

# **SANTANDER ASSET MANAGEMENT SA SGIIC**

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**March 22, 2024**

This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Santander Asset Management SA SGIIC (“SAM”) only in the United States. SAM provides investment advisory services in other jurisdictions. Information regarding SAM’s investment advisory services in other jurisdictions is not included in this Brochure. If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact us at +34 912 574 020 and/or [www.santanderassetmanagement.es](http://www.santanderassetmanagement.es). The information in this Brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority.

SAM is a registered investment adviser. Registration of an Investment Adviser does not imply any level of skill or training. The oral and written communications of an Adviser provide you with information about which you determine to hire or retain an Adviser.

Additional information about SAM also is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov).

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## Item 2 – Material Changes

This brochure dated March 22, 2024, includes changes relating to the amount of our assets under management, and other non-material changes to our last brochure, dated March 30, 2023.

Currently, our Brochure may be requested by contacting María Ussia at [maria.ussia@santanderam.com](mailto:maria.ussia@santanderam.com). Our Brochure is also available on our web site [www.santanderassetmanagement.es](http://www.santanderassetmanagement.es), also free of charge.

Additional information about SAM is also available via the SEC's web site [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov). The SEC's web site also provides information about any persons affiliated with SAM who are registered, or are required to be registered, as investment adviser representatives of SAM.

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#### Item 4 – Advisory Business

A. Description of SAM and principal owners. Santander Asset Management SA SGIIC (“SAM”) is a subsidiary corporation of Grupo Santander (“Grupo Santander”), organized under the laws of Spain on October 6, 1971, whose principal place of business is Paseo de la Castellana 24, 28046, Madrid, Spain. SAM is an investment adviser registered in the United States with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) and in Spain with the National Commission of Securities Markets (“CNMV”).

The table below shows the principal shareholders of SAM, who own a 25% or more interest in SAM:

SAM Investment Holdings SL	foreign entity
Santander Pensiones, SA, EGFP	foreign entity

B. Types of advisory services. SAM provides investment advisory services to institutional investors.

C. Client assets as of December 31, 2023. SAM manages a total of \$105,211,121,338 of client assets, totaling \$82,956,019,879 on a discretionary basis and \$22,255,101,459 of client assets on a non-discretionary basis.

#### Item 5 – Fees and Compensation

SAM offers investment advisory services for a percentage of assets under management, subscription fees or performance-based fees.

All fees are subject to negotiation.

The specific manner in which fees are charged by SAM is established in a client’s written agreement with SAM. SAM will generally bill its fees on a quarterly or monthly basis, depending on the client’s needs. Clients may elect to be billed in advance or arrears each calendar quarter. Clients may also elect to be billed directly for fees or to authorize SAM to directly debit fees from client accounts. Management fees shall be prorated for each capital contribution and withdrawal made during the applicable calendar quarter (with the exception of de minimis contributions and withdrawals). Accounts initiated or terminated during a calendar quarter will be charged a prorated fee. Upon termination of any account, any prepaid, unearned fees will be promptly refunded, and any earned, unpaid fees will be due and payable.

SAM’s fees are exclusive of brokerage commissions, transaction fees, and other related costs and expenses which shall be incurred by the client. Clients may incur certain charges imposed by custodians, brokers, third party investment and other third parties

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such as fees charged by managers, custodial fees, deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. Mutual funds and exchange traded funds also charge internal management fees, which are disclosed in a fund's prospectus. Such charges, fees and commissions are exclusive of and in addition to SAM's fee, and SAM shall not receive any portion of these commissions, fees, and costs.

Item 12 further describes the factors that SAM considers in selecting or recommending broker-dealers for *client* transactions and determining the reasonableness of their compensation (*e.g.*, commissions).

#### **Item 6 – Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management**

In some cases, SAM may enter into performance fee arrangements with qualified clients; such fees are subject to individualized negotiation with each such client. SAM will structure any performance or incentive fee arrangement subject to Section 205(a)(1) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended (the "Advisers Act") in accordance with the available exemptions thereunder, including the exemption set forth in Rule 205-3. SAM's customary performance-based fee structure is the "high watermark" structure and it is measured using the client's realized and unrealized capital gains and losses.

Performance-based fee arrangements may create an incentive for SAM to recommend investments which may be riskier or more speculative than those which would be recommended under a different fee arrangement. Such fee arrangements also create an incentive to favor higher fee-paying accounts over other accounts in the allocation of investment opportunities. SAM has procedures designed and implemented to ensure that all clients are treated fairly and equally, and to prevent this conflict from influencing the allocation of investment opportunities among clients.

