## ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatie Fonds 15+ Jaar

**Annual Report** 

a.s.r. de nederlandse vermogens beheerders

# General information ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatie Fonds 15+ Jaar

#### Office address of the Manager

ASR Vermogensbeheer N.V. Archimedeslaan 10 3584 BA Utrecht

Website: www.asrvermogensbeheer.nl

**Board of the Manager** 

Mr. P. Klijnsmit Mr. M.R. Lavooi Mrs. J.H.L. de Jong-Kortman

Commercial Register of the Chamber of Commerce in Utrecht, number 30227237

#### Legal owner of the investments

Stichting ASR Bewaarder Archimedeslaan 10 3584 BA Utrecht

#### **External auditor**

KPMG Accountants N.V. Papendorpseweg 83 3528 BJ Utrecht

#### Legal advisor of the Manager

De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek N.V. Claude Debussylaan 80 1082 MD Amsterdam

#### Date of incorporation

1 October 2017

## ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatie Fonds 15+ Jaar

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## **Management Board report**

#### General

ASR Vermogensbeheer N.V. (hereinafter referred to as 'a.s.r. vermogensbeheer' or 'the Manager') is the manager of the ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatie Fonds 15+ Jaar ('the Fund'). a.s.r. vermogensbeheer has its registered office in Utrecht and is listed in the Commercial Register of the Chamber of Commerce in Utrecht under number 30227237. a.s.r. vermogensbeheer is wholly owned by ASR Nederland N.V. (hereinafter referred to as 'a.s.r.' or 'ASR Nederland'). a.s.r. vermogensbeheer does not employ any staff members. All activities are carried out by employees of ASR Nederland.

#### Management of investment institutions (collective asset management) - AIFM license

a.s.r. vermogensbeheer holds a license as manager of alternative investment institutions as referred to in Section 2:65 (1) (a) of the Financial Supervision Act (*Wet op het financieel toezicht*, "Wft"). This relates to the license under the AIFMD (Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive). Pursuant to Section 1: 102, paragraph 2, of the Wft, the scope of the license is limited to the offering of participations in:

- investment institutions that invest in financial instruments;
- investment institutions that invest in mortgage claims; and
- investment institutions that invest in private loans (non-tradeable bonds or other non-tradeable debt instruments).

Under this license, a.s.r. vermogensbeheer acts as the manager of amongst other the following alternative investment institutions: ASR Duurzaam Amerikaanse Aandelen Fonds, ASR Vooruit Mixfondsen, ASR ESG IndexPlus Institutionele Fondsen, ASR ESG IndexPlus Fondsen, ASR Mortgage Fund, ASR Separate Account Mortgage Fund, ASR Private Debt Fund I, ASR Renewable Infrastructure Debt Fund, ASR Kapitaalmarkt Fonds, ASR Duurzaam Institutioneel Vermogensbeheer Beleggingsfondsen, ASR Wereldwijd Impact Aandelen Fonds, First Liability Matching N.V. and the Luxembourg alternative investment fund ASR Fonds SICAV ('Société d'investissement à Capital Variable').

The license of a.s.r. vermogensbeheer has been extended with a license to manage or offer money market funds (MMFs), on the basis of Article 4 of the Money Market Fund Regulation (MMFR).

a.s.r. vermogensbeheer also acts as the manager of a number of investment funds which are not subject to a license obligation. Pursuant to Section 1:13a (1) (g) of the Wft, the management of these investment vehicles is exempt from the obligations set out in the Wft and derived regulations, and the management is therefore not subject to supervision by the Dutch Authority for the Financial Markets (AFM). These are investment funds in which group companies of ASR Nederland N.V. invest, such as ASR Pensioen Mixfondsen, ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatiefonds 15+ Jaar, ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatiefonds 10-15 Jaar, ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatiefonds 20+ Jaar, ASR Beleggingsmixfondsen, ASR Beleggingspools, ASR Basisfondsen, ASR Paraplufonds, ASR Duurzaam Wereldwijd Aandelen Fonds and ASR Duurzaam Azië Aandelen Fonds.

#### Providing investment services (amongst other individual asset management)

Pursuant to Section 2:67a(2), paragraphs (a), (b) and (d), of the Financial Supervision Act (Wft), a.s.r. vermogensbeheer is also permitted to offer the following investment services to both professional and non-professional investors:

- (a) Managing individual assets;
- (b) Providing investment advice on financial instruments;
- (d) Receiving and forwarding orders with regard to financial instruments.

These services are regulated in the Wft and the MiFID II (Markets In Financial Instruments Directive).

On this basis, a.s.r. vermogensbeheer acts as an individual asset manager on behalf of the group companies of ASR Nederland N.V., such as entities subject to supervision and for third parties with external mandates.

## **Fund profile**

#### Structure of the Fund

The Fund was established on 1 October 2017 and is a mutual fund established in the Netherlands with an open-ended character. The open-ended character refers to the option offered by the Fund to deposit and withdraw funds each business day. The Participants in the Fund are only entitled to a proportional share of the Fund corresponding to the number of Participations they hold in the Fund. The Participations are not listed on any stock exchange.

The Fund is offered within pension schemes on the basis of a defined contribution, potentially combined with an investment in a well-diversified mixed fund. The Fund aims to provide a greater degree of certainty regarding the amount of the final pension benefit. On the retirement date, participants purchase pension benefits for their retirement pension (and partner's pension where applicable). The cost of these benefits depends on the market interest rate applicable at the time.

The Fund is exempt from the obligation to draw up a prospectus, as referred to in the Dutch Financial Supervision Act (*Wet op het financieel toezicht*, Wft). An Information Memorandum is available, however, which contains useful information for potential Policyholders. The document serves to provide participants with information and is based on self-regulation by the insurance industry, as encouraged by the Dutch Association of Insurers (Verbond van Verzekeraars).

It is possible to invest in the Fund by means of the ASR Pensions insurance product Premium-Based Pension Profile and Premium-Based Pension – Free Investment:

The Fund	Fund Manager
ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatie Fonds 15+ Jaar	Mr. M. (Marèn) Klap

Although the Fund does not have to comply with the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR), the information regarding the sustainability performance in accordance with the SFDR is included in the appendix. The Fund is classified as a financial product which promotes environmental and social characteristics but does not have sustainable investments as its objective.

#### Investment philosophy of the Fund

The goal of the Fund is to provide an investment in a diversified portfolio of Investment Grade fixed-income securities and instruments with a long duration, primarily issued by government authorities and denominated in euros. The benchmark is the Bank of America/Merrill Lynch 15+ Year AAA-AA Euro Government Index (Bloomberg ticker EG68).

The investment policy is focused on generating a target return over a three-year period that at least equals the return on the established representative benchmark, after deduction of all costs applicable to this Fund.

The Fund is managed in compliance with the ESG policy drafted by the Manager.

#### Manager and Legal Owner

The Fund has a Manager and a Legal Owner. The Manager of the Fund is a.s.r. vermogensbeheer. a.s.r. vermogensbeheer holds a license issued by the Dutch Authority for the Financial Markets (hereinafter referred to as the 'AFM') as referred to in Section 2:65 and 2:67 of the Financial Supervision Act. Potential investors, namely group companies of ASR Nederland N.V. within the meaning of Section 1:13a(g) of the Wft, are therefore specifically reminded that the Fund is not subject to supervision by the AFM. As a result, the obligations under the Financial Supervision Act are not applicable to the Manager as far as the Fund is concerned.

The Legal Owner of the Fund is Stichting ASR Bewaarder. The Legal Owner was established on 17 June 1996 and is a foundation within the ASR Nederland N.V. group of companies. The Legal Owner has its registered office in Utrecht and is registered in the Commercial Register of the Chamber of Commerce under number 41135730.

#### **Meetings of Participants**

Meetings of Participants will be held if the Manager considers this in the interests of the Participants. Individual or groups of Participants will not be entitled to convene meetings of Participants.

#### Voting policy

In accordance with the Dutch Corporate Governance Code and the a.s.r. Socially Responsible Investment Policy, voting policy has been developed, on the basis of which a.s.r. fulfils its role as an institutional investor at shareholder meetings. This voting policy is applied to all listed shares in companies managed by a.s.r. vermogensbeheer. The account of how voting rights have been exercised

provides a complete insight into the exercising of voting rights at shareholder meetings. Further information regarding voting policy is included in 'Sustainability policy' paragraph.

#### **Dividend policy**

The Fund does not distribute dividends.

#### Costs and fees

The Fund charges a fee for the issue and purchase of Participations. The Manager calculates the entry or exit charge (transaction costs) based on the actual average transaction costs it incurs when buying and selling investments. These charges are credited to the Fund to compensate for transaction costs incurred. Furthermore, the Manager charges a management and service fee to the Fund.

#### Compensation in the event of an incorrectly calculated Net Asset Value

If the Net Asset Value of the Fund has been incorrectly calculated and the difference with the correct Net Asset Value is at least 1%, the Manager will compensate the current Participants in the Fund for any adverse effects. This compensation will only take place if the Manager identifies the incorrect calculation within thirty days after the date on which the Net Asset Value was incorrectly calculated.

#### Securities lending

The Fund does not currently lend securities. Underlying securities may be lent out subject to the conditions set out in the Information Memorandum and/or the Terms and Conditions of Management and Custody.

#### Transactions with related parties

Where transactions are conducted with parties related to ASR Nederland N.V., they will take place on the market conditions. Where such transactions take place outside a regulated market, such as a stock market or other recognized open market, the transaction will be based on an independent value assessment. If the transaction with a related party involves the issue and/or redemption of participation rights in an investment institution, the consideration will be calculated in the same way as for any other participant. In that case, an independent value assessment as referred to in the preceding paragraph will not take place.

#### **Available documentation**

The articles of association of the Manager and the Legal Owner are available for inspection at the offices of the Manager. A copy of the Manager's license and of the Articles of Association can be obtained free of charge. Current information about the Fund, as well as the prospectus, the annual report and the semi-annual report can be obtained from the Manager free of charge upon written request. This information will also be published on the Manager's website.

#### Complaints

Complaints may be submitted to the Manager in writing at the following address.

ASR Vermogensbeheer N.V. Archimedeslaan 10 3584 BA Utrecht The Netherlands

The Manager is registered with the Netherlands Financial Services Complaints Tribunal (KiFiD).

