## FISHER INVESTMENTS EUROPE ™

Automobile Industry & Electric Vehicle Trends

### **AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY OUTLOOK**

- Recent Automobile industry outperformance is largely from Tesla highlighting the rise of the Electric Vehicles (EVs) trends.
- While we recognise the large potential growth for EV, we initially saw some signs of euphoria. Despite many EV businesses remaining small and unprofitable, small start-up companies' share prices skyrocketed.
- Overall, the Automobile industry is part of the Consumer Discretionary sector, which is
  mostly traditionally value-oriented and cyclical. The Discretionary sector usually
  outperforms during the early stages of bull markets when yield curves are steep and
  profit growth is strong.
- The Automobile industry is similar to the sector, but with even more extreme cyclical characteristics due to heavy competition, credit-sensitive consumers and the narrowest gross margins in the sector.
- We believe the market is currently in the later stages of a bull market because the March 2020 drawdown functionally behaved more like a large correction than a traditional bear market. Consequently, we currently prefer less exposure to automakers, preferring to focus exposure to industries with higher gross margins, less competition and higher-quality earnings growth.

### AN EV ILLUSION WITHIN THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Removing EV outlier Tesla shows recent broad industry outperformance is misleading. In our view, traditional auto companies exhibit value-oriented characteristics whereas pure EV automakers display more growth-oriented characteristics.



Source: FactSet, USD, daily total return based on MSCI indexes as of May 2021. Index 1 = Dec 2019.

### LATE CYCLE EUPHORIA IN EVS

2020 had record breaking levels for SPAC offerings, with numerous activities coming out of the EV space. Many of these companies experienced euphoria-like returns shortly after their SPAC announcements. Performance spiked early but has since given up ground.



Source: FactSet, USD, daily total return, as of May 2021.

Mar 2020

SPAC Announcement

Jun 2020 Sep 2020 Dec 2020

Aug 2020

Jun 2021

Mar 2021

SPAC Announcement

Nov 2020

Feb 2021

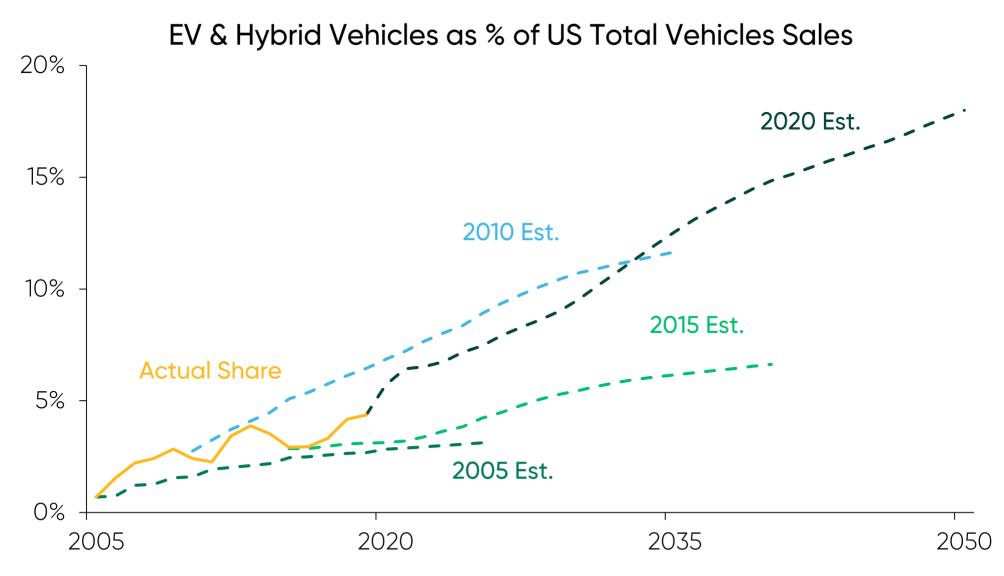
May 2021

## A FUNDAMENTAL LOOK AT EV SPACE

- Despite some signs of euphoria in the EV industry, examining demand growth and renewable technological advances at a macro level helps our understanding of EV potential opportunities and associated risks.
- Globally, governments have continually focused their attention on the use of lightduty EVs as a replacement mode of transportation with the intent to reduce greenhouse gas emissions – driving rising trajectory of EV sales and estimates.
- The EV trend has initially benefitted tremendously from government incentives and subsidies but future expectations of robust EV demand have significant policy risk.
- Increasing competition from traditional automakers ramping up EV production point to future industry shakeout.
- Finding the balance between R&D and profitability will be critical for every automotive company looking to survive in the EV space.

