



# Matching and Return

The Hoogovens Pension Plan Experience  
a concept for transparent, predictable and secure pensions

Presentation IMF seminar

## Aging, Pension Risk Management and Financial Stability

The views expressed in this paper are those of the author(s) only, and the presence of them, or of links to them, on the IMF website does not imply that the IMF, its Executive Board, or its management endorses or shares the views expressed in the paper.

February 15, 2007  
Washington, DC

Jelles van As ([jelles.vanas@pfhoogovens.nl](mailto:jelles.vanas@pfhoogovens.nl))  
CIO, Stichting Pensioenfonds Hoogovens

# Agenda

- Introduction 'Hoogovens Pension Plan'
  - Our Finance Approach; what and why?
- Cash Flow Management
  - The impact of Immunizing Pension Liabilities and Risk Budgeting on portfolios and markets
- SPH Business Model for Efficiency and Transparency
  - The advantages of 'Cash Flow Management' and 'Matching and Return'

# The Pension Plan

## Stichting Pensioenfond Hoogovens (Hoogovens Pension Plan)

- Dutch Company Pension Plan (compulsory), 36,000 participants
- Sponsor, employees (/ members): Corus Netherlands (steel company)
- Type: defined benefits, final pay (provisionally)
- Ambition of indexed pensions (conditional based on Dutch CPI)
- Maturing: 56% (value pension liabilities not active members / total pension liabilities)
- Contribution rate: 14% (approx. of salary)
  
- Asset Value : € 5.2 billion (2006)
- Equity weight : 20 %
- Solvency ratio<sup>1</sup> : 103 %

<sup>1</sup> Uses liabilities uplifted for (break even) inflation and mark to market (swap curve = discount rate)

# What has changed?

## More transparency is required

- Pension uncertainty (aging)
- (Potential) lower solidarity between generations
- Required information for financial products (risks, costs, etc.)

## Lower risk level is desirable

- Accounting pension liabilities: valuations mark to market
- Regulatory supervision: risk (volatility) based solvency requirements (*Dutch: nominal*)
- New financial instruments (supply of inflation linked bonds and inflation swaps)

## Need for higher efficiency

- Low surpluses, low return environment (2000 – 2003)
- Increasing costs of aging and longevity, lower risk appetite
- Weak contribution instrument

**Regulatory changes do fit in social trends, but .....  
nominal versus indexed pension liabilities is a management problem**



# Change of Pension Management

*Traditional:* sailing the ocean with only a compass

young pension plans manage long-term continuity tests (ALM)



*Going forward:* approaching the coastline with radar and compass

aging pension plans manage cash flows and continuity

**Cash Flow Management and Continuity Tests  
the right blend of short-term and long-term management.**

# Our Management Solution

## Improved pension fund governance (financial management)

- Better understanding of the business (mark to market and **cash flow thinking**)
- Focus on the pension ambition (**indexed pensions**, including contingent obligations)
- Define long-term and short-term goals (annual risk budget and return target)

## Improved finance strategy

- Optimise risk level, risk allocation and risk sharing  
(use of continuity tests, **risk budgeting and matching**)
- Optimise finance policy and financing structure of investments

## Improved implementation efficiency

- **Separate 'matching and return'** management
- Use of 'cash flow matching' and annual financial planning (costs, returns, risks)

**No change of the scheme, but change of pension management**



# Conclusion (1)

**We do use ‘ Matching and Return’,**

That may be triggered by changes in the environment:

- Mark to market pension liabilities
- accounting rules and regulatory supervisory framework
- sponsor creditworthiness and solvency
- risk sharing or risk appetite
- (free) market processes (more DC products)
- growing interest rate and inflation markets