#### Report of the Manager

#### **Key figures**

In 2023, the Fund Net Asset Value increased with € 115,5 million to € 359,1 million. This was mainly due to value changes.

x 1,000	31-12-2023	31-12-2022	% change	€ change	
Fund Net Asset Value	€ 359,090	€ 243,511	47.46%	115,579	

#### Developments affecting the fund during the reporting period

There are no relevant developments to mention regarding the Fund.

#### Risk management

Risk management depends on the risk profile of the Fund. The basic principle of risk management is therefore not to limit risks as much as possible, but to aim for the best possible risk-reward ratio within acceptable limits.

The Manager of the Fund applies a system of risk management measures to ensure that the Fund in general and the investment portfolio in particular continue to comply with the preconditions set out in the prospectus, the legal frameworks and the more fund-specific internal implementation guidelines.

These guidelines have been drawn for the purpose of, among other things, the level of diversification within the portfolio, the creditworthiness of debtors with whom business is conducted and the liquidity of investments.

For example, a broad and effective spread of investments is expected to reduce recognized price risks, while selection based on creditworthiness and limit monitoring makes it possible to manage credit risks. Liquidity risks are limited by investing primarily in marketable, listed securities.

By using derivative financial instruments, it is possible to hedge or manage price risks such as currency risks and interest-rate risks. These instruments also provide opportunities for efficient portfolio management, for example in anticipation of the issue and redemption of participations. Derivatives will also be used in such a way that the portfolio as a whole remains within the investment restrictions. The Manager's business procedures, insofar as they apply to the activities of the investment institution, are geared in part towards the management of operational risks.

Regular board meetings are also held to keep the board up to date with the current situation. The Risk Management division monitors on a daily basis whether the various portfolios comply with the implementing guidelines (mandates) issued and reports on this in the limits report. This limits report is discussed in the Risk Management Committee / Investment & Policy Committee (RMC/IPC) in which the board was represented.

#### Insight into risks

The (semi) annual reports provide, among other things, an insight into the risks that have materialized during the reporting period.

The overview included in the appendix entitled 'Specification of Investments' provides information on the level of diversification of investments in terms of both region and currency and by individual name, as well as information on the interest rate and the remaining term per investment in the case of fixed-income investments. It also gives an indication of price risk, among other things. In terms of derivative financial instruments, insofar as these instruments are part of the portfolio at the time of reporting, breakdowns are included in the explanatory notes to the balance sheet and/or profit and loss account where relevant.

#### Fund governance and policy regarding conflicts of interest

In order to provide the Participants with guarantees that the management of the Fund will be carried out in a controlled and ethical manner and that the services will be provided with due care as referred to in the Wft, the Manager has drawn up a code of conduct. This code of conduct has the aim of ensuring that the Manager acts in the interests of the participants in its investment institutions and structures the organization of the Manager in a way that prevents conflicts of interest.

An important part of fund governance is the presence of a Supervisory Board that supervises the management of the Dutch AIFMD investment institutions by the Manager. This supervisory body has the task of monitoring compliance by the Manager with its obligation to act in the interests of the participants in its investment institutions. In addition, the Manager has drawn up a policy regarding conflicts of interest for all its activities. The principles underlying the policy are the avoidance and management of conflicts of interest that could be disadvantageous to clients of the Manager, and the equal and fair treatment of clients. The Fund Governance Code and the Conflict of Interest policy can be found on the Manager's website.

#### Manager's risk structure

Risk management is the continuous and systematic monitoring of the organization and its activities in order to consciously take risks, reduce the likelihood of risks or limit the consequences of such events. The objectives are controlled and ethical business practices, compliance with the laws and regulations and to act in the interest of the Participant. The key to this is ensuring that the main risks that affect management are identified and clarified so that appropriate management measures can be taken and the effectiveness of these measures can be monitored.

In order to comply with article 15, paragraph one of the AIFMD, a distinction has been made for the functional and hierarchical relationships between the risk management of funds and the risk management of a.s.r. vermogensbeheer. The director responsible for risk management at a.s.r. vermogensbeheer reports on risk management in relation to funds subject to supervision directly to the CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of ASR Nederland N.V. The risk management of a.s.r. vermogensbeheer complies with the Risk Charter that applies within ASR Nederland N.V. In accordance with the Risk Charter, a.s.r. vermogensbeheer reports for the risk management of a.s.r. vermogensbeheer to the CFO (Chief Financial Officer) of ASR Nederland N.V., via the Manager's CFRO (Chief Financial and Risk Officer) and ASR Nederland N.V.'s Finance & Risk director.

a.s.r. vermogensbeheer applies the 'Three lines of defense' model as its risk management model. This model clearly sets out the responsibilities in relation to risk management. The business units within the first line of defense are responsible for the adequate management of the risks related to the business operations in the relevant business unit. The second line of defense is responsible for implementing an integrated and effective risk management framework for the first line of defense and monitoring risk management. The second line of defense is formed at ASR Nederland N.V. level and consists of the Group Risk Management division and the Integrity division (including Compliance). The Audit division forms the third line of defense and is responsible for independently assessing the effectiveness of the risk management system, the internal control structure and the soundness of the governance structure.

#### Risk and limit control

The Manager uses a system of risk management measures to ensure that the Fund in general and the investment portfolio in particular continue to comply with the preconditions set out in the prospectus, the legal frameworks and the more fund-specific internal implementing guidelines (mandate).

The Fund is sensitive to market movements in general (market risk), and to fluctuations in the prices of individual investment instruments in particular. The maximum loss for Participants is limited to the value of the Participations they hold.

The risk associated with the Fund is limited by distributing the Fund's assets across a number of securities. A full list of risk factors can be found in the Risk Profile section (Section 4) of the Information Memorandum.

Daily monitoring takes place based on the limits set out in the mandate and the prospectus. If a limit has been exceeded, immediate action will be taken. The Risk and Compliance division produces a monthly dashboard that clearly and quickly identifies whether any incidents have occurred or limits have been exceeded, as well as the severity and the impact of the report. The dashboard is discussed by the RMC/IPC at its monthly meetings, and also shared with the Supervisory Board. A report register is also kept to monitor action taken following an incident report.

a.s.r. vermogensbeheer has defined the following key risks and the associated limits:

Defined risk	Explanation and mitigating measures		
Market risk	Market risk is managed by means of diversification of the portfolio and is monitored by means of restrictions/limits.		
Making investments with borrowed money	A negative bank balance is permitted up to 5% of the fund capital for a period of 30 working days.		
Derivatives risk	Derivatives are only used for hedging purposes to mitigate the risk associated with the Fund and must not have a leverage effect.		
Counterparty risk	Unlisted transactions (also referred to as OTC transactions) are only carried out with validated counterparties. In the case of derivatives, only agreements that comply with the ISDA and CSA framework are concluded.		
Liquidity risk	The Fund only invests in readily marketable investments that are listed on an official securities market within the Eurozone.		
Operational risk	A system is in place that involves monitoring procedures, measuring defined constraints and identifying where limits have been exceeded to allow swift and appropriate action and risk reduction. An escalation procedure is available as an additional tool for the rapid resolution of situations where limits have been exceeded.		

No limits were exceeded and no incidents occurred in the reporting period that have had a material impact on the Fund. Furthermore, no significant changes or improvements to the risk management system were required.

#### Monitoring operational risks

In addition to the risks that are measured on a daily basis, other incidents are reported using an incident form. Examples include an incorrect Net Asset Value, late delivery of the Net Asset Value, etc. All incidents that occur are analyzed and documented. A record is kept of these reports in the report register. All resulting actions are implemented and monitored by the Risk Management division.

During the reporting period there was no negative impact on the Fund in terms of the Net Asset Value and the participants.

#### Personnel

The Manager does not employ any personnel. As at 31 December 2023 204 employees and 198 FTEs were subcontracted by a.s.r. vermogensbeheer pursuant to an employee loan agreement with ASR Nederland N.V. The personnel expenses, which are charged to a.s.r. vermogensbeheer consist entirely of fixed remuneration (AIFMD Article 22, paragraph 2 e). The Manager does not share in the investment performance as remuneration for the management of the investment funds, hence there is no question of 'carried interest' (the share of the profit of the Fund intended for the Manager of the Fund as remuneration for the management).

The table below includes the total remuneration with regard to the employees loaned by the Manager (numbers according to the end of the reporting period position). Allocation of these amounts to the Fund is not possible since relevant information is not available. Further information about the remuneration policy is included on the website (www.asr.nl).

Personnel expenses (in euros)	01-01-2023	No. of
	to 31-12-2023	employees
Identified Staff	3,262,092	8*
Employees	28,964,242	196
Total	32,226,334	204

<sup>\*</sup> The Identified Staff per December 31, 2023 exists out of three Management Board members and five Identified Staff members

#### Sustainability policy

#### ASR as sustainable investor

This section describes a.s.r.'s approach to sustainable investing. It explains how a.s.r. deals with its own investments, and also how a.s.r. vermogensbeheer addresses sustainability in its fund management activities. The following section is not specific to the Fund.

Since 2007 a.s.r. has employed a formally approved investment policy that is applied to all investments, both own investments and investments for third parties. This policy has been further tightened in subsequent years and is reviewed annually, or more frequently if necessary. The investment policy focuses on sustainable and responsible investing, as well as impact investing. A regular update on this is given in our quarterly reports on sustainable investments.

All investments managed by a.s.r. vermogensbeheer are screened using our Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) policy (see <a href="https://www.asrvermogensbeheer.nl">www.asrvermogensbeheer.nl</a>) for social and environmental aspects and management criteria, etc. Countries and companies that do not meet the requirements are excluded. These include producers of controversial or conventional weapons and tobacco, the gambling industry, companies that extract coal and companies that derive most of their profits from unconventional oil and gas, the production of coal-fired electricity and nuclear energy.

In addition, a.s.r. assesses companies on their compliance with international agreements such as the OECD guidelines and UN guidelines such as the Global Compact.

a.s.r. ensures full compliance with its own SRI policy for both investments in its own funds and direct investments in equities and bonds, through implementation of this SRI policy by its internal investment departments, its internal compliance process and independent external assurance from Forum Ethibel.

