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EUROPEAN INSURANCE
AND OCCUPATIONAL PENSIONS AUTHORITY

2019 IORP Stress Test

Key observations and conclusions

Frankfurt, 17th December 2019

What is this stress test about?

- What is the effect of an adverse market scenario on an IORPs' financial situation?
 - Impact on investment assets
 - Impact on members and beneficiaries
 - Impact on sponsors
- What can we learn from the expected investment behaviour after the shock for the financial stability of the sector?
- Do IORPs adequately manage the exposures stemming from sustainability/ESG risks in their investments?

- Participating Member States: over EUR 500 million IORP assets at year-end 2018
- 19 countries: AT, BE, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GR, IE, IT, LI, LU, NL, NO, PT, SE, SI, SK, (UK)
 - FR participated for the first time
 - UK did not participate
- Coverage: 60% of DB assets, 50% of DC assets
 - IE did not reach the required coverage
- 176 IORPs participated (99 DB, 77 DC)

What was the adverse scenario?

- Sudden reassessment of risk premia
- Shocks to interest rates higher on short maturities/ increased yields and widening of credit spreads
 - 'positive' effect on long-term obligations, i.e. discounting effect decreases value of liabilities
- One-off, instantaneous and permanent shifts in asset prices relative to end-2018 levels

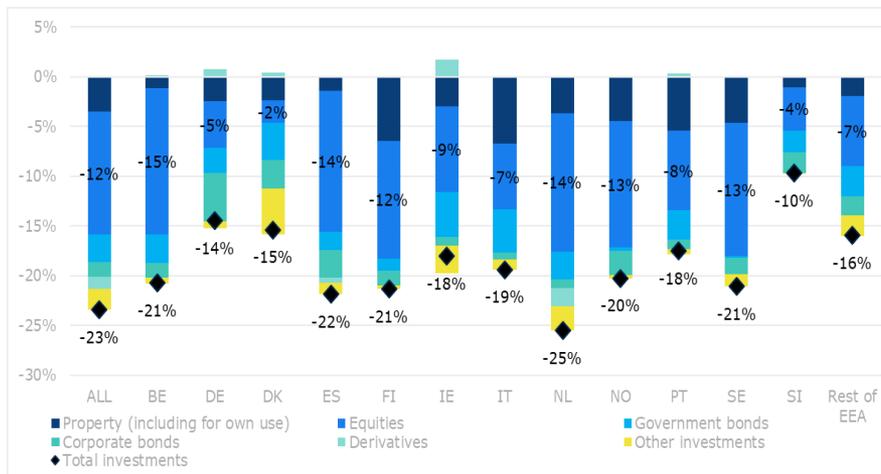
- EEA IORPs sector still struggling with the current economic environment that leads to underfunding – also in the baseline
- Market risks under the adverse scenario would lead to substantial benefit reductions and increase of sponsor support
- IORPs can sustain market volatilities for longer periods, yet suffer from adverse market trends - with long-term implications should short-term effects become permanent
- Majority of IORPs are taking steps to identify ESG risks for their investment decisions
- Carbon footprint high in equity investments relative to EU economy

The results in numbers

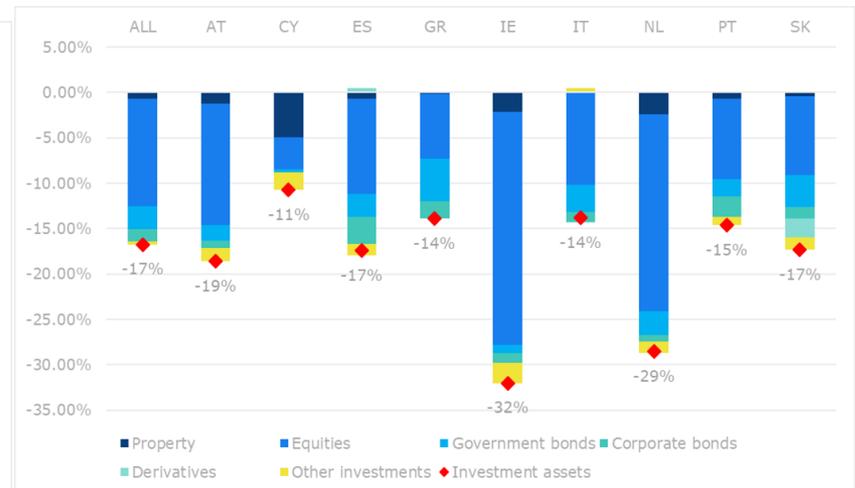
What happened to the assets when applying the shock?