### **GROWTH OF GLOBAL EV SALES**

While EV sales penetration is only around 3% currently, the rate is expected to reach 30% in the next 10 years according to some estimates. Notably in the US, demand for EV and Hybrid vehicles as a percent of total vehicles sales has outpaced some EIA's projections.

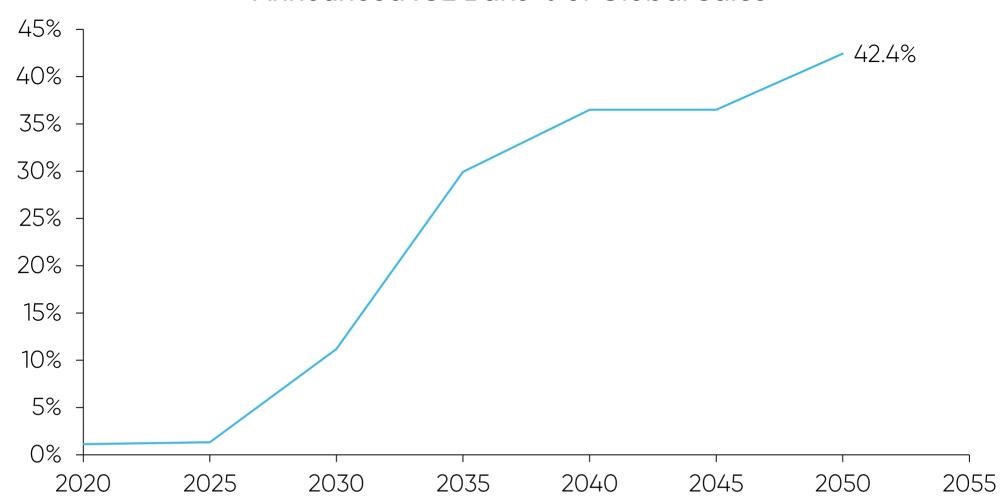


Source: EIA & Department of Energy Transportation Energy Data Book, as of December 2019. Dotted lines represents projections made at different points in time.

### EV GROWTH SENSITIVE TO REGULATORY & POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

By 2050, we estimate that vehicle standards banning the sale of new internal combustion engine (ICE) will affect 42.4% of global vehicle sales. The EV industry should benefit from this as well as other global de-carbonisation efforts. However, uncertainties in environmental regulations still remain high and may impact EV growth.

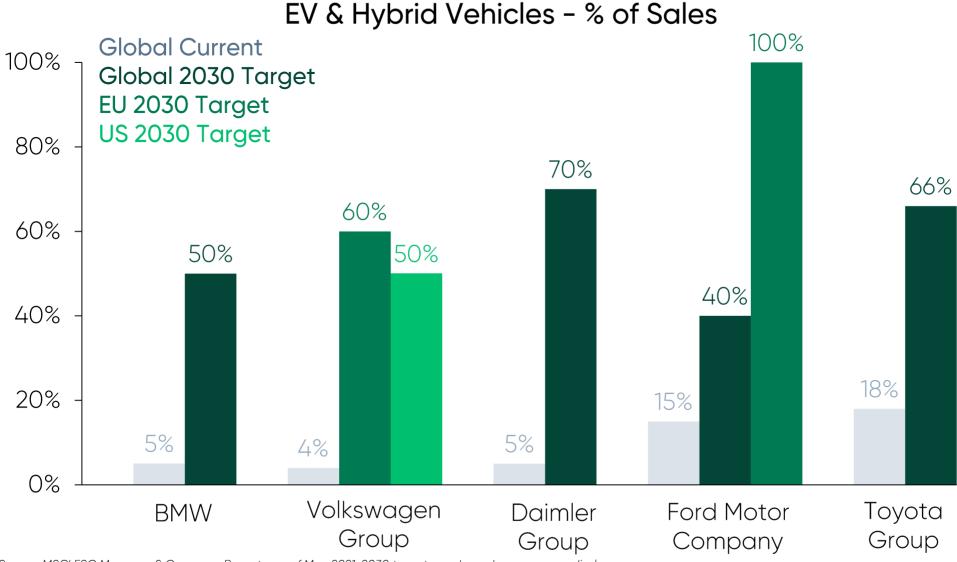
### **Announced ICE Bans % of Global Sales**



Source: Fisher Investments Research based on country-level ICE bans announced.

