

# **Annual Report for the Investment Fund**

iShares SLI UCITS ETF (DE)



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# **Notice**

The investment funds named in this report are governed by German law. Fund units are bought on the basis of the currently valid prospectus and investment conditions, supplemented by the most recent annual report concerned and also by the semi-annual report if such a report exists that is more recent than the last annual report.

The annual and semi-annual reports were drawn up in German and translated into other languages.

Only the German version is legally binding.

### **Note on Licences**

### Legal information

The German iShares funds mentioned in this document are investment funds subject to the German Investment Code. These funds are managed by BlackRock Asset Management Deutschland AG and are regulated by the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin).

### For investors in Germany

The sales prospectuses of the funds issued in Germany are available free of charge electronically and in hard copy from BlackRock Asset Management Deutschland AG, Lenbachplatz 1, 80333 Munich, Germany, Tel.: +49 (0) 89 42729 – 5858, Fax: +49 (0) 89 42729 – 5958, info@iShares.de.

### Risk warnings

The value of investments in all the iShares funds may fluctuate, and investors may not get back the amount invested. Past performance may not be repeated and is no guarantee of future returns. Investment risks from market and currency losses as well as high volatility and concentration risk cannot be excluded.

### Index - Disclaimers of liability

The securities presented in this presentation are not sponsored, endorsed, sold or promoted by SIX Swiss Exchange. Liability of any type whatsoever is excluded. SLI® is a registered trademark of SIX Swiss Exchange. A licence is required to use it.



# Additional Information for Investors in Liechtenstein, France and Switzerland

The sales prospectuses, including investment terms and conditions, annual reports and semi-annual reports can be obtained, without charge, from the relevant paying agent and distributor.

### Paying Agent and Distributor in Liechtenstein:

Verwaltungs- und Privatbank Aktiengesellschaft Im Zentrum 9490 Vaduz, Principality of Liechtenstein

# Paying Agent and Distributor in France:

BNP Paribas Securities Services 20, BD. des Italiens 75009 Paris, France

# Paying Agent in Switzerland:

State Street Bank International GmbH, Munich, Zurich branch Beethovenstraße 19 8027 Zurich, Switzerland

### Representative in Switzerland:

BlackRock Asset Management Schweiz AG Bahnhofstrasse 39 8001 Zurich, Switzerland

The prospectus, key investor information documents (KIIDs), investment conditions/articles of incorporation and the annual and semi-annual reports of the fund can be obtained free of charge on request from the representative of the fund in Switzerland. This also applies to the list of purchases/sales.

# Additional information for investors in countries outside Germany:

## Performance of the fund over the last three calendar years:

31/12/2016 - 31/12/2017: +18.89% 31/12/2017 - 31/12/2018: -12.97% 31/12/2018 - 31/12/2019: +28.55%



# **Report of the Management Board**

Dear Investors.

BlackRock Asset Management Deutschland AG can look back on a dynamic development on the market for exchange-traded products (ETPs) in the 2019 reporting period. iShares in particular benefited from this performance. At the European level, iShares generated net cash inflows of around USD 60.2 billion or EUR 53.6 billion in 2019 (previous year: USD 23.3 billion or EUR 20.5 billion). BlackRock is the world leader in ETFs under the iShares brand.

The range of iShares ETFs currently comprises 430 funds admitted for sale in Germany. This gives investors in this country easy and diversified access to a variety of global markets and asset classes. Around one sixth (54) of these exchange-traded index funds are set up in Germany and can be recognised by the "(DE)" in the fund name.

As of 30 April 2020, the volume of German funds under management was EUR 32.1 billion. The volume of the 21 sub-funds admitted for public distribution was EUR 4.8 billion on the same date. This Annual Report provides you with detailed information about the performance of our index funds.

Looking ahead to economic growth in the Western industrialised nations in 2020, we expect a drastic decline primarily driven by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). However, monetary and fiscal policy countermeasures on an unprecedented scale should cushion the downturn somewhat. Nevertheless, there is a threat of severe recession. In turbulent times like these, investors continue to rely on ETFs: in our opinion, demand for transparent investment products that can be traded daily and that allow flexible positioning in all major markets and investment segments will continue to grow moderately in 2020. Since ETFs – like shares – are traded on exchanges, they can easily be bought or sold on each trading day. This has been particularly helpful to investors during the recent market volatility, allowing them to trade when they needed to most.

Institutional and private investors do not just value iShares ETFs as components of their portfolios for implementing their own investment ideas. As the funds become more widespread, the demand for ETF-based insurance solutions, ETF savings schemes and asset management products based on ETFs also grows. In this context, we have worked with partners to design models that offer suggestions for suitable asset allocations for investor types with different risk/reward profiles. In the reporting period, this included developing model portfolios for banks, various online brokers and providers of digital asset management services, commonly known as robo-advisors.

In the European ETF market, iShares is still excellently positioned as an provider from the onset. We continue to invest in excellent service and products that meet our customers' needs. We intend to further extend our market leadership by means of continuous and innovative expansion of our offering. The strategic competitive advantages of iShares ETFs include high market liquidity, tight bid/ask spreads and highly accurate index replication.

For more information, please visit our website www.iShares.de or call us on +49 (0) 89 42729 - 5858.

We would like to thank you for your confidence and look forward to continued partnership and cooperation.

N. May J. Solar

The Board of BlackRock Asset Management Deutschland AG

Dirk Schmitz

Harald Klug

Peter Scharl



# **Fund Management Activity Report**

### Investment objectives and policies

The investment fund iShares SLI UCITS ETF (DE) is an exchange-traded index fund (ETF) that tracks the performance of the SLI® (Swiss Leader Index) index as closely as possible. The reference index contains the 30 largest and most liquid stocks from the Swiss stock market. In contrast to a capitalisation-weighted index, the index weight of single stocks is limited in the SLI. The index weight of the four stocks with the largest stock market capitalisation is limited to 9%, and that of all other stocks to 4.5%.

In order to replicate the index, the investment fund uses a passive investment approach to invest directly in the securities included in the index in accordance with their weighting in the index.