but, is mainly

**.... just because cash flow management improves our business efficiency.**

**An “aging” pension plan needs a lower risk level and transparency**



# Immunizing Pension Liabilities

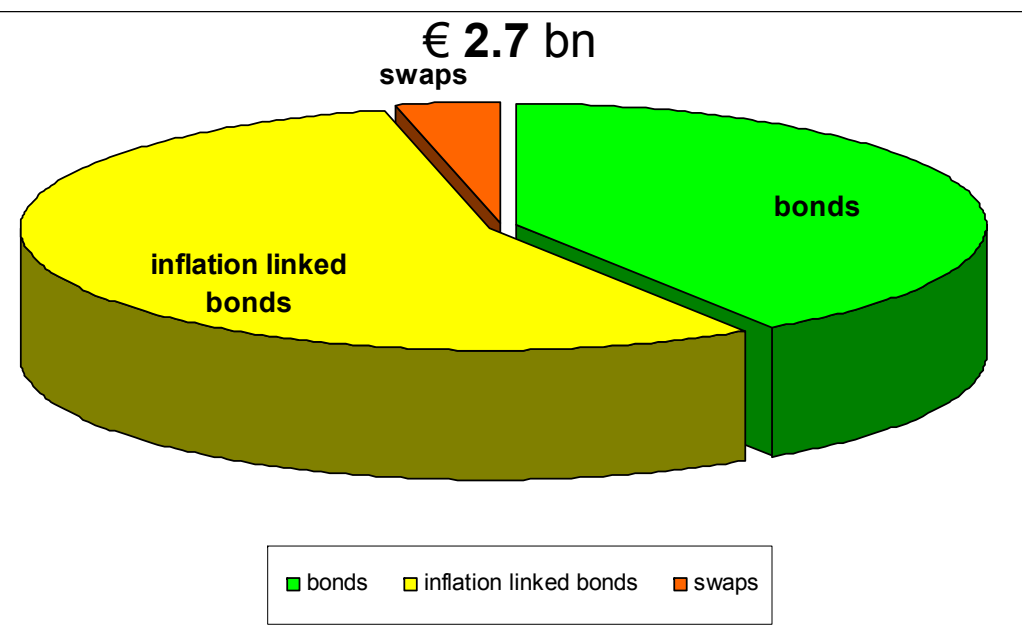
- Understand Pension Liability Cash Flows
- Portfolio technique: Cash Flow Matching
- Separate 'Matching' and 'Return'



# Asset Allocation: 2 targets – 2 portfolio's

(total assets € 5.2 bn)

## Matching Portfolio

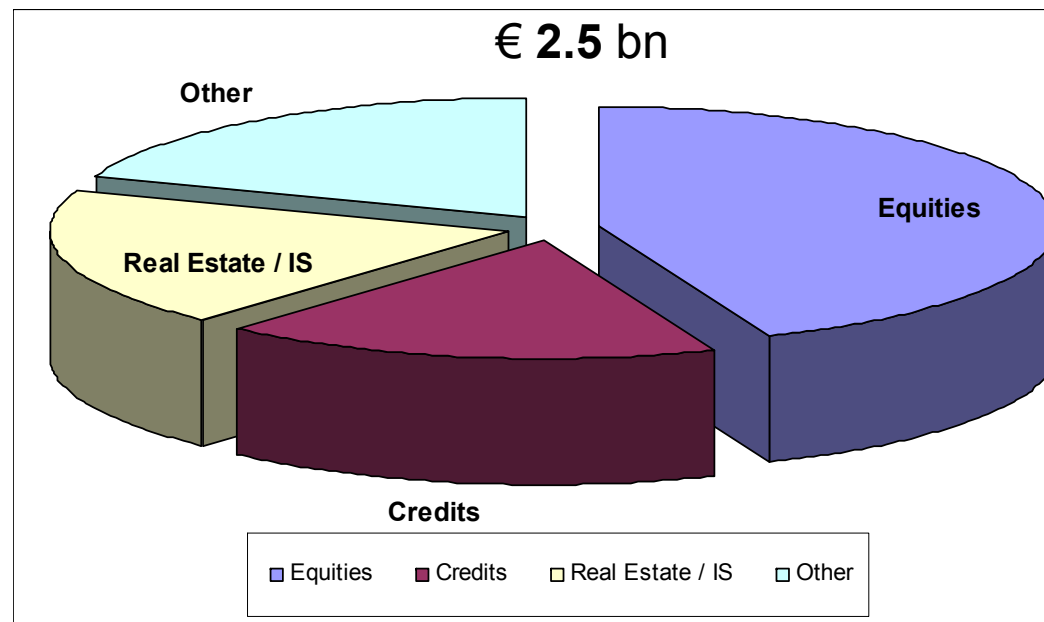


Risk budget: tracking error 0.5%

Target return = return on pension liabilities

(pension liabilities € 5.0 bn)