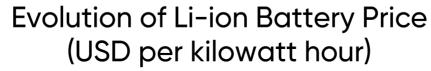
### INCREASING COMPETITION IN THE EV SPACE

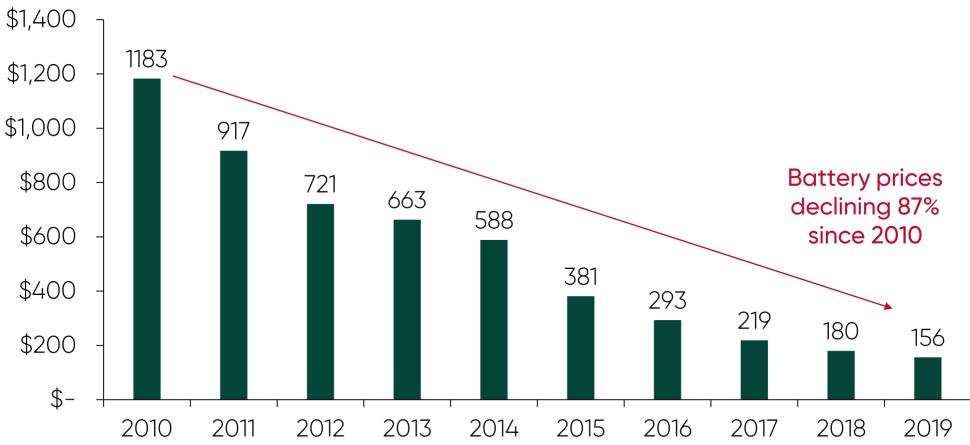
As first-mover advantage, Tesla currently enjoys the largest market share in EV, but analysts expect traditional automakers to take leadership in few years. The EV industry is becoming extremely competitive with heavy investments from the traditional automakers. Major automakers all have set ambitious EV sales target by 2030.



### THE EV ROAD TO PROFITABILITY

EVs are becoming more affordable for consumers as battery costs have declined -87% in the last 10 years on improving technology. However, currently the cost of EVs is still higher than for ICE vehicles and EV business remains unprofitable for most automakers. Recent semiconductor shortages and production facility shutdowns are further complicating the situation.





Source: International Energy Agency, as of Jun 2020.

### **DISCLOSURES**

### FIRM

This material may also be found posted on the Fisher Investments Europe web-site at <a href="www.fisherinvestmentseurope.com">www.fisherinvestmentseurope.com</a>. If your firm wishes to be removed from receiving these materials in the future or wishes to pay for this material, please contact Fisher Investments Europe.

Fisher Investments Ireland Limited, trading as Fisher Investments Europe (FIE) is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. Fisher Investments Ireland Limited and its trading name Fisher Investments Europe are registered with the Companies Registration Office in Ireland under numbers 623847 and 629724. Fisher Asset Management, LLC, trading as Fisher Investments (FI) is an investment adviser registered with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission. FIE is wholly-owned by FI, which is wholly-owned by Fisher Investments, Inc. This document has been approved and is being communicated by Fisher Investments Ireland Limited.

Fisher Investments (FI) is a U.S. investment adviser registered with the securities and Exchange Commission. As of 31 March 2021, FI and its subsidiaries managed or sub-managed over \$168 billion. FI and its subsidiaries maintain four principal business units – Fisher Investments Institutional Group (FIIG), Fisher Investments Private Client Group (FIPCG), Fisher Investments International (FII), and Fisher Investments 401(k) Solutions Group (401(k) Solutions). These groups serve a global client base of diverse investors including corporations, public and multi-employer pension funds, foundations and endowments, insurance companies, healthcare organisations, governments and high-net-worth individuals. FI's Investment Policy Committee (IPC) is responsible for investment decisions for all investment strategies.

