Public consultation on the review of the alternative investment fund managers directive (AIFMD)

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The short version of this consultation is now available in 23 European Union official languages.

Please use the language selector at the top of this page to choose your language for this consultation.

In the European Union, alternative investment funds (AIFs) are collective investment funds that are not covered by <u>Directive 2009/65/EC on undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities (UCITS)</u>. AIFs vary in terms of their investment strategies, markets, asset types and legal forms. Alternative investment fund managers (AIFMs) manage the AIFs, which are often established for saving or income generating purposes while supporting broader economic activity, and include venture capital and private equity funds, real estate funds, hedge funds and fund of funds. The activities of AIFMs are governed by the <u>alternative investment fund managers Directive 2011/61/EU (AIFMD)</u>.

The AIFMD aims to facilitate greater AIF market integration, improve coherence in the actions taken by supervisory authorities to address potential risks posed to the financial system while ensuring appropriate levels of investor protection. To this end, an AIFM is required to obtain licence from its home supervisor and adhere to the operational requirements laid down in the AIFMD and its supplementing <u>AIFMR</u>, including taking measures to manage risks and to ensure the requisite transparency regarding the activities of their managed AIFs.

On 10 June 2020, the European Commission submitted its <u>report to the European Parliament and the Council on the scope and the application of the AIFMD</u>. The report concludes that while the AIFMD has contributed to the creation of the EU AIF market, provided a high-level protection to investors and facilitated monitoring of risks to financial stability, there are a number of areas where the legal framework could be improved. Given the European Commission's ongoing efforts to develop the capital markets union (CMU), this consultation seeks the views of stakeholders on how to achieve a more effective and efficient functioning of the EU AIF market as part of the overall financial system.

Structure of the public consultation

First, this public consultation focuses on improving the utility of the AIFM passport and the overall competitiveness of the EU AIF industry. The analysed data indicates that the appropriate and balanced regulation of financial markets

benefits investors as well as the overall economy. The questions in the section on **authorisation/scope** seek views from stakeholders on the scope of the AIFM licence, its potential extension to smaller AIFMs and level playing field concerns in relation to the regulation of other financial intermediaries, like MiFID firms, credit institutions or UCITS managers that provide similar services.

The **investor protection** section raises questions on investor access that take into account the differences between retail and professional investors. The same consideration is raised in the questions on a potential EU law precalibration of an AIF that would be suitable for marketing to retail. Adequacy of disclosure requirements are covered including the specific requirements that could be added, changed or removed from the current rulebook. Other questions address the alleged ambiguities in the depositary regime and the lack of the depositary passport. Stakeholders are also invited to comment on potential improvements to the AIFMD rules on valuation.

The issue of a level playing field is also covered in the section dedicated to **international issues**. Views are sought on how best to achieve the equitable treatment of non-EU AIFs and securing a wider choice of AIFs for investors while at the same time ensuring that EU AIFMs are not exposed to unfair competition or are otherwise disadvantaged.

The section dedicated to **financial stability** seeks stakeholder views on how to ensure NCAs and AIFMs have the tools necessary to effectively mitigate and deal with systemic risks. Specific input regarding improvements to the supervisory reporting template provided in the AIFMR is requested with a particular focus on the increased activities of AIFs in the credit market. The consultation suggests the potential for more centralised supervisory reporting and improved information sharing among the relevant supervisors. A revised supervisory setup and cooperation measures among the competent authorities are another focus of this consultation.

The rules on **investment in private companies** are examined with a view to potential improvements and comments are sought on the effectiveness of the current rules and their potential enhancement.

The **sustainability** related section seeks input on how the alternative investment sector can participate effectively in the areas of responsible investing and the preservation of our planet.

Questions are posed as regards the treatment of **UCITS**, particularly where a more coherent approach may be warranted. This includes the question of a single licence for AIF and UCITS managers, harmonised metrics for leverage calculation and reporting on the use of liquidity management tools.

Finally, stakeholders are welcome to raise other AIFMD related issues and submit proposals on how to otherwise improve the AIFMD legal framework with regard to any issues not directly addressed in the consultation.

Given the broad nature of the questions, well-substantiated, evidence/data backed answers and proposals will be particularly instructive. Clearly linking responses to the contributions already received in the <u>public consultation reviewing</u> <u>MiFID II</u>, informing digital strategy of the EU or any other relevant consultations would be particularly useful.

This public consultation aims to gather views from all interested parties, in particular collective investment fund managers and investment firms, AIF distributors, industry representatives, investors and investor protection associations. The questions 1, 2 and 3 as well as the section Investor protection, except for part (b) thereof, are available in all the EU official languages to gather citizens' views on these matters.

- I want to respond only to the **short version of the questionnaire** (3 + 14 questions)
- I want to respond to the full version of the questionnaire (102 questions)

I. Functioning of the AIFMD regulatory framework, scope and authorisation requirements

The central pillar of the AIFMD regulatory regime is a European licence or a so-called AIFM passport. EU AIFMs are able to manage and market EU AIFs to professional investors across the Union with a single authorisation. This section seeks to gather views on potential improvements to the AIFMD legal framework to facilitate further integration of the EU AIF market. The objective is to look at the specific regulatory aspects where their potential refining could enhance utility of the AIFM passport, gathering data on concrete costs and benefits of the suggested improvements, at the same time ensuring that the investor and financial stability interests are served in the best way. A number of questions focus on the level playing field between AIFMs and other financial intermediaries.