### Structure of the investment fund with regard to investment objectives and significant changes during the reporting period

The duplication percentage of the fund in comparison with the benchmark index was 99.99% at the end of the reporting period. Inflows during the reporting period were also invested in line with the weighting of the shares in the index. Dividends are accumulated in the fund. The fund was authorised to enter into securities lending transactions until 30 December 2019. The iShares SLI UCITS ETF (DE) investment fund is a distributing fund. Income is distributed after expenses have been offset in the course of interim distributions or, as the case may be, six weeks after the end of the financial year. The realised profits and losses are primarily the result of transactions involving equities that were carried out as a consequence of changes in indices, corporate actions and the redemption of shares.

No index changes were published by the index provider in the reporting period.

### Material risks and events in the reporting period

Effects of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19)

The now global coronavirus pandemic has caused significant negative effects on the global financial markets since February 2020. Due to the dynamic developments, such as the speed of propagation in combination with the far-reaching countermeasures, the effects on global economic growth have been difficult to predict, especially since the virus began to spread in Europe and the United States. As a result, the capital markets were affected by high volatility, price markdowns and, in some areas, temporary liquidity shortages.

### Market price risk

In order to achieve the investment objective of tracking the performance of the SLI® index as closely as possible in the reporting period, fund management pursued an exclusively passive investment approach. Accordingly, as part of the fund management activities affecting this investment fund, no risks were actively managed or entered into. In the period under review, the investment fund was subject to the general and specific market price risk arising from individual stocks. Throughout the reporting period, the investment fund implemented the individual selection of securities within the investment universe prescribed by the provider of the index. The investment fund was therefore subject to a high market price risk.

With regard to COVID-19, apart from more intensive monitoring activities, no further extraordinary measures to manage the market price risk were necessary for management of the investment fund.

# Currency risk

As prescribed by the index, the investment fund invested in Swiss equities in the reporting period. Therefore there was a high level of risk for EUR investors.

With regard to COVID-19, apart from more intensive monitoring activities, no further extraordinary measures to manage the currency risk were necessary for management of the investment fund.

### Liquidity risk

The assets held in the investment fund were at all times liquid, so that the liquidity risk can be regarded as low.

With regard to COVID-19, apart from more intensive monitoring activities, no further extraordinary measures to manage the liquidity risk were necessary for management of the investment fund.

### Operational risk

Operational risks for the investment fund are managed using BlackRock Asset Management Deutschland AG's risk management system. Business areas and processes that are relevant to this investment fund and which are outsourced by BlackRock Asset Management Deutschland AG to external companies are subject to an outsourcing controlling process within BlackRock Asset Management Deutschland AG. This includes the outsourcing of fund accounting to State Street Bank International GmbH, Munich, as well as the intragroup outsourcing of the trade management process to BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited, London. Processes that are material to this investment fund and its related operational risks are subject to a process of regularly identifying, analysing and monitoring operational risks. If operational risks materialise, these events are recorded immediately in a risk database for appropriate documentation and analysis, and steps are initiated and taken to minimise the operational risks. The investment fund did not incur any losses from operational risks in the reporting period.

In response to the increasing spread of COVID-19, the company put in place more far-reaching emergency measures from mid-March 2020. These are continuously amended in line with political, economic and social countermeasures.



# Statement of assets and liabilities as at 30/04/2020

	Market value	% of Fund-	
	in CHF	assets1)	
I. Assets	222,299,888.34	100.33	
1. Shares	216,120,427.75	97.54	
Commercial & service sector	41,347,682.50	18.66	
Financial sector	54,809,324.15	24.74	
Healthcare	51,160,270.64	23.09	
Industrial manufacturing, including the construction industry	11,862,073.08	5.35	
Manufacture of industrial raw materials and semi-finished goods	30,367,557.59	13.71	
Production of foodstuffs and consumer goods	19,188,789.00	8.66	
Technology sector	2,857,992.99	1.29	
Telecoms	4,526,737.80	2.04	
2. Derivatives	547,564.98	0.25	
Forward contracts	547,564.98	0.25	
3. Receivables	2,271,149.10	1.03	
4. Bank accounts	2,538,176.51	1.15	
5. Other assets	822,570.00	0.37	
II. Liabilities	-734,142.97	-0.33	
Liabilities arising from loans	-7,133.61	-0.00	
Other liabilities	-727,009.36	-0.33	
III. Fund assets	221,565,745.37	100.00	

<sup>1)</sup> Rounding of percentages during the calculation may result in slight rounding differences.



