



# INDEX RULE BOOK

## Euronext<sup>®</sup> BeNeLux Low Risk 20

Version 20-01

Effective from 15 May 2020

[indices.euronext.com](https://indices.euronext.com)

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## 1. INDEX SUMMARY

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| Factsheet                                  | Euronext® BeNeLux Low Risk 20   |
|--|---|
| Index name                                 | Euronext® BeNeLux Low Risk 20   |
| Index type                                 | Price, Gross, Net and Decrement 4.5%  |
| Index governance structure                 | Euronext acts as Compiler and Supervisor of the index   |
| Eligible stocks                            | The universe is composed of the companies included in the AEX® and BEL 20® indices as well as companies admitted to listing on the main market of Luxembourg. |
| Selection                                  | After removing the less liquid stocks, all eligible stocks are ranked by 90 days volatility. The top 20 ranked are selected.                                  |
| Number of constituents                     | 20  |
| Weighting                                  | 1/(90d volatility) normalized.  |
| Review cut-off date                        | Review effective date -5 trading days   |
| Review effective date                      | 4th Friday of March, June, Sept and December  |
| Capping                                    | 10%   |
| Review of composition and number of shares | Quarterly   |
| Base Currency                              | Euro  |

Note: the factsheet is a summary of the rule book for information purposes only. The text of the rule book is leading.

## Reference Data

| Index name                                   | Isin code    | Mnemo | Bloomberg code | Reuters code | Base date  | Base value | Publication since |
|--|--------------|-------|----------------|--------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| Euronext® BeNeLux Low Risk 20                | NL0012294235 | EBLRE | EBLRE <index>  | .EBLRE       | 31/12/2004 | 1 000      | 26/04/2017        |
| Euronext® BeNeLux Low Risk 20 NR             | NL0012294243 | EBLRN | EBLRN <index>  | .EBLRN       | 31/12/2004 | 1 000      | 26/04/2017        |
| Euronext® BeNeLux Low Risk 20 GR             | NL0012294250 | EBLRG | EBLRG <index>  | .EBLRG       | 31/12/2004 | 1 000      | 26/04/2017        |
| Euronext® BeNeLux Low Risk 20 Decrement 4.5% | NL0012294268 | EBLRD | EBLRD <index>  | .EBLRD       | 31/12/2004 | 1 000      | 26/04/2017        |

### Version notes:

20-01 Integration of ESG Disclosures

## **2. GOVERNANCE AND DISCLAIMER**

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### **2.1 INDICES**

This rule book applies to the following indices (hereinafter “index”) owned by Euronext N.V. or its subsidiaries (hereinafter jointly “Euronext”):

- Euronext® BeNeLux Low Risk 20

### **2.2 SUPERVISOR AND COMPILER**

Euronext is the supervisor (“Supervisor”) and compiler of the index (“Compiler”). The Supervisor is responsible for monitoring the selection of constituents for the index and ensuring that the index offers a reliable and representative view of the market. The Compiler is responsible for the day-to-day management of the index and is also responsible for decisions regarding the interpretation of these rules.

### **2.3 CASES NOT COVERED IN RULES**

In cases which are not expressly covered in these rules, operational adjustments will take place along the lines of the aim of the index. Operational adjustments may also take place if, in the opinion of the Compiler, it is desirable to do so to maintain a fair and orderly market in derivatives on this index and/or this is in the best interests of the investors in products based on the index and/or the proper functioning of the markets. The Compiler will report to the Supervisor if it took a decision about a case which is not specifically covered in the rules for comments and review.

### **2.4 RULE BOOK CHANGES**

These rules may be supplemented, amended in whole or in part, revised or withdrawn at any time. Supplements, amendments, revisions and withdrawals may also lead to changes in the way the index is compiled or calculated or affect the index in another way. The Compiler will submit all decisions regarding supplementing, amending, revising or withdrawing these rules to the Supervisor for recommendations or approval.

### **2.5 LIABILITY**

Euronext, the Compiler and the Supervisor are not liable for any losses resulting from supplementing, amending, revising or withdrawing the rules for the index.

The Compiler will do everything within its power to ensure the accuracy of the composition, calculation, publication and adjustment of the index in accordance with relevant rules. However, neither Euronext, nor the Compiler, nor the Supervisor are liable for any inaccuracy in index composition, share prices, calculations and the publication of the index, the information used for making adjustments to the index and the actual adjustments. Furthermore, Euronext, the Compiler and the Supervisor do not guarantee the continuity of the composition of the index, the continuity of the method of calculation of the index, the continuity of the dissemination of the index levels, and the continuity of the calculation of the index.

