Procedure file

Basic information

COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)

2021/0377(COD)

Procedure completed

Regulation

Amendments to the European Long-Term Investment Funds (ELTIFs)

Amending Regulation 2015/760 2013/0214(COD)

Subject

2.50.03 Securities and financial markets, stock exchange, CIUTS,

investments

2.50.05 Insurance, pension funds

2.50.08 Financial services, financial reporting and auditing

2.50.10 Financial supervision

Legislative priorities

Joint Declaration 2022

Joint Declaration 2021

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible

Rapporteur

Appointed

02/12/2021

ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs

HOOGEVEEN Michiel

Shadow rapporteur

POLFJÄRD Jessica

GUALMINI Elisabetta

KOVAŘÍK Ondřej



GRUFFAT Claude



BECK Gunnar



GUSMÃO José

Council of the European Union Council configuration

Meeting

6785

Date

Commissioner

07/03/2023

European Commission

Commission DG

MCGUINNESS Mairead

Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport

European Economic and

| events | | | |
|------------|---|-------------------------------|---------|
| 25/11/2021 | Legislative proposal published | COM(2021)0722 | Summary |
| 14/02/2022 | Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading | | |
| 20/06/2022 | Vote in committee, 1st reading | | |
| 20/06/2022 | Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee | | |
| 29/06/2022 | Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading | A9-0196/2022 | Summary |
| 04/07/2022 | Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 71) | | |
| 06/07/2022 | Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 71) | | |
| 12/01/2023 | Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations | PE740.521 GEDA/A/(2022)007428 | |
| 14/02/2023 | Debate in Parliament | - | |
| 15/02/2023 | Results of vote in Parliament | <u> </u> | |
| 15/02/2023 | Decision by Parliament, 1st reading | T9-0040/2023 | Summary |
| 07/03/2023 | Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading | | |
| 15/03/2023 | Final act signed | | |
| 20/03/2023 | Final act published in Official Journal | | |

| Technical information | |
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| Procedure reference | 2021/0377(COD) |
| Procedure type | COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) |
| Procedure subtype | Legislation |
| Legislative instrument | Regulation |
| | Amending Regulation 2015/760 2013/0214(COD) |
| Legal basis | Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 114 |
| Other legal basis | Rules of Procedure EP 159 |
| Mandatory consultation of other institutions | European Economic and Social Committee |
| Stage reached in procedure | Procedure completed |
| Committee dossier | ECON/9/07805 |

| Documentation gateway | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------|----|---------|
| Legislative proposal | COM(2021)0722 | 25/11/2021 | EC | Summary |
| | | | | |

| Document attached to the procedure | SEC(2021)0571 | 25/11/2021 | EC | |
|---|---------------------|------------|-----|---------|
| Document attached to the procedure | SWD(2021)0342 | 25/11/2021 | EC | |
| Document attached to the procedure | SWD(2021)0343 | 25/11/2021 | EC | |
| Committee draft report | PE719.930 | 14/03/2022 | EP | |
| Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report | CES6507/2021 | 23/03/2022 | ESC | |
| Amendments tabled in committee | PE731.593 | 25/04/2022 | EP | |
| Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading | A9-0196/2022 | 29/06/2022 | EP | Summary |
| Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations | PE740.521 | 07/12/2022 | EP | |
| Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement | GEDA/A/(2022)007428 | 09/12/2022 | CSL | |
| Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading | <u>T9-0040/2023</u> | 15/02/2023 | EP | Summary |
| Draft final act | 00069/2022/LEX | 15/03/2023 | CSL | |
| Commission response to text adopted in plenary | SP(2023)154 | 12/04/2023 | EC | |

Final act

Regulation 2023/606
OJ L 080 20.03.2023, p. 0001 Summary

Amendments to the European Long-Term Investment Funds (ELTIFs) Regulation

PURPOSE: increase the attractiveness of European Long-Term Investment Funds (ELTIFs) for investors and enhance their role as a complementary source of financing for EU companies.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: Regulation (EU) 2015/760 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European long-term investment funds (ELTIF Regulation) is a European framework for alternative investment funds (AIFs) that invest in long-term investments, such as social and transport infrastructure projects, real estate and SMEs. The ELTIF market is still relatively new, but it is evident that it has not scaled up to the extent originally envisaged, with only 57 authorised ELTIFs in four Member States as of October 2021. Amendments are necessary to improve the attractiveness and effectiveness of the framework for investment managers and investors.