- The adverse scenario stressed investment assets:
 - Would have wiped off almost EUR 250bn in the DB sector in the sample and EUR 16bn in the DC sector in the sample
 - Loss in values represents well over 2% of the 2018 GDP of the participating countries.

DB IORPs

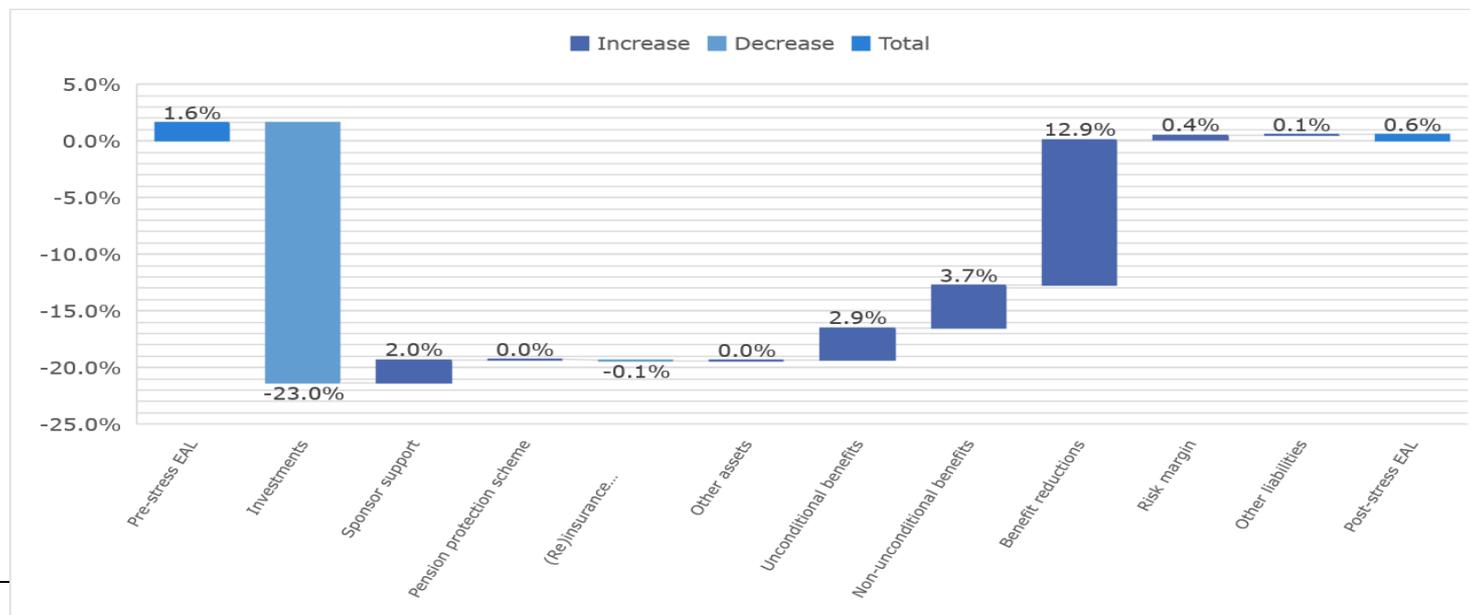


DC IORPs



What happened to the balance sheet when applying the shock?