### **2.6 OWNERSHIP AND TRADEMARKS**

Euronext owns all intellectual and other property rights to the index, including the name, the composition and the calculation of the index. AEX®, BEL 20® and Euronext® are registered trademarks of Euronext.

## **3. PUBLICATION**

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### **3.1 DISSEMINATION OF INDEX VALUES**

#### **3.1.1 Opening**

The opening level is calculated using the last known prices of traded constituents or in the case of constituents that have non-traded, halted or suspended status, the previous day reference prices or estimated prices (for IPOs, buyouts and swap offers).

The official opening level is the first level published after a share price is available for all constituents. Index levels published before the official opening level is published are considered pre-opening index levels.

If, for whatever reason, share prices are not available for all constituents five minutes after Euronext Markets (as defined in the Euronext harmonised rule book) started regular daytime trading, the official opening level will be published as soon as the companies whose share prices are available of the current trading day represent at least 80% of the value of the index at the close of the previous trading day.

#### **3.1.2 Calculation and dissemination**

The index is calculated based on the most recent prices of transactions concluded on the main markets in each of the countries that are included in the index. The level of the index is in principle published every 15 seconds. The index is calculated from 09:00 hours until Euronext Markets stop regular daytime trading on the days when the Euronext Markets are open for trading.

#### **3.1.3 Closing**

The closing level is the last level disseminated on the trading day.

### **3.2 EXCEPTIONAL MARKET CONDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS**

The Compiler retains the right to delay the publication of the opening level of the index. Furthermore, the Compiler retains the right to suspend the publication of the level of the index to mark the level of the index indicative if it believes that circumstances prevent the proper calculation of the index.

If prices are cancelled, the index will not be recalculated unless the Compiler decides otherwise.

If the index remains in pre-opening phase during the entire trading session, the last published pre-opening level of the index will be used as the official closing level of the index for that day. In such cases, the Compiler will not calculate an official opening level for the index.

### **3.3 ANNOUNCEMENT POLICY**

The announcement policy is described in the Euronext Indices Announcement policy document that is available on [indices.euronext.com/index-rules](https://indices.euronext.com/index-rules).

## **4. CALCULATION**

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### **4.1 CALCULATION OF THE PRICE INDEX**

The index is calculated on a price return index basis. The calculation of the price return index is based on the current capitalization divided by the divisor. The divisor was determined on the initial capitalization base of the index and the base level. The divisor is adapted as a result of corporate actions and composition changes.

### **4.2 CURRENCY CONVERSION**

The base currency of the index is the local currency of the country (“Base Currency”).

Share prices that are quoted in other currencies than the Base Currency will be converted to the Base Currency using the last known exchange rate observed on Reuters. Closing prices will be converted based on the most recent WM/Reuters spot rates, which are published each business day around 17:00 CET.

### **4.3 TOTAL RETURN INDEX CALCULATION**

#### **4.3.1 Return indices**

A net total return index as well as a gross total return index, is calculated and disseminated at the same frequency as the price index. The return indices are obtained by reinvesting the net and gross dividends respectively.

#### **4.3.2 Withholding tax rate**

The net dividend is calculated as the gross dividend minus the applicable withholding tax. A table detailing the percentages that are applied is available on the website of Euronext.

### **4.4 DECREMENT INDEX CALCULATION**

A Decrement index is calculated and disseminated at the same frequency as the price Index. The Decrement index is obtained by deducting on a daily basis a 4.5% rate per annum from the net return index .

The formula for the Decrement index is stated in chapter 7.

## 5. INDEX REVIEWS

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### 5.1 GENERAL AIM AND FREQUENCY OF REVIEWS

#### 5.1.1 General aim of the periodical review

The general aim of the periodical review of the index is to ensure that the selection and weighting of the constituents continues to reflect the underlying market or market segment it represents.

#### 5.1.2 Review Effective Date

Reviews are effective after the close on the 4th Friday of March, June, Sept and December.

#### 5.1.3 Review Cut-off Date

The Review Cut-off Date is 5 trading days before the Review Effective Date (after close). Trading days are weekdays on which Euronext Markets are open for trading.

#### 5.1.4 Review Composition Announcement Date

The Review Composition Announcement Date is 2 trading days before the Review Effective Date (after close). Normally this is Wednesday after the Review cut-off date (based on Wednesday closing prices).