# Statement of Net Assets as at 30/04/2020

Designation of class of security	ISIN	Units, shares or currency in Market 1,000s	As at 30/04/2020	Purchases/ Additions	Sales/ Disposals orting period	Price	Market value in CHF	% of the fund assets <sup>2)</sup>
Securities				iii tiio ropo	rung period		216,120,427.75	97.54
Exchange-traded securities							216,120,427.75	97.54
Shares							195,377,206.10	88.18
ABB Ltd. Namens-Aktien SF 0,12	CH0012221716	Units	539,047	160,348	224,741 CHF	18.325	9,878,036.28	4.46
Adecco Group AG Namens-Aktien SF 0,1	CH0012138605	Units	57,986	7,456	24,628 CHF	42.310	2,453,387.66	1.11
Alcon AG Namens-Aktien SF -,04	CH0432492467	Units	174,572	23,314	69,032 CHF	50.940	8,892,697.68	4.01
ams AG Inhaber-Aktien o.N.	AT0000A18XM4	Units	92,133	70,201	14,217 CHF	12.570	1,158,111.81	0.52
Cie Financière Richemont AG Namens-Aktien SF 1	CH0210483332	Units	168,487	53,966	43,840 CHF	54.820	9,236,457.34	4.17
Clariant AG Namens-Aktien SF 3,70	CH0012142631	Units	88,386	11,263	34,323 CHF	17.865	1,579,015.89	0.71
Credit Suisse Group AG Namens-Aktien SF -,04	CH0012138530	Units	813,362	172,451	322,497 CHF	8.726	7,097,396.81	3.20
Geberit AG NamAkt. (Dispost.) SF -,10	CH0030170408	Units	13,151	1,667	5,216 CHF	433.100	5,695,698.10	2.57
Givaudan SA Namens-Aktien SF 10	CH0010645932	Units	2,825	356	1,115 CHF	3,233.000	9,133,225.00	4.12
Julius Baer Gruppe AG Namens-Aktien SF -,02	CH0102484968	Units	79,444	10,120	31,648 CHF	37.840	3,006,160.96	1.36
Kühne & Nagel Internat. AG Namens-Aktien SF 1	CH0025238863	Units	19,914	2,527	7,930 CHF	138.050	2,749,127.70	1.24
LafargeHolcim Ltd. Namens-Aktien SF 2	CH0012214059	Units	179,982	26,750	63,356 CHF	40.040	7,206,479.28	3.25
Logitech International S.A. Namens-Aktien SF -,25	CH0025751329	Units	61,449	7,792	24,484 CHF	46.510	2,857,992.99	1.29
Lonza Group AG Namens-Aktien SF 1	CH0013841017	Units	25,643	2,725	10,649 CHF	421.400	10,805,960.20	4.88
Nestlé S.A. Namens-Aktien SF -,10	CH0038863350	Units	188,310	42,906	100,526 CHF	101.900	19,188,789.00	8.66
Novartis AG Namens-Aktien SF 0,50	CH0012005267	Units	242,467	60,038	71,057 CHF	82.260	19,945,335.42	9.00
Partners Group Holding AG Namens-Aktien SF -,01	CH0024608827	Units	8,055	1,019	3,195 CHF	759.800	6,120,189.00	2.76
Schindler Holding AG Inhaber-Part.sch. SF -,10	CH0024638196	Units	14,455	1,838	5,750 CHF	214.500	3,100,597.50	1.40
SGS S.A. Namens-Aktien SF 1	CH0002497458	Units	2,178	610	768 CHF	2,185.000	4,758,930.00	2.15
Sika AG Namens-Aktien SF 0,01	CH0418792922	Units	44,922	5,692	17,821 CHF	159.700	7,174,043.40	3.24
Sonova Holding AG Namens-Aktien SF 0,05	CH0012549785	Units	19,186	2,453	8,061 CHF	174.300	3,344,119.80	1.51
Swatch Group AG, The Inhaber-Aktien SF 2,25	CH0012255151	Units	10,272	1,340	4,985 CHF	193.150	1,984,036.80	0.90
Swiss Life Holding AG Namens-Aktien SF 5,10	CH0014852781	Units	11,327	1,482	5,584 CHF	341.900	3,872,701.30	1.75
Swiss Re AG Namens-Aktien SF -,10	CH0126881561	Units	104,622	21,757	34,465 CHF	69.660	7,287,968.52	3.29
Swisscom AG Namens-Aktien SF 1	CH0008742519	Units	9,021	1,140	3,579 CHF	501.800	4,526,737.80	2.04
Temenos AG NamAktien SF 5	CH0012453913	Units	23,385	3,296	8,542 CHF	125.600	2,937,156.00	1.33
UBS Group AG Namens-Aktien SF -,10	CH0244767585	Units	1,073,759	277,070	941,756 CHF	10.340	11,102,668.06	5.01
Vifor Pharma AG NamAkt. SF 0,01	CH0364749348	Units	13,526	1,719	5,559 CHF	145.050	1,961,946.30	0.89
Zurich Insurance Group AG NamAktien SF 0,10	CH0011075394	Units	53,115	29,869	11,749 CHF	307.300	16,322,239.50	7.37
Other investment securities							20,743,221.65	9.36
Roche Holding AG Inhaber-Genußscheine o.N.	CH0012032048	Units	61,837	17,163	39,823 CHF	335.450	20,743,221.65	9.36
Derivatives							547,564.98	0.25
(The amounts marked with a minus sign are so	old positions.)							
Equity index derivatives							547,564.98	0.25
Receivables/liabilities								
Stock index futures Swiss Leader Index Future (FSLI) Juni 20		EDT Number	383		CHF		<b>547,564.98</b> 547,564.98	0.25
	mark Markat I			ulsat From				
Bank Accounts, Unsecuritised Mo	oney warket i	nstruments and	woney wa	irket Fun	ias		2,538,176.51	1.15
Bank accounts  Balances in Non-EU/EEA currencies							2,538,176.51 2,538,176.51	1.15
Depository: State Street Bank International GmbH		CHF	2,538,176.51		%	100.000	2,538,176.51	1.15
Other assets			<u> </u>				3,093,719.10	1.40
Dividend claims		CHF	133,356.68				133,356.68	0.06
Withholding tax reimbursement claims		CHF	2,102,533.29				2,102,533.29	0.95
Receivables arising from securities transactions		CHF	35,259.13				35,259.13	0.02
Initial margin		CHF	822,570.00				822,570.00	0.37
-							,	



Designation of class of security	ISIN	Units, nares or rency in 1,000s	As at 30/04/2020	Purchases/ Additions	Sales/ Disposals		Price	Market value in CHF	% of the fund assets <sup>2)</sup>
				in the repo	rting period				
Liabilities arising from loans								-7,133.61	-0.00
EUR loans								-7,133.61	-0.00
		EUR	-6,748.10			%	100.000	-7,133.61	-0.00
Other liabilities								-727,009.36	-0.33
Management fee		CHF	-88,347.57					-88,347.57	-0.04
Received variation margin		CHF	-636,420.98					-636,420.98	-0.29
Other liabilities		CHF	-2,240.81					-2,240.81	-0.00
Fund assets							CHF	221,565,745.37	100.00
Unit value							CHF	97.39	
Units in circulation						ι	Jnits	2,275,000	

<sup>2)</sup> Rounding of percentages during the calculation may result in slight rounding differences.