Regarding funds managed by an external manager, a.s.r. requires the external managers of these investment funds to strive to invest in line with a.s.r.'s sustainability policy as far as possible. a.s.r.'s aim in this respect is that these investment funds should invest in line with the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI), the United Nations Global Compact (UN GC) and standards defined by the Dutch Association of Insurers relating to the exclusion of investments in controversial weapons.

a.s.r.'s investment policy is forward-looking and sustainability is an essential part of the strategy. a.s.r. believes that the integration of sustainability factors in the management of its investments contributes directly to the reduction of risks (both financial and reputational) and has a positive impact on long-term performance. The SRI policy of a.s.r. is embedded in internal investment practice in the following ways:

#### Exclusion criteria for countries and companies

a.s.r. applies a strict exclusions policy for controversial activities and controversial behaviour, which applies to all internally managed portfolios, both for its own investments and investments for third parties. Twice a year, a.s.r.publishes a revised list of excluded companies and once a year a revised list of excluded countries (<a href="https://www.asrvermogensbeheer.nl">https://www.asrvermogensbeheer.nl</a>).

#### ESG integration / best-in-class investments

Our portfolios are at minimum characterized by above average ESG scores. Companies are analyzed on a large number of ESG criteria taking into account the materiality for the respective sector/industry. The overall ESG score allows us to identify the best ESG scoring companies on a certain sector. The ESG screening is carried out using external data suppliers where ESG themes such as the following ones are analyzed:

- Environment:
  - Strategic management of environmental risks including loss of biodiversity and the use of water;
  - (Forward looking) Carbon data;
- Labor Rights / Human Resources:
- Human Rights & Community Involvement;
- Corporate Governance & Ethical Behavior.

This is implemented at the level of the individual fund (and subfunds if applicable).

#### Engagement

During 2023, a.s.r. successfully completed a number of engagement processes and further expanded the number of ongoing processes. The list of companies with which a.s.r. has entered into a constructive dialogue is published on a.s.r. vermogensbeheer's website, stating the reason for and status of the dialogue.

#### a.s.r. distinguishes three types of engagement:

- 1. Engagement to exercise influence: this involves an attempt to persuade companies to adopt better sustainability practices. A selection of key themes in the previous year:
  - Based on its Fossil Exit Strategy, a.s.r. has continued its engagement discussions with oil and gas producers. To this end, we apply an engagement period that runs from 2022 through to 2024. By year-end 2024, all oil and gas companies in our portfolios will need to be demonstrably aligned to the Paris Agreement. During 2023, we had discussions with several companies, including Aker BP, Galp Energia, TotalEnergies and Equinor.
  - In addition, we started our engagement discussions with phase 3 (most carbon-intensive companies) in 2023. These are companies operating in sectors such as mining, steel and utilities. We see a significant role for these companies in the energy transition, and for this reason we also apply a 5-year engagement period.
  - Last year, we also held discussions with Constellation Brands through the Ceres Valuing Water Finance Initiative. Constellation Brands is an international producer of beer, wine and spirits in the premium market segment. For such a company, the use and management of water are key issues, particular in these times of climate change and increasing water scarcity. As the company operates and generates its income in regions that are severely affected by water scarcity (including California and Mexico), the use and management of water were key topics in our discussions. The company recently implemented water efficiency targets and performs operational risk assessments with respect to water quality. Together with a coalition of investors, we will continue the discussions with Constellation Brands to monitor the progress made on addressing water stress.
- 2. Engagement for monitoring purposes: sustainability is a subject that for a.s.r. is always on the agenda at meetings with companies in its investment portfolio. In addition, a.s.r. is in discussion with other players within the investment landscape, such as fund and index providers, in order to actively promote further ESG integration in the investment chain.
- 3. Public engagement: a.s.r. is actively involved in the implementation of the IMVO sector covenant (International Corporate Social Responsibility), together with other insurers, the public sector and various NGOs.

The most recent overview of companies being talked to and their status can be found on a.s.r.'s website (https://asrvermogensbeheer.nl/duurzaam-beleggen/active-ownership).

#### Voting

a.s.r. exercises its voting rights as a shareholder where relevant. The voting policy of a.s.r. has been developed in accordance with the Dutch Corporate Governance Code and a.s.r.'s SRI policy. This policy applies to all internally managed listed shares. ESG issues that were frequently discussed in 2023 included climate strategies, human rights and gender equality. More information on the voting policy, including the use of our provider for proxy voting services, can be found on <a href="https://asrvermogensbeheer.nl/duurzaam-beleggen/active-ownership">https://asrvermogensbeheer.nl/duurzaam-beleggen/active-ownership</a>.

#### Climate and energy transition

The 'climate change and energy transition' theme has been an explicit part of a.s.r.'s investment policy since 2016. a.s.r. has analysed the risks for its own investment portfolio in two ways: both bottom-up – taking account of stranded assets and changing business models in, for example, the mining and energy sectors – and top-down, in the Strategic Asset Allocation (SAA) based on climate scenarios.

a.s.r. has set the following CO2 reduction targets: 65% reduction in 2030 compared to base year 2015 for the most important asset classes for own account (equities, corporate bonds and government bonds, real estate and mortgages). As well as preventing negative impact, a.s.r. aims to make a positive contribution to the energy transition. To this end, a.s.r. will increase the current impact investing exposure to a total of €4.5 billion in 2024. This budget may also be allocated to other sustainability themes important to a.s.r., such as health, vitality, inclusion and financial self-sufficiency. We are currently evaluating how these targets can be adjusted by consolidating the Aegon investments. In addition, a.s.r. has developed and implemented a strategy to further scale back investments in the fossil sector in three phases during the period 2022-2024.

In 2023, a.s.r. vermogensbeheer continued with phase 2 of its Fossil Exit Strategy. We are in discussions with the remaining conventional oil and gas companies in our portfolios to gain insight into whether these companies have robust and ambitious plans to become 'Parisaligned'. In addition, we have made a start with phase 3, which focuses on the biggest emitters and companies further along in the fossil chain. We expect these companies to likewise have robust and ambitious plans to achieve alignment with the Paris climate goals.

#### Recognition for a.s.r.'s responsible investment policy

A study conducted by the Dutch Association of Investors for Sustainable Development (VBDO) found that a.s.r., was 'leading' on the issue of biodiversity and working conditions in supply chains. VBDO published its findings for the 2023 Annual General Meetings season at the end of June. a.s.r.'s biodiversity strategy and targets are cited as examples to follow in the sector.

#### Reporting under the EU Transparency Regulation ('SFDR')

The above text describes the sustainability policy generally applied by the Manager. It also applies to investments made by a.s.r. for its own account. The way the Manager implements its sustainability policy differs for each fund under its management. A detailed account of the sustainability performance achieved by the Fund is presented in Appendix 2 of this Annual Report.

### Market developments and outlook

#### Economic developments in 2023

With growth of around 3%, the global economy fared slightly better in 2023 than expected a year ago. This was mainly due to the US economy, which performed significantly better than expected. In the US, consumer spending remained at a high level, helped by COVID-19 savings and historically low unemployment. In addition, high government spending, partly under the Inflation Reduction Act, provided an additional growth impetus. In contrast, the eurozone economy balanced on the edge of recession all year. Europe continued to be hampered by ailing industry (particularly unfavourable to Germany, for example), disappointing world trade (particularly unfavourable to the Netherlands, for example) and the war in Ukraine. The Chinese economy also experienced a difficult year. The faltering real estate sector in particular continued to put pressure on the economy.

While the development of the global economy in 2023 was not entirely favourable, there was mostly good news to report from the inflation front. The inflation wave of 2022, which in recent history had its equal only in the stagflation of the late 1970s and early 1980s, largely disappeared during 2023. Whereas headline inflation in the eurozone was still above 10% towards the end of 2022, a year later it had fallen to less than 3% year-on-year. A similar but slightly less extreme narrative applies to the US: there, inflation fell from 9% year-on-year in June 2022 to 3.4% by the end of 2023. Meanwhile, China has even slipped back into deflation, with inflation at -0.3% year-on-year by the end of 2023.

To combat inflation, the Fed raised US base rates from 0% to 5.25% in 2022 and 2023, while the ECB's European base rate went from -0.5% to 3.5% in less than a year. However, rapidly easing inflationary pressures during 2023 did not go unnoticed by interest rate markets either. Whereas until recently the motto seemed to be 'higher for longer', interest rate markets have increasingly started to anticipate, especially in the last quarter of 2023, that central banks are not only done with rate hikes, but will also soon start to cut their base rates again.

#### Financial markets in 2023

For investors, 2023 turned out to be an unexpectedly good year, helped by a rally in the fourth quarter. As a result, almost all asset classes ended up in positive territory. For the entire year, US equities led the way, with a return of over 20% (in euros). Asian equities and emerging markets lagged, mainly due to the ailing Chinese stock market, but still delivered positive returns of 6-8% across 2023. This was similar to returns on European bonds (both government and corporate), which were mainly due to falling capital market rates. The bad performer of 2023 was the US dollar, which depreciated by 3% against the euro.

#### **Economic and financial market outlook**

For the global economy as a whole, 2024 seems to be comparable to last year, with growth again expected to be around 3%. At the regional level, the outlook varies. This is partly due to different interest rate expectations. The effects of the relatively steep US interest rate path in recent years are not expected to be felt in full until 2024. In addition, the exhaustion of COVID-19 savings and limited scope for additional government spending may also hamper the growth of the US economy. For Europe, the growth outlook is also not particularly good, but after the stagnation of 2022 and 2023, there is potential for some growth recovery. In China, the authorities seem to intent to maintaining the current 5% growth target, but it cannot be ruled out either that they will settle for lower (and perhaps more realistic) growth of around 4.5%. For other emerging economies, the outlook is relatively favourable from a macro perspective, partly because they have mostly raised interest rates earlier than in most developed economies and can now cut interest rates again earlier and/or have already reduced them. Globally, geopolitical risk remains higher than average, due to military conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East amongst others and elections in many countries, including presidential elections in the United States in November 2024.