CONTENT: this proposal aims to increase the uptake of ELTIFs across the EU. This, in turn, would support the continued development of the Capital Markets Union (CMU), which also aims to make it easier for EU companies to access more stable and diverse long-term financing.

The proposed amendments to the ELTIF Regulation are expected to:

- increase flexibility: the proposal introduces additional flexibility and alleviates the burden on fund managers who provide products tailored to the needs of professional clients. At the same time, removing the hurdles investors face in accessing ELTIFs (while maintaining current protections for investors) will reduce administrative burdens and make ELTIFs more attractive for asset managers and investors alike;
- improve accessibility: amendments to the proposal aim to reduce barriers to entry for retail investors, while still ensuring appropriate levels of investor protection. For example, removing the requirement for a minimum investment of EUR 10 000 and the 10% aggregate

investment limit for those retail investors whose financial portfolios are below EUR 500 000. At the same time, the suitability test will be aligned with the MiFID II framework to avoid any duplication;

- provide redemptions: the proposal introduces an additional liquidity window redemption mechanism that will make it possible for investors to exit an ELTIF investment earlier subject to certain conditions. It also seeks to ensure appropriate investor protection safeguards are in place.

Lastly, in order to give ELTIF managers sufficient time to adapt to the new requirements, including the requirements pertaining to the marketing of ELTIFs to investors, the proposed Regulation should start to apply six months after its entry into force.

Amendments to the European Long-Term Investment Funds (ELTIFs) Regulation

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs adopted the report by Michiel HOOGEVEEN (ECR, NL) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2015/760 as regards the scope of eligible assets and investments, the portfolio composition and diversification requirements, the borrowing of cash and other fund rules and as regards requirements pertaining to the authorisation, investment policies and operating conditions of European long-term investment funds.

The committee responsible recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the proposal as follows:

Objective of the Regulation

The objective of this Regulation is to facilitate the raising and channelling of capital towards long-term investments in the real economy, including towards the digital agenda for Europe, the European Green Deal and other priority areas, in line with the Union objective of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

ELTIFs marketed as sustainable

Investors, and in particular retail investors, are showing increasing interest in sustainable investments. Therefore, a new optional subcategory of ELTIFs marketed as environmentally sustainable would be created to accommodate capital from investors seeking sustainable investments. This optional sub-category should be subject to stricter requirements regarding the list of eligible assets.

Members clarified that an ELTIF marketed as environmentally sustainable should comply with the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 on sustainability reporting in the financial services sector and will only have to invest in eligible investment assets that meet the taxonomy requirements set out in the delegated acts adopted under Regulation (EU) 2020/852 on the establishment of a framework to promote sustainable investment.

ELTIFs marketed as environmentally sustainable should be subject to additional disclosure requirements. In particular, ELTIFs marketed as environmentally sustainable should disclose the share of their assets that comply with the taxonomy requirements.

Investment in green bonds

In order to encourage private capital flows towards more environmentally sustainable investments, the amended text clarifies that ELTIFs are also able to invest in green bonds to be issued under the prospective regulation based on the Commission proposal on European green bonds.

It is therefore proposed to complement Regulation (EU) 2015/760 so that green bonds and financial products that have sustainable investments as their objective are explicitly included in the list of eligible investment assets.

It will also be possible to allow ELTIFs to invest in a new financial undertaking as long as it aims to promote the objectives of Regulation (EU) 2015/760.