# Transactions during the reporting period, insofar as these no longer appear in the assets listed:

Securities purchases and sales, investment units and bonds (market allocation on the reporting date)

Designation of class of security	ISIN	Units, shares or currency in 1,000s	Purchases/ Additions	Sales/ Disposals	Volume in 1,000
Securities					
Unlisted securities					
Other securities					
ams AG Anrechte	CH0513825809	EUR	27,709	27,709	

# Derivatives

(Option premiums or volume of option transactions implemented in opening transactions, and information on purchases and sales for warrants)

# **Futures contracts**

Stock index futures

Purchased contracts: Underlying(s): 14,100

Swiss Leader Index (Price) (CHF) (SLI)

# Securities loans (volume of business, valued on the basis of the value agreed upon conclusion of the loan transaction):

Designation of class of security

Volume in 1,000

Unlimited CHF 12,663

Underlying(s):

LafargeHolcim Ltd. Namens-Aktien SF 2 (CH0012214059), ams AG Inhaber-Aktien o.N. (AT0000A18XM4)



Profit and Loss Account (incl. Income Adjustment) for the period from 01/05/2019 to 30/04/2020

I. Income		
Dividends from foreign issuers (before withholding tax)	CHF	6,593,906.04
2. Interest from domestic liquidity investments	CHF	6.03
3. Income from securities lending and securities repurchase agreements	CHF	667.42
4. Deduction of foreign withholding tax	CHF	-1,934,693.24
5. Other income	CHF	125,206.47
Total income	CHF	4,785,092.72
II. Expenses		
Interest from borrowings	CHF	-107.16
2. Management fee	CHF	-1,184,052.53
3. Other expenses	CHF	-39,589.74
Total expenses	CHF	-1,223,749.43
III. Ordinary net income	CHF	3,561,343.29
IV. Disposals		
1. Realised gains	CHF	9,429,645.99
2. Realised losses	CHF	-4,939,547.03
Gain/loss on disposals	CHF	4,490,098.96
V. Annual realised results	CHF	8,051,442.25
Net change in unrealised gains	CHF	-3,466,546.18
2. Net change in unrealised losses	CHF	-18,099,689.18
VI. Annual unrealised results	CHF	-21,566,235.36
VII. Result for the financial year	CHF	-13,514,793.11

# **Change in Fund Assets**

				2019/2020
I. Value of fund assets at the start of the financial year			CHF	283,437,446.88
1. Distribution for the previous year			CHF	-2,720,143.80
2. Cash inflow / outflow (net)			CHF	-46,153,502.50
a) Proceeds received from sales of units	CHF	19,466,502.50		
b) Payments for redemption of units	CHF	-65,620,005.00		
3. Income adjustment/cost compensation			CHF	516,737.90
4. Result for the financial year			CHF	-13,514,793.11
of which unrealised gains	CHF	-3,466,546.18		
of which unrealised losses	CHF	-18,099,689.18		
II. Value of fund assets at the end of the financial year			CHF	221,565,745.37



# Use of income from the investment fund

		total	per unit
I. Available for distribution	CHF	48,485,678.69	21.31
Carryforward from the previous year <sup>3)</sup>	CHF	35,494,689.41	15.60
2. Realised net income for the financial year	CHF	8,051,442.25	3.54
3. Transfer from the investment fund 4)	CHF	4,939,547.03	2.17
II. Not used for distribution	CHF	-44,924,336.81	-19.74
1. Reinvested	CHF	-11,692,407.80	-5.13
2. Carryforward to new account	CHF	-33,231,929.01	-14.61
III. Total pay-out	CHF	3,561,341.88	1.57
1. Interim distribution	CHF	0.00	0.00
2. Final year-end distribution	CHF	3,561,341.88	1.57

<sup>3)</sup> Difference from the previous year because of income adjustment calculated on carryforwards.

# Comparative overview of the last three financial years

Total sum in connection with third-party derivatives for collateral:

Financial year		Fund assets at the end of the financial year	Unit value
2019/2020	CHF	221,565,745.37	97.39
2018/2019	CHF	283,437,446.88	104.01
2017/2018	CHF	239,497,568.61	98.76
2016/2017	CHF	261,090,473.25	95.81

### **Notes**

# Information pursuant to the German Derivatives Ordinance [Derivateverordnung, DerivateV]:

Information where derivatives are employed auropart to Article 27 Days 4 De	siveteV.	
Information where derivatives are employed pursuant to Article 37 Para. 1 De Level of exposure through derivatives:	CHF	5,399,687.20
Counterparty to derivatives transactions:		
Credit Suisse Securities [Europe] Ltd.		
		Market value of securities in CHF

Pursuant to the Derivatives Ordinance, the utilisation of the market risk ceiling for this investment fund was calculated in accordance with the simple approach.

CHF

0.00

<sup>4)</sup> Transfer in the amount of the realised losses of the financial year.



Notes			
Other information			
Number of fund units in circul Investment Accounting and V	ation and value of a fund unit on the report	ing date pursuant to Article 16 Para. 1 No	. 1 of the German Capital
Unit value		CHF	97.39
Units in circulation		Units	2,275,000
Information on the valuation p	process for assets pursuant to Article 16 Pa	ıra. 1 No. 2 KARBV	
Security prices and market pr	ices		
The fund assets are valued on t	he basis of the following market prices:		
Derivatives:	Closing prices on the respe	ective valuation dates	
All securities:	Closing prices on the respe	ective valuation dates	
Assets not admitted for trading of	y took place during the financial year and at the stock exchanges nor admitted to another remarket values, which shall be assessed with d	gulated market or included in such market, o	r for which no tradable value is
Derivatives admitted for trading	on a stock exchange or another regulated man	ket are valued at the closing price on the rele	evant valuation date.
Money in bank accounts and ex	isting receivables are valued at their current no	ominal value. Existing liabilities are reported	at the amounts payable.
Exchange Rate(s) or Conversi	ion Factor(s) (bulk quoting) as at 30/04/2020	)	
Euro	(EUR)	0.94596 = 1 Swiss F	rancs (CHF)

a) Futures exchanges

EDT Eurex (Eurex Frankfurt/Eurex Zürich)



# Information on transparency and the total expense ratio (TER) pursuant to Article 16 Para. 1 No. 3 KARBV

Total expense ratio pursuant to Article 101 Para. 2 of the German Investment Code (KAGB): 0.51%.

The total expense ratio expresses all costs and payments (not including transaction costs) borne by the investment fund during the year in relation to the average net asset value of the investment fund's assets.

A fee of 0.0001% p.a. of average fund assets was also incurred due to additional income from securities lending transactions.

# Performance-related or a supplementary management fee pursuant to Article 16 Para. 1 No. 3 a) KARBV

The management fee includes:

a) Fixed fee from lending income:

CHF

250.30

In accordance with the terms and conditions of investment, a fixed fee of 0.50% p.a. based on the average net asset value and payable to the investment management company has been agreed for the investment fund. This fixed fee covers services rendered by the company, in particular the expenses of the depository, costs of legally required printing, mailings and publications associated with the investment fund, and for the auditing of the annual report. Of this amount, 0.0129% p.a. is due to the depository based on the average net asset value, and 0.0158% p.a. to third parties (printing and publication expenses, auditing and miscellaneous costs). The company does not pay any fees to brokers.