FI is wholly owned by Fisher Investments, Inc. Since inception, Fisher Investments, Inc. has been 100% Fisher-family and employee owned. FIE outsources portfolio management to FI. FI's Investment Policy Committee is responsible for all strategic investment decisions. The Fisher Joint Investment Oversight Committee (IOC) is responsible for overseeing FI's management of portfolios that have been delegated to FI.

The foregoing information constitutes the general views of Fisher Investments and its subsidiaries and should not be regarded as personalised investment advice or a reflection of the performance of Fisher Investments and its subsidiaries or its clients. Investing in financial markets involves the risk of loss and there is no guarantee that all or any capital invested will be repaid. Past performance is never a guarantee nor reliable indicator of future results. Other methods may produce different results, and the results for individual portfolios or different periods may vary depending on market conditions and the composition of a portfolio or index. The value of investments and the income from them will fluctuate with world financial markets and international currency exchange rates. If you have asked us to comment on a particular security then the information should not be considered a recommendation to purchase or sell the security for you or anyone else. We provide our general comments to you based on information we believe to be reliable. There can be no assurances that we will continue to hold this view; and we may change our views at any time based on new information, analysis or reconsideration. Some of the information we have produced for you may have been obtained from a third party source that is not affiliated with Fisher Investments or its subsidiaries. We request that this information be used for your confidential and personal use.

For purposes of defining "years with Fisher Investments," FI was established as a sole proprietorship in 1979, incorporated in 1986, registered with the US SEC in 1987, replacing the prior registration of the sole proprietorship, and succeeded its investment adviser registration to a limited liability company in 2005. "Years with Fisher Investments" is calculated using the date on which FI was established as a sole proprietorship through 31 March 2021.

### 1. Fisher Investments Europe

Fisher Investments Ireland Limited is a private limited company incorporated in Ireland that trades under the name Fisher Investments Europe ("Fisher Investments Europe"). Fisher Investments Ireland Limited and its trading name Fisher Investments Europe are registered with the Companies Registration Office in Ireland under numbers 623847 and 629724. Fisher Investments Europe's registered address is: 2nd Floor, 3 George's Dock, International Financial Services Centre, Dublin 1, D01 X5X0 Ireland. Fisher Investments Europe is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland ("CBI"). You can check this on the CBI's register by visiting the CBI's website http://registers.centralbank.ie/ or by contacting the CBI at +35312246000. The CBI's address is New Wapping Street, North Wall Quay, North Dock, Dublin 1, D01 F7X3, Ireland.

#### 2. Communications

Fisher Investments Europe can be contacted by mail at Second Floor, 3 George's Dock, IFSC, D01 X5X0 Dublin 1 Ireland; by telephone on +353 (0) 1 4876510; or by email to institutional@fisherinvestments.co.ir. All communications with Fisher Investments Europe will be in English only. Fisher Investments Europe's web address is https://institutional.fisherinvestments.com/en-ie. Fisher Investments Europe is required to record telephone conversations that relate to activities in financial instruments; accordingly, certain telephone calls between you and Fisher Investments Europe will be recorded.

#### Services

These Terms of Business explain the services offered to professional clients and will apply from when Fisher Investments Europe begins to advise you. Fisher Investments Europe offers restricted advice only (meaning it does not offer independent advice based on an analysis of the whole of the market and does not recommend investment management services of companies other than Fisher Investments Europe or its affiliates). As part of its services, Fisher Investments Europe seeks to:

- a) Reasonably determine your client categorisation;
- b) Understand your financial circumstances and investment aims to determine whether the full discretionary investment service described in Clause 4 and the proposed investment mandate and accompanying benchmark(s) (or an Undertaking for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities ("UCITS") with a similar mandate and benchmark for which Fisher Investments Europe's parent company serves as investment manager) are suitable for you;
- c) Explain features of the investment strategy;
- d) Describe investment performance as it relates to the investment strateay:
- e) Provide a full explanation of costs;
- f) Assist in the completion of documentation;
- a) Where specifically gareed, review your position periodically and suggest adjustments where appropriate,

Fisher Investments Europe is conducting business in the European Economic Area (EEA) on a cross-border basis.

Fisher Investments Europe will not provide ongoing services unless you enter into an agreement for discretionary investment management services or invest in a UCITS as described in Clause 4.

