

Net Zero Engagement Letter to Investees
DWS Investment GmbH

05 September 2022

Dear Sir/Madam, Dear Members of the Board of Directors,

As one of the largest asset managers in Europe, DWS Group GmbH & Co. KGaA became a signatory of the Net Zero Asset Managers initiative. The Net Zero Asset Managers initiative is committed to supporting the goal of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 or sooner, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius; and to supporting investments aligned with net zero emissions by 2050 or sooner. As a responsible investor, it is our fiduciary duty to express our expectations on sustainability in the best interest of our clients. Our commitment to sound corporate governance and responsible, environmental and social practices among our investees is not only a crucial element of our responsibilities, but also forms an integral part of our investment process. With our engagement activities, we are also supporting the Climate Action 100+ initiative with the aim to enhance the governance of climate change risk and opportunities, curb emissions and strengthen climate-related financial disclosures. Our active ownership approach revolves around carefully monitoring our investees and engaging with them with the aim of improving their financial and non-financial performance, building a sound understanding of their business and a constructive dialogue on their sustainable development.

Climate change is one of the greatest environmental challenges, accelerating the rise in the global mean temperature and affecting most other attributes of climate. Corporations and investors, as owners and lenders have a key role to play towards the need for emissions to be reduced in the mutual goal of coping with the impacts of global warming. The changes so far have already had an impact on multiple sectors and the effects are expected to be amplified as the continued rise in greenhouse gas emissions results in further changes to the climate. In order to meet the 1.5°C global warming target in the Paris Agreement, global carbon emissions are required to reach net zero by 2050 or sooner. Reallocating capital in a responsible and sustainable direction can make a difference in avoiding a climate crisis. When done cautiously, it can even improve financial return. Investment managers play a crucial role in driving the necessary progress and identifying investment opportunities to support the transition to a sustainable future. Thus, we expect companies that face substantial climate transition risks to accelerate their efforts in setting ambitious targets and providing enhanced transparency on their strategy to tackle the common issue of climate change.

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Management Board: Manfred Bauer (Speaker), Dirk Goergen,
Stefan Kreuzkamp, Dr. Matthias Liermann, Petra Pflaum
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We are sending you this letter as we believe that your company faces material headwinds from a move onto a 2050 net zero pathway. It is, therefore, of utmost importance that the Board of Directors ensures a proper oversight and management of these headwinds. Based on these concerns, we expect the Board to take transparent, effective and conscious measures to solve existing or to avoid potential climate controversies and risks their companies are facing, whereby protecting them from becoming structural and recurring. We expect a commitment to be made as soon as possible to become net zero by 2050 or sooner.

Among our expectations are the following key measures in terms of governance and strategic matters:

- Establishing formal and clear oversight for climate change risks and opportunities at Management and Board levels.
- Setting emissions reduction targets verified by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) and elaborating a clear climate transition roadmap with ambitious short-, mid- and long-term targets and milestones, aligned with the 1.5°C global warming target of the Paris Agreement.
- Setting an ambition as soon as possible to achieve net-zero GHG emissions by 2050 or sooner, covering relevant Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions of the company.
- Laying out a decarbonisation strategy to meet long, medium and short term quantitative GHG reduction targets.
- Commitment to align future capital- and operational expenditure plans with its respective GHG emission reduction targets and the 1.5°C global warming target set out in the 2015 Paris Agreement.
- Integrating relevant climate/GHG reduction targets as performance metrics into executive and top management compensation plans to ensure alignment with the business strategy.
- Applying comprehensive procedures and stakeholder engagement for the assessment and the management of the impacts of existing and planned exploration and production projects on biodiversity, water, the ecosystem and relevant local stakeholders.
- Supporting relevant government climate policies and aligning lobbying activities via memberships in industry associations with the company's climate strategy as well as the Paris Agreement.
- Providing enhanced transparency to investors and other stakeholders by using internationally recognized reporting frameworks (e.g., the SASB standards, the TCFD Recommendations) as well as by reporting the impact on Sustainable Development Goals and the level of compliance with the EU Taxonomy.
- Ensuring material climate risks associated with the transition onto a 2050 net zero pathway are fully incorporated into the financial statements (aligning accounts with the targets of the Paris Agreement).

We expect the Boards of Directors and Management of our portfolio companies to go a step further and provide full transparency and comprehensibility on these matters. Where we believe directors of investees have not made sufficient progress planning for and managing climate change related risks and when executive compensation does not incentivize addressing climate risks and opportunities sufficiently, we will reflect our expectations in our voting decisions, whereby we will consider:

- voting against one or more board members accountable;
- voting against executive compensation reports/policies and

- supporting relevant shareholder proposals on climate-related topics, where we agree with the proposed resolutions.

We value our constructive dialogue on these topics with you to date and appreciate any updates you have on these relevant topics. In case we see no progress and transparent commitments from our investees to our expectations, we will follow various escalation steps as outlined in our Engagement Policy, making use of our active ownership rights as asset managers and integrating these considerations into our investment decisions.

Striving to be very transparent with our activities, we also disclose details around our engagements in our public “Active Ownership: Engagement and Proxy Voting Report” and make it available on our website (dws.com/solutions/esg). In this, we might report on the entire engagement process, in particular on information that we receive from you. In doing so, we may also report in detail about your company and evaluate the progress of our engagement according to our criteria, whereby our engagement with you could be used as a case to demonstrate the progress and/or status of our discussions. We would appreciate hearing more about your company’s efforts in that regard and are looking forward to having a constructive dialogue with you. Our CIO Office for Responsible Investments can be reached via dws.engagement@db.com.

Yours sincerely,

DWS Investment GmbH

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Pflaum".

Petra Pflaum
CIO for Responsible Investments

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nicolas Huber".

Nicolas Huber
Head of Corporate Governance