#### **Item 7 – Types of Clients**

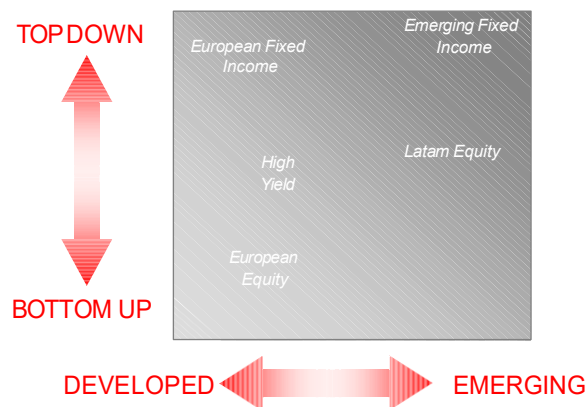
SAM provides portfolio advisory services to institutional investors and non-U.S. domiciled pooled investment vehicles.

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## Item 8 – Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss

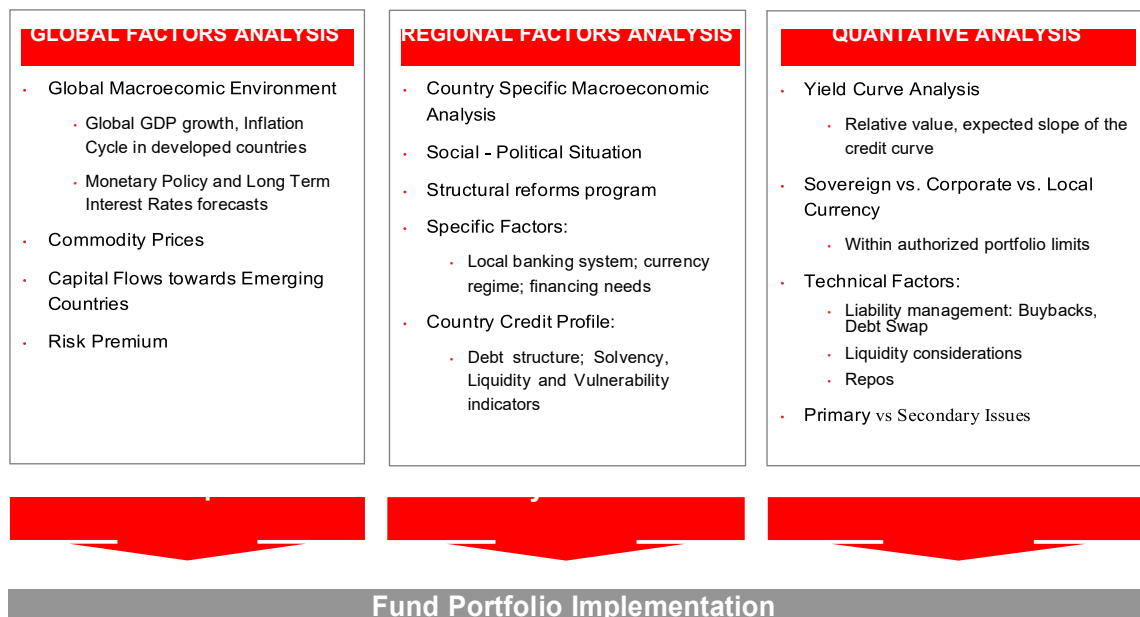
### Investment Process

In order to determine specific investment opportunities within selected sectors, countries or regions, a broad analysis of macroeconomic facts is conducted. Following that, the analysis is focused on different asset classes and finally on individual securities or assets and their implementation in portfolios or mandates.



A single coordinated team, with **multiple processes** designed for each specific asset, geography and mandate

## A three step approach



## Risk Management

### Market Risk

In order to measure and control market risk, we arrange:

- ✓ Aladdin, application developed by BlackRock to calculate parametric and historical VaR. Internal developments to stress testings

### Credit Risk

In order to measure and control credit risk, we arrange:

- ✓ Internal developments to measure and control mutual fund exposure by issuer, rating and/or industry group
- ✓ Internal developments to measure and control global exposure by issuer

### Liquidity Risk

In order to measure and control liquidity risk, we arrange:

- ✓ Internal developments to calculate Mutual Fund's effective liquidity.
- ✓ Internal developments to calculate Fund of Funds' availability ratio, according to all the facts that take part in the process of effective settlement of the holdings.

The risk analysis we carry out covers different sources of suspense for each fund verifying fulfilments for the established parameters in the management term. To summarize, we can highlight the following points of control, which are made periodically

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(daily, weekly and monthly) by the Risk and Pricing Control Department.