As for the inflation outlook, the most plausible scenario for the period ahead seems to be that inflationary pressures will gradually ease further towards the 2% inflation targets of central banks in the eurozone and the US. In the short term, base effects may cause some volatility in this respect. Given this inflation picture, expecting 2024 to be a year of interest rate cuts by central banks rather than interest rates remaining high seems justified in our view. The question is, however, whether financial markets have not entered an 'exaggeration phase' after the recent movements. The amount and pace of interest rate cuts now being priced in only seems plausible in a scenario where not only do inflationary pressures continue to fall at a rapid pace, but also growth prospects come under severe pressure. In such a scenario, current interest rate levels may be appropriate, but share prices seem to be (excessively?) high. In the economic scenario that seems most likely to us, that of gradually declining inflationary pressures combined with moderate growth prospects, equities seem less overvalued, but bond yields have slipped too far downwards.

Based on this scenario, we see long-term interest rates increasing from current levels rather than falling further, which is unfavourable for both government and corporate bonds. For equities, the outlook in this scenario is mixed, but we still see some scope for further price recovery for listed real estate (although to varying degrees for various market segments, e.g. residential vs. offices), which, although up around 25% in the last two months of 2023, is still down around 30% compared with two years ago. The relative attractiveness of cash will diminish as central banks start cutting interest rates, but that is not the case for now. With a current ECB base rate of 4%, the risk-free rate of return is still high from a historical perspective.

#### ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatie Fonds 15+ return and portfolio policy

Compared to 7.85% for the benchmark, the fund achieved an annual return of 8.03% after costs, representing a positive relative performance of 18 basis points.

Return reference date	Fund	Benchmark
31-12-2023	8.03 %	7.85 %
31-12-2022	-35.77 %	-36.03 %
31-12-2021	-8.33 %	-8.40 %
31-12-2020	11.85 %	11.39 %
31-12-2019	14.12 %	13.83 %

Value movement per participation	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Income	0.96	0.91	0.93	0.96	1.05
Changes in value	2.66	-22.09	-5.96	6.24	7.08
Costs	-0.08	-0.10	-0.13	-0.13	-0.12
Result after tax	3.54	-21.28	-5.16	7.07	8.01

Amounts per participation are based on the average number of participations during the reporting period.

The sharp rise in interest rates in 2022 looked set to continue in 2023. Especially at the end of the third quarter, interest rates seemed to break upwards out of a bandwidth that had held for several quarters, but this turned out to be a diversion in hindsight. Interest rates fell sharply in the fourth quarter, more than reversing the rise in interest rates seen in the first three quarters. The 10-year German government rate eventually ended more than 0.50% lower than at the end of 2022 at almost 2%. Interest rate curves steepened on longer maturities, but actually experienced flattening on short maturities. Credit spreads moved broadly sideways while inflation expectations fell sharply, especially in the last quarter. A final movement worth mentioning was the narrowing gap between government and swap rates.

The drivers of rising interest rates in the first three quarters were largely the same as in 2022. Although the year-on-year inflation rate was already easing, it still remained above the central bank's target, especially when considering less volatile core inflation. For this reason, policy rates in Europe were therefore raised further with a top, seemingly certain for now, at 4% for deposit rates reached in September. The ECB also started reducing its balance sheet in March by no longer reinvesting maturing loans under the APP programme and it was announced that the PEPP programme will also be slowly phased out in the near future. The exceptional liquidity measures for banks (TLTROs), were also phased out. Besides this monetary tightening, interest rates also remained under pressure due to continuously high issuances of government and semi-government bonds. It should be noted, however, that demand for liquid European fixed-income paper was also strong throughout the year. After almost a decade of negative real interest rates during which almost all major players reduced their positions in European fixed income securities, these positions are actually increasing again due to more attractive valuations. As a result, credit spreads also remained very stable. In the first three quarters, the only significant fall in interest rates occurred in March, when financial markets were spooked by problems in the banking sector. This started in the United States where several smaller banks collapsed due to a failure to properly anticipate the sharp interest rate hike in 2022. The turmoil spilled over to Europe and reached its 'highpoint' in the regulator-enforced merger between UBS and ailing CS. However, this period of turmoil ended as abruptly as it had begun when no other major financial institutions ran into trouble.

In the fourth quarter, market sentiment turned around completely and it was not due to the escalated conflict between Hamas and Israel. Influenced by inflation figures, which suddenly came in well below expectations globally after months of upside surprises, market participants could finally price in a 'pivot moment', a reversal in the ever tightening central bank policy, after several unsuccessful attempts. This led to a buy-everything rally in the fourth quarter that was obviously marked by some exaggeration that makes the outlook for 2024 less rosy.

Growth was weak in 2023, but better than many economists previously expected. In 2024, weak but positive growth is again expected. However, the risks involved are downside. The effects of higher interest rates are now slowly seeping into the economy, while it is far from certain that the COVID-19 savings surpluses will be spent. Governments will also be less generous than in recent years. Wage growth is good for now, but it may take years to make up for the prosperity loss of recent years. Inflation is rapidly 'normalising', but the question is whether central bankers are as optimistic about this as markets are now pricing in. This will make 2024 exciting, not least because a large number of important elections are coming up. Without very strong conviction, the fund positioning at the end of 2023 is such that it will benefit from slightly higher interest rates and further steepening of yield curves. Credit risk in the fund is in line with the benchmark, mainly taken via semi-government loans.

The fund had a largely neutral interest rate position. Only after the sharp fall in interest rates in October and November was an underweight interest rate position taken. In hindsight, this was a little too early and cost a few basis points. However, this was more than made up for by the curve positioning with ultra-long-term bonds being underweight throughout the year and, moreover, the underweighting of the 30-year segment was shifted in a timely manner, benefiting from the steepening of the yield curve. However, the largest positive contribution came from the credit risk factor. In the first half of the year, the fund was overweight in credit risk and this contributed positively in sidewaysmoving credit spreads. Furthermore, this positioning has been implemented mainly via semi-government loans such as German state NRW and ESM. These loans move more in line with swap than government interest rates, and as the gap between them narrowed, the fund benefited. In the second half of the year, as credit spreads fell, the overweight in credit risk was reduced to a similar level to the benchmark. All in all, a positive relative return after costs remained.

The main risks that affect or could potentially affect the Fund are:

#### Market risk:

The Fund is sensitive to both market movements in general and fluctuations in the prices of individual investment instruments in particular. Fluctuations in the value of the participations of the Fund and in the interest revenue have a direct impact on the value of a Participation in a Fund. Associated declines can be caused by both general economic developments and developments in relation to a specific category of investments. The Manager will seek to limit this risk as much as possible by distributing the assets across a large number of (categories of) securities. Investments are made in 49 bonds within the Fund.

Sector allocation	31-12-2023	31-12-2022
Sovereign	95.28 %	94.33 %
Quasi Government	4.72 %	5.67 %

Country allocation	31-12-2023	31-12-2022
France	33.40 %	33.45 %
Germany	32.95 %	26.26 %
Belgium	10.34 %	11.95 %
The Netherlands	9.44 %	9.29 %
Austria	6.87 %	6.85 %
Other countries	7.00 %	12.20 %

#### Credit risk:

In 2023, there were no bankruptcies in the portfolio and the Fund had a higher exposure to credit risk.

Rating	31-12-2023	31-12-2022
AAA	43.00 %	38.04 %
AA	56.10 %	61.13 %
Α	0.90 %	0.83 %

#### Interest-rate risk:

The investments in fixed income instruments are sensitive to the interest rate risk. The value of bonds moves inversely to the interest rate. meaning the value of the portfolio will fall if the interest rate rises and vice versa.

#### Currency risk:

The Fund invests exclusively in euro-denominated bonds.

#### Return risk:

Active portfolio management within the limits of the mandate can lead to a deviation from the benchmark.

Expected impact of stress scenarios on the investment portfolio:

The 'VaR' table provides an insight into the 'Value at Risk', the maximum loss expected over a year, with a probability of 97.5%. The historical VaR is based on the daily return distribution over the last five years:

	Portfolio VaR	Benchmark VaR	+/- VaR
VaR	(%)	(%)	(%)
	31-12-2023	31-12-2023	31-12-2023
Total	23.5	24.0	-0.5
Spread	0.6	0.8	-0.2
Interest Rate	22.9	23.2	-0.3
FX	0.0	0.0	0.0
Inflation	0.0	0.0	0.0

With regard to the investment portfolio and linked to market risk, the 'scenarios for the investment portfolio' table provides insight into sensitivities based on historical stress scenarios and historical sensitivities. The historical scenarios have been derived from key events in the recent past and the effect these events have had on the value of the investments. The value of the investment portfolio is based on the value as at 31 December 2023 and the effect of this scenario on an annual basis.

	Profit and loss	Profit and loss
Scenarios for the	account	account
investment portfolio	(%)	(EUR x 1,000)
	31-12-2023	31-12-2023
Corporate shock	-22.0%	-79,066
Financial shock	-15.6%	-56,181
Interest rate shock	-26.4%	-94,958

- Corporate shock: a shock of two standard deviations in the iBoxx Euro Overall Index related to European corporate bonds.
- Financial shock: a shock of two standard deviations in the EMU Corporates/Financials Index related to corporate bonds of banks and insurers.
- Interest rate shock: a shock of 100 basis points over the Euro government curve.

All the above-mentioned risks fall within the mandate and are managed and mitigated in a timely manner where necessary.

### In Control statement

The Manager's description of its business operations meets the requirements of the Financial Supervision Act (*Wet op het financieel toezicht*, "Wft"). The Manager has reviewed various aspects of its business operations during the past reporting period. In the course of these activities, no findings were made that would lead to the conclusion that the description of the structure of the business operations does not meet the requirements as set out in the Wft and related legislation. The Manager has also come across no findings that indicate that the business operations do not function effectively or in accordance with the description. We therefore declare with a reasonable degree of certainty that the business operations functioned in accordance with the stated description in 2023.

The Fund's asset management is carried out by ASR Nederland N.V. staff employed by the Manager under an employee loan agreement. The Manager has issued an ISAE 3402 Type II report and has obtained an assurance report on this. This report confirms the Manager's view regarding the investment and other processes.