## Return Portfolio



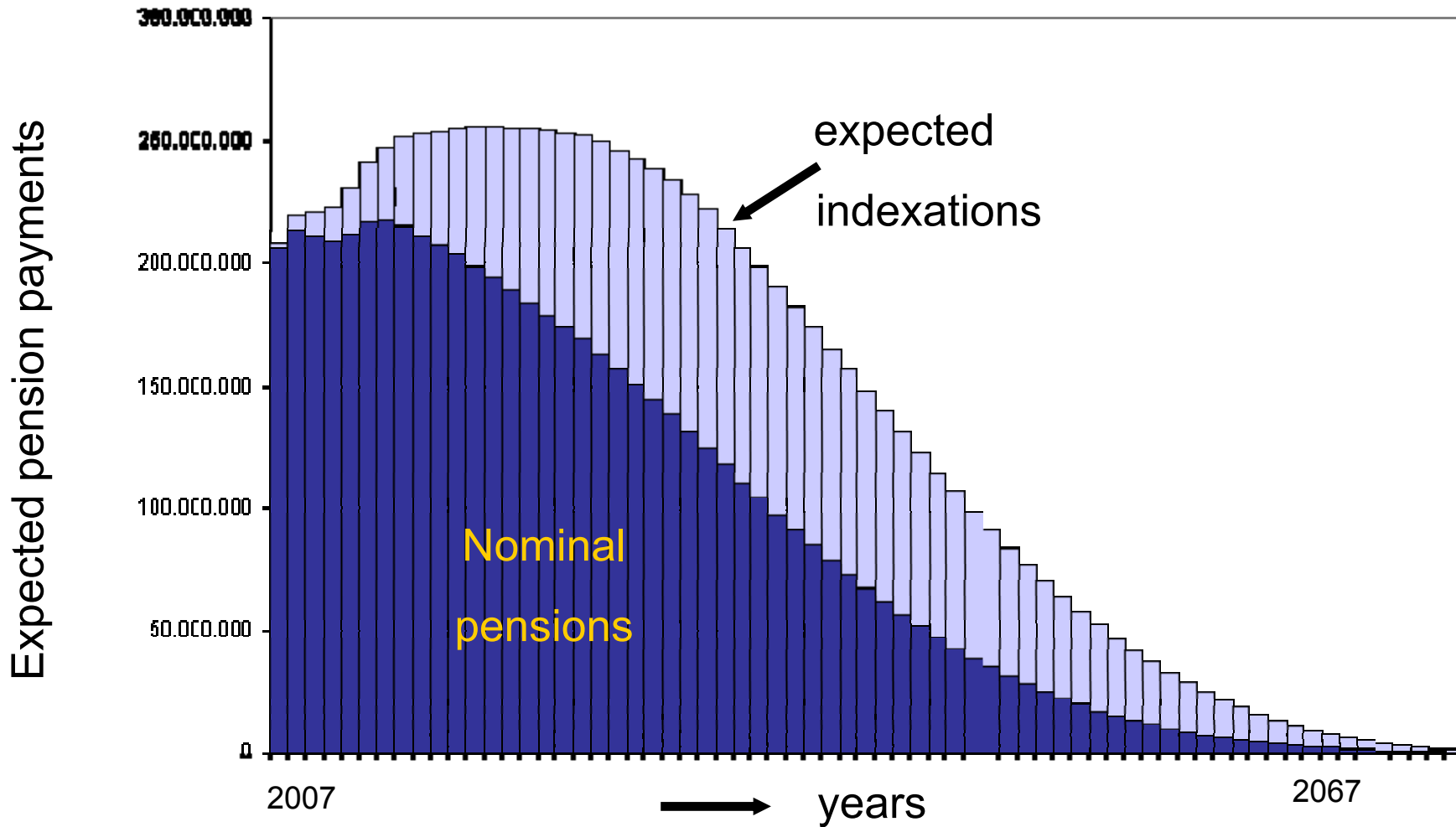
Risk budget: 97.5% VaR € 330 mn

Target added value € 110 mn

Separate 'Matching' and 'Return' : 2 separate business activities

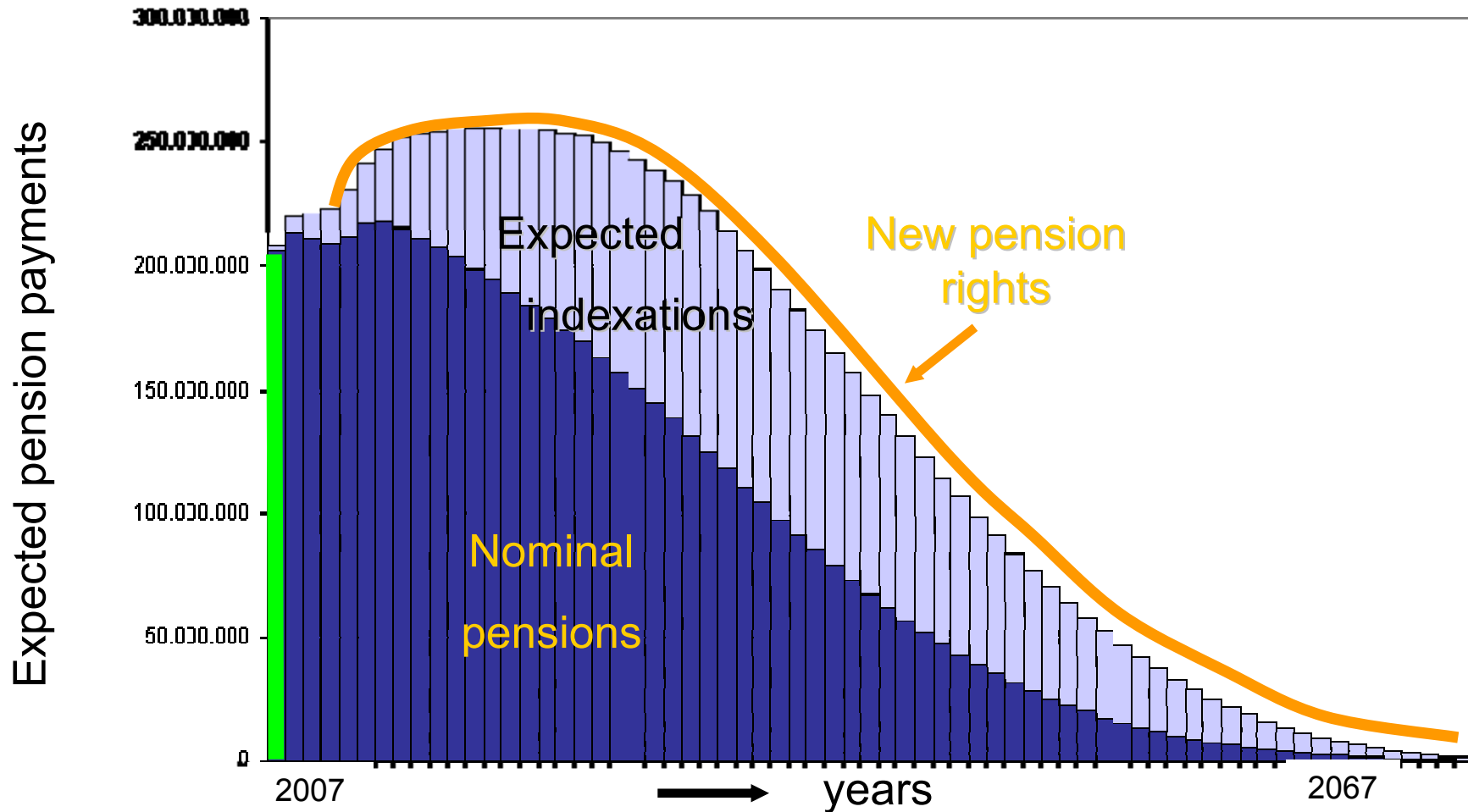


# Cash Flows of Target Pensions



**Indexation ambition is 1/3 of all cash flows**

# Dynamics of Pension Cash Flow

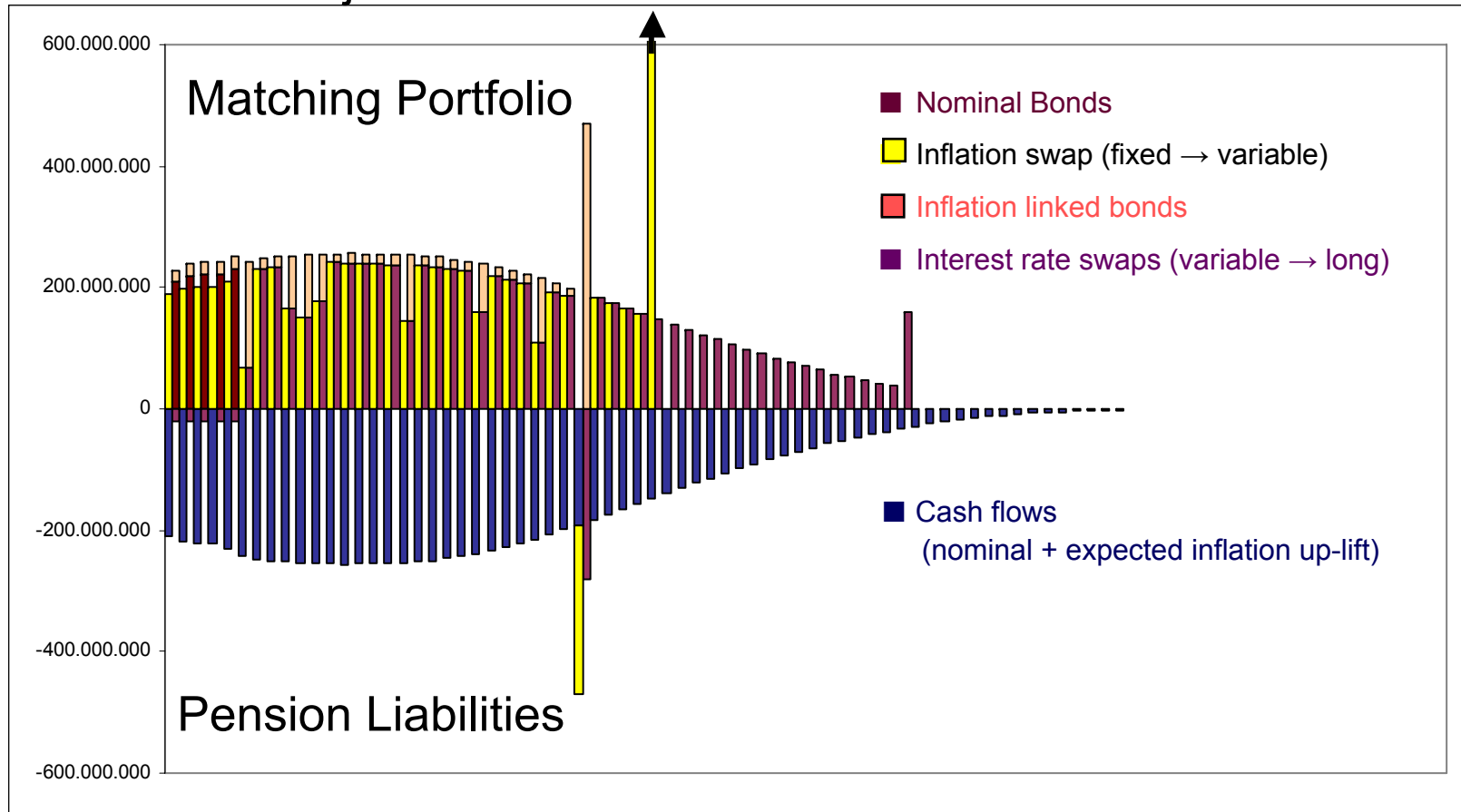


Understand and manage Liability Cash Flows



# Liability-immunizing Portfolio

## Cash Flow Projections



**Optimal cash flow replication with bonds and swaps**



# Initial Trade Volume of Matching is Big

*amounts in € billion*

12-31-2006	Matching Portfolio		
	Value	duration	duration value
Nominal bonds and cash	1.1	3.8	4.2
Inflation linked bonds	1,5	13.4	21.7
Swaps	0.1	15.3	41.5
Total	2.7	13.8	67.5
<b>Pension Liabilities</b>			
	5,0	13.8	67.5

*amounts in € x billion*

Swap Portfolio		
	value	value long leg
Interest rate swaps	0,3	2.5
Inflation swaps	- 0,2	3.5
Total	0.1	

**....., but annual maintenance is less than 5% of total pension liability cash flows**



# Conclusion (2)

**Matching pension liabilities has no structural impact on financial markets.**

- In 2004 interest rate and inflation characteristics were acquired
- Maintenance has no exceptional impact on financial markets

