# **Investment Rationale**

### 1. Key Investment Risk & Return Considerations

The table below describes the key Investment Risk and Investment Return characteristics that Financial Brokers should consider when recommending this Bond to retail investor clients:

Feature	Description		
Investment Theme	Potential for Capital Growth throughout the term		
	Stockmarket Index: EuroStoxx Banks Index (SX7E Index)		
Rationale for Theme	The EuroStoxx Banks Index in an Index of the 50 largest bank stocks in the Eurozone		
	Stock Market Indices provide a broad representative portfolio of investments in multiple companies or shares. Indexes are often used as benchmarks to gauge the movement and performance of market segments (Eurozone banks in this case) or geographic regions. Investors generally use indexes as a basis for diverse or passive investing.		
Potential Bonuses	5.8% after 1 year If the Index is at or above 90% of its initial level after 12 months, the Bond will mature early, investors will receive back their initial investment and a return of 5.8%. If not, but the Index is at or above 90% of its initial level after 18 months, the Bond will mature early, investors will receive back their initial investment and a return of 8.7%. This process continues every 6 months with the return increasing by 2.9% for each 6 month period passed until the return condition is met (i.e., The Index is at or above 90% of its initial level).		
	Maximum Return: 23.2%		
Investment Risk Level	High		
SRI Consisted Breate etilen	6 Coft Consider Directory		
Capital Protection	Soft Capital Protection Investors will receive back their initial capital at Maturity if the Index has not fallen by 30% or more at the Final Valuation Date		
	Capital is at risk if the Index has fallen by 30% or more at the Final Valuation Date. If the Index has fallen by 30% or more, investors will receive the performance of the Index at the Final Valuation Date, no matter how much it has fallen.		
Investment Term	4 Years (Medium)		
Unique Features	Kick Out: the Bond has the potential to mature after 1 year and every 6 months thereafter (with a return of 2.9% for every 6 month period passed)		

	Potential Returns in Rising or Falling Market Conditions: the Bond will Kick Out or mature early if the Index has increased or has fallen by less than 10% (i.e. if the Index is above 90% of its initial level) Capital Gains Tax treatment of gains
Product Compromises	Soft Capital Protection: Investors can lose some or all of the amount invested
	<b>Opportunity Cost:</b> Capital Returns or Investment Income could be higher if invested in a concentrated portfolio of shares or risky assets rather than an Index
	Potential Return is capped at 5.8% per year and Bond return is capped at 23.2%. Capital Returns could be higher if invested without a performance cap or with unlimited investment returns.
Liquidity	Yes
Taxation	Capital Gains Tax (CGT) in the case of Personal and Company Investors
	Exempt for Pension & Post Retirement Schemes

# 2. Investment Rationale in more detail

The investment rationale for investing in the Bond and in this Index can be summarised as follows:-

- Kick Out Feature: Potential 5.8% return each year and early maturity if the Index is at or above 90% of its initial level (i.e. has risen, or not fallen by more than 10%).
- Memory Feature: If any potential return is missed, it can be caught up if the conditional return level (at or above 90% of its initial level) is exceeded at the end of any subsequent 6 month period.
- Investing in the Eurozone
- Investing in equities as a Long Term Investment and investing in the EuroStoxx Banks Index

# Equities as a long term investment

Although investing in equities involves a degree of investment risk and there will be volatile periods along the way, in the long term, equities tend to outperform other assets like bonds, property, cash etc. By adopting a medium term approach, equity investors can mitigate the risks and short term volatility associated with stock market investment while benefiting from the long term capital growth potential that stock markets can provide.

Stock Market Indices provide a broad representative portfolio of investments in multiple companies or shares. Indexes are often used as benchmarks to gauge the movement and performance of market segments (Eurozone banks in this case) or geographic regions. Investors generally use indexes as a basis for diverse or passive investing. The EuroStoxx Banks Index is an Index of Eurozone bank shares.

### **EuroStoxx Banks Index**

The EuroStoxx Banks Index in an Index of the 50 largest bank stocks in the Eurozone.

The Stoxx Supersector Indices track supersectors of the relevant benchmark index. There are 20 supersectors according to the Industry Classification Benchmark (ICB) and companies are categorised according to their primary source of revenue. One of the supersectors identified by Stoxx is Banks.

Source: https://stoxx.com/index/sx7e/ (May 2025)

Warning: The Index is a Price Return Index. Dividends or income distributed by the Index constituents will not be re-invested in this Index nor distributed to investors.

### Index Top 10 Holdings

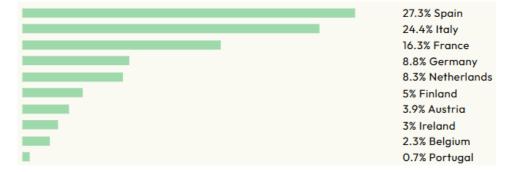
The top 10 holdings in the Index are as follows:

Company	Supersector	Country	Weight
BCO SANTANDER	Banks	Spain	12.501%
UNICREDIT	Banks	thaly	10.338%
BNP PARIBAS	Banks	France	9.663%
BCO BILBAO VIZCAYA ARGENTARIA	Banks	Spain	8.933%
INTESA SANPAOLO	Banks	Italy	8.424%
ING GRP	Banks	Netherlands	6.899%
DEUTSCHE BANK	Banks	Germany	5.569%
NORDEA BANK	Banks	Finland	4.967%
GRP SOCIETE GENERALE	Banks	France	4.493%
COMMERZBANK	Banks	Germany	3.273%

Source: https://stoxx.com/index/sx7e/?factsheet=true (May 2025)

## **Country Weighting**

The country weightings in the Index are as follows:



Source: https://stoxx.com/index/sx7e/?factsheet=true (May 2025)

#### Index Past Performance

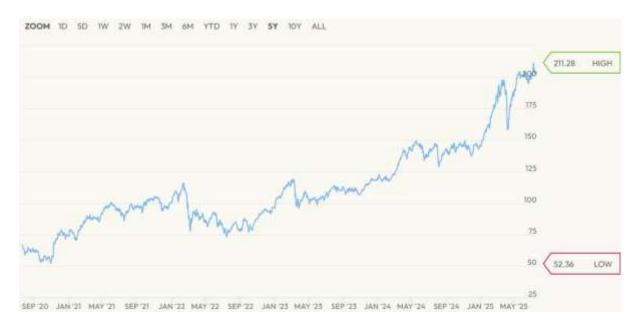
The Index has had an annualised return of 28.8% over the last 5 years. This table outlines the Index's annualised returns over the last 1, 3 and 5 years:

1Y	3Y	5Y
38.1	30.4	28.8

Source: https://stoxx.com/index/sx7e/?factsheet=true (May 2025)

#### Index Past Performance Chart

This chart illustrates the performance of the Index over the past 5 years:



Source: https://stoxx.com/index/sx7e/ (May 2025)

### Warning: Past Performance is not a reliable guide to future performance.

#### 3. Warnings

Warning: If you invest in the Bond you may lose some or all of the money you invest.

Warning: The value of your investment may go down as well as up.

Warning: This document is intended for Financial Broker firms only and is not suitable for potential Investors. This document should be read in conjunction with the product Brochure where a full list of warnings is provided.

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