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## **Pensioenfonds Detailhandel invests in developed markets via new sustainable benchmark**

**Utrecht - Pensioenfonds Detailhandel (a pension fund for the Dutch retail sector) aims to pay out a good pension to its participants and is convinced that sustainable investing will also create value in the longer term. Pensioenfonds Detailhandel encourages the companies it invests in to act responsibly towards the environment, society and employees.**

**To further shape this vision, Pensioenfonds Detailhandel has partnered with index provider FTSE Russell and asset manager BlackRock to develop and implement a new sustainable benchmark (index) for its €5.8 billion ‘developed markets’ equity portfolio.**

**The index\* has been designed to align a broad market equity benchmark with aspects of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Company weights within the index are adjusted using FTSE Russell’s ESG research on Themes including Climate Change, Human Rights and Community & Labour Standards\*\*. The characteristics of a passively managed portfolio will be retained.**

This new customized index has been developed based on validated sustainability models, with emphasis on the four SDGs included in the sustainable investment policy of Pensioenfonds Detailhandel:

- Decent work and economic growth (SDG 8)
- Responsible consumption and production (SDG 12)
- Climate action (SDG 13),
- Peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16)

“Pensioenfonds Detailhandel wants to minimize risk in its investments while pursuing the highest possible returns in a sustainable manner. The creation of this unique SDG aligned index is an important first step to make the entire portfolio sustainable in a way that aligns with the ESG themes and SDGs our participants find important,” says **Henk van der Kolk, Chairman of Pensioenfonds Detailhandel.**

**Monique Donders, Country manager The Netherlands, BlackRock:** “Many of our clients are reviewing how their portfolios are built and seek solutions that express their sustainability objectives. We are thrilled to have been able to initiate and implement this new benchmark with Pensioenfond Detailhandel, which will ensure that the pension fund can realize its sustainability objectives via this new investment solution.”

**Waqas Samad, CEO, FTSE Russell said:**

FTSE Russell is delighted to support Pensioenfond Detailhandel’s efforts to implement its ESG strategy by partnering with them and BlackRock to develop a unique equity benchmark that is aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This innovative approach demonstrates our firm commitment to support investors as they make the choice to incorporate sustainable investment objectives into all aspects of their portfolios and I look forward to furthering the partnership.”

Being underweight and overweight in the weightings of companies that are performing well and not as well in terms of SDGs 8, 12, 13 and 16 creates a benchmark for Detailhandel (and as a result a portfolio), which in terms of sustainable scores shows a clear improvement on the chosen SDGs. Moreover, the exposure to CO2 emissions and fossil fuel reserves will decrease by approximately 50%, while exposure to green revenue will increase by around 10%.

*Goals have been selected from the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The subjects which resonate with pension participants: Decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), Responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), Climate action (SDG 13), Peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16).*

*\* FTSE Custom Developed Ex Korea SDG Aligned Net Tax (DSDG) Index*

*\*\* The FTSE Developed SDG Aligned index is designed to help investors align a broad market benchmark with selected UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – specifically Goals 8, 12, 13 and 16. Company weights within the index are “tilted” using sustainable investment themes that have been identified as aligning with specific aspects of the four targeted SDGs. These themes include: Anti-Corruption, Climate Change, Human Rights & Community, Labour Standards and Pollution & Resources. Further tilts aligned with SDG 13 are applied based on company exposure to three key climate change considerations: carbon emissions, fossil fuel reserves and green revenues. The index applies a conduct-based exclusion based on the United Nations Global Compact principles and a product-based exclusion to remove companies involved with controversial weapons.*

### **About Pensioenfond Detailhandel**

With more than one million pension participants and capital of EUR 21 billion, Pensioenfond Detailhandel is one of the Netherlands' bigger pension funds. The pension fund invests its capital in shares, bonds and real estate. These investments are long term, so that a good pension can be paid out in the future (and over several generations). For more information, go to: [www.pensioenfondsdetailhandel.nl](http://www.pensioenfondsdetailhandel.nl).

### **About BlackRock**

BlackRock helps investors build better financial futures. As a fiduciary to investors and a leading provider of financial technology, our clients turn to us for the solutions they need when planning for their most important goals. As of December 31, 2018, the firm managed approximately \$5.98 trillion in assets on behalf of investors worldwide. For additional information on BlackRock, please visit [www.blackrock.com](http://www.blackrock.com)

### **About FTSE Russell**

FTSE Russell is a global index leader that provides innovative benchmarking, analytics and data solutions for investors worldwide. FTSE Russell calculates thousands of indexes that measure and benchmark markets and asset classes in more than 70 countries, covering 98% of the investable market globally. FTSE Russell index expertise and products are used extensively by institutional and retail investors globally. Approximately \$16 trillion is currently benchmarked to FTSE Russell indexes. For more information, go to: <https://www.ftserussell.com>.

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### ***Notes for editors - not for publication-***

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