**Pension Management = Cash Flow Management**



# Pension Plan Efficiency and Transparency

## Business efficiency

- Invest only in 'rewarding risks', full hedge of pension liabilities (*matching portfolio*)
- Structure a portfolio of investments with maximal Sharpe Ratio (*return portfolio*) (returns, diversification and financing costs)
- Relate the 'risk budget' directly to the 'target added value'

## Transparency

- Use common business reporting and planning

**Separation Theorem for surplus optimisation\* is not 'new',  
but.....the implementation**



# Pension Plan Efficiency

Strategy: alpha per unit of risk

**expected return: Liability return + € 110 mn.**

target excess return (2% of LUM)\*

**exp. solvency risk :**

**€ 360 mn.**

97,5% 1 year VaR (volatility: 3%)

**pension plan efficiency ratio: 0.7** PP-ER

No impact  
accounting rules

**And meeting all other financial targets:**

- ALM continuity tests show long-term acceptable costs and inflation proof

expected **contribution level** **13.5 % (of salary)**

expected **indexation level** **98 %**

- Compliant with regulatory requirements

**probability of under funded** **0.3 %**

No impact  
regulatory  
requirements

\* LUM is Liabilities under Management





# Conclusion (3)

## Pension Fund Challenges?

DB, final pay, mark to market liabilities, 'weak' sponsor, 'fixed' contribution rate, fully indexed liabilities, an 'aging' pool of participants, accounting and regulatory restrictions...