Utrecht, 28 March 2024

ASR Vermogensbeheer N.V.
On behalf of ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatie Fonds 15+ Jaar

The management,

Mr. P. Klijnsmit (director) Mr. M.R. Lavooi (director) Mrs. J.H.L. de Jong-Kortman (CFRO)

## **Financial Statements 2023**

# ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatie Fonds 15+ Jaar

## **Balance sheet**

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2023 (before profit appropriation x €1,000)

Balance sheet	31-12-2023	31-12-2022	Reference
Investments	354,378	240,308	
Total Investments	354,378	240,308	1
Receivables	4,757	3,090	2
Other assets			
Cash	67	218	3
Current liabilities	-112	-105	4
Receivables and other assets less current liabilities	4,712	3,203	
Assets less current liabilities	359,090	243,511	
Issued participation capital	390,050	301,243	
Other reserves	-57,732	57,837	
Unappropriated result	26,772	-115,569	
Total Net Assets	359,090	243,511	5

## **Profit and loss account**

Profit and loss account for the period from 1 January 2023 until 31 December 2023 (x € 1,000)

Profit and loss account	01-01-2023 to 31-12-2023	01-01-2022 to 31-12-2022	Reference
Investment income	7,224	4,939	6
Realized changes in the fair value of investments	-1,799	-58,662	7
Unrealized changes in the fair value of investments	21,935	-61,313	7
Total operating income	27,360	-115,036	
Management fee	-293	-258	
Service fee	-293	-258	
Interest charges	-2	-17	
Total operating expenses	-588	-533	8
Profit after tax	26,772	-115,569	

## **Cashflow statement**

Cashflow statement for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 (x  $\in$ 1,000)

Cashflow statement	01-01-2023 to 31-12-2023	01-01-2022 to 31-12-2022	Reference
Total investment result	26,772	-115,569	
Changes in the fair value of investments	-20,136	119,975	1
Purchase of investments (-)	-323,046	-460,581	1
Sales of investments (+)	229,112	374,794	1
Increase (-)/Decrease (+) in receivables	-1,667	-435	2
Increase (+)/Decrease (-) in liabilities	7	56	4
Net cash flow from investment activities	-88,958	-81,760	
Issue of participations	104,654	89,640	5
Redemption of participations	-15,847	-13,310	5
Net cash flow from financing activities	88,807	76,330	
Movement in cash	-151	-5,430	
Cash per January 1	218	5,648	3
Cash per December 31	67	218	3
Movement in cash	-151	-5,430	

## Principles of valuation and determination of results

#### General

ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatie Fonds 15+ Jaar (the Fund) was established on 1 October 2018 in the form of a mutual fund. The activities commenced on 2 November 2017.

The obligations under the Financial Supervision Act (Wft) are not applicable to the Manager as far as the ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatie Fonds 15+ Jaar is concerned. Potential investors, namely group companies of the Manager within the meaning of Section 1:13a (1) (g) of the Wft, are therefore again reminded that the Fund is not subject to supervision by the AFM. Nevertheless, the Manager has decided to voluntarily prepare the annual report on the Fund with due observance of the applicable rules as set out in Guideline 615 'Investment Institutions' of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board and Title 9 Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code (Burgerlijk Wetboek, "BW"). All amounts included in the annual report are in thousands of euros, unless stated otherwise. The amounts stated in the tables are rounded figures. Rounding differences may occur as a result. The Manager compiled the financial statements on 28 March 2024.

#### Reporting period and corresponding figures

The annual report covers the period from 1 January 2023 up to 31 December 2023. Prior period comparative figures relate to the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022.

#### **Foreign Currency**

Transactions in foreign currency are converted at the rate of exchange on the transaction date. Assets and liabilities in foreign currency are converted into euros at the rate of exchange on the balance sheet date.

Currency differences arising from the conversion are presented in the profit and loss account under realized and unrealized changes in the fair value of investments.

No investments in foreign currency were recorded within the Fund as at 31 December 2023.

#### Manager

ASR Vermogensbeheer N.V. (hereinafter referred to as the Manager) is the Manager within the definition of Section 1.1 of the Financial Supervision Act (Wet op het financiael toezicht, hereinafter referred to as the Wft). The Manager is responsible for managing the fund assets in accordance with the investment policy and performing the participant and financial administration. The Manager holds a license granted by the supervisory authority in accordance with Section 2:65 (1) (a) of the Wft and is included in the register kept by the Dutch Authority for the Financial Markets (Autoriteit Financiële Markten, AFM).

#### **Legal Owner**

Stichting ASR Bewaarder acts, in accordance with the general terms and conditions of management and custody, as the owner (title-holder) in a legal sense at the risk and expense of the participants in the Fund.

The primary duty of the Legal Owner is to carry out the depositary functions referred to in Section 4:37f of the Wft on the Fund's behalf. The Legal Owner is liable vis-à-vis the Fund or the participants for the loss of financial instruments taken into custody by it or by a third party to which it has outsourced custody. Further information on the duties, responsibilities and liability of the Legal Owner can be found in the prospectus.

#### Basis of preparation

The annual report is prepared on a going concern basis. An asset will be recognized in the balance sheet if it is probable that the future economic benefits will flow to the Fund and its value can be reliably determined. A liability will be recognized in the balance sheet if it is probable that its settlement can be associated with an outflow of funds and the extent of the amount can be reliably determined. The manner in which the asset management activities are structured may result in the legal ownership of an asset and/or liability, of which all or nearly all rights to the economic benefits and risks flow to the Fund, vesting with related parties.

Income is recognized in the profit and loss account if an increase in the economic potential associated with an increase in an asset or a decrease in a liability has taken place, the extent of which can be reliably determined. Expenses are recognized if a decrease in the economic potential associated with a decrease in an asset item or an increase in a liability has taken place, the extent of which can be reliably determined.

If a transaction results in (practically) all future economic benefits and risks with regard to an asset item or a liability being transferred to a third party, the asset item or the liability will no longer be recognized in the balance sheet. Furthermore, assets are no longer recognized in the balance sheet from the moment when the probability conditions of the future economic benefits and reliability of the value assessment can no longer be satisfied. A liability will no longer be recognized in the balance sheet from the moment when the probability conditions of the expected outflow of funds and reliability of the value assessment can no longer be satisfied.

#### Offsetting

A financial asset and a financial liability is netted and recognized in the balance sheet as a net amount if there is a legal or contractual

right to settle the asset and the liability whilst being netted at the same time, and there is in addition the intention to settle the items in this manner. Interest income and interest expenses related to financial assets and liabilities recognized on a net basis are also recognized on a net basis.

#### Related party transactions

A related party is a party that can exert significant influence on another party or can exert a significant influence on the financial and business policy of another party. Transactions with related parties are effected at arm's length rates.

#### Investments

Investments are valued at the purchase price at the time of acquisition, which is the market value of the asset or liability plus purchase costs. Investments in bonds are valued individually at market value, which is considered equivalent to the last known mid-market price on the balance sheet date or is based on broker quotes received. Realized and unrealized changes in value within the portfolio are recognized in the profit and loss account.

The following investment acquisition and selling costs are charged to the Fund:

Purchase and selling costs of the investments: costs charged by the broker for the purchase and sale of listed investments. Upon purchase, broker costs are capitalized as part of the purchase price. When periodically determining the market value of investments, the costs are presented in the profit and loss account as part of the unrealized changes in value. Costs associated with the sale of investments are presented as part of the realized changes in value.

Transaction costs of investments: costs associated with the settlement of purchase and sale transactions by the custodian of the Fund.

#### Cash

Bank account credit balances are stated at fair value, which is the nominal value. Cash includes current account credit balances with banks, any cash at bank and on hand and outstanding time and other deposits insofar as not included in the investments.

#### Other assets and liabilities

Receivables are initially stated at fair value, including transaction costs. Receivables are subsequently revalued at amortized cost based on the effective interest method, without deducting impairment losses. Provisions are determined on the basis of individual assessment of the receivables.

Current liabilities, accruals and deferred income are initially stated at fair value. Current liabilities, accruals and deferred income are subsequently revalued at amortized cost based on the effective interest method. If there is no premium or discount and there are no transaction costs, the amortized cost is equal to the nominal value of the debt.

#### Determining the result

The result is determined as the difference between the income and the expenditure. Income and expenditure are allocated to the period to which they relate. The result also includes direct investment income, such as interest. Interest income refers to the interest received on bonds and deposits. Results in foreign currencies are translated into euros at the exchange rates applicable on the transaction date.

#### Changes in the fair value of investments

Realized changes in value are determined by deducting the average cost price (including purchase costs) from the sales proceeds (including selling costs). Unrealized changes in value are determined by deducting the average cost price (including purchase costs) from the balance sheet value at the end of the reporting period.

The realized and unrealized changes in value of investments are presented in the period to which they relate as realized or unrealized changes in the fair value of investments respectively under investment income in the profit and loss account.

Investment purchase and selling costs are included in the cost price or deducted from the sales proceeds respectively for the related investments and are therefore part of the changes in the fair value of investments.

#### Income tax

The Fund is a tax transparent mutual fund, meaning that the Fund is not tax liable for income tax and is not subject to the payment of dividend tax.

#### Management fee

Costs are charged to the Fund by the Manager for the management of the Fund Net Assets. The provisions made are transferred to the Manager on a monthly basis. The annual management fee is 0.10%.

#### Service fee

The Manager also receives a monthly service fee that is deducted from the Fund. The service fee covers other costs, such as:

- auditor, legal and tax advisor fees;
- costs associated with the preparation, printing and sending of the Information Memorandum, annual and semi-annual reports
  and any other documents relating to the Fund;
- costs associated with calculating and publishing the net asset values;
- costs associated with maintaining the participant register and keeping financial and investment accounting records;
- costs associated with meetings of participants.

The annual service fee is 0.10%. The Manager ultimately pays the costs actually incurred related to the service fee.

#### Costs associated with investments in other investment funds

If the Fund invests in other investment funds, the costs incurred within these funds, such as a management fee, service fee and other costs, may be indirectly financed by the Fund.

In the Information Memorandum, the Fund has explicitly reserved the option to invest in other investment funds. The Manager aims to keep the overall cost level, including the costs of underlying funds, at the same level as if the investments were made without the involvement of another investment fund.

If a portion of the fees charged within the investment funds that are the subject of investment is refunded (return commission), this will be credited to the Fund. The entry or exit charges are included directly in the purchase or selling price and are charged to the profit and loss account under investment income.

As at 31 December 2023 the Fund has no investments in other investment funds.

#### Fees in relation to securities lending

The net proceeds generated by securities lending are in principle credited to the Fund. The net proceeds are the proceeds relating to securities lending less a fee for the Manager in line with market conditions, and any costs charged by the parties involved in the lending transactions.