#### 4. Discretionary Investment Management Service and Investments

To help you achieve your financial goals, Fisher Investments Europe may offer its discretionary investment management services. In such case, Fisher Investments Europe will outsource the portfolio management function and may outsource servicing and trading functions to its affiliates. In particular, the portfolio management function will be outsourced to Fisher Investment Europe's parent company, Fisher Asset Management, LLC, trading as Fisher Investments ("Fisher Investments"), which is based in the USA and is regulated by the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Client servicing functions may be carried out by Fisher Investments Europe, its affiliate, Fisher Investments Europe Limited, trading as Fisher Investments UK ("Fisher Investments UK"), which is based in the UK and is regulated by the UK Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), or other affiliates. In addition, trading functions may be carried out by Fisher Investments Europe, its affiliate, Fisher Investments Luxembourg, Sàrl ("FIL"), which is based in Luxembourg and is regulated by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF), Fisher Investments, or other affiliates (each, a "Trading Delegate"). Fisher Investments Europe may also outsource certain ancillary services to Fisher Investments, Fisher investments UK, or other affiliates.

Subject to applicable regulations, for qualified investors Fisher Investments Europe may recommend an investment in UCITS regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland and for which Fisher Investments serves as investment manager.

#### 5. Client Categorisation

Fisher Investment's Europe deals with both retail clients and professional clients. All clients and potential clients who deal with Fisher Investment Europe's institutional directors (sales) ("Institutional Directors"), will be treated as professional clients, either through qualification as a professional client or, in the case of local municipal authorities, through opting up to be treated as a professional client. Accordingly, you are categorised as a professional client. You have the right to request re-categorisation as a retail client which offers a higher degree of regulatory protection, but Fisher Investments Europe does not normally agree to requests of this kind.

#### 6. Investor Compensation Scheme ("ICS")

Whilst the activities of Fisher Investments Europe are covered by the ICS, compensation under the ICS in the event Fisher Investments Europe is unable to meet its liabilities because of its financial circumstances is only available to eligible claimants. Because you have been categorised as a professional client, you are unlikely to be eligible. In addition, the protections of the ICS, do not apply in relation to the services of Fisher Investments UK, FIL, Fisher Investments or any affiliates or entities located outside of Ireland. In addition, to the extent your assets are invested in non-Irish funds or ETFs, these protections will not apply. In the event you are eligible and do have a valid claim, the ICS may pay 90% of net loss up to a maximum of €20,000. You can contact Fisher Investments Europe or the ICS (www.investorcompensation.ie/) in order to obtain more information regarding the conditions governing compensation and the formalities which must be completed to obtain compensation.

#### 7. Risks

Investments in securities present numerous risks, including various market and currency fluctuation, political, economic and political instability, differences in financial reporting, liquidity risk, interest rate risk, credit risk, and other risks, and can be very volatile.

Investing in securities can result in a loss, including a loss of principal. Using leverage to purchase and maintain larger security positions will increase exposure to market volatility and risk of loss and is not recommended. Investments in securities are only suitable for clients who are capable of undertaking and bearing a risk of loss. Specific risks associated with particular types of securities that may be held in your account are explained further below.

Past performance is not a guarantee nor a reliable indicator of future investment returns. Fisher Investments Europe cannot guarantee and makes no representation or warranty as to future investment returns or performance. There is no guarantee for avoidance of loss, which is impossible with investments in securities, and you have not received any such guarantee or similar warranty from Fisher Investments Europe or any representatives thereof.

Depending on your investment strategy, Fisher Investments Europe may invest in the following types of securities, which carry the following risks:

Investments in smaller companies may involve greater risks than investments in larger, more mature companies. Investing in derivatives could lose more than the principal amount invested in those instruments. Various investment techniques used by Fisher Investments Europe may increase these risks if market conditions are not accurately predicted.

Equity securities prices may fluctuate in response to many factors, including general market conditions, specific sector and country issues, and company specific information or investor sentiment. Individual equity securities may lose essentially all their value in the event of bankruptcy or other insolvencies of the underlying issuer.

Fixed income securities are subject to various risks, including price fluctuation due to changes in the interest rate environment, market liquidity, changes in credit quality of the issuer, prepayment or call features of the securities, and other factors, including issuer default. While some fixed income securities are backed by the full faith and credit of a sovereign government, this does not prevent price fluctuations nor fully eliminate the risk of default. If fixed income securities are not held to maturity, they may realise losses.

