

Directive 2009/138/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council  
of 25 November 2009 on the taking-up and pursuit of the business of  
Insurance and Reinsurance (Solvency II) (recast) (Text with EEA relevance)

TITLE I

**GENERAL RULES ON THE TAKING-UP AND PURSUIT OF  
DIRECT INSURANCE AND REINSURANCE ACTIVITIES**

CHAPTER VI

**Rules relating to the valuation of assets and liabilities, technical provisions, own funds,  
Solvency Capital Requirement, Minimum Capital Requirement and investment rules**

Section 6

**Investments**

*Article 132*

**Prudent person principle**

1 Member States shall ensure that insurance and reinsurance undertakings invest all their assets in accordance with the prudent person principle, as specified in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4.

2 With respect to the whole portfolio of assets, insurance and reinsurance undertakings shall only invest in assets and instruments whose risks the undertaking concerned can properly identify, measure, monitor, manage, control and report, and appropriately take into account in the assessment of its overall solvency needs in accordance with point (a) of the second subparagraph of Article 45(1).

All assets, in particular those covering the Minimum Capital Requirement and the Solvency Capital Requirement, shall be invested in such a manner as to ensure the security, quality, liquidity and profitability of the portfolio as a whole. In addition the localisation of those assets shall be such as to ensure their availability.

Assets held to cover the technical provisions shall also be invested in a manner appropriate to the nature and duration of the insurance and reinsurance liabilities. Those assets shall be invested in the best interest of all policy holders and beneficiaries taking into account any disclosed policy objective.

In the case of a conflict of interest, insurance undertakings, or the entity which manages their asset portfolio, shall ensure that the investment is made in the best interest of policy holders and beneficiaries.

3 Without prejudice to paragraph 2, with respect to assets held in respect of life insurance contracts where the investment risk is borne by the policy holders, the second, third and fourth subparagraphs of this paragraph shall apply.

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Where the benefits provided by a contract are directly linked to the value of units in an UCITS as defined in Directive 85/611/EEC, or to the value of assets contained in an internal fund held by the insurance undertakings, usually divided into units, the technical provisions in respect of those benefits must be represented as closely as possible by those units or, in the case where units are not established, by those assets.

Where the benefits provided by a contract are directly linked to a share index or some other reference value other than those referred to in the second subparagraph, the technical provisions in respect of those benefits must be represented as closely as possible either by the units deemed to represent the reference value or, in the case where units are not established, by assets of appropriate security and marketability which correspond as closely as possible with those on which the particular reference value is based.

Where the benefits referred to in the second and third subparagraphs include a guarantee of investment performance or some other guaranteed benefit, the assets held to cover the corresponding additional technical provisions shall be subject to paragraph 4.

4 Without prejudice to paragraph 2, with respect to assets other than those covered by paragraph 3, the second to fifth subparagraphs of this paragraph shall apply.

The use of derivative instruments shall be possible insofar as they contribute to a reduction of risks or facilitate efficient portfolio management.

Investment and assets which are not admitted to trading on a regulated financial market shall be kept to prudent levels.

Assets shall be properly diversified in such a way as to avoid excessive reliance on any particular asset, issuer or group of undertakings, or geographical area and excessive accumulation of risk in the portfolio as a whole.

Investments in assets issued by the same issuer, or by issuers belonging to the same group, shall not expose the insurance undertakings to excessive risk concentration.

### *Article 133*

#### **Freedom of investment**

1 Member States shall not require insurance and reinsurance undertakings to invest in particular categories of asset.

2 Member States shall not subject the investment decisions of an insurance or reinsurance undertaking or its investment manager to any kind of prior approval or systematic notification requirements.

3 This Article is without prejudice to Member States' requirements restricting the types of assets or reference values to which policy benefits may be linked. Any such rules shall be applied only where the investment risk is borne by a policy holder who is a natural person and shall not be more restrictive than those set out in the Directive 85/611/EEC.

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## Article 134

### Localisation of assets and prohibition of pledging of assets

1 With respect to insurance risks situated in the Community, Member States shall not require that the assets held to cover the technical provisions related to those risks are localised within the Community or in any particular Member States.

In addition, with respect to recoverables from reinsurance contracts against undertakings authorised in accordance with this Directive or which have their head office in a third country whose solvency regime is deemed to be equivalent in accordance with Article 172, Member States shall not require the localisation within the Community of the assets representing those recoverables.

2 Member States shall not retain or introduce for the establishment of technical provisions a system with gross reserving which requires pledging of assets to cover unearned premiums and outstanding claims provisions where the reinsurer is an insurance or reinsurance undertaking authorised in accordance with this Directive.

## <sup>F1</sup>Article 135

### Delegated acts and regulatory technical standards concerning qualitative requirements

1 The Commission may adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 301a specifying qualitative requirements in the following areas:

- a the identification, measurement, monitoring and managing of risks arising from investments in relation to the first subparagraph of Article 132(2);
- b the identification, measurement, monitoring and managing of specific risks arising from investment in derivative instruments and assets referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 132(4) and the determination of the extent to which the use of such assets qualifies as risk reduction or efficient portfolio management as referred to in the third subparagraph of Article 132(4).

<sup>F2</sup> The Commission shall adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 301a of this Directive supplementing this Directive by laying down the specifications for the circumstances under which a proportionate additional capital charge may be imposed when the requirements provided for in Articles 5 or 6 of Regulation (EU) 2017/2402 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>(1)</sup> have been breached, without prejudice to Article 101(3) of this Directive.

3 In order to ensure consistent harmonisation in relation to paragraph 2 of this Article, EIOPA shall, subject to Article 301b, develop draft regulatory technical standards to specify the methodologies for the calculation of a proportionate additional capital charge referred to therein.

The Commission is empowered to supplement this Directive by adopting the regulatory technical standards referred to in this paragraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1094/2010.]]

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Substituted by [Directive 2014/51/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directives 2003/71/EC and 2009/138/EC and Regulations \(EC\) No 1060/2009, \(EU\) No 1094/2010 and \(EU\) No 1095/2010 in respect of the powers of the European Supervisory Authority](#)

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(European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority) and the European Supervisory Authority (European Securities and Markets Authority).

- F2** Substituted by Regulation (EU) 2017/2402 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 laying down a general framework for securitisation and creating a specific framework for simple, transparent and standardised securitisation, and amending Directives 2009/65/EC, 2009/138/EC and 2011/61/EU and Regulations (EC) No 1060/2009 and (EU) No 648/2012.

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- (1) [<sup>F1</sup>]<sup>F2</sup>Regulation (EU) 2017/2402 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 laying down a general framework for securitisation and creating a specific framework for simple, transparent and standardised securitisation, and amending Directives 2009/65/EC, 2009/138/EC and 2011/61/EU and Regulations (EC) No 1060/2009 and (EU) No 648/2012 ([OJ L 347, 28.12.2017, p. 35](#)).]]

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- F1** Substituted by [Directive 2014/51/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending [Directives 2003/71/EC](#) and [2009/138/EC](#) and [Regulations \(EC\) No 1060/2009](#), [\(EU\) No 1094/2010](#) and [\(EU\) No 1095/2010](#) in respect of the powers of the European Supervisory Authority (European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority) and the European Supervisory Authority (European Securities and Markets Authority).
- F2** Substituted by [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/2402](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 laying down a general framework for securitisation and creating a specific framework for simple, transparent and standardised securitisation, and amending [Directives 2009/65/EC](#), [2009/138/EC](#) and [2011/61/EU](#) and [Regulations \(EC\) No 1060/2009](#) and [\(EU\) No 648/2012](#).