Securities lending involves the provision of securities on loan, whereby legal ownership is transferred to a third party but beneficial ownership remains with the Fund. Loaned securities have therefore been included under investments and are recognized at the share price at the end of the reporting period. Collateral was received to cover the risk of non-return. This collateral is not included in the balance sheet.

No securities were provided on loan during the reporting period.

#### Costs for the issue and redemption of participations

The Fund charges a fee (0.15% of the Net Asset Value) for the issue and redemption of participations. These fees are credited to the Fund to compensate for transaction costs incurred if underlying investments need to be purchased due to issuance or if investments need to be sold due to redemption.

The Manager calculates the entry or exit charge based on the actual average transaction costs it incurs when buying and selling investments. The entry or exit charges are included directly in the purchase or selling price and on revaluation are charged to the profit and loss account at the end of the reporting period. The Manager may adjust this percentage if the market conditions change to such an extent that the entry and exit charge are no longer representative of the actual transaction costs incurred.

#### Cash flow statement

The cashflow statement has been prepared according to the 'indirect method', whereby a distinction is made between cash flows from investment and financing activities. Cash relates to credit balances with banks that are available on demand. In the cash flow from investment activities, the result is adjusted for costs that are not expenditure and proceeds that are not revenue.

## Notes to the balance sheet and profit and loss account

#### 1. Investments

The investments can be broken down as follows (x €1,000):

Investments	31-12-2023	31-12-2022
Government bonds	354,378	240,308

The movement in investments during the reporting period was as follows (x €1,000):

Investments	01-01-2023 to 31-12-2023	01-01-2022 to 31-12-2022
Balance at the start of the reporting period	240,308	274,496
Purchases	323,046	460,581
Sales	-229,112	-374,794
Changes in values	20,136	-119,975
Balance at the end of the reporting period	354,378	240,308

The investments are valued at fair value, which is derived from quoted market prices. More information on the risk management with regard to the investments is available in sections Report of the Manager and ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatie Fonds 15+ return and portfolio policy.

A specification of the investments is presented in Appendix 1.

#### 2. Receivables

The other receivables have a term of less than one year and can be broken down as follows (x €1,000):

Receivables	31-12-2023	31-12-2022
Interest receivable on investments	4,694	3,090
Receivables dividend	63	-
Balance at the end of the reporting period	4,757	3,090

#### 3. Cash

Cash concerns credit balances with banks that are available on demand.

#### 4. Current liabilities

The current liabilities all have a term of less than one year and can be broken down as follows (x €1,000):

Current liabilities	31-12-2023	31-12-2022
Management and service fees payable	-56	-62
Payable in respect of participant redemptions	-	-43
Other payables	-56	-
Balance at the end of the reporting period	-112	-105

#### 5. Issued share capital, unappropriated result and other reserves

ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatie Fonds 15+ multi-year overview

Net Asset Value	31-12-2023	31-12-2022	31-12-2021
Fund Net Assets (x € 1,000)	359,090	243,511	282,750
Number of participations	8,538,578	6,255,454	4,665,532
Net Asset Value in euros per participation	42.06	38.93	60.60

The movement in issued share capital during the reporting period was as follows (x €1,000):

Issued share capital	01-01-2023 to 31-12-2023	01-01-2022 to 31-12-2022
Balance at the start of the reporting period	301,243	224,913
Issues during the reporting period	104,654	89,640
Redemptions during the reporting period	-15,847	-13,310
Balance at the end of the reporting period	390,050	301,243

The movement in the number of participations during the reporting period was as follows:

Schedule of movements in the number of participations	01-01-2023 to 31-12-2023	01-01-2022 to 31-12-2022
Balance at the start of the reporting period	6,255,454	4,665,532
Issues during the reporting period	2,690,123	1,861,711
Purchase during the reporting period	-406,999	-271,789
Balance at the end of the reporting period	8,538,578	6,255,454

The movement in other reserves during the reporting period was as follows (x €1,000):

Other reserves	01-01-2023 to 31-12-2023	01-01-2022 to 31-12-2022
Balance at the start of the reporting period	57,837	79,214
Profit distribution of the previous financial year	-115,569	-21,377
Balance at the end of the reporting period	-57,732	57,837

The movement in unappropriated result during the reporting period was as follows (x €1,000):

Unappropriated result	01-01-2023	01-01-2022
	to 31-12-2023	to 31-12-2022
Balance at the start of the reporting period	-115,569	-21,377
Profit distribution of the previous financial year	115,569	21,377
Unappropriated result of the current financial year	26,772	-115,569
Balance at the end of the reporting period	26,772	-115,569

#### 6. Investment income

The investment income can be broken down as follows (x €1,000):

Investment income	01-01-2023 to 31-12-2023	01-01-2022 to 31-12-2022
Interest on bonds	7,001	4,783
Other income	223	156
Total	7,224	4,939

#### 7. Changes in the fair value of investments

The realized changes in the fair value of investments are the results from sales, including any selling costs.

The unrealized changes in the fair value of investments held include any purchasing costs.

The changes in the fair value of investments can be broken down as follows (x €1,000):

Changes in the fair value of investments	01-01-2023 to 31-12-2023 (positive)	01-01-2023 to 31-12-2023 (negative)	01-01-2022 to 31-12-2022 (positive)	01-01-2022 to 31-12-2022 (negative)
Realized	2,934	-4,733	271	-58,933
Unrealized	22,018	-83	-	-61,313

#### 8. Operating expenses

The operating expenses can be broken down as follows (x €1,000):

Operating expenses	01-01-2023 to 31-12-2023	01-01-2022 to 31-12-2022
Management fee	-293	-258
Service fee	-293	-258
Interest charges	-2	-17
Total	-588	-533

#### Ongoing Charges Figure (OCF)

Fund	Information memorandum	01-01-2023 to 31-12-2023	01-01-2022 to 31-12-2022
ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatie Fonds 15+	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%

The Ongoing Charges Figure (OCF) includes all costs charged to the Fund in the reporting period, including the management and service fees of the underlying investment funds, excluding interest charges, any taxes and transaction costs arising from the purchase and sale of investments. The OCF is calculated by dividing the total costs in the reporting period by the average Net Asset Value of the Fund.

The average Net Asset Value of the Fund is the sum of the Net Asset Values divided by the number of times at which the Net Asset Value is calculated during the reporting year. The number of measurement points is regarded as a weighted average.

#### Portfolio Turnover Rate (PTR)

Fund	01-01-2023 to 31-12-2023	01-01-2022 to 31-12-2022
ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatie Fonds 15+	146.78 %	283.77 %

The Portfolio Turnover Rate (PTR) provides an indication of the turnover rate of the investments relative to the average fund capital and is a benchmark for the degree to which an investment policy is active or less active. For example, a turnover ratio of 200% indicates that purchase and sales transactions amounting to twice the value of the average fund capital have been carried out in addition to purchase and sales transactions resulting from subscriptions and redemptions.

In the calculation used, the turnover is equal to the sum of purchases and sales of investments in the reporting period less the sum of issues and purchases of participations. This includes all investment categories except deposits with an original term of less than one month. The PTR is determined by the turnover expressed as a percentage of the average Net Asset Value of the Fund, calculated in the same way as when determining the OCF for the reporting period.

#### Related party transactions

The Fund has the following relationships with related parties:

- ASR Vermogensbeheer N.V. is the Manager of the Fund and charges a management fee (€ 293,000) and a service fee (€ 293,000).
- The board of ASR Vermogensbeheer N.V. has no participations in the Fund.

#### Other

Entry charges, exit charges, management fees and service fees are exempt from VAT.

#### **Profit appropriation**

Following the adoption of the annual report, the profit is added to the other reserves as part of the fund assets.

#### Proposed dividend

The Fund does not distribute dividends. Dividends received by the Fund are reinvested and are reflected in the value movement of the Fund.

#### Events after the balance sheet date

No events occurred in the period up to the preparation of this annual report that require any changes or explanatory notes to the financial statements.

SIGNING OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Utrecht, 28 March 2024

ASR Vermogensbeheer N.V.
On behalf of ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatie Fonds 15+ Jaar

The management,

Mr. P. Klijnsmit (director)
Mr. M.R. Lavooi (director)
Mrs. J. H. J. do Jong Kortman (CET

Mrs. J.H.L. de Jong-Kortman (CFRO)

## Other information

### Independent auditor's report

To: the General Meeting and the Manager of ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatie Fonds 15+ Jaar

#### Report on the audit of the accompanying financial statements

#### Our opinion

We have audited the financial statements 2023 of ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatie Fonds 15+ Jaar ('the Fund'), based in Utrecht.

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatie Fonds 15+ Jaar as at 31 December 2023, and of its result for 2023 in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

The financial statements comprise:

- 1. the balance sheet as at 31 December 2023;
- 2. the profit and loss account for 2023; and
- 3. the notes comprising a summary of the accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### Basis for our opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report.

We are independent of ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatie Fonds 15+ Jaar in accordance with the 'Verordening inzake de onafhankelijkheid van accountants bij assurance-opdrachten' (ViO, Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, a regulation with respect to independence) and other relevant independence regulations in the Netherlands. Furthermore, we have complied with the 'Verordening gedrags- en beroepsregels accountants' (VGBA, Dutch Code of Ethics).

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Report on the other information included in the annual report

In addition to the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon, the annual report contains other information.

Based on the following procedures performed, we conclude that the other information is consistent with the financial statements and does not contain material misstatements;

We have read the other information. Based on our knowledge and understanding obtained through our audit of the financial statements or otherwise, we have considered whether the other information contains material misstatements.

By performing these procedures, we comply with the requirements of the Dutch Standard 720. The scope of the procedures performed is less than the scope of those performed in our audit of the financial statements.

The manager is responsible for the preparation of the other information.

#### Description of the responsibilities for the financial statements

#### Responsibilities of the manager for the financial statements

The manager is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code. Furthermore, the manager is responsible for such internal control as the manager determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to errors or fraud.

As part of the preparation of the financial statements, the manager is responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern. Based on the financial reporting framework mentioned, the manager should prepare the financial statements using the going concern basis of accounting unless the manager either intends to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. The manager should disclose events and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern in the financial statements.

#### Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objective is to plan and perform the audit engagement in a manner that allows us to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence for our opinion.

Our audit has been performed with a high, but not absolute, level of assurance, which means we may not have detected all material errors and fraud during our audit.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or errors and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements. The materiality affects the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and the evaluation of the effect of identified misstatements on our opinion.