Using borrowed funds to purchase and maintain larger security positions will increase exposure to market volatility. In a declining market, investment losses may be substantially increased, occur more rapidly, or become realised. Fisher Investments Europe does not typically employ margin leverage (gearing) on the overall strategy, but may employ some leverage directly or indirectly as a defensive technique (e.g. margin borrowing of securities to sell short for hedging purposes), or indirectly on a limited basis through individual derivative securities, as described more fully below.

If Fisher Investments forecasts a prolonged and substantial market downturn, Fisher Investments Europe may adopt defensive posturing for your account by investing substantially in fixed income securities, money market instruments, structured or exchange traded notes, put options or other derivatives on securities or indexes or ETFs, selling short securities or ETFs, and other hedging techniques. There can be no guarantee that Fisher Investments will accurately forecast any prolonged and substantial downturn in the market, that Fisher Investments Europe will adopt a defensive strategy, or that the use of defensive techniques would avoid losses.

Derivatives typically derive their value from the performance of an underlying asset, interest rates or index. The price movements of derivatives may be more volatile than those of other securities and result in increased investment risk. Many of these investments may not enjoy as much liquidity as other securities.

Short sales may be used to fully or partially hedge other investments or to seek returns unrelated to other investments. "Short sales" means the borrowing of a security for a period of time and selling the borrowed security on the market; the seller is then required to buy the security on the market at a later time before it is due to be returned. Short sales result in gains or losses depending on whether the price of the security increases versus the price at the time of the short sale (which results in a loss) or decreases versus the price at the time of the short sale (which results in a gain). The loss from a short sale is theoretically unlimited depending on how much the security sold short increases in value.

Structured notes and ETNs are debt instruments whose return is derived from the performance of a reference index or other underlying securities or investments. The performance of a note is determined primarily by the performance of the underlying investments; therefore, despite technically being a corporate debt instrument, notes can be designed to provide returns similar to other asset classes. These notes may include leverage, which increases risk and volatility. These notes are issued by third-party financial institutions, at the request of Fisher Investments, and thus bear the credit risk of those entities. Whilst a feature of such notes is a maturity date, they may be sold in the market or redeemed with the issuer before maturity. Given the limited number of market makers involved in quoting a given note, price dislocation versus fair value may occur should limit orders not be utilised when sold in the open market. Alternatively, such notes may be redeemed daily back to the issuer, minus a redemption fee specific to each issuer (generally close to 0.10%), implicitly charged in the execution price.

#### 8. Data Protection

To offer and provide the services described in Clause 3, Fisher Investments Europe may collect and process personal data that is subject to data protection laws, in accordance with its Privacy & Cookie Policy. You acknowledge the Privacy & Cookie Policy, which can be found here: https://institutional.fisherinyestments.com/en-je/privacy

#### 9. Custody and Execution

None of the Fisher Investments group companies (the "Fisher Group"), including Fisher Investments Europe, are authorised to hold client money. No Fisher Group company will accept cheques made payable to any of the Fisher Group companies in respect of investments, nor will they handle cash. All client assets are held at external custodian banks where each client has a direct account in their own name.

If you appoint Fisher Investments Europe as your discretionary asset manager, Fisher Investments Europe will arrange (including through its Trading Delegates) for the execution of transactions through selected custodian banks and brokers and at such prices and commissions that it determines in good faith will be in your best interests. Further information regarding selection of brokers is governed by your investment management agreement ("IMA") with Fisher Investments Europe. Fisher Investments Europe does not structure or charge its fees in such a way as to discriminate unfairly between execution venues

The brokers and dealers to which your transactions may be allocated will use various execution venues, including without limitation:

- a) Regulated Markets in the USA or elsewhere (usually those exchanges where companies have their primary listing and other exchanges on which their securities are admitted to trading);
- b) Multi-Lateral Trading Facilities ("MTF") and Organised Trading Facilities ("OTF") in the USA or elsewhere (i.e. a multilateral system, operated by an investment firm or a market operator, which brings together multiple third-party buying and selling interests in financial instruments—in the system and in accordance with non-discretionary rules—in a way that results in a contract):
- c) Systematic Internalisers (which are investment firms dealing as principal and providing liquidity on a systematic basis):
- d) Other liquidity providers that have similar functions to any of the above:
- e) Counterparties that may access the above venues on behalf of Fisher Investments Europe and/or its Trading Delegates (or their clients) or trade on their own account.