### 5.2 INDEX UNIVERSE AND SELECTION PRINCIPLE

#### 5.2.1 Index universe: requirements for inclusion

The universe is composed of the companies included in the AEX and BEL 20 indices as well as the 10 biggest companies admitted to listing on the main market of Luxembourg. Stocks that have an average daily turnover of less than 5 000 000€ over 90 trading days up to the Review Cut-off Date are excluded from the universe.

The index universe is defined using the market information and publically available data on the review cut-off date.

#### 5.2.2 Selected line

As only one listing – the most active one - is permitted per company, the listing representing the company's ordinary shares is generally used. Mono-holdings are excluded.

#### 5.2.3 Selection of constituents

All eligible stocks are ranked by 90 days volatility. The top 20 ranked are selected (20 lowest volatility).

### 5.3 PERIODICAL UPDATE OF WEIGHTING

#### 5.3.1 Update of number of shares

The new weightings are calculated such that each constituent will have a weight in the index inversely proportional to its 90 days volatility. The weightings will be rounded to the nearest whole number.

#### 5.3.2 Update of capping and free float factors

A maximum weighting of 10% is applied to each index constituent at the reviews. The assessment and new capping coefficients are based on the Review Composition Announcement Date.



## 6. CORPORATE ACTIONS

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### 6.1 EVENTS THAT CHANGE THE COMPOSITION

#### 6.1.1 Mergers and acquisitions

##### **Acquisitions in cash**

In the event of a bid in cash, the target company will be removed from the index. The removal will take place with effect from the close of the first full business day following the acceptance of the bid. If a company is removed from the index, the divisor will be adapted to maintain the index level.

##### **Mergers and takeovers in shares**

In the event of a merger, acquisition or similar situation where the bid is made in the form of shares, the constituent will be replaced by the newly formed company, provided that this company complies with the requirements for inclusion in the index in line with the criteria defined in the index reviews section. The replacement will take place in line with the schedule of the transaction. The replacement of the shares of the relevant index constituent by the shares of the newly formed company will be executed on the basis of the bid ratio.

If the Compiler decides that the newly formed company does not comply with the requirements for inclusion, then the constituent will be removed with effect from the close of the first full business day following the acceptance of the bid.

##### **Mixed transactions**

In case of a mixed bid of cash and shares the Compiler will treat the bid as a share bid if the share part amounts to at least 75% of the offer price, on the day of the publication of the terms of the offer. The replacement of the shares of the relevant index constituent by the shares of the company that continues to be traded will be executed on the basis of the bid ratio. The divisor will be adapted only for the cash part of the offer price.

##### **Continued inclusion or specific treatments**

The Compiler reserves the right to apply a specific treatment in non-standard situations including but not limited to:

- Competing bids with differing closing dates or structures;
- Acceptance whereby the Free Float remains higher than the minimum required free float that is applicable for the index;
- Offers made without the intention to gain full control.

In case of a specific treatment a separate announcement detailing the specific treatment will be issued timely to the market.

##### **Inclusion of new companies for periodical reviewed indices**

As a rule newly listed companies are considered for inclusion in the index at the time of the periodical index review.

### 6.1.2 Suspensions, Company distress and Delistings

#### **Suspension**

If a constituent is suspended, the Compiler will consider whether the constituent should be removed or not within five trading days. If it is decided to maintain the constituent a further reassessment date will be set. The Compiler reserves the right to take action before that date if new developments give reason to do so. In case a constituent is removed following suspension, it will be removed from the index as soon as possible and on a day announced by the Compiler. The company will be removed from the index after the close of the markets assuming a price of zero unless the Compiler sets a different price, where possible supported by an objective source.

If it has been announced that a constituent will be delisted from the relevant market, it will be removed from the index as soon as possible and on a day announced by the Compiler. The company will be removed from the index based on either the last known price established during regular daytime trading or on a price determined by the Compiler, whereby the company may also be removed at a price of zero.

Removing assuming a price of zero implies no divisor change because of the removal. If another price is set, the divisor will change based on the removal of the value of that company from the index portfolio when applying that price.

In the event that the trading in shares is suspended, the last known price established during regular daytime trading will be used.

### 6.1.3 SPLIT UP / SPIN-OFF

In the event that a company included in the index is split up, the companies resulting from the split, including the original company where appropriate will continue to be included in the index providing they meet the requirements for inclusion of the index.

The index may then temporarily consist of fewer than, or more than the standard number of constituents until the next periodical review takes place.

For the purposes of these rules a split up is taken to mean a legal demerger, a spin-off or another situation which the Compiler deems to be similar.