The following expenses are not included in the fixed fee:

- a) Expenses resulting from the purchase and sale of assets (transaction costs);
- b) Customary bank custody fees, including the customary bank charges for the custody of foreign securities abroad and related taxes, if applicable;
- c) Expenses related to day-to-day account management;
- d) Expenses incurred in the assertion and enforcement of the legal claims of the investment fund; and
- e) Expenses for providing information to investors of the investment fund by means of a durable medium, with the exception of expenses for providing information in the case of fund mergers.

Details of the fee structure are provided in the current sales prospectus.

# Expenses paid and repayments received pursuant to Section 16 Para. 1 No. 3c) KARBV

In the reporting period from 01/05/2019 to 30/04/2020, the investment management company BlackRock Asset Management Deutschland AG received no repayment of fees or reimbursement of expenses paid from the investment fund to the depository or to third parties for the investment fund iShares SLI UCITS ETF (DE).

### Information concerning other income and other expenses pursuant to Section 16 Para. 1 No. 3e) KARBV

Other income amounting to CHF 125,206.47 are broken down as follows:

a) Income from withholding tax refunds/claims: CHF

HF 125,206.47

Other expenses amounting to CHF 39,589.74 are broken down as follows:

a) Safekeeping fees: CHF 29,023.82 b) Other expenditure: CHF 10,565.92

### Information concerning transaction costs pursuant to Section 16 Para. 1 No. 3f) KARBV

The transaction costs pursuant to Article 16 Para. 1 No. 3 f) of the KARBV paid during the reporting period totalled CHF 17,333.50.

Transaction costs take into account all costs that were separately recognised or invoiced for the account of the investment fund and that are in direct connection with the purchase or sale of assets.

The share of the securities transactions executed during the period under review for account of the investment fund through brokers that are closely affiliated companies and persons was 0.00%. Their total amount was CHF 0.00.

# Index fund information pursuant to Article 16 Para. 2 KARBV

Tracking error level at the end of the reporting period pursuant to Section 16 Para. 2 No. 1 KARBV

0.50 percentage points

Annual tracking difference level

-1.32 percentage points

The SLI® performance index recorded a performance of -4.15% in the reporting period. Taking into account costs, distributions and taxes, iShares SLI UCITS ETF (DE) recorded a performance of -5.47% during the same period.



### Information on staff remuneration pursuant to Section 101 Para. 4 KAGB

The below disclosures are made in respect of the remuneration policies of the BlackRock group ("BlackRock"), as they apply to BlackRock Asset Management Deutschland AG (the "Manager"). The disclosures are made in accordance with the Directive 2009/65/EC on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities ("UCITS"), as amended, including in particular by Directive 2014/91/EU of the European Parliament and of the council of 23 July 2014, (the "Directive"), and the "Guidelines on sound remuneration policies under the UCITS Directive and AIFMD" issued by the European Securities and Markets Authority.

BlackRock's UCITS Remuneration Policy (the "UCITS Remuneration Policy") will apply to the EEA entities within the BlackRock group authorised as a manager of UCITS funds in accordance with the Directive, and will ensure compliance with the requirements of Article 14b of the Directive.

The Manager has adopted the UCITS Remuneration Policy, a summary of which is set out below.

There were no significant changes to the established remuneration policy. No irregularities were detected as part of the annual audit.

# **Remuneration Governance**

BlackRock's remuneration governance in EMEA operates as a tiered structure which includes: (a) the Management Development and Compensation Committee ("MDCC") (which is the global, independent remuneration committee for BlackRock, Inc. and all of its subsidiaries, including the Manager); and (b) the Manager's board of directors (the "Manager's Board"). These bodies are responsible for the determination of BlackRock's remuneration policies.

#### a) MDCC

The MDCC's purposes include:

- providing oversight of:
- BlackRock's executive compensation programmes;
- BlackRock's employee benefit plans; and
- such other compensation plans as may be established by BlackRock from time to time for which the MDCC is deemed as administrator;
- reviewing and discussing the compensation discussion and analysis included in the BlackRock, Inc. annual proxy statement with management and approving the MDCC's report for inclusion in the proxy statement;
- reviewing, assessing and making reports and recommendations to the BlackRock, Inc. board of directors (the "BlackRock, Inc. Board") as appropriate on BlackRock's talent development and succession planning, with the emphasis on performance and succession at the highest management levels; and
- Supporting the boards of the Company's EMEA regulated entities in meeting their remuneration-related obligations by overseeing the design and implementation of EMEA remuneration policy in accordance with applicable regulation.

The MDCC directly retains its own independent compensation consultant, Semler Brossy Consulting Group LLC, who has no relationship with BlackRock, Inc. or the BlackRock, Inc. Board that would interfere with its ability to provide independent advice to the MDCC on compensation matters.

The BlackRock, Inc. Board has determined that all of the members of the MDCC are "independent" within the meaning of the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), which requires each meet a "non-employee director" standard.

The MDCC held 8 meetings during 2019. The MDCC charter is available on BlackRock, Inc.'s website (www.blackrock.com).

Through its regular reviews, the MDCC continues to be satisfied with the principles of BlackRock's compensation policy and approach.

## b) The Manager's Board

The Manager's Board has the task of supervising and providing oversight of the UCITS Remuneration Policy as it applies to the Manager and its Identified Staff.

The Manager's Board (through independent review by the relevant control functions) remains satisfied with the implementation of the UCITS Remuneration Policy as it applies to the Manager and its Identified Staff.

# **Decision-making process**

Remuneration decisions for employees are made once annually in January following the end of the performance year. This timing allows full-year financial results to be considered along with other non-financial goals and objectives. Although the framework for remuneration decision-making is tied to financial performance, significant discretion is used to determine individual variable remuneration based on achievement of strategic and operating results and other considerations such as management and leadership capabilities.