We have exercised professional judgement and have maintained professional scepticism throughout the audit, in accordance with Dutch Standards on Auditing, ethical requirements and independence requirements. Our audit included among others:

- identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to errors or fraud, designing and performing audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from errors, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtaining an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control;
- evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the manager;
- concluding on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company ceasing to continue as a going concern;
- evaluating the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures; and
- evaluating whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the manager regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant findings in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Utrecht, 28 March 2024 KPMG Accountants N.V.

G.J. Hoeve RA

## **Appendices**

## **Appendix 1 Specification of investments ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatie Fonds 15+ Jaar**

(Market value x € 1,000)

Instrument name	Rating	Instrumen t Type	Country	Currency	Number	Price at 31-12-2023	Market value 31-12-2023
FRANKRIJK_2%_25/05/2048	AA	Bond	FR	EUR	41,973,000	82.74	34,730
FRANKRIJK_3%_25/05/2054	AA-	Bond	FR	EUR	30,655,000	98.27	30,125
DUITSLAND_2.5%_04/07/2044	AAA	Bond	DE	EUR	21,295,000	103.43	22,025
DUITSLAND_3.25%_04/07/2042	AAA	Bond	DE	EUR	17,825,000	114.33	20,380
DUITSLAND 1.8% 15/08/2053	AAA	Bond	DE	EUR	20,247,000	90.52	18,327
DUITSLAND 2.5% 15/08/2046	AAA	Bond	DE	EUR	16,918,000	103.92	17,582
FRANKRIJK 4% 25/04/2055	AA	Bond	FR	EUR	14,036,680	118.18	16,588
DUITSLAND 1.25% 15/08/2048	AAA	Bond	DE	EUR	18,528,000	81.27	15,058
BELGIE 3.75% 22/06/2045	AA-	Bond	BE	EUR	12,835,000	110.63	14,200
FRANKRIJK 0.5% 25/06/2044	AA-	Bond	FR	EUR	22,181,000	62.68	13,903
FRANKRIJK 4% 25/04/2060	AA	Bond	FR	EUR	10,921,000	119.79	13,082
NEDERLAND 0.5% 15/01/2040	AAA	Bond	NL	EUR	16,700,000	74.14	12,381
DUITSLAND 1.8% 15/08/2053	AAA	Bond	DE	EUR	8,954,000	90.27	8,083
NEDERLAND 2% 15/01/2054	AAA	Bond	NL	EUR	8,691,000	90.31	7,849
DUITSLAND 1% 15/05/2038	AAA	Bond	DE	EUR	8,414,000	85.05	7,156
OOSTENRIJK 3.8% 26/01/2062	AA+	Bond	AT	EUR	5,920,000	120.10	7,110
BELGIE 1.6% 22/06/2047	AA-	Bond	BE	EUR	8,761,000	75.30	6,597
FINLAND 0.25% 15/09/2040	AA+	Bond	FI	EUR	9,526,000	66.44	6,329
IERLAND 2% 18/02/2045	AA	Bond	iE	EUR	7,120,000	86.54	6,162
OOSTENRIJK 1.5% 20/02/2047	AA+	Bond	AT	EUR	7,403,000	76.92	5,695
BELGIE 1.4% 22/06/2053	AA	Bond	BE	EUR	8,169,000	67.09	5,480
BELGIE 3.3% 22/06/2054	AA	Bond	BE	EUR	5,120,000	102.08	5,226
OOSTENRIJK 0% 20/10/2040	AA+	Bond	AT	EUR	7,614,000	62.68	3,220 4,773
NEDERLAND 0% 15/01/2052	AAA	Bond	NL	EUR	8,034,000	51.56	4,773 4,142
NRW 2.9% 15/01/2053	AAA	Bond	DE	EUR	4,100,000	97.20	3,985
OOSTENRIJK 3.15% 20/10/2053	AA+	Bond	AT	EUR	3,742,000	104.70	3,903
BELGIE 4.25% 28/03/2041	AA-	Bond	BE	EUR	3,313,000	116.93	3,816
ALSFR 4.125% 03/10/2038	AA-	Bond	FR	EUR	3,500,000	109.06	3,817
NEDERLAND 3.25% 15/01/2044	AAA	Bond	NL	EUR	3,000,000	111.36	3,341
SOCIETE DU	AA-	Bond	FR	EUR	2,800,000	101.83	2,851
GRAND_3.5%_25/05/2043					4 000 000	00.00	
OOSTENRIJK_0.75%_20/03/2051	AA+	Bond	AT	EUR	4,630,000	60.96	2,822
NEDERLAND_0%_15/01/2038	AAA	Bond	NL	EUR	3,671,000	70.79	2,599
NEDERLAND_2.75%_15/01/2047	AAA	Bond	NL	EUR	2,368,000	104.87	2,483
ESM_1.85%_01/12/2055	AAA	Bond	SP	EUR	3,212,000	74.85	2,404
DUITSLAND_4.25%_04/07/2039	AAA	Bond	DE	EUR	1,904,000	125.92	2,397
SLOWAKIJE_2%_17/10/2047	A+	Bond	SK	EUR	2,836,000	74.12	2,102
CPPIB_0.75%_02/02/2037	AAA	Bond	CA	EUR	2,600,000	75.26	1,957
LUXEMBURG_1.75%_25/05/2042	AAA	Bond	LU	EUR	2,200,000	84.98	1,869
FINLAND_0.5%_15/04/2043	AA+	Bond	FI	EUR	2,806,000	65.66	1,842
FRANKRIJK_3.25%_25/05/2045	AA	Bond	FR	EUR	1,594,000	104.38	1,664
DUITSLAND_0%_15/08/2050	AAA	Bond	DE	EUR	2,914,236	55.78	1,626
BELGIE_2.75%_22/04/2039	AA	Bond	BE	EUR	1,170,000	97.68	1,143
LITOUWEN_0.5%_28/07/2050	A+	Bond	LT	EUR	2,249,000	49.98	1,124
RESEAU_2.25%_20/12/2047	AA	Bond	FR	EUR	1,300,000	80.58	1,048
NEDERLAND_3.75%_15/01/2042	AAA	Bond	NL	EUR	636,000	117.98	750
ONTTFT_0.95%_24/11/2051	AA+	Bond	CA	EUR	1,100,000	56.48	621
IERLAND_3%_18/10/2043	AA	Bond	ΙE	EUR	475,000	103.78	493
DUITSLAND_2.4%_15/11/2030	AAA	Bond	DE	EUR	478,000	102.97	492
FRANKRIJK_1.25%_25/05/2038	AA-	Bond	FR	EUR	213,000	81.40	173
Total investments ASR Staatsoblig	natio Fonds	4 E ±		<u>.</u>	<u>.</u>		354,378

## **Appendix 2 Sustainability performance of the Fund**

#### SFDR Annex IV

**Product name:** ASR Pensioen Staatsobligatie Fonds 15+ **Legal entity identifier (LEI):** 9724500TLRTZYUAUOFA11

#### **Environmental and/or social characteristics**

Sustainable investment means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.

The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of environmentally sustainable economic activities. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.

Did this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?					
Yes	No X				
It made sustainable investments with an environmental objective:	It promoted Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics and while it did not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it had a proportion of 16.26% of sustainable investments				
in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy	with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy				
in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy	with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy				
It made sustainable investments with a social objective:%	with a social objective  It promoted E/S characteristics, but did not make any sustainable investments				

The interpretation of the definition of sustainable investments is subject to continuous development, both within the legislative framework and in the market. Based on these developments, ASR Vermogensbeheer N.V. ("ASR Vermogensbeheer", "AVB" or the "Manager") might update the definition of sustainable investments in 2024.

In calculating the percentage of sustainable investments, ASR Vermogensbeheer applies the methodology described under the heading 'What were the objectives of the sustainable investments partially made by the financial product, and how did the sustainable investments contribute to achieving those objectives?'



## To what extent were the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by this financial product met?

The SRI policy of ASR Vermogensbeheer ('sustainability policy', see the website of <u>ASR Vermogensbeheer</u>) sets out the environmental and/or social characteristics used by the Manager. The Fund promotes sustainability characteristics by applying this sustainability policy when making investment decisions. The sustainability policy is continuously assessed against the latest insights and developments and adjusted where AVB considers this relevant.

During the reference period the following environmental and social characteristics were promoted in respect of this Fund:

- 1. **Exclusions**: Countries that do not fit within the SRI policy restrictions are excluded.
  - Environmental: Countries believed to have a poor environmental performance are excluded. Specifically, AVB does not invest in countries that achieve an average score of less than 50 on the <u>SDG Index</u> in the area of SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 14 (Life below water) and SDG 15 (Life on land).
  - Social: Countries believed to have no basic political freedoms and no protection of civil rights are excluded. Specifically, we do not invest in countries that are classified as 'not free' by 'Freedom in the World' (an annual report published by the US NGO 'Freedom House').
  - Governance: Countries believed to be highly corrupt are excluded. Specifically, we do not invest in countries with a score of less than 30 on the <u>Corruption</u> <u>Perceptions Index</u> published by Transparency International.
- 2. **Green Bond investments**: This Fund has the objective to invest more in Green Bonds than the financial benchmark applied. AVB selects Green Bonds that meet the ICMA Green Bond Principles standard or Climate Bond Initiative Green Bond Methodology, in accordance with four minimum criteria:
  - Use of the revenue
  - Project evaluation and selection process
  - Management of the revenue
  - Reporting
- Governments with a relatively better SDG score: The weighted average SDG score of the Fund's investments was in the top 25% of the SDG Index issued by the <u>Bertelsmann</u> <u>Stiftung</u> (the 'SDG Index'). This Sustainable Development Goals ('SDG') Index provides a periodic ranking of countries and their performance on the United Nations sustainability goals.

Through the sustainability indicators in the next question, we provide insight into the extent to which these characteristics are met.