Question 1. What is your overall experience with the functioning of the AIFMD legal framework?

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied

Unsatisfied
Very unsatisfied
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 2. Do you believe that the effectiveness of the AIFMD is impaired by national legislation or existing market practices?
Fully agree
Somewhat agree
Neutral
Somewhat disagree
Fully disagree
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 2.1 Please explain your answer to question 2, providing concrete
examples and data to substantiate it:
5000 character(s) maximum
including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
The concept of portfolio management is applied differently depending on the jurisdiction. Local regulator should have more flexibility to apply the AIFMd rules with regards to the local business model.

Question 3. Please specify to what extent you agree with the statements below:

Neutral

The AIFMD has been successful in achieving its objectives as follows:

	1 (fully disagree)	2 (somewhat disagree)	3 (neutral)	4 (somewhat agree)	5 (fully agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
creating internal market for AIFs	0	0	•	0	0	0
enabling monitoring risks to the financial stability	0	0	0	0	0	0
providing high level investor protection	0	0	0	0	•	0

Other statements:

	1 (fully disagree)	2 (somewhat disagree)	3 (neutral)	4 (somewhat agree)	5 (fully agree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
The scope of the AIFM license is clear and appropriate	0	0	0	•	0	0
The AIFMD costs and benefits are balanced (in particular regarding the regulatory and administrative burden)	0	0	0	•	0	0
The different components of the AIFMD legal framework operate well together to achieve the AIFMD objectives	0	0	0	•	0	0
The AIFMD objectives correspond to the needs and problems in EU asset management and financial markets	0	0	0	•	0	0
The AIFMD has provided EU AIFs and AIFMs added Value	0	0	0	0	0	0

Question 3.1 Please explain your answer to question 3, providing quantitative and qualitative reasons to substantiate it:

5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.	
Lack of consistency in the application of the AIFMd requirements between member states	
Question 4. Is the coverage of the AIFM licence appropriate?	
Yes	
No No	
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant	
Question 4.1 What other functions would you suggest adding to the AIFM i c e n c e ?	I
Please explain your choice also considering related safeguards a requirements, such as protecting against potential conflicts of interest, who appropriate, disadvantages and benefits of the proposed approach:	
5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.	

Question 5. Should AIFMs be permitted to invest on own account?

Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 5.1 Please explain your answer to question 5:
5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Question 6. Are securitisation vehicles effectively excluded from the scope of the AIFMD?
© Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 7. Is the AIFMD provision providing that it does not apply to employee participation schemes or employee savings schemes effective?
© Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 8. Should the AIFM capital requirements be made more risk-sensitive and proportionate to the risk-profile of the managed AIFs?
© Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 9. Are the own funds requirements of the AIFMD appropriate given the existing initial capital limit of EUR 10 million although not less than one quarter of the preceding year's fixed overheads?

Yes
1 (7.7

No

Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 10. Would the AIFMD benefit from further clarification or harmonisation of the requirements concerning AIFM authorisation to provide ancillary services under Article 6 of the AIFMD?

- Fully agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neutral
- Somewhat disagree
- Fully disagree
- Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 10.1 Please explain your answer to question 10, presenting benefits and disadvantages of the entertained options as well as costs:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Certain ancillary activities constitute a modality of exercise of real estate AIFM on behalf of third parties

Activities considered as "ancillary" are in reality a way of carrying out the main activity of real estate asset management companies, which is the management of real estate assets on behalf of its clients.

In fact, investors or holders of real estate assets entrust investment and / or management mandates to asset management companies which do not necessarily give rise to the creation of an AIF, but fall within the scope of French real estate mandate law.

Also, although the service is not carried out by means of an AIF but of a mandate, the fact remains that the content of the services is similar in terms of asset management and / or property management, the AIFM not performing the function of funds management in the event of a mandate.

Likewise, the fact of being able to broker life insurance contracts because the AIFs that the asset management companies manage are integrated into unit of account in said contracts is only a normal - and regulated - extension of their "core business".

Consequently, it is important that AIFMd recognize the principle that an activity does not have to be considered as ancillary as long as it is a normal - and regulated - extension of the AIFM "core business", regardless of whether this central activity is carried out:

- in collective (investment fund) or individual form (civil real estate mandates);
- or in regulated form (civil real estate mandates regulated by the French law) or not (activity of manager of real estate companies).

Some activities meet a specific customer need and benefit from being managed within the regulated structure

As part of real estate mandates, AIFM are often called upon to manage, for the same client, regulated vehicles and others that are not, for reasons which are not the responsibility of the AIFM but which are a strategic choice of the customer.

The exercise of these activities within separate entities can generate different approaches in terms of management, risk control and ethics and present a significant risk of loss of consistent and secure management quality for the client. Therefore, bringing together activities that are identical in economic terms but governed by different legal statuses within the same regulated entity appears to us to be a guarantee of better protection for the investor.

Finally, the addition of ancillary activities within an AIFM allows the latter to pool its resources and therefore increase the material and human resources necessary to ensure good management and control.

Services often provided in an intra-group framework

Many real estate AIFM are part of a group structured through specialized "business" subsidiaries with a defined scope of activity and having the know-how and material and human resources enabling them to provide services. to the other subsidiaries of the group.