No set formulas are established and no fixed benchmarks are used in determining annual incentive awards. In determining specific individual remuneration amounts, a number of factors are considered including non-financial goals and objectives and overall financial and investment performance. These results are viewed in the aggregate without any specific weighting, and there is no direct correlation between any particular performance measure and the resulting annual incentive award. The variable remuneration awarded to any individual(s) for a particular performance year may also be zero.

Annual incentive awards are paid from a bonus pool.

The size of the projected bonus pool, including cash and equity awards, is reviewed throughout the year by the MDCC and the final total bonus pool is approved after year-end. As part of this review, the MDCC receives actual and projected financial information over the course of the year as well as final year-end information. The financial information that the MDCC receives and considers includes the current year projected income statement and other financial measures compared with prior year results and the current year budget. The MDCC additionally reviews other metrics of BlackRock's financial performance (e.g., net inflows of AUM and investment performance) as well as information regarding market conditions and competitive compensation levels. NM0822U-2402828-14/22



The MDCC regularly considers management's recommendation as to the percentage of preincentive operating income that will be accrued and reflected as a compensation expense throughout the year for the cash portion of the total annual bonus pool (the "accrual rate"). The accrual rate of the cash portion of the total annual bonus pool may be modified by the MDCC during the year based on its review of the financial information described above. The MDCC does not apply any particular weighting or formula to the information it considers when determining the size of the total bonus pool or the accruals made for the cash portion of the total bonus pool.

Following the end of the performance year, the MDCC approves the final bonus pool amount.

As part of the year-end review process the Enterprise Risk and Regulatory Compliance departments report to the MDCC on any activities, incidents or events that warrant consideration in making compensation decisions.

Individuals are not involved in setting their own remuneration.

#### **Control functions**

Each of the control functions (Enterprise Risk, Legal & Compliance, and Internal Audit) has its own organisational structure which is independent of the business units. The head of each control function is either a member of the Global Executive Committee ("GEC"), the global management committee, or has a reporting obligation to the board of directors of BlackRock Group Limited, the parent company of all of BlackRock's EMEA regulated entities, including the Manager.

Functional bonus pools are determined with reference to the performance of each individual function. The remuneration of the senior members of control functions is directly overseen by the MDCC.

# Link between pay and performance

There is a clear and well defined pay-for-performance philosophy and compensation programmes which are designed to meet the following key objectives as detailed below:

- appropriately balance BlackRock's financial results between shareholders and employees;
- attract, retain and motivate employees capable of making significant contributions to the long-term success of the business;
- align the interests of senior employees with those of shareholders by awarding BlackRock Inc.'s stock as a significant part of both annual and long-term incentive awards:
- control fixed costs by ensuring that compensation expense varies with profitability;
- link a significant portion of an employee's total compensation to the financial and operational performance of the business as well as its common stock performance;
- discourage excessive risk-taking; and
- ensure that client interests are not negatively impacted by remuneration awarded on a short-term, mid-term and/or long-term basis.

Driving a high-performance culture is dependent on the ability to measure performance against objectives, values and behaviours in a clear and consistent way. Managers use a 5-point rating scale to provide an overall assessment of an employee's performance, and employees also provide a self-evaluation. The overall, final rating is reconciled during each employee's performance appraisal. Employees are assessed on the manner in which performance is attained as well as the absolute performance itself.

In keeping with the pay-for-performance philosophy, ratings are used to differentiate and reward individual performance – but don't pre-determine compensation outcomes. Compensation decisions remain discretionary and are made as part of the year-end compensation process.

When setting remuneration levels other factors are considered, as well as individual performance, which may include:

- the performance of the Manager, the funds managed by the Manager and/or the relevant functional department;
- factors relevant to an employee individually; relationships with clients and colleagues; teamwork; skills; any conduct issues; and, subject to any applicable policy, the impact that any relevant leave of absence may have on contribution to the business);
- the management of risk within the risk profiles appropriate for BlackRock's clients;
- strategic business needs, including intentions regarding retention;
- market intelligence: and
- criticality to business.

A primary product tool is risk management and, while employees are compensated for strong performance in their management of client assets, they are required to manage risk within the risk profiles appropriate for their clients. Therefore, employees are not rewarded for engaging in high-risk transactions outside of established parameters. Remuneration practices do not provide undue incentives for short-term planning or short-term financial rewards, do not reward unreasonable risk and provide a reasonable balance between the many and substantial risks inherent within the business of investment management, risk management and advisory services.

BlackRock operates a total compensation model for remuneration which includes a base salary, which is contractual, and a discretionary bonus scheme.

BlackRock operates an annual discretionary bonus scheme. Although all employees are eligible to be considered for a discretionary bonus, there is no contractual obligation to make any award to an employee under its discretionary bonus scheme. In exercising discretion to award a discretionary bonus, the factors listed above (under the heading "Link between pay and performance") may be taken into account in addition to any other matters which become relevant to the exercise of discretion in the course of the performance year.



Discretionary bonus awards for all employees, including executive officers, are subject to a guideline that determines the portion paid in cash and the portion paid in BlackRock, Inc. stock and subject to additional vesting/clawback conditions. Stock awards are subject to further performance adjustment through variation in BlackRock, Inc.'s share price over the vesting period. As total annual compensation increases, a greater portion is deferred into stock. The MDCC adopted this approach in 2006 to substantially increase the retention value and shareholder alignment of the compensation package for eligible employees, including the executive officers. The portion deferred into stock vests into three equal instalments over the three years following grant.

Supplementary to the annual discretionary bonus as described above, equity awards may be made to select individuals to provide greater linkage with future business results. These long-term incentive awards have been established individually to provide meaningful incentive for continued performance over a multi-year period recognising the scope of the individual's role, business expertise and leadership skills.

Selected senior leaders are eligible to receive performance-adjusted equity-based awards from the "BlackRock Performance Incentive Plan" ("BPIP"). Awards made from the BPIP have a three-year performance period based on a measurement of As Adjusted Operating Margin and Organic Revenue Growth. Determination of pay-out will be made based on the firm's achievement relative to target financial results at the conclusion of the performance period. The maximum number of shares that can be earned is 165% of the award in those situations where both metrics achieve pre-determined financial targets. No shares will be earned where the firm's financial performance in both of the above metrics is below a pre-determined performance threshold. These metrics have been selected as key measures of shareholder value which endure across market cycles.