Eligible portfolio undertaking

In order to provide ELTIFs with a better liquidity profile, the market capitalisation of the listed qualifying undertakings in which ELTIFs can invest should therefore be increased from EUR 500 million to EUR 2 billion.

Borrowing cash

In order to allow managers of ELTIFs to raise capital more efficiently while keeping an eye on the potential risks that leverage could entail, ELTIFs marketed to retail investors should be permitted to borrow cash amounting to up to 70% of the net asset value of the ELTIF

Issuance and redemption of shares and units in open-ended ELTIFs

To increase the attractiveness of ELTIFs, open-ended fund structures alongside the existing closed-end structure should be introduced. Combining the introduction of open-ended fund structures with clear rules for redemption rights would increase flexibility for investors and enable increased participation.

Transparency

ELTIFs should, insofar as possible due to the nature and composition of the eligible investment assets, document and disclose specific information on the extent to which their eligible investment assets pursue environmental objectives, the agenda of the European Green Deal and the principle of do no significant harm, as well as the objectives of protecting social rights and guaranteeing minimum social safeguards.

Investor protection

In order to ensure effective investor protection, it is clarified that when an ELTIF invests in other ELTIFs, European Venture Capital Funds (EuVECA), European Social Entrepreneurship Funds (EuSEF), in UCITS and AIFs managed by EU-based EU AIF managers, these collective investment undertakings should also invest in eligible investments and should not themselves have invested more than 20% of their net asset value in any other collective investment undertaking, and thus offer a similar risk profile to that of ELTIFs.

Where, on the basis of the suitability assessment, it is ascertained that an ELTIF is not suitable for a retail investor, the manager of the ELTIF or the distributor should issue a clear written alert that investing more than 10% of that investors portfolio of financial instruments might constitute excessive risk-taking.

Entry into force

In order to give ELTIF managers sufficient time to adapt to the new requirements, including those pertaining to the marketing of ELTIFs to investors, the Regulation should start to apply nine months after its entry into force. However, existing ELTIFs should be allowed to benefit from a grandfathering clause in order to preserve predictability and trust.

Furthermore, the requirements of the Regulation should not apply to ELTIFs approved before the entry into force of the Regulation, except in cases where an ELTIF requests to be subject to the amending Regulation.

Amendments to the European Long-Term Investment Funds (ELTIFs) Regulation

The European Parliament adopted by 492 votes to 109, with 27 abstentions, on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2015/760 as regards the scope of eligible assets and investments, the portfolio composition and diversification requirements, the borrowing of cash and other fund rules and as regards requirements pertaining to the authorisation, investment policies and operating conditions of European long-term investment funds.

The European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure amends the Commission's proposal as follows:

Objective of the Regulation

It is clarified that the objective of this Regulation is to facilitate the raising and channelling of capital towards long-term investments in the real economy, including towards investments that promote the European Green Deal and other priority areas, in line with the Union objective of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Qualifying portfolio undertaking

According to the amended text, a qualifying portfolio undertaking should be an undertaking that fulfils, at the time of the initial investment, the following requirements:

- (a) it is not a financial undertaking, unless: (i) it is a financial undertaking that is not a financial holding company or a mixed-activity holding company; and (ii) it has been authorised or registered more recently than five years before the date of the initial investment;
- (b) it is an undertaking which: (i) is not admitted to trading on a regulated market or on a multilateral trading facility; or (ii) is admitted to trading on a regulated market or on a multilateral trading facility and has a market capitalisation of no more than EUR 1 500 000 000;
- (c) it is established in a Member State, or in a third country provided that the third country: (i) is not identified as high-risk third country; (ii) is not mentioned in Annex I to the Council conclusions on the revised EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes.

Portfolio composition and diversification

An ELTIF should invest at least 55 % of its capital in eligible investment assets.

In the event that an ELTIF infringes the portfolio composition and diversification requirements or the borrowing limits, and the infringement is beyond the control of the manager of the ELTIF, the manager of the ELTIF should, within an appropriate period of time, take such measures as are necessary to rectify the position, taking due account of the interests of the investors in the ELTIF.