In case the shareholder of the company which was originally included in the index does not automatically receive shares in a company which is created as a result of the split up, this company is considered to be a newly listed company.

The removal of any non-qualifying company resulting from a split up will take place after the close of the first day of trading in the shares of that company. If all companies resulting from the split are to be removed, the removal will take place at the close of the last trading day before the split.

In case a company resulting from the split up will not be admitted to listing on a main market in one of the countries that are included in the index, the Compiler will select an appropriate price source for the calculation of the index and the removal of the spun off company on the first trading day after the spin-off.

## **6.2 EVENTS THAT CHANGE THE WEIGHTING FACTORS**

### **6.2.1 Dividends**

#### **Criteria for determining special dividends**

The price index will be adjusted for dividends that are special.

The following criteria will be applied to decide whether a dividend should be considered a special dividend:

- a) The declaration of a company of a dividend additional to those dividends declared as part of the company's normal results and dividend reporting cycle; merely an adjustment to the timing of the declaration of a company's expected dividend would not be considered as a special dividend circumstance; or
- b) The identification of an element of a dividend paid in line with a company's normal results and dividend reporting cycle as an element that is unambiguously additional to the company's normal payment.

For the purpose of clarification, no adjustment will be made for the following situations:

1. Payment of ordinary dividends, irrespective of how they are financed;
2. Issue of redeemable shares or any other entitlement in lieu of an ordinary dividend; or
3. Unexpected increase or decrease, resumption or cessation, or change in frequency to an ordinary dividend.

#### **Adjustment for special dividend**

The adjustment of the index takes place by a reduction of the closing price of the share in question.

Subsequently the divisor will be adapted in order to maintain the index level. The adjustments will be based on gross amounts.

#### **Ordinary dividends in shares**

If a dividend is distributed in the form of shares only and if this is regarded as ordinary dividend, the return index will be reinvesting a cash equivalent of the dividend. If shareholders may choose between cash or shares the amount which is reinvested will be based on the cash option.

#### **Conversion of dividends declared in other currencies**

If a dividend for a constituent is declared in another currency than the Base Currency of the index, then the Compiler will in first instance use the Base Currency amount if investors have the option to be paid in that currency. If the dividend amount is available only in currencies that deviate from the Base Currency, the Compiler will convert the dividend amount using the reference rate for the cum-day (the business day prior to the ex-date). In principle the reference rate will be based on the foreign exchange reference rates as published daily by the ECB.

### **6.2.2 Bonus issues, stock splits and reverse stock splits**

For bonus issues, stock splits and reverse stock splits, the number of shares included in the index will be adjusted in accordance with the ratio given in the corporate action. The divisor will not be changed because of this. The Compiler may regard a bonus issue as the issue of an entitlement in lieu of an ordinary dividend and therefore treat this as a dividend.

### **6.2.3 Rights issues and other rights**

In the event of a rights issue an adjusted closing price will be applied as calculated by the Compiler. The divisor will be adapted in such a way that the level of the index remains the same.

The index is adjusted based on the value of the rights only.

The index will be adjusted only if the rights represent a positive value.

The index will also be adjusted if a value can be attributed to a subscription right for convertible bonds, bonds with warrants or warrants with preferential rights for shareholders or similar situations. If the value cannot be attributed straightforward, the Compiler may also decide to include the detached instrument for one day and adjust the index at the close based on the closing price for that subscription right on that day.

#### **6.2.4 Partial tender offers on own shares**

The Compiler will adjust the divisor of the index if the premium represents more than 5% of the share price of the close on the penultimate day before the ex-date (the day prior to the last day before the ex-day). The premium is calculated as the difference between the offered price and the closing price, multiplied by the percentage of the share capital targeted in the offer. If the divisor is adjusted, the number of shares in the index will be adjusted as well.

## 7. INDEX CALCULATION FORMULAS

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### 7.1 PRICE INDEX FORMULA

The general formula for the **price index** is:

$$I_t = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N Q_{i,t} F_{i,t} f_{i,t} C_{i,t} X_{i,t}}{d_t}$$

Where:

- t Time of calculation
- N Number of constituent equities in index
- $Q_{i,t}$  Number of shares of equity i included in the index on day t
- $F_{i,t}$  Free Float factor of equity i <sup>1</sup>
- $f_{i,t}$  Capping factor of equity i <sup>1</sup>
- $C_{i,t}$  Price of equity i on t
- $X_{i,t}$  Current exchange rate on t <sup>1</sup>
- $d_t$  Divisor of the index on day t

### 7.2 TOTAL RETURN INDEX FORMULA

The **total return index** calculation takes two steps: the first step is to transpose the announced dividend payment into index points. This is called the XD adjustment. This uses the following formula:

$$\text{XD adjustment} = \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{g_i * w_i}{d}$$

Where:

- N Number of constituent equities in index
- $g_i$  The announced dividend per share of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  component stock (for net return index withholding tax is deducted from this dividend);
- $w_i$  The weighting of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  component stock in the index, based on number of shares included in the index, Free Float factor, capping factor and exchange rate;
- d Divisor of the index.