... it is still possible to run a pension business and meet all financial targets.

**Solved through the business efficiency...of cash flow management !**



# Annexes / Supplement

FTK / MFR

Mark to market

Swaps

Risk budgetting

LDI

Cash Flows

SOX

CDC  
DB  
DC

Cash Flows

FRS

 **First Pensions**  
Concepts for transparent, predictable and secure pensions

**manage the pension plan as a company**

*... otherwise the Investment Bank will ultimately do it for you...*

# Balance Sheet ('traditional' setting)

Assets		Liabilities	
		amounts in € million	
Fixed Income portfolio	€ 2,667	Pension Liabilities nominal plus inflation	€ 5,016
Equities	€ 1,083		
Credits	€ 488		
Real estate	€ 474		
Other	€ 494		
	<hr/>	Surplus	€ 190
Total	€ 5,206	Total	€ 5,206

The balance sheet:  
only the mark to market value of the swaps in fixed income portfolio



# Balance Sheet (incl. swap exposures)

Assets		Liabilities	
		amounts in € million	
<b>Matching portfolio</b>		<b>Pension liabilities</b>	
portfolio	€ 2,667	nominal plus inflation	€ 5,016
<i>long leg swaps</i>	€ 2,349		
<b>Return portfolio</b>	€ 2,539	<b>Debt</b>	
		<i>short leg swaps</i>	€ 2,349
		<b>Surplus</b>	€ 190
	<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>Total</b>	€ 5,206	<b>Total</b>	€ 5,206
	€ 7,555		€ 7,555

Long exposure of IR-swap and short debt of IR-swap are shown.

# Balance Sheet

( How are the investments financed?)