Any reorganization could have significant impacts in terms of competitiveness, organization and taxation and call into question the overall balance of the group's structure.

From this perspective, once the services are provided within the framework of the said group, it is very important that the group enjoys flexibility in the organization of the exercise of activities considered as "ancillary".

There is a need to advocate for an exercise of "Other ancillary activities" at constant scope and within the same structure. In any case, a precise description of the procedures for carrying out "Other ancillary activities" would be included in the activity program of the asset management company with a specific point in the treatment of risks of conflicts of interest with the company. main activity and, where applicable, in relations with other group entities. On this specific point of the treatment of conflicts of interest, there are strong organizational arguments in favor of exercising within an asset management company due to easier control when exercised within the same entity, 'even more so if this entity is regulated.

Question 11. Should the capital requirements for AIFMs authorised to carry out ancillary services under Article 6 of the AIFMD be calculated in a more risk-sensitive manner?

Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 12. Should the capital requirements established for AIFMs carrying out ancillary services under Article 6 of the AIFMD correspond to the capital requirements applicable to the investment firms carrying out identical services?
Yes
 No Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 12.1 Please explain your answer to question 12, presenting benefits and disadvantages of your suggested approach as well as potential costs of the change, where possible:
5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Question 13. What are the changes to the AIFMD legal framework needed to
ensure a level playing field between investment firms and AIFMs providing of ompeting services?
omporing services:
Please present benefits and disadvantages of your suggested approach as well as potential costs of the change, where possible:

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Yes

No

5000 character(s) maximum

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Question 14. Would you see value in introducing in the AIFMD a Supervisory
Review and Evaluation Process (SREP) similar to that applicable to the credit
institutions?
© Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 14.1 Please explain your answer to question 14, presenting benefits
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the change, where possible: 5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method. Question 15. Is a professional indemnity insurance option available under the AIFMD useful? Yes

Question 15.1 Please explain your answer to question 15, presenting benefits and disadvantages of your suggested approach as well as potential costs of the change, where possible:

5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Question 16. Are the assets under management thresholds laid down in Article 3 of the AIFMD appropriate?
Yes
[©] No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 17. Does the lack of an EU passport for the sub-threshold AIFMs impede capital raising in other Member States?
Yes
O No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 17.1 Please further detail your answer to question 17, substantiating it, also with examples of the alleged barriers:
5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Question 18. Is it necessary to provide an EU level passport for sub- thres AIFMs?	holo
Yes	
No	
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant	
Question 18.1 Please explain your answer to question 18:	
5000 character(s) maximum	
including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.	
Question 19. What are the reasons for EuVECA managers to opt in the AIF regime instead of accessing investors across the EU with the EuVECA lab	
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Please explain your answer: 5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method. Question 20. Can the AIFM passport be improved to enhance cross-border	el?

0	No
	Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 20.1 Please explain your answer to question 20:

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II. Investor protection

The AIFMD aims to protect investors by requiring AIFMs to act with the requisite transparency before and after investors commit capital to a particular AIF. Conflicts of interest must be managed in the best interest of the investors in the AIF. AIFMs must also ensure that the AIF's assets are valued in accordance with appropriate and consistent valuation procedures established for an each AIF. The AIF assets are then placed in safekeeping with an appointed depositary that also oversees AIF's cash flows and ensures regulatory compliance.

Questions in this section cover the topic of investor categorisation referencing to MiFID II, stopping short of repeating the same questions that have been raised in its <u>recent public consultation on MiFID II</u>, rather inviting comments on the most appropriate way forward. Views are also sought on the conditions that would make it possible to open up the AIF universe to a larger pool of investors while considering their varying degrees of financial literacy and risk awareness. Examples of redundant or insufficient investor disclosures are invited.

Greater clarity on stakeholders' views of the AIFMD rules on depositaries is sought in particular where such rules may require clarification or amending. The introduction of the depositary passport is desirable from an internal market point of view, but stakeholders are invited to propose other potential legal solutions, if any, that could address the issue of the short supply and concentration of depository services in smaller markets.

a) Investor classification and investor access

Question 21. Do you agree that the AIFMD should cross-refer to the client categories as defined in the MIFID II (Article 4(1)(ag) of the AIFMD)?

Yes
1 5

No

Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 21.1 Please explain your answer to question 21:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Question 22. How AIFM access to retail investors can be improved?
Please give examples where possible and present benefits and disadvantages of your suggested approach as well as potential costs of the change:
5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Question 23. Is there a need to structure an AIF under the EU law that could be marketed to retail investors with a passport?
Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 23.1 If yes, what are the requirements that should be imposed on s u c h A I F s ?