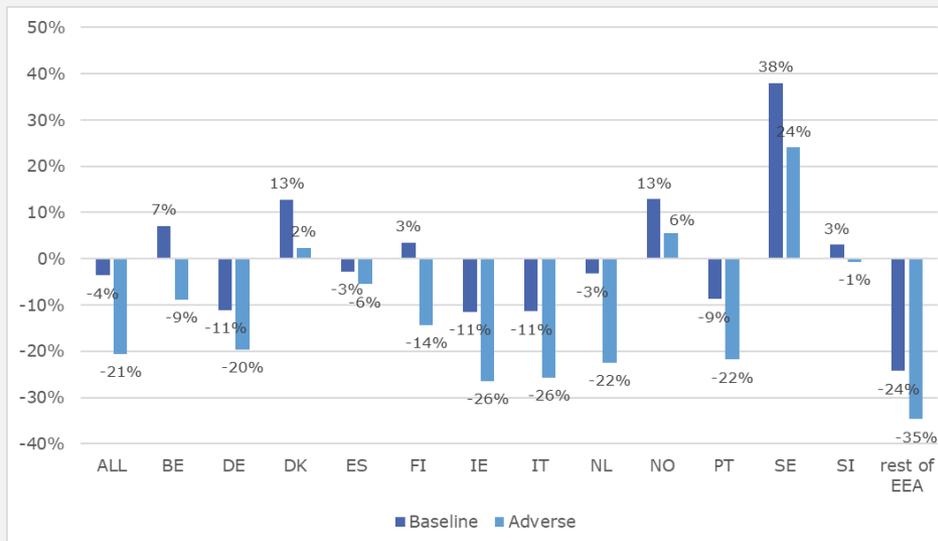
- Aggregate excess of assets over liabilities:
 - National methodologies: EUR -180bn
 - Common methodology: EUR -216bn
- Leading to potential, aggregate benefit reductions of EUR 173bn and increase of sponsor support of EUR 49bn



What does that mean?

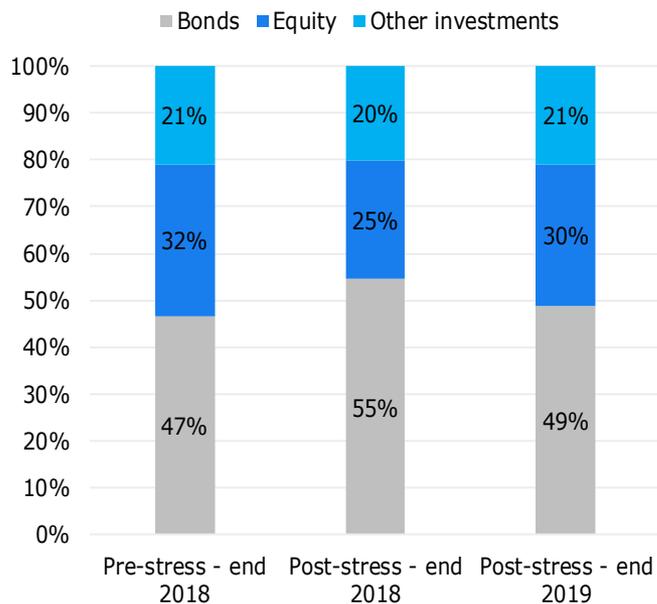
- If the instantaneous and permanent adverse market scenario would materialise, European IORPs' financial situation would
 - o be heavily affected in the short term
 - o require financial support by sponsoring undertakings or other security mechanisms
 - o have long-term effects on the future retirement income of members and beneficiaries

Excess of assets over liabilities (excl. sponsor support, pension protection schemes and benefit reductions) in baseline and adverse market scenario, % liabilities (excl. benefit reductions)

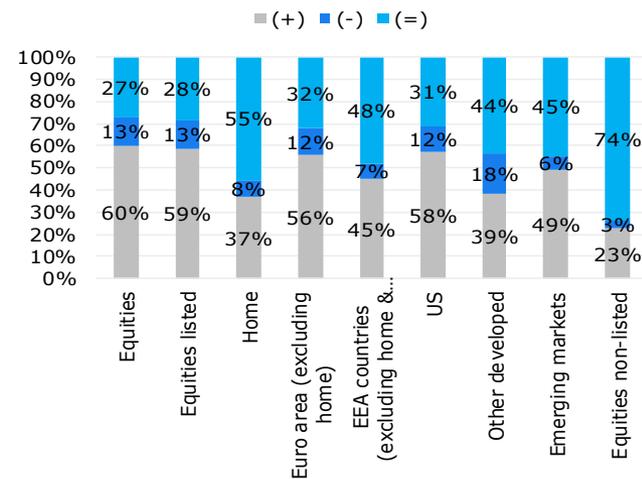


What did we observe in terms of investment behaviour?