Assets		Liabilities	
amounts in € million			
<b>Matching portfolio</b>		<b>Pension liabilities</b>	
portfolio	€ 2,667	nominal plus inflation	€ 5,016
<i>long side swaps</i>	€ 2,349		<i>securitisation?</i>
<b>Return portfolio</b>		<b>Debt</b>	
equities	€ 1,083	short interest rates	€ 1,083
credits	€ 488	short interest rates	€ 488
real estate	€ 474	long interest rates	€ 474
other	€ 494	short interest rates	€ 304
		<b>Surplus</b>	€ 190
<b>Total</b>	€ 2,539	<b>Total</b>	€ 2,539

**Structure (and finance) a return portfolio with maximum Sharpe Ratio**



# Profit and Loss Account (example 2006)

		amounts in € million	
<b><u>Turn over</u></b>			
Return on Investments	€ 55		
Financing costs (return pension liabilities)	<u>€ -160 -</u>		
<b>Total added value on investments</b>		<b>€ 215</b>	
<b><u>Costs</u></b>			
Service costs (addition to pension liabilities)	€ - 150		
Contributions	<u>€ 90 +</u>		
<b>Result on contributions</b>		<b>€ - 60</b>	
Costs (execution, etc)	€ - 8		
Costs additional pension rights	<u>€ - 70 +</u>		
<b>Operating expenses</b>		<b>€ - 78 +</b>	
<b><i>Operating result</i></b>			<b>€ 77</b>
<b><u>Extraordinary gains and losses</u></b>			
Mismatch inflation pressure pension fund			<u>€ - 38 +</u>
<b><i>Profit (available for surplus)</i></b>			<b><u>€ 39</u></b>

**How did we perform?**



# 4 Business Activities ; 4 Results

(Why do we take investment risk?)

		amounts in € million	<u>target</u>
<b><u>Result on matching</u></b>			
Return matching portfolio	€ - 143		
Return on (accumulated) liabilities	€ - 160 +		
<b>Total added value</b>		<b>€ 17</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><u>Result on investments</u></b>			
Gross return on return portfolio	€ 255		
Costs of financing (interest)	€ - 57 +		
<b>Net added value</b>		<b>€ 198</b>	<b>90</b>
<b><u>Result on contribution</u></b>			
		<b>€ - 60</b>	<b>-60</b>
<b><u>Operating Expenses</u></b>			
		<b>€ - 78 +</b>	<b>- 8</b>
<b><i>Operating result</i></b>		<b>€ 77</b>	
<b><u>Extraordinary gains and losses</u></b>			
Mismatch inflation pressure pension fund		<b>€ - 38 +</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><i>Profit (available for surplus)</i></b>		<b>€ 39</b>	<b>22</b>



# Risk Allocation

(How do we take investment risk?)

