



February 4<sup>th</sup> 2009

### **METLIFE ADDS AWARD-WINNING ETHICAL FUND TO INVESTMENT RANGE**

MetLife Europe Limited (MetLife) has added the award-winning Aegon Ethical Equity Fund to the investment range available via its Guaranteed Investment Bond, Retirement Portfolio and Self Invested Personal Pension (SIPP) products.

The fund, which won the ethical category in the Money Observer Awards 2007 and 2008, invests in UK equities using 'dark green' ethical criteria, which gives it a focus on mid and small cap stocks. The fund is managed by AAA-rated manager Audrey Ryan and has an AA rating by Old Broad Street Research. It avoids investing in companies deemed harmful to people, animals or the environment. Benchmarked against the Investment Management Association's UK All Companies sector and the FTSE All-Share, the fund returned 37.5% over the five years to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008, making it top quartile over the period.<sup>1</sup>

Peter Carter, Head of Product Marketing at MetLife, commented: "We have received a tremendous number of inquiries about ethical funds from investors, whose interest in the ethical aspects of investment is rapidly increasing.

"We carried out due diligence on a number of ethical funds and this one proved to be the most appropriate by far. It will add even more value to our products, which give investors access to a broad spectrum of asset classes and sectors through the expertise of professional fund managers."

Investors in MetLife's Guaranteed Investment Bond and pension products are given access to the MetLife fund list, which enables investors to create diversified investment portfolios suitable for personal investment goals and risk profiles. The list now offers 40 'best of breed' funds from 11 providers and six index funds. There are also five managed portfolios and five index portfolios that provide investors with a choice of ready-made and actively-managed asset allocations. Initial charges are waived on the funds and MetLife rebates its share of the annual management charge on the fund. Morningstar Associates Europe Limited<sup>2</sup> is employed as a consultant to construct and maintain the fund range.

MetLife's Guaranteed Investment Bond and pension products also offer unit-linked guarantees that provide an excellent balance between giving exposure to equities, which usually provide the best returns in the long term, and offering the safety net that investors look for in other asset classes. By consulting with their financial advisers, investors can balance their appetite for risk with the potential for high long-term growth.

The MetLife Guaranteed Investment Bond is one of the first investment bonds to offer capital, withdrawal and death benefit guarantees with the potential for clients to lock-in gains every two-and-a-half years and always receive back at least the amount invested minus any withdrawals.

MetLife has seen strong sales and levels of interest from advisers since it launched its Guaranteed Investment Bond last month and believes 2009 will be the year of the guarantee.

Its NEW Retirement Portfolio provides unique guarantees which protect the client's fund value against markets falling, the potential to lock in market gains on each three year anniversary and guarantees income for life. For more information advisers should go to [www.metlife.co.uk/rp](http://www.metlife.co.uk/rp).

It provides fully flexible retirement benefits, offering the ability to consolidate, take full drawdown, partial drawdown and phased drawdown. Clients can choose a lump sum death benefit if required and auto-fund rebalancing on selected funds.

Features include accepting protected rights, transfers, regular and single contributions from employers and employees, and the ability to convert into a Self-Invested Personal Pension at any time. The Retirement Portfolio is factory-gate priced and adapted for customer agreed remuneration. There is no establishment charge unless initial commission is funded that way.

MetLife is an affiliate of US-based MetLife, Inc., a leading global insurance and financial services organisation which counts the U.S.'s largest life insurer among its subsidiaries. The organisation is renowned for its stability, financial strength and security, and had over \$558.6 billion (around £283 billion) of total assets at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007.

<sup>1</sup>Source: Aegon Asset Management/Lipper Hindsight, % growth, total return excluding initial charges, GBP, net of Basic Rate Tax, A(acc) shares

<sup>2</sup>Morningstar Associates Europe Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Morningstar, Inc., a leading provider of independent investment research with over 20 years of experience working with the investment management industry

## **Notes to Editors**

### **About MetLife Europe Limited**

MetLife is the trading name of MetLife Europe Limited, an affiliate of the global financial organisation MetLife, Inc. MetLife Europe Limited is an Irish company authorised by the Irish Financial Services Regulatory Authority and regulated by the Financial Services Authority for the conduct of its UK insurance business. MetLife Europe Limited operates under the MetLife brand name, and has the ability to do business in any of the EU member states. In the UK, MetLife Europe Limited works solely with Financial Advisers to help deliver retirement and long-term savings solutions. Services are delivered from MetLife Europe Limited's head office in Ireland, and from UK offices in London and Salisbury. For more information about MetLife Europe Limited, please visit the company's website at [www.metlife.co.uk](http://www.metlife.co.uk).

MetLife, Inc., through its affiliates, serves approximately 70 million customers in the Americas, Asia Pacific and Europe. Affiliated companies, outside of the U.K., include the number one life insurer in the United States, with over 140 years of experience and relationships with over 90 of the top one hundred FORTUNE 500® companies. The MetLife companies offer life insurance, annuities, automobile and home insurance, retail banking and other financial services to individuals, as well as group insurance, reinsurance and retirement and savings products and services to corporations and other institutions.

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