- IORPs investment behaviour after the shock is expected to
 - o Rebalance to pre-stress investment allocations within 12 months
 - o Exhibit counter-cyclical aspects, yet not without risks



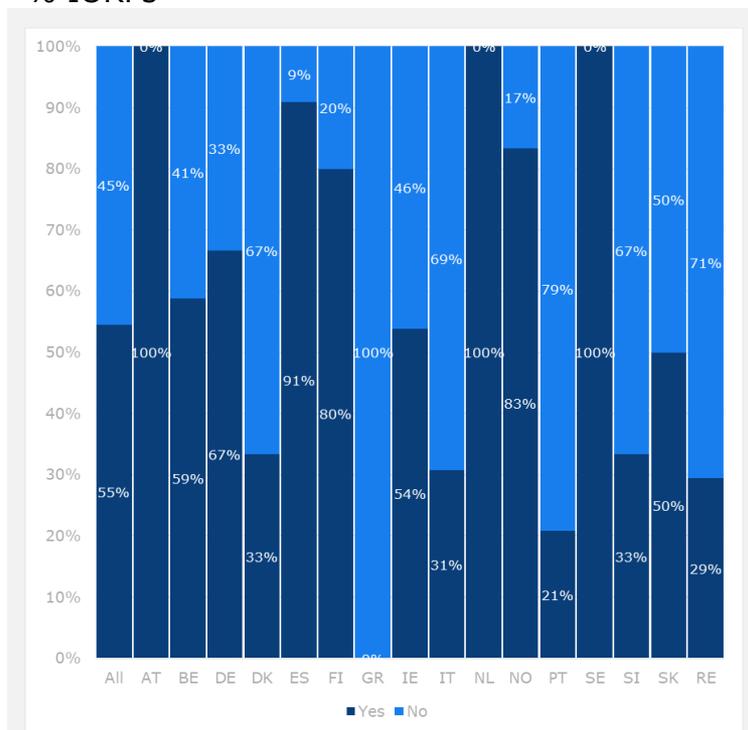
Net buying and selling of equity after the shock until end-2019



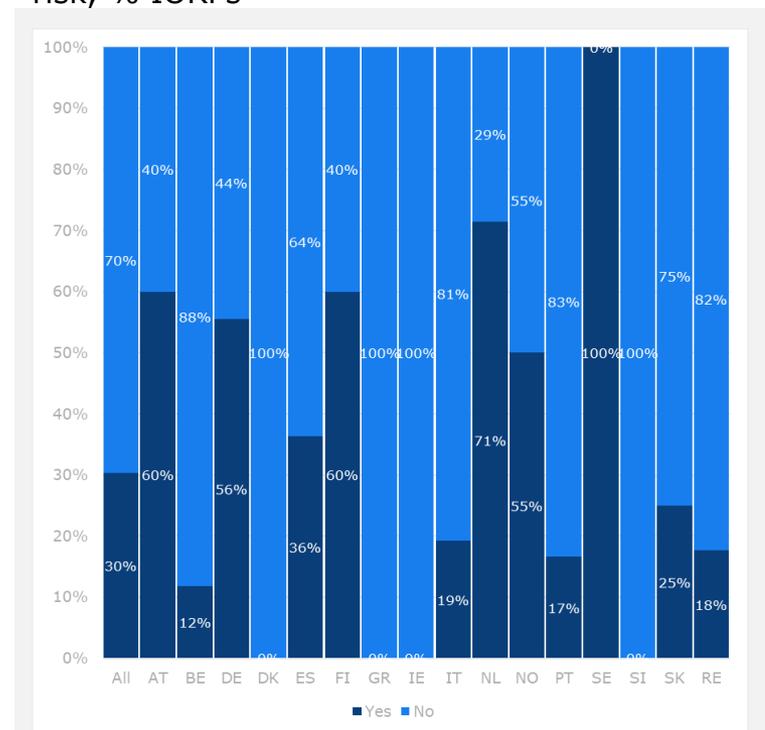
What did we observe in terms of integration of ESG factors?