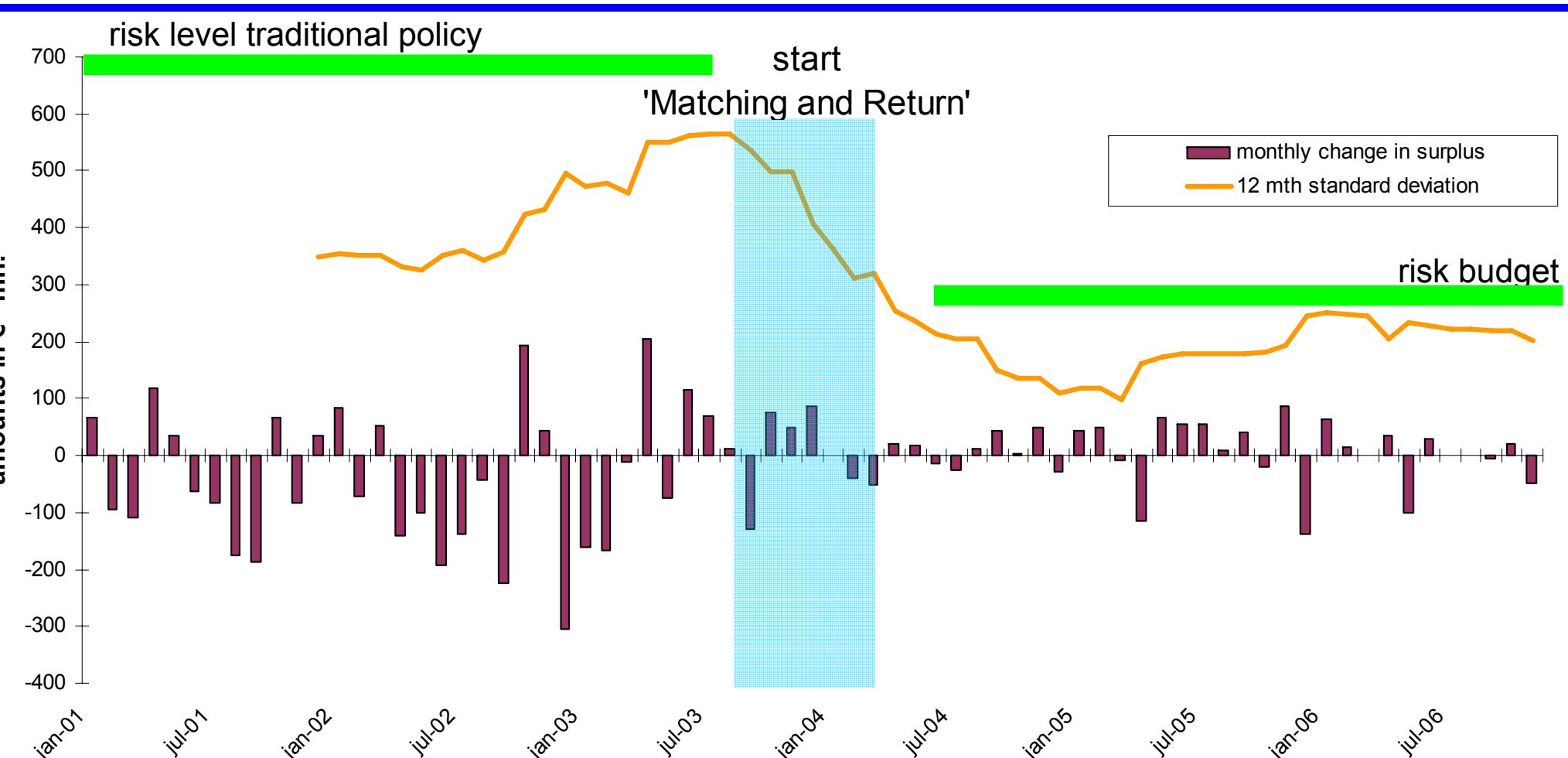
Risks as 97,5% 1 year VaR in € mn

			<u>risk budget</u>	<u>Traditional</u>
<b><u>Matching portfolio</u></b>				
Cash flow mismatch	€ 13			
Swap spread risk (!)	€ 39 +			
<b>Total mismatch</b>		<b>€ 42</b>	<b>(50)</b>	<b>450</b>
<b><u>Return portfolio</u></b>				
Equities	€ 280			
Credits	€ 40			
Real Estate	€ 40			
Absolute Return	€ 20 +			
<b>Total Investment Risk</b>		<b>€ 284</b>	<b>(330)</b>	<b>600</b>
<b><u>Financing risk</u></b>				
Short-term debt	€ 8			
Long-term debt	€ 19 +			
<b>Total Financing Risk</b>		<b>€ 21</b>	<b>(25)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b><u>Surplus at Risk</u></b>		<b>€ 288</b>	<b>(360)</b>	<b>770</b>
<i>Probability of under 100% (real)</i>			15%	Cut the risk budget in half
<i>Probability of under mfr (nominal 105% + buffers)</i>			0%	





# Results: Solvency Risk



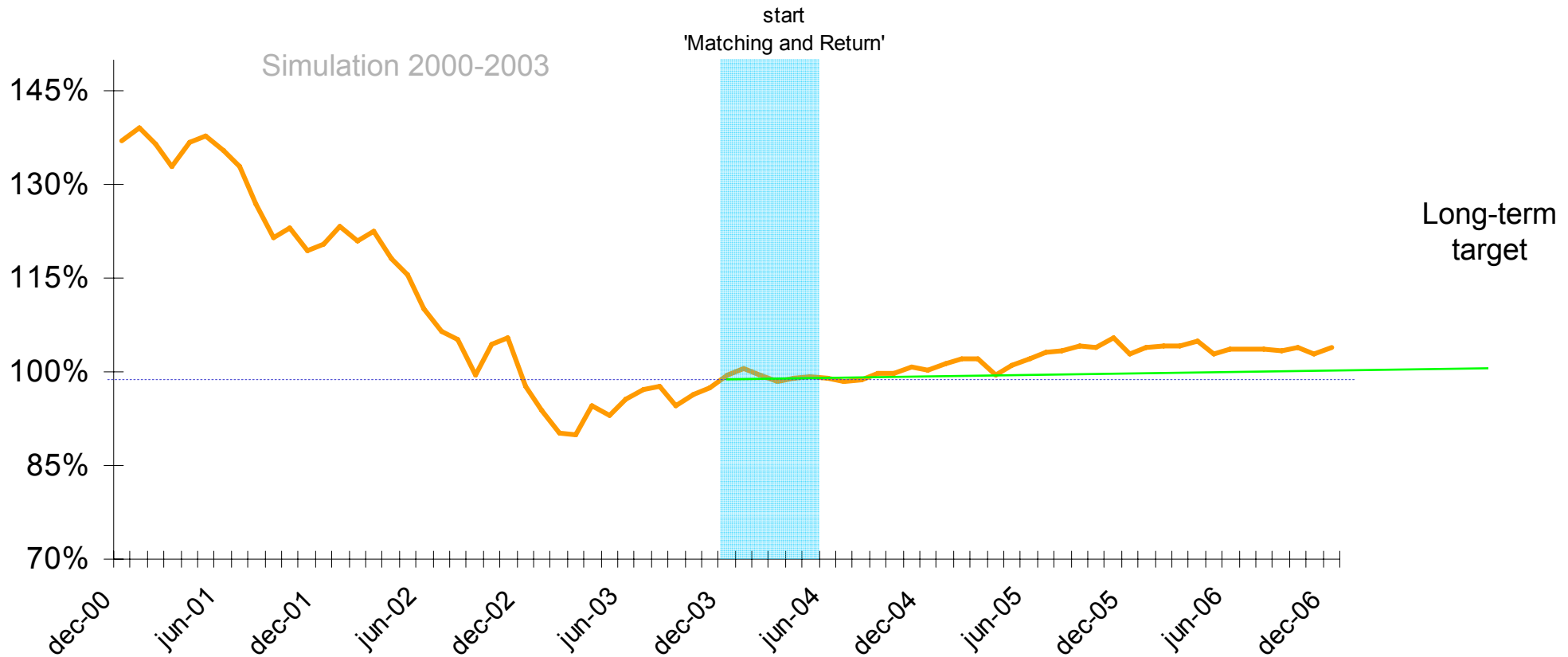
**Solvency risk decreased after matching (and return)**



