

GLOBAL PENSIONS



Norway hunts for consultant to review active management

by Raquel Pichardo-Allison 8 July 2009

NORWAY – The Ministry of Finance is looking for a consultant to evaluate whether or not the Norway Government Pension Fund – Global should continue using active management.

Ministry spokesman Anders Lande said: “The purpose is to evaluate different aspects of the active management, and the consultant’s report will form part of the Ministry’s basis for the assessment of whether or to what extent active management of the fund ought to be continued.”

According to the request, the findings will be part of a report presented to the Norwegian parliament, the Storting, in the spring of 2010.

In 2008, the pension fund posted the worst results in its history reporting a -23.3% return for the year. The losses continued into the first quarter when the fund was down 4.8%. ([Global Pensions: May 20, 2009](#))

Separately, the Ministry has hired consulting firm ECOFACT to perform an ethical review of the Global Fund’s NOK2.1trn (US\$321.6bn) investment portfolio.

ECOFACT replaces EIRIS whose four-year contract expires in June, said Eli Lund, head of the secretariat for the Council on Ethics for the pension fund.

“(EIRIS) provided us with an excellent service for four years. In the tender process we asked the tenderers to give us sample reports on a few companies. ECOFACT made a slightly better sample report than the rest and was therefore awarded the contract,” he said.

ECOFACT will provide a monthly review of the pension fund’s holdings. The firm will look for human rights violations, breaches of individual rights in conflict situations, environmental damage, corruption and other violations of ethical norms.