

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## STOXX UPDATES RULES ON COUNTRY CLASSIFICATION

**ZURICH (Apr. 7, 2014)** - - STOXX Limited, a leading provider of innovative, tradable and global index concepts, today announced an update of its country classification rules. The announcement follows a meeting of the STOXX Advisory Board. The updated rulebook is introduced with immediate effect.

The STOXX country classification model relies on a rules-based methodology, and is the first such concept to exclude any subjective decisions from the process. The five criteria for the classification of a country as a developed or emerging market include macroeconomic data, market capitalization, market liquidity, free currency convertibility on onshore and offshore markets, and restrictions on capital flows.

Today's update to the country classification rules introduces a buffer to the market capitalization screening. Under the new rule, countries' total value of traded shares must be higher than 15 billion US dollar to be considered as a developed or emerging market; and all countries that are currently classified as such need to have at least 10 billion US dollar traded shares to continue to do so. Under the old rule, the threshold for both the initial classification as well as the continuation was 15 billion US dollar.

For the above-mentioned criteria, the average data, according to World Bank data, of the last three consecutive years are used in order to avoid short-term fluctuations.

The STOXX Advisory Board, which is made up of a wide range of market participants and includes representatives from both the sell-side and the buy-side in a broad range of relevant functions, provides independent advice regarding the methodology and rules of the STOXX index family on a regular basis. Today's clarification of the index methodology is a result of recent market consultations and reflects STOXX Limited's commitment to transparency.

A new version of the STOXX Index Guide can be downloaded at [www.stoxx.com/indices/rulebooks.html](http://www.stoxx.com/indices/rulebooks.html).

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**Media contact:**

Andrea Weidemann, [andrea.weidemann@stox.com](mailto:andrea.weidemann@stox.com), Phone: +41 58 399 3568

**Note to Editors:**

**About STOXX Limited**

STOXX Ltd. is a global index provider, currently calculating a global, comprehensive index family of over 6,000 strictly rules-based and transparent indices. Best known for the leading European equity indices *EURO STOXX 50*, *STOXX Europe 50* and *STOXX Europe 600*, STOXX Ltd. maintains and calculates the *STOXX Global Index family* which consists of total market, broad and blue-chip indices for the regions Americas, Europe, Asia, and Pacific, the sub-regions Latin America and BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China), as well as global markets.

To provide market participants with optimal transparency, STOXX indices are classified in three different categories. The regular "STOXX" indices include all standard, theme and strategy indices that are part of STOXX's integrated index family and follow a strict rules-based methodology. The "iSTOXX" brand typically comprises less standardized index concepts that are not integrated in the STOXX Global Index Family, but are nevertheless strictly rules-based. While indices that are branded "STOXX" and "iSTOXX" are developed by STOXX for a broad range of market participants, the "STOXX Customized" brand covers indices that are specifically developed for clients and do not carry the STOXX brand in the index name."

The STOXX indices are licensed to over 400 companies around the world as underlyings for Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), Futures & Options, Structured Products and passively-managed investment funds. Three of the top Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) in Europe and 30 percent of all assets under management are based on STOXX indices. STOXX Ltd. holds Europe's number one and the world's number three position in the derivatives segment.

In addition, STOXX Ltd. is the marketing agent for the indices of Deutsche Boerse AG and SIX, amongst them the DAX and the SMI indices.

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