# Results: Solvency Ratio

Mark to market liabilities

## Solvency ratio

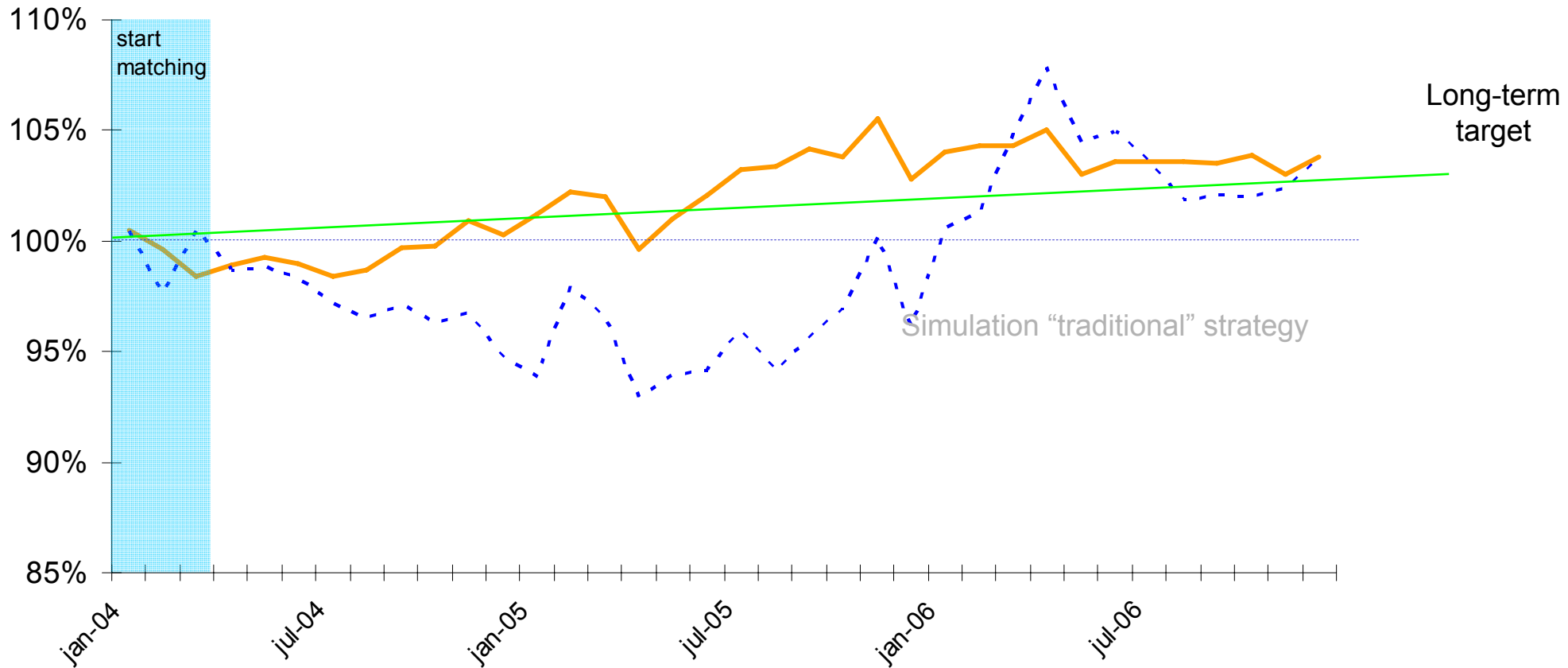


**Solvency stabilised and mark to market pension liabilities**




# Results: “Traditional” versus “New” Strategy

Solvency ratio



**With “Matching and Return”: better on track**



- 
- **Concentrate on your own goals**
  - **Use an efficient corporate finance approach**
  - **Don't worry about a high peer group risk**

**.....and**

**deliver transparent, predictable and secure pensions**