Please	give	examples	where	possible	and	present	benefits	and
disadva	ntages	of your sug	gested a	approach a	s well	as potent	ial costs o	f the
change:								

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b) depositary regime								
Question 24. \functions	What difficing	culties, if any, the do accordance	epositaries fa with	ace in exer the	cising their AIFMD?			
barriers and a	ssociated	swer by giving cond I costs.			- ,			
		sary and appropriat	e to explicitl	y define in	the AIFMD			
Yes								
[◎] No								
Don't kno	w / no opii	nion / not relevant						

Question 25.1 Please explain your answer to question 25:

Question 26. Should there be more specific rules for the delegation process where the assets are in the custody of tri-party collateral managers?
© Yes
No Pon't know / no oninion / not volovent
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 26.1 Please explain your answer to question 26, presenting benefits and disadvantages of your suggested approach as well as potential costs of
the change, where possible:
5000 character(s) maximum
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Question 27. Where AIFMs use tri-party collateral managers' services, which of the aspects should be explicitly regulated by the AIFMD?
Question 27. Where AIFMs use tri-party collateral managers' services, which

the flow of information between the tri-party collateral manager and the depositary
the frequency at which the tri-party collateral manager should transmit the positions on a fund-by-fund basis to the depositary in order to enable it to record the movements in the financial instruments accounts opened in its books no additional rules are necessary, the current regulation is appropriate other
Question 28. Are the AIFMD rules on the prime brokers clear?
© Yes
© No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 29. Where applicable, are there any difficulties faced by depositaries in obtaining the required reporting from prime brokers?
© Yes
O No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 30. What additional measures are necessary at EU level to address the difficulties identified in the response to the preceding question?
Please explain your answer providing concrete examples:
5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

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	n 31. Does the lac ing of the EU AIF		lepositary	passport inhibit ef	ficient
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[◎] No					
Don	ı't know / no opinio	n / not rel	evant		
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	hat barriers are p	precluding	introducing the	depositary
	our position provid	•	te examples and	evidence,
5000 character(s) max	of the existing imp		characters counting m	ethod.
Question 34. Are	there other option	s that could	d address the lac	ck of supply of
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[™] Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 35.1 Please explain your answer to question 35, providing concrete
examples and suggesting improvements to the current rules and presenting
benefits and disadvantages as well as costs:
5000 character(s) maximum
including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
c) transparency and conflicts of interest
Question 36. Are the mandatory disclosures under the AIFMD sufficient for investors to make informed investment decisions?
Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 37. What elements of mandatory disclosure requirements, if any, should differ depending on the type of investor?
Please explain your position, presenting benefits and disadvantages of the potential changes as well as costs:
5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Question 35. Should the investor CSDs be treated as delegates of the

depositary?

C and disadvantages of the potential changes as well as costs:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

In our opinion, the current regulations do not require changes in the valuation rules. AIFMs invest in very different types of assets (listed and non-listed securities, liquid and illiquid, etc.) which obey to different valuation rules. So, it would not make sense to build a "one size fits all approach" on valuation.

External valuers might be helpful to perform the valuation of very specific assets. However, the use of

external valuers should remain an option and not mandatory (i.e. at the discretion of the management company), and the responsibility for valuation should always remain in the management companies. As for the responsibilities of external appraisers, although there is no example of recourse to external appraisers outside of real estate funds, they seem to us to be correctly defined by current regulations.

Question 41. Should the AIFMD legal framework be improved further given the experience with asset valuation during the recent pandemic?
© Yes
© No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 42. Are the AIFMD rules on valuation clear?
Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 43. Are the AIFMD rules on valuation sufficient?
Yes
[©] No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 44. Do you consider that it should be possible in the asset valuation process to combine input from internal and external valuers?
Yes
No No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 44.1 Please substantiate your answer to question 44, also in terms of benefits, disadvantages and costs:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

It is actually already the case. The valuation of properties is performed by French AIFMs on the basis of reports (full valuation report ("rapport d'expertise"), desktop reports ("rapports d'actualisation")) provided by professional real estate external appraisers, such as those registered with the RICS.

French AIFMs remain responsible for deciding on the final valuation of the properties and the NAV of the funds that they manage on each NAV calculation / publication date.

lease provide concrete examples, presenting costs linked to the described										
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li se	provide		rete exam lescribed	•		nting ber	efits a	ınd di	isadvar	ntages

III. International re	lations				
Considering the global nature of fi adopting the AIFMD the EU co-legi activities that may impact the EU to seeking views on where to strike the under the conditions of a fair compathe competitiveness of the EU AIF in partners in the area governed by the regime and delegation rules.	slators sought inancial stabil e balance of h etition withou narket, this sec	to put in place a ity, market integ naving a function t undermining fir ction seeks views	legal framewor rity and investo ing, efficient Al ancial stability. on how the EU	k for tackling ris r protection. Th F market and er Besides posing market could int	ks emanating from Alf e questions below are nsuring that it operates g general questions or eract with internationa
			regulator	, framewo	rk support the
Question 47. Which ele	ments of	the AIFMD	i egulator	,a	oappoit iiio
competitiveness Please explain providir	of	the	EU	AIF	industry?
competitiveness Please explain providir available: 5000 character(s) maximum	of ng concre	the te example	EU es and refe	AIF rring to da	industry?
competitiveness Please explain providir available: 5000 character(s) maximum	of ng concre	the te example	EU es and refe	AIF rring to da	industry?
competitiveness Please explain providir available:	of ng concre	the te example	EU es and refe	AIF rring to da	industry?

altered to enhance competitiveness of the EU AIF

32

industry?