A limited number of investment professionals have a portion of their annual discretionary bonus (as described above) awarded as deferred cash that notionally tracks investment in selected products managed by the employee. The intention of these awards is to align investment professionals with the investment returns of the products they manage through the deferral of compensation into those products. Clients and external evaluators have increasingly viewed more favourably those products where key investors have "skin in the game" through significant personal investments.

# **Identified Staff**

The UCITS Remuneration Policy sets out the process that will be applied to identify staff as Identified Staff, being categories of staff of the Manager, including senior management, risk takers, control functions and any employee receiving total remuneration that takes them into the same remuneration bracket as senior management and risk takers, whose professional activities have a material impact on the risk profiles of the Manager or of the funds it manages.

The list of Identified Staff will be subject to regular review, being formally reviewed in the event of, but not limited to:

- · organisational changes;
- new business initiatives;
- changes in significant influence function lists;
- changes in role responsibilities; and
- revised regulatory direction.

### **Quantitative Remuneration Disclosure**

The Manager is required under UCITS to make quantitative disclosures of remuneration. These disclosures are made in line with BlackRock's interpretation of currently available regulatory guidance on quantitative remuneration disclosures. As market or regulatory practice develops BlackRock may consider it appropriate to make changes to the way in which quantitative remuneration disclosures are calculated. Where such changes are made, this may result in disclosures in relation to a fund not being comparable to the disclosures made in the prior year, or in relation to other BlackRock fund disclosures in that same year.

Disclosures are provided in relation to (a) the staff of the Manager; (b) staff who are senior management; and (c) staff who have the ability to materially affect the risk profile of the Fund, including individuals who, although not directly employed by the Manager, are assigned by their employer to carry out services directly for the Manager.

All individuals included in the aggregated figures disclosed are rewarded in line with BlackRock's remuneration policy for their responsibilities across the relevant BlackRock business area. As all individuals have a number of areas of responsibilities, only the portion of remuneration for those individuals' services attributable to the Fund is included in the aggregate figures disclosed.

Members of staff and senior management of the Manager typically provide both UCITS and non-UCITS related services in respect of multiple funds, clients and functions of the Manager and across the broader BlackRock group. Therefore, the figures disclosed are a sum of each individual's portion of remuneration attributable to the Manager according to an objective apportionment methodology which acknowledges the multiple-service nature of the Manager. Accordingly the figures are not representative of any individual's actual remuneration or their remuneration structure.

The amount of the total remuneration awarded by the Manager to its staff which has been attributed to the Manager's UCITS-related business in respect of the Manager's financial year ending 31 December 2019 is EUR 2.60m. This figure is comprised of fixed remuneration of EUR 1.69m and variable remuneration of EUR 0.91m. There were a total of 21 beneficiaries of the remuneration described above.

The amount of the aggregate remuneration awarded by the Manager, which has been attributed to the Manager's UCITS-related business in respect of the Manager's financial year ending 31 December 2019, to its senior management was EUR 1.00m, and to other members of its staff whose actions have a material impact on the risk profile of the Fund was EUR 0.05m.

<sup>\*</sup> As Adjusted Operating Margin: As reported in BlackRock's external filings, reflects adjusted Operating Income divided by Total Revenue net of distribution and servicing expenses and amortisation of deferred sales commissions.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Organic Revenue Growth: Equal to net new base fees plus net new Aladdin revenue generated in the year (in dollars).



# Further information necessary for understanding the report pursuant to Section 7 No. 9 d) KARBV

# Explanation of the calculation of net change in unrealised gains and losses

Determination of net change in unrealised gains and losses takes place by means of comparing, in each financial year, the valuations of assets included in the unit price with the relevant historical purchase prices, the level of the positive differences in the sum of unrealised gains included, the level of the negative differences in the sum of unrealised losses included and by determining the net changes from a comparison of the sum totals at the end of the financial year with those at the beginning.

#### Information pursuant to Article 101 Para. 2 No. 5 German Investment Code (KAGB)

In fulfilling the requirement to implement the second shareholders' rights directive, which came into force on 1 January 2020, we report the following pursuant to Article 134c Para. 4 German Stock Corporation Act (AktG):

### 1) Significant medium to long-term risks:

With regard to the medium to long-term risks of the fund, we refer to the details in the Activity Report. The risks described in the Activity Report are related to the past, but we do not expect any change in the risk assessment presented there in the medium to long term.

## 2) Portfolio composition, portfolio turnover and portfolio turnover costs:

With regard to the composition of the portfolio, we refer to the Statement of Net Assets. The portfolio turnover can also be found in the Statement of Net Assets and details on "Transactions during the reporting period, insofar as these no longer appear in the assets listed". The portfolio turnover costs can be found under "Information on transparency and the total expense ratio (TER) pursuant to Article 16 Para. 1 No. 3 KARBV".

### 3) The consideration of the medium to long-term performance of the company in the investment decision:

The investment objectives and investment policy of the fund are set out in the Activity Report. The fund tracks the performance of the underlying index as closely as possible, such that the medium to long-term performance of the respective companies is not a primary criterion for investment decisions.

#### 4) Use of proxy advisors:

BlackRock did not follow the voting recommendations of a single proxy advisor although BlackRock has contractual relationships with two proxy advisors. Our analysis of voting and our engagement is determined by several pieces of information, including a company's own disclosures and our records of past engagements.

# 5) Handling securities lending and handling conflicts of interest in the context of participation in companies, in particular by the exercise of shareholders' rights

At the end of the 2019 calendar year, securities lending, where conducted, was discontinued for the fund. No securities lending transactions have taken place since then.



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Additional notes in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2015/2365 on securities financing transactions

	Securities lending
	Income and cost shares
	Fund
Absolute income share	667.42 CHF
Income share as % of gross income	62.50
Absolute cost share	250.30 CHF

Munich, 30 July 2020

BlackRock Asset Management Deutschland AG (KVG)

7. Sollar M. May

Peter Scharl

Harald Klug



### INDEPENDANT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## To BlackRock Asset Management Deutschland AG, Munich

### Opinion

We have audited the annual report of the investment fund iShares SLI UCITS ETF (DE), consisting of the Activity Report for the financial year 01 May 2019 to 30 April 2020, the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and the Statement of Net Assets as at 30 April 2020, the Profit and Loss Account, the Use of Income Statement, the Statement of Change in Fund Assets for the financial year 01 May 2019 to 30 April 2020 and the comparative overview of the last three financial years, the statement of transactions concluded during the period under review that no longer appear in the Statement of Net Assets, and the Notes.