You must be notified and approve of any off-venue trades prior to execution unless previously agreed to by you directly with the custodian. As a result of brokers/dealers using the execution venues mentioned above, your transactions may be executed on an execution venue that is neither a regulated market in the European Union nor an MTF/OTF in the European Union and therefore you will be required to expressly consent to the execution policy of Fisher Investments Europe by signing the IMA.

Fisher Investments Europe's top five trading venues are listed on its website.

Generally, financial instruments will not be affected if a custodian bank suspends payments or goes bankrupt. This is due to the fact that you will normally be able to take possession of your financial instruments based on the bank's registration of your rights. Generally, it is only if the bank fails to handle your financial instruments or register your rights correctly where you may not be able to take possession of the financial instruments.

If you appoint Fisher Investments Europe as your discretionary asset manager, you will receive a periodic statement every calendar quarter. This statement compares the performance of your account with that of a relevant benchmark in order to facilitate the assessment of performance achieved by the account. For performance, management fee calculation and reporting purposes, exchange traded equity securities are valued based upon the price on the exchange or market on which they trade as of the close of business of such exchange or market. All equity securities that are not traded on a listed exchange are valued using a modelled estimate of the bid price, also known as a bid evaluation, provided by Fisher Investments Europe's primary pricing service. Fixed income securities are valued based on market quotations or a bid evaluation provided by Fisher Investments Europe's primary pricing service. All securities are valued daily given a price from Fisher Investments Europe's primary pricing service is provided; otherwise, all securities are valued on at least a monthly basis.

#### 10 Conflicts of Interest

Fisher Investments Europe has a conflicts of interest policy to identify, manage and disclose conflicts of interest Fisher Investments Europe, its affiliates or any of their employees or representatives may have with a client of Fisher Investments Europe or that may exist between two clients of Fisher Investments Europe's conflicts of interest policy covers gifts and favours outside employment client privacy inadvertent custody marketing and sales activities recommendations and advice and discretionary investment management services. Institutional Directors of Fisher Investments Europe are paid a variable component of their total remuneration, calculated as a percentage by reference to management fees paid to Fisher Investments Europe during the first three to ten years of a client relationship. Such remuneration will not increase or impact the fees payable by you. Fisher Investments Europe and Fisher Investments have a financial incentive for Fisher Investments. Furgoe to manage client assets. Details on Fisher Investments Furgoe's conflicts of interest policy are available on request

#### 11. Fees

If you enter into an IMA with Fisher Investments Europe, you will pay management fees to Fisher Investments Europe as detailed in the IMA. Fisher Investments Europe will pay a portion of such management fees to Fisher Investments as the sub-manager. If you invest in a UCITS fund managed by Fisher Investments. Fisher Investments will receive its management fee indirectly through the UCITS. Fisher Investments Furone does not charge a separate fee for its introducing or distribution services. You will also incur transaction and custody fees charged by brokers and custodians. However, any such additional fees will be payable directly to those brokers/custodians and no Fisher Group company will receive any commission or other remuneration from those brokers/custodians

#### 12. Termination

If you wish to cease using the services of Fisher Investments Europe at any time, then send notification in writing and the arrangement will cease in accordance with the IMA. However, if a transaction is in the middle of being arranged on your behalf at that time and it is too late to unwind it, then the transaction may need to be completed first

Fisher Investments Furope seeks to provide a high standard of service to clients at all times. If you have a complaint about services by Fisher Investments Furope or its affiliates, please contact.

by writing to: Head of Compliance

> Fisher Investments Ireland Limited Second Floor, 3 George's Dock, IFSC

D01 X5X0 Dublin 1 Ireland

+353 (0) 1 4876510 or by callina:

Subsequently, you may have a right to complain directly to the Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman ("FSPO"), A copy of Fisher Investment Europe's complaints handling procedure is available on request. Further details in respect of FSPO can be found at this website; https://www.fspo.ie/make-a-complaint/.

#### 14. Governing Law

These Terms of Business are governed by, and will be construed in accordance with, the laws of Ireland.

# FISHER INVESTMENTS EUROPE TO THE TOTAL TOTAL TO THE TOTAL TOTAL TO THE TOTAL TO THE TOTAL THE TOTAL TO T