Please explain providing concrete examples and referring to data where available: 5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method. Question 49. Do you believe that national private placement regimes create an uneven playing field between EU and non-EU AIFMs? Yes ON O Don't know / no opinion / not relevant Question 50. Are the delegation rules sufficiently clear to prevent creation of letter-box entities in the EU? Yes O No Don't know / no opinion / not relevant Question 51. Are the delegation rules under the AIFMD/AIFMR appropriate to ensure effective risk management? Yes [◎] No

Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Article 82 of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 231/2013, be complemented?
© Yes
[©] No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 53. Should the AIFMD standards apply regardless of the location of a third party, to which AIFM has delegated the collective portfolio management functions, in order to ensure investor protection and to prevent regulatory arbitrage?
© Yes
O No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 53.1 Please explain your answer to question 53:
5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Question 54. Do you consider that a consistent enforcement of the delegation rules throughout the EU should be improved?
Yes
O No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 55. Which elements of the AIFMR delegation rules could be applied to U C I T S ?

Please	explain	your	position,	presenting	benefits	and dis	advantages	of the
potent	ial chang	ges as	s well as o	costs:				

) character(s) ling spaces a	ks i e stricte	er than the M	S Word chai	racters count	ting method		
iiig spaces a	K3, 1.6. 3111010	of that the M	than the MS Word characters counting method.				

IV. Financial stability

One of the main objectives of the AIFMD is to enable supervisors to appreciate and mitigate systemic risks building up in financial markets from different sources. To this end, AIFMs are subject to periodic reporting obligations and supervisors are equipped with certain market intervention powers to mitigate negative effects to the financial stability that may arise from the activities on the AIF market.

The section below invites opinions whether the intervention powers and a tool-kit available to the relevant supervisors are sufficient in times of severe market disruptions. Shared views on the adequacy of the AIFMR supervisory reporting template will be important in rethinking the AIFM supervisory reporting obligations. According to the FSB report, markets for leveraged loans and CLOs have grown significantly in recent years exceeding pre-crisis levels (FSB, Vulnerabilities associated with leveraged loans and collateralised loan obligations (CLOs), PLEN/2019/91-REV, 22 November 2019). While most leveraged loans are originated and held by banks, investment funds are also exposed to the leveraged loan and CLO markets. In order to assess risks to the financial stability and regulatory implications associated with leveraged loans and CLOs it would be commendable to continue collecting the relevant data and monitoring the market. The stakeholders are invited to cast their views on the matter.

With particular regard to the loan originating AIFs, suggestions on the optimal harmonisation of the rules that could apply to these collective investment vehicles are welcome. Finally, questions are raised whether leverage calculation methods could benefit from further standardisation of metrics across the AIF market and potentially also across the UCITS for the supervisors to have a complete picture of the level of leverage engaged by the collective investment funds.

a) macroprudential tools

Question 56. Should the AIFMD framework be further enhanced for more effectively addressing macroprudential concerns?

0	Yes
	No

Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 56.1 If yes, which of the following amendments to the AIFMD legal framework would you suggest?

Please select as many answers as you like

improving supervisory reporting requirements
Implication harmonising availability of liquidity risk management tools for AIFMs across
the EU
further detailing cooperation of the NCAs in case of activating liquidity risk
management tools, in particular in situations with cross-border implications
further clarifying grounds for supervisory intervention when applying
macroprudential tools
defining an inherently liquid/illiquid asset
granting ESMA strong and binding coordination powers in market stress
situations
other

Please explain why you would suggest harmonising availability of liquidity risk management tools for AIFMs across the EU.

Please present benefits and disadvantages of the potential changes as well as costs:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

ASPIM supports ESMA proposal to make all LMTs available in all jurisdictions, detailing the objective and function of such LMTs in line with IOSCO recommendations 2018. A mandate could further be given to ESMA in view of defining a principle based common denominator pertaining to these LMTs both under AIFMD and UCITSD. AIFMD reporting could be complemented in addition with information that supervisors may find useful to collect on the use of some LMT.

require the suspension of the issue, repupublic interest includes financial stability	•
YesNo	
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant	
Question 57.1 Please explain your answe and disadvantages of the potential chang processes as well as costs:	•
5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS	S Word characters counting method.
Question 58. Which data fields should be report relevant and timely data to ESMA of	•
ark et	c on ditions?
Please provide your suggestions, presenthe potential changes as well as costs:	ting benefits and disadvantages of
including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS	S Word characters counting method.

Question 57. Is there a need to clarify in the AIFMD that the NCAs' right to

Question 59. Should AIFMs be required to report to the relevant supervisory authorities when they activate liquidity risk management tools?
© Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 60. Should the AIFMD rules on remuneration be adjusted to provide for the de minimis thresholds?
© Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
b) supervisory reporting requirements
Question 61. Are the supervisory reporting requirements as provided in the AIFMD and AIFMR's Annex IV appropriate?
Fully agree
Somewhat agree
Neutral
Somewhat disagree
Fully disagree
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 61.1 Please explain your answer to question 61:
5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Supervisory reporting requirements should be adjusted to the nature of the underlining assets of the AIF and limited to the risk of the AIF.

comprehensive portfolio breakdown?
© Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 63. Should the identification of an AIF with a LEI identifier be mandatory?
© Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 63.1 Please explain your answer to question 63, presenting benefits and disadvantages as well as costs associated with introducing such a requirement:
5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Question 64. Should the identification of an AIFM with a LEI identifier be mandatory?
© Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 64.1 Please explain your answer to question 64, presenting benefits

and disadvantages as well as costs associated with introducing such a

Question 62. Should the AIFMR supervisory reporting template provide a more

5000 character(s) maximum

requirement:

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Question 65. Should the use of an LEI identifier for the purposes of identifying the counterparties and issuers of securities in an AIF's portfolio be mandatory for the Annex IV reporting of AIFMR?
© Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 65.1 Please explain your answer to question 65, presenting benefits and disadvantages as well as costs associated with introducing such a requirement:
5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Question 66. Does the reporting data adequately cover activities of loan originating AIFs?
© Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 67. Should the supervisory reporting by AIFMs be submitted to a single central authority?

Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 68. Should access to the AIFMD supervisory reporting data be granted to other relevant national and/or EU institutions with responsibilities in the area of financial stability?
© Yes
O No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 69. Does the AIFMR template effectively capture links between financial institutions?
© Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 70. Should the fund classification under the AIFMR supervisory reporting template be improved to better identify the type of AIF?
Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 70.1 If yes, the AIF classification could be improved by:
Please select as many answers as you like
permitting multiple choice of investment strategies in the AIFMR template
adding additional investment strategies
✓ other
it cannot be improved, however, if a portfolio breakdown is provided to the supervisors this can be inferred

Please explain why you think the AIF classification could be improved by per mitting multiple choice of investment strategies in the AIFMR template, providing information, where available, on the costs, benefits and disadvantages of this option:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The fund classification should be improved to better distinguish between the types of funds and tailor the reporting templates according to the different types of funds.

Need to mandate the reporting of the sub-strategy and review the combinations of strategy/sub-strategy to

improve the reporting (too many funds report "other/other" strategies)

Please explain why you think the AIF classification could be improved by adding additional investment strategies, providing information, where available, on the costs, benefits and disadvantages of this option:

5000 charac	ter(s) maximum					
including spa	aces and line breaks	, i.e. stricter than th	ne MS Word ch	aracters counting	g method.	
Please ex	nlain hy what <i>c</i>	other wave the	ΔIF class	ification cou	ld be improved	
•					, benefits an	
	ages of this op		ŕ	·	,	
5000 charac	ter(s) maximum					
including spa	aces and line breaks	, i.e. stricter than th	ne MS Word ch	aracters counting	g method.	

Question 71. What additional data fields should be added to the AIFMR supervisory reporting template to improve capturing risks to financial stability:

Please select as many answers as you like value at Risk (VaR) additional details used for calculating leverage additional details on the liquidity profile of the fund's portfolio details on initial margin and variation margin the geographical focus expressed in monetary values the extent of hedging through long/short positions by an AIFM/AIF expressed as a percentage liquidity risk management tools that are available to AIFMs ata on non-EU master AIFs that are not marketed into the EU, but which have an EU feeder AIF or a non-EU feeder marketed into the EU if managed by the same AIFM the role of external credit ratings in investment mandates LEIs of all counterparties to provide detail on exposures sustainability-related data, in particular on exposure to climate and environmental risks, including physical and transition risks (e.g. shares of assets for which sustainability risks are assessed; types and magnitudes of risks; forward-looking, scenario-based data) other

Please explain what other data fields should be added to the AIFMR

supervisory reporting template, providing as much detail as possible and relevant examples as well as the costs, benefits and disadvantages of this option:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

ASPIM does not favour adding additional details to the framework. The first objective would be to standardise at level 3 the formats so as ESMA can gather identical metrics with the same formats. Currently ESMA estimates the net leverage level, and don't use the commitment reporting as such. Another example relates to differing national applications on real estate funds leverage calculation regarding the subsidiaries' borrowing. For some NCAs, all subsidiaries' borrowings are to be included and for others, it is possible not to include for some subsidiaries' cases. Or members believe that the priority should be given to the convergence of application before envisaging to modify the level 1 text.

		a fields should be a etter capture AIF's exp C L O	
examples as well as t	he costs, bene	g as much detail as po	s:
	any data fields	s be deleted from the	AIFMR supervisory
reporting template? Yes No Don't know / no o	pinion / not relev	vant	
Question 74. Is the re the AIFMR appropriat		ncy of the data require	ed under Annex IV of
YesNoDon't know / no o	pinion / not relev	vant	

Question 74.1 Please explain your answer to question 74, presenting the

costs, benefits and disadvantages for a suggested change, if any:

costs, benefits and disadvantages:

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

	The determination of the frequency of the reporting by types of funds should be simplified				
Question 75. Which data fields should be included in a template requiring AIFMs to provide ad hoc information in accordance with Article 24(5) of the AIFMD during the period of the stressed market in a harmonised and proportion at e way					
of i	ease explain your answer presenting the costs, benefits and disadvantages implementing the suggestions: 100 character(s) maximum Iluding spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.				
Qu	estion 76. Should supervisory reporting for UCITS funds be introduced?				
(Yes				
([®] No				
(Don't know / no opinion / not relevant				
Qu	estion 76.1 Please explain your answer to question 78, also in terms of				

45

5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Question 77. Should the supervisory reporting requirements for UCITS and AIFs be harmonised?
© Yes
© No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 77.1 Please explain your answer to question 79, also in terms of
costs, benefits and disadvantages:
5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Overtion 70. Observed the formation and definitions has become missed with a them.
Question 78. Should the formats and definitions be harmonised with other reporting regimes (e.g. for derivates and repos, that the AIF could report using
a straightforward transformation of the data that they already have to report
under EMIR or SFTR)?
© Yes
© No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
c) leverage

Fully agree
Somewhat agree
© Neutral
Somewhat disagree
Fully disagree
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
·
Question 79.1 Please explain your answer to question 79 in terms of the costs, benefits and disadvantages:
5000 character(s) maximum
including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Question 80. Should the leverage calculation methods for UCITS and AIFs be
harmonised?
Yes
[©] No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 81. What is your assessment of the two-step approach as
suggested by International Organisation of Securities Commissions
('IOSCO') in the <u>Framework Assessing Leverage in Investment Fu</u> nds
published in December 2019 to collect data on the asset by asset class to

Question 79. Are the leverage calculation methods – gross and commitment

- as provided in AIFMR appropriate?