Borrowing of cash

It is stipulated that an ELTIF may borrow cash provided that such borrowing represents no more than 50 % of the net asset value of the ELTIF in the case of ELTIFs that can be marketed to retail investors, and no more than 100 % of the net asset value of the ELTIF in the case of ELTIFs marketed solely to professional investors.

The manager of the ELTIF should specify in the prospectus of the ELTIF whether the ELTIF intends to borrow cash as part of the ELTIFs investment strategy and, if so, should also specify therein the borrowing limits.

Redemption of units or shares of ELTIFs

Investors in an ELTIF should not be able to request the redemption of their units or shares before the end of the life of the ELTIF. Redemptions to investors shall be possible as from the day following the date of the end of the life of the ELTIF. The rules or instruments of incorporation of the ELTIF should clearly indicate a specific date for the end of the life of the ELTIF and may provide for the right to extend temporarily the life of the ELTIF and the conditions for exercising such a right.

By way of derogation, the rules or instruments of incorporation of an ELTIF may provide for the possibility of redemptions during the life of the ELTIF provided that certain conditions are met.

The life of an ELTIF should be consistent with the long-term nature of the ELTIF and should be compatible with the life-cycles of each of the individual assets of the ELTIF, measured according to the illiquidity profile and economic life-cycle of the asset and the stated investment objective of the ELTIF.

Investors should always have the option to be repaid in cash. Repayment in kind from the assets of the ELTIF should only be possible under certain conditions.

Specific requirements concerning the distribution and marketing of ELTIFs to retail investors

The manager of an ELTIF whose units or shares may be marketed to retail investors will be subject to the requirements set out in Directive 2014/65/EU on markets in financial instruments. Units or shares of an ELTIF may only be marketed to a retail investor if an assessment of suitability has been carried out in accordance with Directive 2014/65/EU and a statement of suitability has been provided to that retail investor in accordance with that Directive.

The express consent of the retail investor indicating that the investor understands the risks of investing in an ELTIF should be obtained where all of the following conditions are met:

- the assessment of suitability is not provided in the context of investment advice;
- the ELTIF is considered not suitable for the retail investor on the basis of the assessment of suitability;
- the retail investor wishes to proceed with the transaction despite the fact that the ELTIF is considered not suitable for that investor.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding by retail investors regarding the legal nature of, and the potential liquidity allowed for by, the secondary trading mechanism, the distributor or, when directly offering or placing units or shares of an ELTIF to a retail investor, the manager of the ELTIF should issue a clear written alert to retail investors that the availability of a matching mechanism does not guarantee the matching or entitle retail investors to exiting or redeeming their units or shares of the ELTIF concerned.

That written alert should be part of a single written alert that also informs retail investors that the ELTIF product might not be fit for retail investors that are unable to sustain such a long-term and illiquid commitment, where the life of an ELTIF offered or placed to retail investors exceeds 10 years.

Review of sustainability aspects of ELTIFs

No later than two years after the date of application of this amending Regulation, the Commission should carry out an assessment and submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council accompanied, where appropriate, by a legislative proposal, regarding at least the following:

- whether the creation of an optional designation of ELTIF marketed as environmentally sustainable or green ELTIF is feasible;
- whether there should be a general obligation for ELTIFs to comply in their investment decisions with the principle of do no significant harm, or whether that obligation should be limited to ELTIFs marketed as environmentally sustainable or green ELTIFs, in the eventuality that such an optional designation is considered feasible;
- whether there is any potential to improve the framework for ELTIFs by contributing more significantly to the objectives of the European Green Deal, without undermining the nature of ELTIFs.

Amendments to the European Long-Term Investment Funds (ELTIFs) Regulation

PURPOSE: to review the functioning of the legal framework for the operation of European Long-Term Investment Funds (ELTIFs) to ensure that more investments are channelled to businesses in need of capital and to long-term investment projects.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Regulation (EU) 2023/606 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2015/760 as regards the requirements pertaining to the investment policies and operating conditions of European long-term investment funds and the scope of eligible investment assets, the portfolio composition and diversification requirements and the borrowing of cash and other fund rules.

