

Chapter 2

Drawing up the prospectus

2.2 Format of prospectus

Format of prospectus

2.2.1

EU

Article 6(3) of the *Prospectus Regulation* provides for how a *prospectus* may be drawn up:

Article 6

The prospectus

...

3.The issuer, offeror or person asking for the admission to trading on a regulated market may draw up the prospectus as a single document or as separate documents.

Without prejudice to Article 8(8) and the second subparagraph of Article 7(1), a prospectus composed of separate documents shall divide the required information into a registration document, a securities note and a summary. The registration document shall contain the information relating to the issuer. The securities note shall contain the information concerning the securities offered to the public or to be admitted to trading on a regulated market.

Prospectuses consisting of separate documents

2.2.2

EU

Article 10 of the *Prospectus Regulation* provides for drawing up a *prospectus* consisting of separate documents:

Article 10

Prospectuses consisting of separate documents

1.An issuer that has already had a registration document approved by a competent authority shall be required to draw up only the securities note and the summary, where applicable, when securities are offered to the public or admitted to trading on a regulated market. In that case, the securities note and the summary shall be subject to a separate approval.

Where, since the approval of the registration document, there has been a significant new factor, material mistake or material inaccuracy relating to the information included in the registration document which is capable of affecting the assessment of the securities, a supplement to the registration document shall be submitted for approval, at the latest at the same time as the securities note and the summary. The right to withdraw acceptances in accordance with Article 23(2) shall not apply in that case.

The registration document and its supplement, where applicable, accompanied by the securities note and the summary shall constitute a prospectus, once approved by the competent authority.

2. Once approved, the registration document shall be made available to the public without undue delay and in accordance with the arrangements set out in Article 21.

3. An issuer that has already had a universal registration document approved by the competent authority, or that has filed a universal registration document without prior approval pursuant to the second subparagraph of Article 9(2), shall be required to draw up only the securities note and the summary when securities are offered to the public or admitted to trading on a regulated market.

Where the universal registration document has already been approved, the securities note, the summary and all amendments to the universal registration document filed since the approval of the universal registration document shall be subject to a separate approval.

Where an issuer has filed a universal registration document without prior approval, the entire documentation, including amendments to the universal registration document, shall be subject to approval, notwithstanding the fact that those documents remain separate.

The universal registration document, amended in accordance with Article 9(7) or (9), accompanied by the securities note and the summary shall constitute a prospectus, once approved by the competent authority.

Base prospectus

2.2.3

EU

Article 8 of the *Prospectus Regulation* provides for the content of the *base prospectus*:

Article 8

The base prospectus

1. For non-equity securities, including warrants in any form, the prospectus may, at the choice of the issuer, offeror or person asking for the admission to trading on a regulated market, consist of a base prospectus containing the necessary information concerning the issuer and the securities offered to the public or to be admitted to trading on a regulated market.

2. A base prospectus shall include the following information:

(a) a template, entitled 'form of the final terms', to be filled out for each individual issue and indicating the available options with regard to the information to be determined in the final terms of the offer;

(b) the address of the website where the final terms will be published.

3. Where a base prospectus contains options with regard to the information required by the relevant securities note, the final terms shall determine which of the options is applicable to the individual

issue by referring to the relevant sections of the base prospectus or by replicating such information.

4. The final terms shall be presented in the form of a separate document or shall be included in the base prospectus or in any supplement thereto. The final terms shall be prepared in an easily analysable and comprehensible form.

The final terms shall only contain information that relates to the securities note and shall not be used to supplement the base prospectus. Point (b) of Article 17(1) shall apply in such cases.

5. Where the final terms are neither included in the base prospectus, nor in a supplement, the issuer shall make them available to the public in accordance with the arrangements set out in Article 21 and file them with the competent authority of the home Member State, as soon as practicable upon offering securities to the public and, where possible, before the beginning of the offer of securities to the public or admission to trading on a regulated market.