In our opinion, based on the findings obtained during the audit, the attached annual report complies in all material matters with the provisions of the German Investment Code (KAGB) and the relevant European regulations and, in compliance with these provisions, makes it possible to form a comprehensive view of the actual condition of and changes to the investment fund.

#### Basis for the auditor's opinion

We conducted our audit of the annual report in accordance with Article 102 of the German Investment Code (KAGB) and taking into consideration the German generally accepted principles for the proper audit of financial statements issued by the Institute of Public Auditors in Germany (IDW). Our responsibility under these regulations and principles is described in further detail in our report in the section "Responsibility of the auditor for the audit of the annual report". We are independent of BlackRock Asset Management Deutschland AG, Munich, in compliance with German commercial and professional law, and have fulfilled our other German professional obligations in compliance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to serve as a basis for our opinion of the annual report.

#### Other information

The legal representatives are responsible for the other information. The other information includes the Notice and Note on Licences, the Additional Information for Investors in Liechtenstein, France and Switzerland, the Report of the Management Board and the General Information.

Our audit opinion does not extend to the other information and accordingly, we do not issue an audit opinion or any other form of audit conclusion in this regard.

In connection with our audit, we have the responsibility to read the other information and to assess whether the other information

- shows any material discrepancies from our understanding obtained during the course of the audit of the annual report of the investment fund iShares SLI UCITS ETF (DE) or
- appears to be materially misstated in any other way.

# Responsibility of the legal representatives for the annual report

The legal representatives of BlackRock Asset Management Deutschland AG, Munich are responsible for the preparation of the annual report, which must comply with the provisions of the German Investment Code (KAGB) and the relevant European regulations in all material matters, and for ensuring that, in accordance with these provisions, the annual report makes it possible to form a comprehensive view of the actual condition of and changes to the investment fund. In addition, the legal representatives are responsible for the internal controls that they have identified as necessary in accordance with these provisions in order to make it possible for the annual report to be prepared free of material – intended or unintended – misstatements.

When preparing the annual report, the legal representatives are responsible for incorporating events, decisions and factors that could have a significant impact on the further development of the investment fund into the reporting. This means, among other things, that the legal representatives must, in the preparation of the annual report, assess the continued management of the investment fund by BlackRock Asset Management Deutschland AG, Munich and are responsible for indicating facts regarding the continued management of the investment fund if relevant.

# Responsibility of the auditor for the audit of the annual report

Our objective is to obtain sufficient assurance as to whether the annual report as a whole is free from material – intended or unintended – misstatements, and to issue a report stating our audit opinion on the annual report.

Sufficient assurance is a high degree of assurance, but it does not guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Section 102 KAGB, taking into consideration the German generally accepted standards for the proper audit of financial statements issued by the Institute of Public Auditors in Germany (IDW), will always discover a material misstatement. Misstatements may result from violations or inaccuracies and are considered to be material if it could reasonably be expected that they would, individually or in total, influence the economic decisions that the addressees make on the basis of this annual report.

During the audit, we exercise our professional discretion and maintain a critical stance. In addition:

• We identify and assess the risks of material – intended or unintended – misstatements in the annual report, plan and conduct audit procedures in response to these risks and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to serve as a basis for our audit opinion. The risk that material misstatements are not identified is greater for violations than for inaccuracies, as violations may involve fraudulent collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentation, or the abrogation of internal controls.



- We gain an understanding of the internal control system relevant to the audit of the annual report in order to plan audit procedures that are appropriate in the given circumstances, but not with the objective of expressing an audit opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control system of BlackRock Asset Management Deutschland AG, Munich.
- We assess the appropriateness of the accounting methods applied by the legal representatives of BlackRock Asset Management Deutschland AG, Munich in the preparation of the annual report, as well as the justifiability of the legal representatives' estimated values and related information presented.
- We draw conclusions based on the audit evidence obtained as to whether there is significant uncertainty in relation to events or circumstances that could cast significant doubts on the continuation of the investment fund by BlackRock Asset Management Germany AG, Munich. If we conclude that there is a material uncertainty, we are obliged to draw attention to the relevant information in the annual report in our report or, if this information is not sufficient, to modify our audit opinion. We draw our conclusions on the basis of the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our report. Further events or circumstances may, however, lead to BlackRock Asset Management Deutschland AG, Munich no longer managing the investment fund.
- We assess the overall presentation, structure and content of the annual report, including the disclosures and whether the annual report represents the underlying transactions and events in such a way that the annual report, in compliance with the provisions of the German KAGB and the relevant European regulations, makes it possible to form a comprehensive view of the actual condition of and changes to the investment fund.

We discuss with the persons responsible for monitoring, among other things, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant findings of the audit, including any deficiencies in the internal control system that we identify during our audit.

Munich, 31 July 2020

**Deloitte GmbH** Audit company

(René Rumpelt) Auditor (Michael Buchner) Auditor



# **General Information**

# **Management Company**

BlackRock Asset Management Deutschland AG Lenbachplatz 1 80333 Munich

Share capital as at 31/12/2019: 5 Mio. EUR Liable equity as at 31/12/2019: 43.50 Mio. EUR

### Shareholder

BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited

# Management

Dirk Schmitz Chairman of the Management Board Frankfurt

Harald Klug Member of the Management Board Munich

Peter Scharl Member of the Management Board Munich

# **Supervisory Board**

Stacey Mullin (Chairman)
BlackRock, Managing Director, COO EMEA
London, UK

Stephen Cohen (Deputy Chairman)
BlackRock, Managing Director, Head of Sales EMEA iShares
London, UK

Harald Mährle\*
Managing Partner, Raymond James Corporate Finance GmbH

Friedrich Merz (Chairman)\*\* Lawyer Dusseldorf

# Depository

State Street Bank International GmbH Brienner Straße 59 80333 Munich, Germany

# Auditor

Deloitte GmbH Audit company Rosenheimer Platz 4 81669 Munich, Germany

(\*) since 27/03/2020 (\*\*) until 27/03/2020

# Want to know more?

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