR').

The principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors are explicitly taken into account through the general exclusion policy for conventional funds and Responsible Investing funds and the exclusion policy for Responsible Investing funds. More information on the principal adverse impact indicators taken into account can be found at www.kbc.be/investment-legal-documents > General exclusion policy for conventional and Responsible Investing funds and www.kbc.be/investment-legal-documents > Exclusion policies for Responsible Investing funds.

In addition, the principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors are implicitly taken into account through the Proxy Voting and Engagement Policy of KBC Asset Management NV (more information can be found at www.kbc.be/investment-legal-documents > Retrospective Proxy Voting - overview > Proxy Voting and Engagement Policy).

As part of its commitment to responsible investment, KBC Asset Management NV exercises the voting rights of the shares it manages in accordance with the Proxy Voting and Engagement Policy. Where appropriate, KBC Asset Management NV will engage in dialogue with the management of the companies concerned, if necessary before voting.

More information on how the sub-fund aims to consider the principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors can also be found in the 'Annex for Horizon KBC Defensive Balanced Responsible Investing'. A statement on how the sub-fund has considered the principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors during the reporting period can also be found in the annual report for this sub-fund, which will be published after 1 January 2023.

Required disclaimers for benchmark providers:

Information has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable but J.P. Morgan does not warrant its completeness or accuracy. The Index is used with permission. The Index may not be copied, used, or distributed without J.P. Morgan's prior written approval. Copyright 201(7), J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. All rights reserved.

Characteristics of the bonds and debt instruments

The sub-fund invests in bonds and debt instruments issued by both companies and public authorities.

The sub-fund invests directly and/or indirectly at least 50% of its assets in bonds and debt instruments

- in securities rated investment grade (at least BBB-/Baa3 for long-term debt, A3/F3/P3 for short-term debt) by at least one of the following rating agencies: Moody's Investors Service, Standard & Poor's or Fitch Ratings, and/or
- in government bonds issued in local currency or non-subordinated corporate bonds* which do not have a credit rating from the rating agencies mentioned above but the issuer of which has an investment grade rating by at least one of the rating agencies mentioned above, and/or
- in money market instruments whose issuer has an investment grade rating (minimum A3/F3/P3 for short-term debt) from at least one of the above rating agencies.

This means that the sub-fund may invest up to 50% of its assets invested in bonds and debt instruments that do not have a credit rating from the above-mentioned rating agencies and/or which do not comply with the above-mentioned credit requirements.

All maturities are taken into consideration in the selection of bonds and debt instruments.

*In the event of the bankruptcy of the relevant issuer, subordinated bonds are subordinated to the company's other debts: the company's other debts are paid first, then and only if there is still capital left, the holders of the subordinated bonds are fully or partially repaid; the holder of the subordinated bond does, however, have priority over the shareholders of the issuer in question.

Investments in assets other than securities or money market instruments

The sub-fund will invest primarily in units of undertakings for collective investment.

3. Risk

Sub-fund's risk profile

Investors must take note of the specific risk factors set out below, the description of the risks given under the heading 'Information concerning the Bevek - F.Information on the risk profile of the UCITS', and the 'What are the risks and what could I get in return?' section of the key information document.

Summary table of risks assessed by the sub-fund:

| Risk type | Concise definition of the risk | | Explanation: |
|---------------------------|---|----------|--|
| Market risk | The risk that the entire market of an asset class will decline, thus affecting the prices and values of the assets in the portfolio | moderate | the level of the risk reflects the volatility of the equity component. |
| Credit risk | The risk that an issuer or a counterparty will default | moderate | the bond component invests primarily - but not exclusively- in bonds with an investment grade rating. Consequently, the risk that an issuer can no longer meet its obligations is higher than in an investment that consists only of bonds with an investment grade rating. If investors are in doubt about the creditworthiness of the issuers of the bonds, the value of those bonds can fall. |
| Settlement risk | The risk that settlement of a transaction via a payment system will not take place as expected | low | |
| Liquidity risk | The risk that a position cannot be liquidated in a timely manner at a reasonable price | low | |
| Exchange or currency risk | The risk that the value of an investment will be affected by changes in exchange rates | moderate | since there are investments in securities that are denominated in currencies other than the Euro, there is a real chance that the value of an investment will be affected by movements in exchange rates. |
| Custody risk | The risk of loss of assets held in custody with a custodian or sub-custodian | low | |
| Concentration risk | The risk relating to a large concentration of investments in specific assets or in specific markets | low | |
| Performance risk | Risks to return | moderate | the level of the risk reflects the volatility of the equity component. |
| Capital risk | Risks to capital | moderate | There is no capital protection. |
| Flexibility risk | Inflexibility both within the product and constraints on switching to other providers | low | |
| Inflation risk | Risk of inflation | moderate | the bond component does not provide any protection against an increase in inflation. |
| Environmental factors | Uncertainty regarding the immutability of environmental factors, such as the tax regime | low | |

