

Press Release:

## Trackinsight ESG Observatory Reveals Growing Alignment of ETFs to UN Sustainable Development Goals

- European ESG ETFs now \$161 Billion in AuM – Over 10% of the entire European ETF asset base
- Global ESG ETF Market surges with ~28% growth in first quarter
- 316 ETFs now cover UN Sustainable Development Goals

Trackinsight, the world's first global Exchange Traded Funds platform, is pleased to announce the first quarter update to ESG Observatory – an online hub that provides transparency into the fast-growing market for ESG ETFs with proprietary research, data and screening tools.

ESG Observatory is formed of a unique triumvirate with unsurpassed knowledge of the ETF and Sustainable Investment industries, combining the ETF expertise of Trackinsight, the independent ESG Consensus® methodology of Conser and guidance on mapping ETFs against the Sustainable Development Goals provided by the SDG Investors Partnership of UNCTAD - the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. ESG Observatory is supported and sponsored by Amundi Asset Management.

Data from Trackinsight<sup>1</sup> reveals that in the first 3 months of 2021, 87 new ESG ETFs were brought to market for a total of 758 ESG ETFs now available on exchanges around the world. Assets in ESG ETFs continued their upward growth trajectory with almost \$57 Billion of new flows, to reach a new high of \$264 Billion in assets.

As UN Sustainable Development Goals become a benchmark for assessing the sustainability impact of ETFs, Trackinsight data shows that the number of ETFs which align with UNSDGs has risen over the last quarter too, with 15 goals covered by 316 ETFs at the end of Q1 2021.

Nevertheless, our new data shows that most assets are aligned with only 3 goals: Climate action (SDG 13), Affordable and clean energy (SDG 7) and Industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9).

**Ailing Zhang, ETF Analyst at TrackInsight said:** "ESG ETFs had a landmark year in 2020. When we look at the figures of 2021, the sector sees no sign of slowing down. With the growth of global sustainable investment, policymakers and regulations have played an important role during this quarter. In Europe, the EU Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) came into effect this March. And in US, after returning to the Paris Agreement, President Biden has been positioning himself as a leader with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas pollution by 2030. It will take time to examine the efficiency of these new rules towards "greenwashing", but we firmly believe that a standardized reporting procedure based on transparency and quantification will help the decision-making process for sustainability-oriented investors."

**Joseph Clements, Economic Affairs Officer at UNCTAD said** "It is important to make efforts to improve the quality of information on sustainability performance and alignment with the SDGs. Ultimately this will help shift sustainable strategies from market niche to market norm."

**Virginie van Doorn, ESG Senior Project Manager at Conser commented** "ESG investments have been gaining traction and visibility throughout 2020- perhaps due to the unpredictable market environment, but investors are still having a hard time sorting the wheat from the chaff. We're concerned that the lack of transparency is impeding the full deployment of ESG investments and are strongly convinced of the essential role independent third-party verifiers have to play in this market."

**Fannie Wurtz, Head of ETF, Indexing & Smart Beta at Amundi, added:** "The surge of interest in responsible investing is undeniable and the trend observed last year is continuing in 2021. At Amundi, we believe that ETFs are contributing to democratising ESG investing. However, investors' sustainability objectives differ and there is no 'one-size-fits-all' approach. Investors now benefit from an increasing choice of ESG ETF solutions creating opportunities to generate measurable impact towards the UN SDGs, for example through Paris-aligned climate ETFs. Our role is precisely to guide them and help them select the strategy that best meets their sustainability goals and constraints."

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<sup>1</sup> All data as of 31st March, 2021. Source: Trackinsight ESG Observatory

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### **About TrackInsight:**

Trackinsight was founded in 2015 by a group of finance and technology specialists who wanted to provide data and tools that gave investors' confidence when selecting an ETF.

Today, we serve not only the world's largest institutions, but also the many financial advisors and personal investors who are using ETFs in their portfolios.

With over 180,000 unique users and 12,000 qualified professional investors using the platform for their day-to-day ETF screening, TrackInsight is recognized as the leading source of independent and reliable information on over 7,000 Exchange Traded Funds listed globally.

### **About Conser:**

Conser is an independent consulting company, dedicated to sustainable investing. We are pioneers in third-party, ESG verification, creating trust between asset owners and asset managers by establishing transparency as a core value.

Conser has developed a unique and innovative ESG digital tool to measure the impact and sustainability profile of portfolios. The ESG Consensus® is not a new ESG rating, but an **aggregation of opinions** from ESG experts. Based on multiple sources, it does not oppose ESG score but measures **the dispersion** of views. The ESG Consensus® covers more than 9'000 securities and is a powerful complement to the current offer of ESG data providers.

[www.conser.ch](http://www.conser.ch)

### **About UNCTAD:**

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) supports developing countries to access the benefits of a globalized economy more fairly and effectively. To do this, we provide data and analysis, facilitate consensus-building, and offer technical assistance. This helps countries to use trade, investment, finance, and technology as vehicles for inclusive and sustainable development, including the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. [www.unctad.org](http://www.unctad.org)