A clear and prominent statement shall be inserted in the final terms indicating:

(a) that the final terms have been prepared for the purpose of this Regulation and must be read in conjunction with the base prospectus and any supplement thereto in order to obtain all the relevant information;

(b) where the base prospectus and any supplement thereto are published in accordance with the arrangements set out in Article 21;

(c) that a summary of the individual issue is annexed to the final terms.

6. A base prospectus may be drawn up as a single document or as separate documents.

Where the issuer, the offeror or the person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market has filed a registration document for non-equity securities, or a universal registration document in accordance with Article 9, and chooses to draw up a base prospectus, the base prospectus shall consist of the following:

(a) the information contained in the registration document, or in the universal registration document;

(b) the information which would otherwise be contained in the relevant securities note, with the exception of the final terms where the final terms are not included in the base prospectus.

7. The specific information on each of the different securities included in a base prospectus shall be clearly segregated.

8. A summary shall only be drawn up once the final terms are included in the base prospectus, or in a supplement, or are filed, and that summary shall be specific to the individual issue.

9. The summary of the individual issue shall be subject to the same requirements as the final terms, as set out in this Article, and shall be annexed to them.

The summary of the individual issue shall comply with Article 7 and shall provide the following:

- (a) the key information in the base prospectus, including the key information on the issuer;
- (b) the key information in the appropriate final terms, including the key information which was not included in the base prospectus.

Where the final terms relate to several securities which differ only in some very limited details, such as the issue price or maturity date, a single summary of the individual issue may be attached for all those securities, provided the information referring to the different securities is clearly segregated.

10. The information contained in the base prospectus shall, where necessary, be supplemented in accordance with Article 23.

11. An offer of securities to the public may continue after the expiration of the base prospectus under which it was commenced provided that a succeeding base prospectus is approved and published no later than the last day of validity of the previous base prospectus. The final terms of such an offer shall contain a prominent warning on their first page indicating the last day of validity of the previous base prospectus and where the succeeding base prospectus will be published. The succeeding base prospectus shall include or incorporate by reference the form of the final terms from the initial base prospectus and refer to the final terms that are relevant for the continuing offer.

A right of withdrawal pursuant to Article 23(2) shall also apply to investors who have agreed to purchase or subscribe for the securities during the validity period of the previous base prospectus, unless the securities have already been delivered to them.

2.2.4

EU

Chapter III of the *PR Regulation* provides for the format of a *prospectus*:

Article 24

Format of a prospectus

1. Where a prospectus is drawn up as a single document, it shall be composed of the following elements set out in the following order:

- (a) a table of contents;
- (b) a summary, where required by Article 7 of [the *Prospectus Regulation*];
- (c) the risk factors referred to in Article 16 of [the *Prospectus Regulation*];
- (d) any other information referred to in the Annexes to this Regulation that is to be included in that prospectus.

The issuer, offeror or person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market may decide the order in which the information referred to in the Annexes to this Regulation is set out in the prospectus.

2. Where a prospectus is drawn up as separate documents, the registration document and the securities note shall be composed of the following elements set out in the following order:

- (a) a table of contents;
- (b) the risk factors referred to in Article 16 of [the *Prospectus Regulation*];
- (c) any other information referred to in the Annexes to this Regulation that is to be included in that registration document or that securities note.

The issuer, offeror or person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market may decide the order in which the information referred to in the Annexes to this Regulation is set out in the registration document and the securities note.

3. Where the registration document is drawn up in the form of a universal registration document, the issuer may include the risks factors referred to in point (b) of paragraph 2 amongst the information referred to in point (c) of that paragraph provided that those risk factors remain identifiable as a single section.

4. Where a universal registration document is used for the purposes of Article 9(12) of [the *Prospectus Regulation*], the information contained in that universal registration document shall be presented in accordance with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/815.

5. Where the order of the information referred to in point (d) of paragraph 1 and in point (c) of paragraph 2 is different from the order in which that information is presented in the Annexes to this Regulation, competent authorities may request to provide a list of cross references indicating the items of those Annexes to which that information corresponds.

