FAQ

July 2026

EU Benchmarks Regulation ("EU BMR")

Executive summary

This document provides an overview of developments as a result of the amended EU Benchmarks Regulation (EU) 2025/914 (the "amended EU BMR"), as well as developments related to the EU BMR third-country regime, following the end of the transitional provisions on 31 December 2025.

It also explains FTSE Russell's regulatory structure under the amended EU BMR, including the establishment of FTSE EU SAS (FES), which has been authorised by the AMF as an EU Benchmark Administrator, and ESMA's authorisation of FES under Article 33 of the EU BMR to endorse in-scope FTSE Russell indices administered in the UK by FTSE International Limited (FIL).

Following the application of the amended EU BMR from 1 January 2026, in-scope benchmarks administered by FIL are made available for use by supervised entities in the European Union through endorsement by FES in accordance with Article 33 of the EU BMR.

FTSE Russell Benchmarks & Indices will continue to be administered in line with existing standards of governance and operational oversight. This change does not have an impact on the day-to-day operational standards of the benchmarks or the contractual arrangements between LSEG entities and their clients.

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1. What is FTSE Russell's regulatory status under EU BMR?

The UK's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) granted FTSE International Limited ("FIL") authorisation as a benchmark administrator originally under the European Benchmarks Regulation (EU 2016/1011) ("EU BMR") and subsequently under the UK Benchmarks Regulation (UK BMR) from the 31 December 2020 in line with the EU Exit Transition period. FIL is authorised and regulated by the FCA and is listed on the FCA Benchmarks Register.

FTSE Russell has established FTSE EU SAS ("FES"), an entity which is authorised as a Benchmark Administrator in the European Union (EU) by the Autorité des Marchés Financiers ("AMF") under the EU BMR.

Following the expiry of the EU third-country transitional provisions on 31 December 2025, FES obtained ESMA authorisation on 20 July 2026, under Article 33 of the EU BMR to endorse in-scope FTSE Russell indices administered in the UK by FTSE International Limited ("FIL"), enabling those indices to continue to be used by EU supervised entities in accordance with the requirements of the EU BMR.

As an endorsing Benchmark Administrator, FES is supervised by the European Securities and Markets Authority ("ESMA"). Information on FES as an endorsing Benchmark Administrator and on endorsed third-country benchmarks is available through the ESMA Registers of Administrators and Benchmarks.

Statement on Significant benchmarks notified under Article 24_2 of the Benchmark Regulation - FTSE International Limited

2. What is the amended EU BMR?

The review of the EU BMR was published in May 2025. Regulation (EU) 2025/914 outlines the amendments to the EU BMR which took effect from 1 January 2026. Key amendments included:

- Scope of EU BMR reduced to critical benchmarks, significant benchmarks, EU Climate Transition Benchmarks (EU CTBs) and EU Paris Aligned Benchmarks (EU PABs) as well as certain Commodity Benchmarks (subject to Annex II of the regulation).
- Benchmark administrators must identify any benchmarks that meet the quantitative criteria for significant benchmarks under Article 24 and notify the relevant regulatory authority.
- The relevant regulatory authority can also designate benchmarks which it has identified as meeting the qualitative criteria under Article 24
- EU based benchmark administrators can make a request to the relevant authority to designate one or more benchmarks which do not meet the quantitative or qualitative criteria under Article 24. The relevant authority will then consider whether it meets the requirements for designation.
- All third country benchmark administrators utilising either the endorsement or recognition third country access route will be supervised by ESMA.
- Third country administrators of significant benchmarks, certain Commodity (Annex II) Benchmarks and EU PAB/CTBs must apply (unless already supervised under the EU BMR) for recognition or endorsement under the EU BMR.

3. What is our solution to comply with the third country regime?

Benchmark administrators located in the EU must be authorised or registered by their competent authority, while third country administrators must access the EU market through one of the available third country regimes; equivalence, recognition, or endorsement.

FTSE Russell's approach to complying with the third country regime under EU BMR is based on the endorsement framework set out in Article 33. Endorsement enables an EU based authorised benchmark administrator to make benchmarks administered outside the EU available for use by EU supervised entities.

As part of this approach FTSE Russell has incorporated a new legal entity, FES, as an EU based Benchmark Administrator to support our business expansion in the EU.