- Majority of IORPs are taking steps to identify sustainability aspects and ESG risks for their investment decisions

IORPs' integration of ESG factors by country, % IORPs



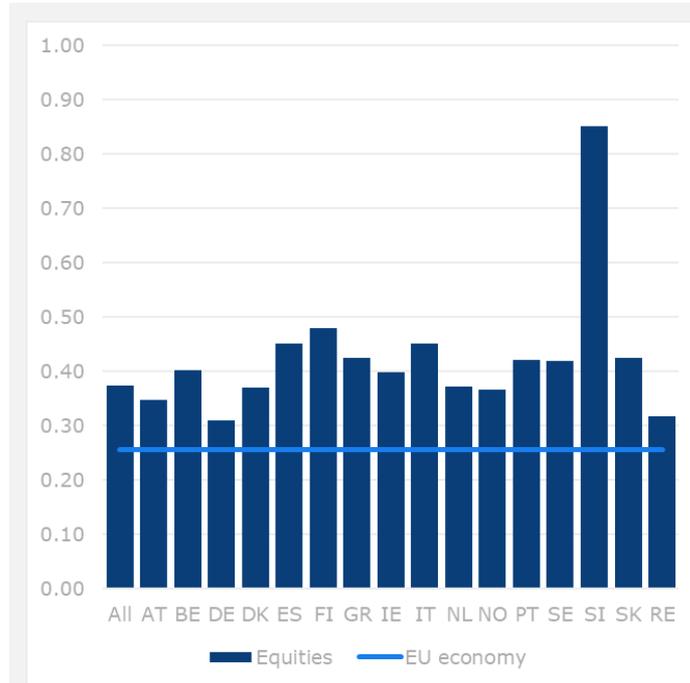
IORPs having in place a process to manage ESG risk, % IORPs



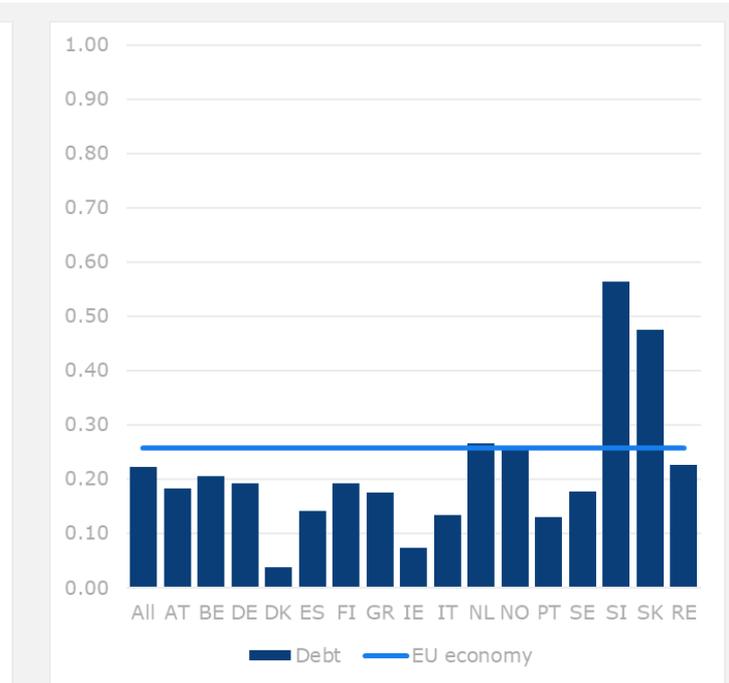
What about the IORPs' carbon footprint?

- Investments could be allocated to NACE business sectors and corresponding greenhouse gas emissions

Greenhouse gas intensity of IORPs' equity investments by country, kg per EUR value added



Greenhouse gas intensity of IORPs' debt investments by country, kg per EUR value added



The conclusions and next steps

- Long-term obligations and long investment horizons of IORPs
 - o enable IORPs to sustain short-term volatility and market downturns for longer periods than other financial institutions
 - o arguably require consideration of ESG risks
 - o call for supervisory monitoring and appropriate supervisory tools to detect adverse market trends and developments with long-term negative effects

What does EIOPA suggest to do with those conclusions?



- Follow up on the findings: improved reporting of IORP information enables market monitoring and risk assessment:
 - Particularities of IORPs investment behaviour and investment allocation
 - Continued low interest/low yield environment
- Importance of prudential frameworks to be capable of fairly reflecting sensitivities and exposures on both assets and liabilities

- Closing event 24th January 2019
- Follow-up on the procedural aspects: reducing complexity of the stress test:
 - Work on methodological framework for stress testing IORPs, starting in 2020
 - Extending horizontal approach, assessing DB and DC sectors together
- Next exercise expected for 2022



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Thank you for your attention!