Please provide it, presenting costs, benefits and disadvantages of implementing the IOSCO approach:

i n

leverage

assess

AIFs?

5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Question 82. Should the leverage calculation metrics be harmonised at EU level?
© Yes
 No Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 82.1 Please explain your answer to question 82, presenting the costs, benefits and disadvantages of your chosen approach:
5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Question 83. What additional measures may be required given the reported increase in CLO and leveraged loans in the financial system and the risks those may present to macro-prudential stability?

Please provide your suggestion(s) including information, where available, on the costs and benefits, advantages and disadvantages of the proposed measures:

The AIFMD rules regulating investing in private companies aim to increase transparency and accountability of collective investment funds holding controlling stakes in non-listed companies. This section seeks insights whether these provisions are delivering on the stated objectives and whether there are other ways to achieve those objectives more efficiently and effectively. Private equity industry has been growing for years from a few boutique firms to € 3,7 T global industry. The questions are raised therefore whether the AIFMD contains all the relevant regulatory elements that are fit for purpose.

Question 86. Are the rules provided in Section 2 of Chapter 5 of the AIFMD laying down the obligations for AIFMs managing AIFs, which acquire control

of non-listed companies and issuers, adequate, proportionate and effective in enhancing transparency regarding the employees of the portfolio company and the AIF investors?
Fully agree
Somewhat agree
Neutral
Somewhat disagree
Fully disagree
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 86.1 Please explain your answer to question 86, providing concrete examples and data, where available: 5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Question 87. Are the AIFMD rules provided in Section 2 of Chapter 5 of the AIFMD whereby the AIFM of an AIF, which acquires control over a non-listed company, is required to provide the NCA of its home Member State with information on the financing of the acquisition necessary, adequate and proportionate?
Fully agreeSomewhat agree
Neutral
Somewhat disagree

Question 87.1 Please explain your answer to question 87, providing concrete examples and data, where available:

Fully disagree

Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.	
Question 88. Are the AIFMD provisions against asset stripping in the an acquired control over a non-listed company or an issuer ne	
Fully agree	
Somewhat agree	
Neutral	
Somewhat disagree	
Fully disagree	
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant	
Question 88.1 Please explain your answer to question 88, providing examples and data, where available:	concrete
5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.	

Question 89. How can the AIFMD provisions against asset stripping in the case of an acquired control over a non-listed company or an issuer be improved?

Please provide your suggestion(s) including information, where available, on the costs and benefits, advantages and disadvantages of the proposed measures:

VI. Sustainability/ESG

Integrating sustainability factors in the portfolio selection and management has a double materiality perspective, in line with the non-financial reporting directive (2014/95) and the European Commission's 2017 non-binding guidelines on non-financial. Financial materiality refers in a broad sense to the financial value and performance of an investment. In this context, sustainability risks refer to potential environmental, social or governance events or conditions that if occurring could cause a negative material impact on the value of the investment. For example, physical risks from the consequences of climate change may concern a single investment/company, e.g. due to potential supply chain disruptions or scarcity of raw materials, and may concern welfare losses for the economy as a whole. Non-financial materiality, also known as environmental and social materiality, refers to the impacts of an investment/corporate activity on the environment and society (i.e. negative externalities). Still, there is also a financial dimension to non-financial materiality. Notably, so-called transition risks arise from an insufficient consideration for environmental materiality, for instance due to potential policy changes for mitigating climate change (e.g. to regulatory frameworks, incentive structures, carbon pricing), shifts of supply chains and end-demand, as well as stakeholder actions for mitigating climate change.

The <u>disclosure regulation 2019/2088</u> requires a significant part of the financial services market, including AIFMs, to integrate in their processes, including in their due diligence processes, assessment of all relevant sustainability risks that might have a material negative impact on the financial return of an investment or advice. However, at the moment AIFMs are not required to integrate the quantification of sustainability risks. Regulatory technical standards under the disclosure regulation 2019/2088 will specify principal adverse impacts to be quantified or described. This section seeks to gather input permitting better understand and assess the appropriateness of the AIFMD rules in assessing the sustainability risks.

Question 90. The <u>disclosure regulation 2019/2088</u> defines sustainability risks, and allows their disclosures either in quantitative or qualitative terms.

Should AIFMs only quantify such risks?
YesNoDon't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 90.1 Please substantiate your answer to question 90, also in terms of benefits, disadvantages and costs as well as in terms of available data:
5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Question 91. Should investment decision processes of any AIFM integrate the assessment of non-financial materiality, i.e. potential principal adverse sustainability impacts?
YesNo
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 91.1 Please substantiate your answer to question 91, also in terms of

benefits, disadvantages and costs. Please make a distinction between adverse impacts and principal adverse impacts and consider those types of adverse impacts for which data and methodologies are available as well as those where the competence is nascent or evolving:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Non-financial materiality allows for AIFM to take into accounts social and environmental elements that could not be translated into pure financial items. A list of potential adverse impacts should always be included in

the assessment of potential investments: on biodiversity, climate, quality of air, water and soils, human rights, etc.