#### 1.1. Control of investment policies

An in-house tool application has been developed that allows configuring on a daily basis the investment policies in addition to portfolio information provided by the managers and control the compliance of policies defined for investment funds: type of assets, markets, currencies, minimum ratings, etc. In addition, Aladdin also has a control module.

Asset Management Control is, furthermore, the mediator for the Depositary in the event of any breaches detected and is in charge of its monitoring and implementing measures to normalize their situation.

#### 1.2. Control of exposure levels

The policies can be expressed in terms of strategic exposure thresholds. These exposure thresholds represent, therefore, a structure of minimum / maximum exposure levels in variable and fixed income and, in the case of the latter, it also establishes limits by modified duration.

It performs a daily control of exposure levels and the information is integrated with the rest of operational controls performed in order to obtain a complete vision, by the fund and manager, of the level of compliance with legal, operational and risk thresholds.

#### 1.3 Value at Risk

The exposure of IIC is monitored to market risk in accordance with methodologies for calculating the risk value. This is, the estimated maximum loss of a portfolio for a given time horizon and a certain trust level using determined periodicities and methodologies based on the nature of funds, the type of instruments and assets in which they are invested as well as their management philosophy.

#### 1.4. Back-testing

Back-testings are used as a mechanism for verifying the validity of VaR estimates performed, a back-testing analysis is performed periodically, which compares if the number of exceptions performed in a year - i.e.: number of days in a year in which losses performed exceed the estimated VaR – complies with the trust level used in the VaR calculation.

Possible deviations are monitored and recorded each time the VaR of portfolios is



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calculated and Internal Audit certifies the reasonability of results at least once a year.

#### 1.5. Stress Testing

On the other hand, scenarios based on actual past market crisis situations are established and subjected to the current portfolios and fluctuations suffered by these assets or other similar characteristics. The goal is to quantify the sensitivity of current portfolios to events of the same calibre.

The mentioned controls are performed periodically (daily, weekly and monthly) by the Risks and Valuation Control Department.

There are internal control procedures that describe in detail how to proceed for every specific problem that may arise.

#### Evaluation of performance of the portfolio:

Every week the control department compares the returns (net and gross of fees) of each subfund with the returns obtained by the corresponding benchmark assigned to each subfund and the competition. The calculation also includes risk measures like beta, tracking error etc. On a monthly basis the PM's get performance attribution data for their main funds.

Inside the control area, of SAM Group there is a specific department for performance measurement (Performance and Portfolio Analysis). In this case, the tool used is FACSET, and the performance measurement is based on net and gross return, which indicates whether the return is calculated after deducting all applicable fees and expenses or not.

On a weekly frequency, the gross and net of fees return of each portfolio is compared to that of its benchmark, for different time periods (1month, YTD, 1year, etc.). Some performance ratios (such as Sharpe, Treynor, Information) are also calculated to provide more detail on risk-adjusted performance.

With the same frequency, an analysis against competitors is performed based on net and gross of fees return, to obtain the quartile and percentile of the portfolio, in order to make an analysis against its main competitors denominated analysis over peer group.

The performance analysis is sent weekly to the Portfolio managers and the Board of Directors. Those figures are discussed in the Directors Committee when scheduled.

### **Item 9 – Disciplinary Information**

Registered investment advisers are required to disclose all material facts regarding any

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legal or disciplinary events that would be material to your evaluation of SAM or the integrity of SAM's management. SAM has the following information applicable to this Item:

On August 2, 2011, by Order entered by the Ministry of Economy and Taxes, a fine was imposed upon SAM in the amount of €14.000.000 due to an alleged infringement of the article 80.n) from the law 35/2003, dated November 4th of Collective Investment Schemes originated in 2003, relating to the income, fees and costs regime of 2 Investment Funds. On October 18, 2011, SAM filed appeal against the Order before the Audiencia Nacional. The fine was temporarily held on December 1, 2011, until the process was ended.

On December 14, 2012, the Audiencia Nacional rejected the above-mentioned appeal. On March 2013, "SAM" filed an appeal to the Spanish Supreme Court. The Spanish Supreme Court issued its Final Judgment on September 29, 2015. The Court ratified the fine of 14.000.000 EUR imposed by previous instances. Final decision was issued by the Supreme Court in September 2015 and payment was made in February 2016.

#### **Item 10 – Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations**

SAM has arrangements with related persons that are material to its advisory business or to its clients. SAM has brokerage arrangements with BANCO SANTANDER SA; sub-management agreements and Sub-advisory agreements with Santander Private Banking Gestion, S.A., S.G.I.I.C. and Santander Asset Management UK Ltd; trading agreement with the futures trading desk of Banco Santander SA; and certain agreements with Banco Santander SA.