On 20 November 2025, the AMF authorised FES to operate as a benchmark administrator in France in accordance with the EU Benchmarks Regulation (EU) 2016/1011. FES is the administrator for a limited number of FTSE Russell benchmarks and, following the expiry of the EU third-country transitional provisions on 31 December 2025, obtained ESMA authorisation under Article 33 of the EU BMR to endorse relevant in-scope FTSE Russell indices administered in the UK by FIL.

As a result, those in-scope indices may continue to be used by EU supervised entities in accordance with the requirements of the EU BMR.

An initial scope of benchmarks to be endorsed has been determined and any further benchmarks identified as being within the scope of the EU BMR may be subject to subsequent endorsement applications in accordance with Article 33 of the EU BMR.

This initiative reflects our commitment to supporting clients in the EU and investing in local capabilities. By building a dedicated presence in France, we are creating a platform for long-term growth, closer engagement with European stakeholders, and enhanced responsiveness to regional regulatory developments.

FTSE Russell benchmarks will continue to be administered in line with our standards of governance and operational oversight. This change does not have an impact on the day-to-day operational standards of the benchmarks or the contractual arrangements between LSEG entities and their clients.

4. Why have we established FTSE EU SAS?

In light of the EU BMR third country transitional provisions ending on 31 December 2025, and in order to continue to provide a seamless service to clients located in the EU, FTSE Russell has established FES which was authorised by the AMF on 20 November 2025 to operate as a benchmark administrator in France in accordance with the EU BMR.

5. Which Benchmarks are administered by FTSE EU SAS?

The administration of a limited number of benchmarks was transferred to FES, specifically:

- FTSE Term €STR
- FTSE EPRA Nareit Developed Europe Green EU CTB Index

In addition, FES administers the following benchmark, which was developed and launched following its authorisation as an EU benchmark administrator.

- FTSE EUR Swap Rate Benchmark

Associated documentation including Benchmark Statements and Ground Rules has been updated to reflect the change of administrator, specifically the name of the benchmark administrator has been changed from FIL to FES and the regulatory status with regards to the EU BMR and UK BMR.

Under the UK BMR, these benchmarks continue to be available for use in the UK in accordance with the UK third country transitional arrangements provision which currently ends on 31 December 2030.

6. Which Benchmarks are "endorsed" by FTSE EU SAS?

FES obtained ESMA authorisation under Article 33 of the EU BMR on 20 July 2026 to endorse relevant in-scope FTSE Russell indices administered in the UK by FTSE International Limited ("FIL"), enabling those indices to continue to be used by EU supervised entities in accordance with the requirements of the EU BMR.

As an endorsing Benchmark Administrator, FES is supervised by the European Securities and Markets Authority ("ESMA"). Information on FES as an endorsing Benchmark Administrator and on endorsed third-country benchmarks is available through the ESMA Registers of Administrators and Benchmarks.

The scope of endorsement includes FIL-administered benchmarks that meet the relevant regulatory criteria under the EU BMR, including benchmarks that are in scope based on quantitative thresholds (e.g. Article 24(1)(a)) and those benchmarks falling within specific regulated categories.

Benchmarks endorsed by FES as 'significant benchmarks' include the following benchmarks and their variants:

- WMR 4pm Closing Spot Rates;
- FTSE All-World Index; and
- FTSE MIB Index

In addition, all FTSE Russell's EU CTBs and EU PABs are regulated as significant benchmarks regardless of usage.

Other benchmarks may be brought within the scope of the EU BMR in future through designation by Competent Authorities (either ESMA or National Competent Authorities "NCAs") based on qualitative criteria, even when their use remains below the threshold established by EU BMR.

FTSE Russell benchmarks that are no longer in scope of EU BMR will continue to be made available for clients in the EU.

7. When will third country benchmarks endorsed by FTSE EU SAS appear on the ESMA third country benchmarks register?

Under the amended EU BMR framework, ESMA and NCAs have until 30 September 2026 to designate benchmarks as significant where the relevant conditions are met. Administrators and benchmarks that remain in scope of the EU BMR following designation will continue to be reflected on ESMA Registers of Administrators and Benchmarks, with updates being made by ESMA and/or the relevant NCA as required. Administrators for which no benchmark is designated as significant by that date, and which have not otherwise opted into the regime, are expected to be removed from the ESMA Registers of Administrators and Benchmarks by 1 October 2026.