Risk profile of the typical investor

Profile of the typical investor for which the sub-fund has been designed : Defensive profile.

The risk profile mentioned per sub-fund has been determined from the point of view of an investor in the euro area and may differ from that of an investor in other currency zones. More information on the risk profiles can be obtained at www.kbc.be/riskprofile.

4. Information concerning the trading of shares

How to buy and sell shares and switch between sub-funds

If it turns out that shares are being held by persons other than those permitted to hold them, the Company may, in accordance with article 8.2 of the articles of association, and without charge (except any taxes due and any charges to cover the cost of realising the assets), redeem those shares.

| Cut-off time for receiving orders at the financial service providers in Belgium ⁽¹⁾ Date of published net asset value | Date the net asset value is calculated | Actual values used | Date of payment or repayment of the orders |
|---|--|--|--|
| D (every banking day ⁽²⁾ at 6 am CET) | D+1 banking day | D if maximum 20% of the actual values are already known on D (every banking day ⁽²⁾ at 6 am CET) D+1 if more than 20% of the actual values are already known on D (every banking day ⁽²⁾ at 6 am CET) | D+3 banking days |

⁽¹⁾ The cut-off time for receiving orders stated above applies to orders investors place directly with the financial services providers in Belgium.

If an investor places an order with a financial institution other than the financial service providers in Belgium, he/she must find out from that institution what cut-off time (time + date) applies to the order he/she wishes to place so that the institution in question can take the necessary action to ensure that the order reaches the financial service providers in Belgium before 6 am CET on day D in order to qualify as an order of day D.

⁽²⁾ with the exception of banking days on which one or more markets on which more than 20% of the sub-fund's assets are listed are closed or if transactions are suspended or restricted.

Calculation of the net asset value

The net asset value is calculated daily, as described above, except on days on which no shares may be issued or redeemed.

Publication of the net asset value

The 'Information concerning the Bevek – I. Additional information – Publication of the net asset value' section specifies where the result of the calculation of the net asset value can be viewed.

If the profitability of the sub-fund is jeopardised due to a limited number of subscriptions during the initial subscription period (less than 5 000 000 euros), the Board of Directors of the Bevek may decide to refuse the orders placed during the initial subscription period and not to proceed with the commercialisation of the sub-fund.

5. Types of shares and fees and charges

Shares may be in registered or book-entry form, as the shareholder chooses. No certificates representing the registered shares are issued. Instead, confirmation is supplied of entry in the register of shareholders.

Dividend payment

After the close of the financial year, the General Meeting determines the portion of the result, which, within the limitations imposed by the Law of 3 August 2012 relative to undertakings for collective investment complying with the conditions of Directive 2009/65/EC and the undertakings for investment in receivables, is to be paid to the holders of distribution shares.

The holders of capitalisation shares are not entitled to receive a dividend. The portion of the annual net income accruing to them is capitalised in favour of these shares.

The shareholders will receive payment within six months of the close of the financial year via institutions designated for this purpose by the General Meeting.

The General Meeting may decide to proceed to interim payments in accordance with the provisions of the law.

The Board of Directors may, in accordance with the provisions laid down in the articles of association and within the limits of the law, decide to pay out interim dividends.

The information on the type and/or class of shares and the fees and charges associated with them is set out below by type and/or share class.