The second step of the calculation uses the figures calculated in step one (XD adjustment). The dividend is assumed to be reinvested at the close of the ex-date.

$$\text{TR}_t = \text{TR}_{t-1} \left( \frac{\text{IV}_t + \text{XD}}{\text{IV}_{t-1}} \right)$$

Where:

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<sup>1</sup> Factor is equal to 1 if not applied for the index

$TR_{t-1}$ : Total return index value yesterday;  
 $TR_t$ : Total return index value on t;  
 $IV_{t-1}$ : Underlying price index yesterday;  
 $IV_t$ : Underlying price index on t;

### 7.3 DECREMENT INDEX FORMULA

The **Decrement index** uses the following formula:

$$DI_t = DI_{t-1} \left( \frac{NR_t}{NR_{t-1}} - Dcrt \cdot \frac{day}{365} \right) \quad \text{Where:}$$

$DI_{t-1}$ : Decrement index value previous calculation date;  
 $DI_t$ : Decrement index value on t;  
 $NR_{t-1}$ : Net return index value previous calculation date;  
 $NR_t$ : Net return index value on t;  
 $Dcrt$ : 4.5%  
 $day$ : number of calendar days between index business day t-1 and t

### 7.4 90 DAYS ANNUALIZED VOLATILITY FORMULA

$$Vol_{90d} = \sqrt{\frac{252}{90} * \sum \left[ \ln \left( \frac{Stock_t}{Stock_{t-1}} \right) \right]^2}$$

90d = 90 trading Days

$Stock_t$  = Stock closing level at time "t", "t" ranging from today closing to today closing-90

$Stock_{t-1}$  = Stock closing level at time "t-1", "t-1" ranging from last closing to last closing-90

## 8. DEFINITIONS

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### 8.1 COMPILER

Committee of Euronext officials appointed by Euronext.

### 8.2 REVIEW RELEVANT DATES

The **Review Cut-Off Date** is the date on which, after the market close, relevant data are gathered that will serve as basis for the periodical review of the index.

The **Review Composition Announcement Date** is the date on which, after the close, the full details are announced regarding the index composition that will come into effect after the review effective date. this includes numbers of shares and capping factors of all companies included in the new index portfolio.

The **Review Effective Date** is the date on which, after the market close, the changes relating to the periodical review are being effectuated in the index portfolio.

## 9. ESG DISCLOSURES

| <b>EXPLANATION OF HOW ESG FACTORS ARE REFLECTED IN THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE BENCHMARK METHODOLOGY</b>   |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Item 1.</b> Name of the benchmark administrator.  | Euronext Amsterdam                  |
| <b>Item 2.</b> Type of benchmark   | Equity Benchmark                    |
| <b>Item 3.</b> Name of the benchmark or family of benchmarks.  | <b>Euronext BeNeLux Low Risk 20</b> |
| <b>Item 4.</b> Does the benchmark methodology for the benchmark or family of benchmarks take into account ESG factors?   | No                                  |
| <b>Item 5.</b> If the response to Item 4 is positive, please find below the ESG factors that are taken into account in the benchmark methodology and how they are used for selection, weighting and exclusion                              |                                     |
| a) List of environmental factors considered:   | Not applicable                      |
| b) List of social factors considered:  | Not applicable                      |
| c) List of governance factors considered:  | Not applicable                      |
| <b>Item 6.</b> Data and standards used.  |                                     |
| a) Data input.<br><i>(i) Describe whether the data are reported, modelled or, sourced internally or externally.</i><br><i>(ii) Where the data are reported, modelled or sourced externally, please name the third party data provider.</i> | Not applicable                      |
| b) Verification of data and guaranteeing the quality of those data.<br><i>Describe how data are verified and how the quality of those data is ensured.</i>   | Not applicable                      |
| c) Reference standards<br><i>Describe the international standards used in the benchmark methodology.</i>   | Not applicable                      |
| <b>Information updated on:</b>   | 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2020         |