CONTENT: the ELTIF regulatory framework sets out detailed fund rules on eligible assets and investments, diversification and portfolio composition, leverage limits and marketing. ELTIFs are the only type of funds dedicated to long-term investments that can be distributed on a cross-border basis to both professional and retail investors.

The ELTIF industry is relatively small and concentrated in a handful of Member States. There is an untapped potential to channel more capital towards long-term projects.

Given that ELTIFs could facilitate long-term investments in, inter alia, energy, transport and social infrastructure, as well as job creation, this Regulation amends the 2015 Regulation so that its objective is to facilitate the raising and channelling of capital towards long-term investments in the real economy, including towards investments that promote the European Green Deal and other priority areas, and to ensure that capital flows are directed towards projects that put the Unions economy on a path towards smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The amending Regulation aims to overcome a number of supply and demand side limitations. In particular, it clarifies:

- the scope of eligible assets and investments,
- the portfolio composition and diversification requirements,
- the conditions for borrowing and lending of cash and other fund rules, including sustainability aspects,
- the redemption of units or shares of ELTIFs.

The Regulation also includes rules to make it easier for retail investors to invest in ELTIFs while ensuring strong investor protection.

The units or shares of an ELTIF may only be marketed to a retail investor where an assessment of suitability has been carried out and a statement on suitability has been provided to that retail investor.

The express consent of the retail investor indicating that the investor understands the risks of investing in an ELTIF should be obtained where all of the following conditions are met:

- the assessment of suitability is not provided in the context of investment advice;
- the ELTIF is considered not suitable for the retail investor on the basis of the assessment of suitability;
- the retail investor wishes to proceed with the transaction despite the fact that the ELTIF is considered not suitable for that investor.

The distributor or, when directly offering or placing units or shares of an ELTIF to a retail investor, the manager of the ELTIF should issue a clear written alert to retail investors that the availability of a matching mechanism does not guarantee the matching or entitle retail investors to exiting or redeeming their units or shares of the ELTIF concerned. That written alert should be part of a single written alert that also informs retail investors that the ELTIF product might not be fit for retail investors that are unable to sustain such a long-term and illiquid commitment, where the life of an ELTIF offered or placed to retail investors exceeds 10 years.

By 11 January 2026, the Commission should carry out an assessment and submit a report accompanied, where appropriate, by a legislative proposal, regarding at least the following:

- whether the creation of an optional designation of ELTIF marketed as environmentally sustainable or green ELTIF is feasible;
- whether there should be a general obligation for ELTIFs to comply in their investment decisions with the principle of do no significant harm.

| Transparency | | | | |
|--------------|--------|------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| KOVA?ÍK | Shadow | ECON | 08/09/2022 | The Alternative Investment Management |

| Ond?ej | rapporteur | | | Association Limited |
|----------------------|----------------------|------|------------|--|
| KOVA?ÍK Ond?ej | Shadow rapporteur | ECON | 26/04/2022 | The Alternative Investment Management Association Limited |
| POLFJÄRD Jessica | Shadow rapporteur | ECON | 15/03/2022 | Invest Europe |
| KOVA?ÍK Ond?ej | Shadow rapporteur | ECON | 23/02/2022 | Association Française de la Gestion financière Natixis IM |
| KOVA?ÍK Ond?ej | Shadow rapporteur | ECON | 23/02/2022 | AMUNDI AM |
| HOOGEVEEN Michiel | Rapporteur | ECON | 10/02/2022 | AFG |
| HOOGEVEEN Michiel | Rapporteur | ECON | 09/02/2022 | BVI Bundesverband Investment und Asset Management e.V. Invest Europe |
| HOOGEVEEN Michiel | Rapporteur | ECON | 28/01/2022 | ALFI |