Accordingly, endorsed benchmarks are expected to appear on the ESMA Registers of Administrators and Benchmarks shortly after the endorsement becomes effective and ESMA has completed the necessary steps.

8. How can clients identify "in-scope" benchmarks?

Clients can identify benchmarks in-scope of the EU BMR via the ESMA Registers of Administrators and Benchmarks. Endorsed benchmarks are expected to be reflected on the Register shortly following endorsement.

Following the amendments introduced by Regulation (EU) 2025/914, the ESMA Registers of Administrators and Benchmarks serve as the central source of information on benchmark administrators and benchmarks available for use under the EU BMR.
The Registers include:

- EU-based benchmark administrators authorised or registered under the EU BMR;
- third country benchmark administrators benefiting from equivalence, recognition, or endorsement arrangements under the EU BMR;
- benchmarks available for use in the EU, including endorsed and recognised third country benchmarks; and
- benchmarks subject to specific regulatory classifications, including critical benchmarks, significant benchmarks, EU CTBs, EU PABs, and certain commodity benchmarks.

Accordingly, clients may use the ESMA Registers of Administrators and Benchmarks to determine whether a benchmark is available for use by EU-supervised entities and, where applicable, whether it is subject to a specific regulatory classification or third country access arrangement under the EU BMR.

9. How will FTSE Russell continue to monitor the benchmark thresholds to determine “in-scope” benchmarks?

FTSE Russell operates established processes to monitor the thresholds of benchmarks to periodically assess whether a benchmark is in scope of the EU BMR. Specifically, FTSE Russell has benchmark usage monitoring, alerting, and reporting capabilities that assess benchmarks against the regulatory quantitative thresholds at a point in time. These assessments are reviewed and updated periodically.

If an existing benchmark previously did not meet the quantitative criteria for being a significant benchmark, but as part of a periodic update to the assessment appeared to meet the criteria for being a significant benchmark then FTSE Russell would take the required steps to be compliant with the EU BMR. Specifically, this would include notifying ESMA of a potentially significant benchmark, and if required, FES would then seek to endorse the benchmark and have it added to the ESMA Registers of Administrators and Benchmarks within the required timeframes.

FTSE Russell public documentation including benchmark statements will reflect if the benchmark or a benchmark within a benchmark family is identified or designated as significant, where relevant. FTSE Russell will utilise our usual communication channels (client notices, website publications, etc) to ensure timely notification of key changes to the designation of our benchmarks.

10. What if the benchmark I am using in the EU is not in scope of the amended EU BMR?

Benchmarks that are no longer in scope of the amended EU BMR will continue to be made available and suitable for use in the EU and continue to be administered in line with existing standards of governance and operational oversight. This ensures consistency in methodology, oversight, and transparency. Clients can therefore continue to use benchmarks no longer in scope of the EU BMR without disruption.

11. What does this mean for FTSE Russell clients?

Benchmarks falling within the scope of the EU BMR will continue to be available for use by EU-supervised entities. FTSE Russell has implemented several regulatory and administrative changes to support compliance with the amended EU BMR and the expiry of the EU third country transitional provisions on 31 December 2025.

The following changes have been made:

- FES has been established as an EU-based benchmark administrator authorised under the EU BMR;
- relevant benchmarks administered by FIL have been endorsed by FES under Article 33 of the EU BMR;
- benchmark administrator information, regulatory status, and related disclosures have been updated in relevant benchmark documentation; and
- benchmark administrator and benchmark information will be reflected in the ESMA Registers of Administrators and Benchmarks.

Changes to the benchmark administrator or third country benchmarks endorsed under EU BMR does not impact:

- access to the benchmarks;
- customer contracts;
- the calculation and provision of the benchmarks & indices and how they can be used;
- the implementation of its regulatory framework, including the standards of its governance, risk, and control environment; and
- the benchmark's suitability and availability for use under UK BMR or other jurisdictions.

12. What has changed?

As part of this initiative, a number of external policies, including methodologies and benchmark statements have been updated to reflect the change of administrator from FIL to FES for specified benchmarks.

13. Who can I contact for further information?

For further information, please email info@ftsrussell.com, or call your Regional Client Service team.

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For over 35 years we have been at the forefront of driving change for the investor, always innovating to shape the next generation of benchmarks and investment solutions that open up new opportunities for the global investment community.

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