## How did the sustainability indicators perform? .. and compared to previous periods?

Sustainability indicators measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

The indicators used to measure the sustainability characteristics performed as follows:

- Exclusions: The exclusions applied in 2023 were in line with the sustainability policy of ASR Vermogensbeheer. Accordingly, there were no investments in countries which fail to meet the applicable sustainability policy. More information can be found in the <u>list</u> of exclusions as at year-end 2023.
- 2. **Green Bond investments**: The Fund aimed to invest in more Green Bonds than the financial benchmark applied. As at year-end 2023, 16.26% of the Fund's investments are investments in Green Bonds. The Fund invested more in Green Bonds than the financial benchmark, where investments in Green Bonds make up 9.25% at year-end 2023. As at year-end 2022, investments in Green Bonds amounted to 11.79%.
- 3. Governments with a relatively better SDG score: The weighted average SDG score of the Fund's investments should be in the top 25% of the SDG Index. The Fund's average SDG score as at year-end 2023 was 81.94. This means that the target of being in the top 25% was achieved, since at year-end 2023 a score above 75 was in the top 25% SDG score of the benchmark. As at year-end 2022, the Fund's SDG score was 81.80.

## What were the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially made and how did the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?

Since the sustainable investments are government Green Bonds and the EU Green Bond Standard has not yet entered into force, the following criteria are used to measure whether green bonds contribute to an environmental objective:

- Compliance with the ICMA Green Bond Principles standard or Climate Bond Initiative Green Bond Methodology, in accordance with four minimum criteria:
  - Use of the revenue
  - Project evaluation and selection process
  - Management of the revenue
  - Reporting.
- Investments compliant with the Green Bond Principles make a significant contribution to one of the following environmental objectives:
  - Renewable energy
  - Energy efficiency
  - Pollution prevention and control
  - Environmentally sustainable management of living natural resources and land use
  - Terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity conservation
  - Sustainable transport
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Circular economy adapted products, production technologies and processes
  - Buildings compliant with green standards recognised at regional, national or international level

## How did the sustainable investments that the financial product partially made not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?

The Manager has aligned the sustainability policy with international frameworks such as the OECD Guidelines, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the UN Global Compact, and the principles and rights under the Eight Fundamental Conventions of the International Labour Organisation. All investments are screened against these principles. Investments that do not adhere to these standards had been or were excluded during the reference period. More information on this subject can be found in the <u>list</u> of exclusions as at year-end 2023.

How were the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors taken into account?

The following indicators have been taken into account:

- PAI for countries Table I #15 Carbon footprint. The carbon footprint is measured and monitored as part of the investment process.
- PAI for countries Table I #16 Investee countries subject to social violations. Countries
  appearing on the sanctions lists of the United Nations, the European Union, the
  Netherlands, FATF, OFAC and the UK are excluded.
- PAI for countries Table III #19 Average freedom of expression score. Countries believed
  to have no basic political freedoms and no protection of civil rights are excluded.
  Specifically, AVB does not invest in countries that are classified as 'not free' by Freedom
  in the World.
- PAI for countries Table III #21 Average corruption score. Countries believed to be highly corrupt are excluded. Specifically, AVB does not invest in countries with a score of less than 30 on the Corruption Perceptions Index published by Transparency International.

The PAI results for the year 2023 are reported in the next section.

Were sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:

In May 2023, the European Commission explained that the OECD Guidelines and UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights are aimed at companies, which means that this question does not apply to investments in governments.

The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanies by specific Union criteria.

The "do not significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.



Principal adverse impacts are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anticorruption and anti-bribery matters.

## How did this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?

As part of the sustainability policy, the following principal adverse sustainability impact indicators have been taken into account:

- PAI for countries Table I #15 Carbon footprint. The carbon footprint is measured and monitored as part of the investment process. In 2023, the average emission figure was 213.47t CO2eq per million Euros of invested capital.
- PAI for countries Table I #16 Investee countries subject to social violations. In 2023 0% of the investments were investments in countries subject to social violations. These are countries that appear on the sanctions lists of the European Commission or United Nations because of violations of social rights.
- PAI for countries Table III #19 Average freedom of expression score. Countries believed
  to have no basic political freedoms and no protection of civil rights are excluded.
  Specifically, AVB does not invest in countries that are classified as 'not free' by Freedom
  in the World. Freedom in the World awards countries a score of 0-100. In 2023, the
  Fund's average score was 92.89.
- PAI for countries Table III #21 Average corruption score. Countries believed to be highly corrupt are excluded. Specifically, AVB does not invest in countries with a score of less than 30 on the Corruption Perceptions Index published by Transparency International, which are regarded as highly corrupt. The Corruption Perceptions Index awards countries a score of 0-100. In 2023, the Fund's average score was 75.21.

A number of other principal adverse impact indicators relate to subjects which are considered in this Fund as part of the ESG rating. Since these PAIs are currently not (yet) used as a reference point, they are not reported.



#### What were the top investments of this financial product?

Largest investments	Sector	% assets	Country
FRANKRIJK_2%_25/05/2048	Sovereign	9.80%	FR
FRANKRIJK_3%_25/05/2054	Sovereign	8.50%	FR
DUITSLAND_1.8%_15/08/2053	Sovereign	7.45%	DE
DUITSLAND_2.5%_04/07/2044	Sovereign	6.22%	DE
DUITSLAND_3.25%_04/07/2042	Sovereign	5.75%	DE
DUITSLAND_2.5%_15/08/2046	Sovereign	4.96%	DE
FRANKRIJK_4%_25/04/2055	Sovereign	4.68%	FR
DUITSLAND_1.25%_15/08/2048	Sovereign	4.25%	DE
BELGIE_3.75%_22/06/2045	Sovereign	4.01%	BE
FRANKRIJK_0.5%_25/06/2044	Sovereign	3.92%	FR
FRANKRIJK_4%_25/04/2060	Sovereign	3.69%	FR
NEDERLAND_0.5%_15/01/2040	Sovereign	3.49%	NL
NEDERLAND_2%_15/01/2054	Sovereign	2.21%	NL
DUITSLAND_1%_15/05/2038	Sovereign	2.02%	DE
OOSTENRIJK_3.8%_26/01/2062	Sovereign	2.01%	AT

The list includes the investments constituting the greatest proportion of investments of the financial product during the reference period which is: 2023-12-31

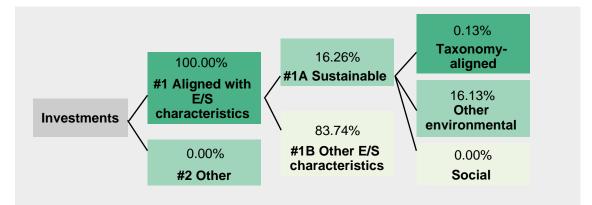


#### What was the proportion of sustainability-related investments?

Of the investments, a specific percentage is invested in #1, aligned with the mentioned E/S characteristics, while another percentage is invested in #2 Other. Additionally, a specific percentage is invested in #1A Sustainable investments, with the remaining percentage invested in #1B Other E/S Characteristics. See the diagram below for an overview.

#### What was the asset allocation?

Asset allocation describes the share of investments in specific assets.



**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2** Other includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers environmentally and socially sustainable investments.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

#### In which economic sectors were the investments made?

More information about the economic sectors can be found in the Management Board report of this financial product.



## To what extent were the sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?

As at year end 2023, the percentage of investments that were aligned with the environmental objectives outlined in the EU Taxonomy was 0.13%

Did the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities complying with the EU Taxonomy<sup>1</sup>?

Yes



In fossil gas



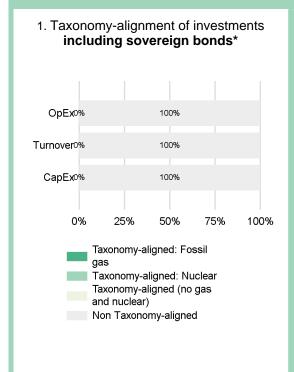
In nuclear energy

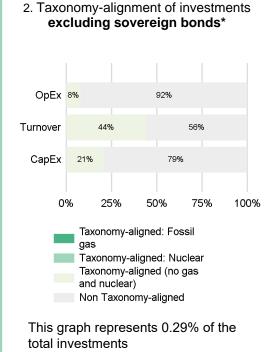


No

<sup>1</sup> Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

The graphs below show in green the percentage of investments that were aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds\*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.





\* For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures.

switching to fully renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For nuclear energy, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria

for fossil gas include

and

limitations on emissions

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- turnover reflecting the share of revenue from green
- activities of investee companies.

   capital expenditure
- (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- operational expenditure (OpEx) reflecting green operationalactivities of investee companies

Enabling activities directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

Transitional activities are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.



As at year-end 2023, the percentage of investment that were in transitional activities was 0%. The percentage of investments that were in enabling activities was 0%.

How did the percentage of investments that were aligned with the EU Taxonomy compare with previous reference periods?

As at year-end 2022, the percentage of investments that were aligned with the EU Taxonomy was 0%. As at year-end 2023, 0.13% of the investments were aligned with the EU Taxonomy.



What was the share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?

As at year-end 2023, the percentage of investments with an environmental objective that were not aligned with the EU Taxonomy was 16.13%.



are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that do not take into account the criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities under Regulation (EU) 2020/852.

What was the share of socially sustainable investments?

As at year-end 2023, the percentage of investments that were investments with a socially sustainable objective was 0%.



What investments were included under "other", what was their purpose and were there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?

Investments under "other" may include cash, cash equivalents, derivatives and Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs). These investments are used for diversification purposes, efficient-portfolio management and risk management. There were no environmental or social minimum safeguards for these investments.



What actions have been taken to meet the environmental and/or social characteristics during the reference period?

The Manager took the following measures in 2023 in order to meet the environmental and/or social characteristics:

- The Manager considered the E/S characteristics stated and associated indicators when taking investment decisions. The data used for this purpose is updated and externally validated once every six months. An updated list of excluded investments is drawn up after each update, which can be viewed <a href="here">here</a>.
- The Manager focused on the percentage of sustainable investments in the portfolio.
- The portfolio manager focused on the average SDG score in the portfolio. The Fund's average SDG score as at year-end 2023 was 81.89. Where possible, the Fund invested in investments with an even higher SDG score within the applicable investment policy.



How did this financial product perform compared to the reference benchmark?

Reference benchmarks are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote. Not applicable. This Fund did not identify a specific index as a reference benchmark to determine if it was aligned with the ecological or social characteristics it promoted.

#### ASR Vermogensbeheer N.V.

Archimedeslaan 10 3584 BA Utrecht

www.asrnederland.nl

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