#### **Item 11 – Code of Ethics**

SAM has adopted a Code of Ethics for all supervised persons of the firm describing its high standard of business conduct, and fiduciary duty to its clients. The Code of Ethics includes provisions relating to the confidentiality of client information, a prohibition on insider trading, a prohibition of rumormongering, restrictions on the acceptance of significant gifts and the reporting of certain gifts and business entertainment items, and personal securities trading procedures, among other things. All supervised persons at SAM must acknowledge the terms of the Code of Ethics annually, or as amended.

SAM anticipates that, in appropriate circumstances, consistent with clients' investment objectives, it will cause accounts over which SAM has management authority to effect and will recommend to investment advisory clients or prospective clients, the purchase or sale of securities in which SAM, its affiliates and/or clients, directly or indirectly, have a position of interest. SAM's employees and persons associated with SAM are required to follow SAM's Code of Ethics. Subject to satisfying this policy and applicable laws, officers,

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directors and employees of SAM and its affiliates may trade for their own accounts in securities, which are recommended to and/or purchased for SAM's clients. The Code of Ethics is designed to assure that the personal securities transactions, activities and interests of the employees of SAM will not interfere with (i) making decisions in the best interest of advisory clients and (ii) implementing such decisions while, at the same time, allowing employees to invest for their own accounts. Under the Code certain classes of securities have been designated as exempt transactions, based upon a determination that these would materially not interfere with the best interest of SAM's clients. In addition, the Code requires pre-clearance of many transactions, and restricts trading in close proximity to client trading activity. Nonetheless, because the Code of Ethics in some circumstances would permit employees to invest in the same securities as clients, there is a possibility that employees might benefit from market activity by a client in a security held by an employee. Employee trading is continually monitored under the Code of Ethics, and to reasonably prevent conflicts of interest between SAM and its clients. It is SAM's policy that the firm will not affect any principal or agency cross securities transactions for client accounts. SAM will also not cross trades between client accounts.

SAM's clients or prospective clients may request a copy of the firm's Code of Ethics by contacting Miguel Ángel Olvera at [miguel.olvera@santanderam.com](mailto:miguel.olvera@santanderam.com)

#### **Item 12 – Brokerage Practices**

SAM does not recommend broker-dealers directly to its clients. SAM uses broker-dealers pursuant to written policies and procedures for the selection, monitoring and evaluation of broker-dealers established by SAM. The criteria considered for selecting broker-dealers is based on qualitative and quantitative factors, including, but not limited to the value of the research provided to SAM, financial responsibility, trading expertise, broker-dealer infrastructure, commission rates and trading costs.

#### **Item 13 – Review of Accounts**

SAM does not review client accounts or financial plans.

SAM sends portfolio statements electronically on a monthly and quarterly basis which includes information regarding account holdings. On a semi-annual basis (quarterly, if so requested by the client), account statements which detail account holdings, commissions, investment policies and objectives and account portfolio returns.

#### **Item 14 – Client Referrals and Other Compensation**

Not applicable.

#### **Item 15 – Custody**

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SAM does not hold custody accounts for its clients. Clients should receive at least quarterly statements from the broker dealer, bank or other qualified custodian that holds and maintains client's investment assets. SAM urges you to carefully review such statements and compare such official custodial records to the account statements that we may provide to you. Our statements may vary from custodial statements based on accounting procedures, reporting dates, or valuation methodologies of certain securities.

#### **Item 16 – Investment Discretion**

SAM may receive discretionary authority from clients at the outset of an advisory relationship to select the identity and amount of securities to be bought or sold. In all cases, however, such discretion is to be exercised in a manner consistent with the stated investment objectives for the particular client account.

When selecting securities and determining amounts, SAM observes the investment policies, limitations and restrictions of the clients for which it advises. For registered investment companies, SAM's authority to trade securities may also be limited by certain federal securities and tax laws that require diversification of investments and favor the holding of investments once made.

Investment guidelines and restrictions must be provided to SAM in writing.

#### **Item 17 – Voting *Client* Securities**

As a matter of firm policy and practice, SAM does not have any authority to and does not vote proxies on behalf of advisory clients. Clients retain the responsibility for receiving and voting proxies for any and all securities maintained in client portfolios.

#### **Item 18 – Financial Information**

Registered investment advisers are required in this Item to provide you with certain financial information or disclosures about SAM's financial condition. SAM has no financial commitment that impairs its ability to meet contractual and fiduciary commitments to clients and has not been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.

#### **Item 19 – Requirements for State-Registered Advisers**

Not applicable.