An action plan for the principal sustainability impacts should also be included, should the investment process go through.

Question 92. Should the adverse impacts on sustainability factors be integrated in the quantification of sustainability risks (see the example in the introduction)?

- Fully agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neutral
- Somewhat disagree
- Fully disagree
- Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 92.1 If you agree, please explain how and at which level the adverse impacts on sustainability factors should be integrated in the quantification of sustainability risks (AIFM or financial product level etc.).

Please explain your answer including concrete proposals, if any, and costs, advantages and disadvantages associated therewith. Please make a distinction between adverse impacts and principal adverse impacts and consider those types of adverse impacts for which data and methodologies are available as well as those where the competence is nascent or evolving

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

A list of mandatory topics should appear (ie biodiversity, climate, human rights, etc.) and AIFMs should at least integrate qualitative considerations regarding those topics. One should specifically focus on adverse impacts, not only on positive ones.

For the climate-related risks, RCP 8.5 should be taken into consideration.

Systematically taking those few subjects into account, even through qualitative terms, would help integrate sustainability into every investment decision and improve transparency.

Question 93. Should AIFMs, when considering investment decisions, be required to take account of sustainability-related impacts beyond what is currently required by the EU law (such as environmental pollution and degradation, climate change, social impacts, human rights violations) alongside the interests and preferences of investors?

- Yes
- No
- No, ESMA's current competences and powers are sufficient
- Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 93.1 If so, how should AIFMs be required to take account of the long-term sustainability and social impacts of their investment decisions?

Please explain.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The EU law has singled out the most important subjects, which are yet to be perfectly mastered. AIFMs can then voluntarily tackle other topics.

Question 94. The <u>EU Taxonomy Regulation 2020/85</u>2 provides a framework

for identifying economic activities that are in fact sustainable in order to establish a common understanding for market participants and prevent greenwashing. To qualify as sustainable, an activity needs to make a substantial contribution to one of six environmental objectives, do no significant harm to any of the other five, and meet certain social minimum standards. In your view, should the EU Taxonomy play a role when AIFMs are making investment decisions, in particular regarding sustainability factors?

- Yes
- [◎] No
- Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 94.1 Please explain your answer to question 94:

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

-	The EU taxonomy should serve as guidelines for investment processes.

Question 95. Should other sustainability-related requirements or international principles beyond those laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852 be considered by AIFMs when making investment decisions?

- Yes
- O No
- Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 95.1 Please explain your answer to question 95, describing sustainability-related requirements or international principles that you would propose to consider.

Please indicate, where possible, costs, advantages and disadvantages associated therewith:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

AIFMs should be aware of any ongoing good practice or initiative which could lead to a change in regulation. For example, IPBES guidelines could be helpful to consider biodiversity in investment processes.

VII. Miscellaneous

This section contains a few questions on the competences and powers of supervisory authorities. It also opens up the floor for any other comments of the stakeholders on the AIFMD related regulatory issues that are raised in the preceding sections. Respondents are invited to provide relevant data to support their remarks/proposals.

Question 96. Should ESMA be granted additional competences and powers beyond those already granted to them under the AIFMD?

Please select as many answers as you like
 entrusting ESMA with authorisation and supervision of all AIFMs entrusting ESMA with authorisation and supervision of non-EU AIFMs and AIFs enhancing ESMA's powers in taking action against individual AIMFs and AIFs where their activities threaten integrity of the EU financial market or stability the financial system enhance ESMA's powers in getting information about national supervisory practices, including in relation to individual AIMF and AIFs no, there is no need to change competences and powers of ESMA other
Question 97. Should NCAs be granted additional powers and competences beyond those already granted to them under the AIFMD? Yes No Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 98. Are the AIFMD provisions for the supervision of intra-EU cross-border entities effective?
 Fully agree Somewhat agree Neutral Somewhat disagree Fully disagree Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 98.1 Please explain your answer to question 98, providing concrete examples:

No	
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant	
Question 102. Are there other regulatory issues related to the proportionality	,
efficiency and effectiveness of the AIFMD legal framework	?
Please detail your answer, substantiating your answer in terms of cost	S
/benefits/advantages, where possible:	
5000 character(s) maximum	
including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.	
Additional information	

Should you wish to provide additional information (e.g. a position paper, report) or raise specific points not covered by the questionnaire, you can upload your additional document(s) here:

The maximum file size is 1 MB.

You can upload several files.

Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed

Useful links

More on this consultation (https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/finance-consultations-2020-aifmd-review_en)

Consultation document (https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2020-aifmd-review-consultation-document_en)

Consultation strategy (https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2020-aifmd-review-consultation-strategy_en)

<u>List of acronyms used in this consultation (https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2020-aifmd-review-acronyms_en)</u>

<u>More on investment funds (https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/growth-and-investment/investment-funds_en)</u>

<u>Specific privacy statement (https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/specific-privacy-statement_en)</u>

<u>More on the Transparency register (http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/homePage.do?locale=en)</u>

Contact

fisma-aifmd-public-consultation@ec.europa.eu