The list of cross references referred to in the first subparagraph shall identify any items set out in the Annexes to this Regulation that have not been included in the draft prospectus due to the nature or type of issuer, securities, offer or admission to trading.

6. Where no list of cross-references is requested in accordance with paragraph 5 or is not voluntarily submitted by the issuer, offeror or person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market, it shall be indicated in the margin of the draft prospectus to which information in the draft prospectus the relevant information items set out in the Annexes to this Regulation correspond.

Article 25

Format of a base prospectus

1. A base prospectus drawn up as a single document shall be composed of the following elements set out in the following order:

- (a) a table of contents;
- (b) general description of the offering programme;
- (c) the risk factors referred to in Article 16 of [the *Prospectus Regulation*];

(d) any other information referred to in the Annexes to this Regulation that is to be included in that prospectus.

The issuer, offeror or person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market may decide the order in which the information referred to in the Annexes to this Regulation is set out in the base prospectus.

2. Where a base prospectus is drawn up as separate documents, the registration document and the securities note shall be composed of the following elements set out in the following order:

(a) a table of contents;

(b) in the securities note, a general description of the offering programme;

(c) the risk factors referred to in Article 16 of [the *Prospectus Regulation*];

(d) any other information referred to in the Annexes to this Regulation that is to be included in the registration document and the securities note.

The issuer, offeror or person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market may decide the order in which the information referred to in the Annexes to this Regulation is set out in the registration document and the securities note.

3. An issuer, offeror or person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market may compile in one single document two or more base prospectuses.

4. Where the registration document is drawn up in the form of a universal registration document, the issuer may include the risks factors referred to in point (c) of paragraph 2 amongst the information referred to in point (d) of that paragraph provided that those risk factors remain identifiable as a single section.

5. Where a universal registration document is used for the purposes of Article 9(12) of [the *Prospectus Regulation*], the information contained in that universal registration document shall be presented in accordance with Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/815.

6. Where the order of the information referred to in point (d) of paragraphs 1 and 2 is different from the order in which that information is presented in the Annexes to this Regulation, competent authorities may request to provide a list of cross references indicating the items of those Annexes to which that information corresponds.

The list of cross references referred to in the first subparagraph shall identify any items set out in the Annexes to this Regulation that have not been included in the draft base prospectus due to the nature or type of issuer, securities, offer or admission to trading.

7. Where no list of cross-references is requested in accordance with paragraph 6 or is not voluntarily submitted by the issuer, offeror or person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market, it shall be indicated in the margin of the draft base prospectus to which

information in the draft base prospectus the relevant information items set out in the Annexes to this Regulation correspond.

Article 26

Information to be included in the base prospectus and the final terms

- 1.The information referred to as 'Category A' in Annexes 14 to 19 and 27 to this Regulation shall be included in the base prospectus.
- 2.The information referred to as 'Category B' in Annexes 14 to 19 and 27 to this Regulation shall be included in the base prospectus except for details of that information that are not known at the time of approval of that base prospectus. Such details shall be inserted in the final terms.
- 3.The information referred to as 'Category C' in Annexes 14 to 19 and 27 to this Regulation shall be inserted in the final terms, unless it is known at the time of approval of the base prospectus, in which case it may be inserted in that base prospectus instead.
- 4.In addition to the information referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article, the final terms may only contain the information referred to in Annex 28 to this Regulation. The form of the final terms referred to in Article 8(2)(a) of [the *Prospectus Regulation*] shall indicate which of the information referred to in Annex 28 to this Regulation is to be determined in the final terms.
- 5.The final terms shall not contradict the information included in the base prospectus.

Article 27

Prospectus summary

- 1.An overview section of a prospectus shall only use the term "summary" if it complies with the requirements laid down in Article 7 of [the *Prospectus Regulation*].
- 2.Where the summary of a prospectus is to be supplemented in accordance with Article 23 of [the *Prospectus Regulation*], the new information shall be integrated in the summary of that prospectus in a way that enables investors to easily identify the changes. The new information shall be integrated in the summary of the prospectus either by producing a new summary or by supplementing the original summary.