**Norway wealth fund drops firms linked to West Bank settlements**

By Sibylle F. Perencz

Local retail investor and the Gulf funds were in the+

Norwegian wealth fund announced it was divest-

The voluntary divestment of 10 firms by Norway’s $1.3tn sovereign wealth fund, as well as 42 dail-

The fund announced exclusions after its shareholder vote was held in May. The exclusion vote was held in June after the fund announced its intention to divest from the entire sector. The fund has said it will continue to review its investments and will make further announcements in the coming weeks.

The fund’s move comes as several global banks and pension funds have also announced divestment plans in recent months.

The fund said it had identified 10 firms, including five in the real estate sector, as well as four in the energy sector and one in the financial services sector. The names of the firms were not disclosed.

A Norwegian government official said the fund’s decision was based on its assessment of the companies’ activities in the West Bank, where Israel has occupied territories since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The divestment follows similar steps taken by other major international investors, including the U.S.-based BlackRock and the European Central Bank, which have also announced plans to divest from companies operating in the West Bank.

The U.S. government has consistently held that Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal under international law and has placed sanctions on companies involved in the construction of settlements.

The Norwegian wealth fund, which manages $1.3tn of assets, is one of the largest sovereign wealth funds in the world and is known for its socially responsible investing policies.

The fund’s exclusion of firms from the West Bank follows a similar move in April, when it announced it would no longer invest in companies that do business in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The Gulf investors who divested from the West Bank companies included the Qatar Investment Authority, the Kuwait Investment Authority, and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority.

The Norwegian fund said it had taken its decision after a thorough review of the companies’ activities and their impact on human rights and international law.

The fund noted that it had previously divested from companies involved in the construction of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, and that it had continued to monitor the situation.

The fund’s decision was also based on its commitment to the United Nations’ 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, which include a commitment to respect and promote human rights.

The fund said it would continue to review its investments on a regular basis and would consider future divestment actions as needed.

The decision was seen as a significant blow to the global investment community, which has increasingly been under pressure to divest from companies with activities in the West Bank.

The Norwegian fund’s decision was praised by human rights activists and those advocating for divestment from the Israeli-occupied territories.

However, critics of the move said it would only serve to bolster the economic and political standing of Israel in the West Bank.

The Norwegian fund’s decision was also seen as a significant blow to the global investment community, which has increasingly been under pressure to divest from companies involved in the construction of Israeli settlements in the West Bank.
Apple's Tim Cook faces judge with stakes beyond $42bn of apps

By David McLaughlin and Sarah Frieh

Inside the imposing beige and white limestone-walled courtroom in Oakland, billionaire tech tycoons and their lawyers are trying to make sense of the钮扣 that regulates how Apple Inc's App Store works.

The contours of Epic Games Inc's complaint are wide-ranging, but the key to its argument is the way tech platforms are disrupting traditional industries. Apple, Google and Facebook are content creators and publishers of digital media, and they also act as distributors of that content, creating a new kind of platform economy. Through their platforms, these companies set the rules for access to their markets, and they compete against each other to sell advertising, product fulfillment and other services.

So it's no surprise that the trial, which opens Monday, is being watched as a bellwether for how antitrust regulators and lawmakers will approach tech regulation.

The stakes are high. Epic Games is seeking to limit Apple's control over the App Store, the digital marketplace where it sells its products. The implications of Epic's struggle against Apple stretch far beyond the $142bn world of apps. They strike at the fundamental role played not only by Apple, but also Alphabet, Amazon.com and Facebook as the new gatekeepers of the digital economy.

When Cook takes the stand, he'll likely be questioned about Apple's app strategy and the company's practices. He could be Apple's final witness, giving him a critical chance to shape the narrative of the trial.

Cook's testimony will be closely watched for clues about how Apple plans to defend itself against Epic's claims. The company has already said it will introduce new features to its App Store, such as a new review system for third-party apps.

Cook's testimony will also be a opportunity to educate the jury about how the App Store works and why it's important for consumers. Apple has said that third-party apps can only be downloaded from its own App Store, which gives the company exclusive control over what apps are available to users.

Apple also has said that it's not possible to use third-party apps on devices that are running the latest version of iOS or iPadOS, which means that users who want to use third-party apps will need to run older versions of the operating system. Apple has said that running older versions of its operating system is not safe or secure.

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A 1% plunge in the morning. A 1% range in the afternoon. That was the wild ride bitcoin put on the market last week as topping off in value in less than two months brought on panic from some prominent proponents who helped propel it on its total rebound.

The extreme price changes in an asset expose the turbulence caused by optimistic expectations on major crypto exchanges, and the related premium on Wall Street.

In an interview with The Guardian, Elon Musk that implied Tesla didn’t untangle the situation, while Cathie Wood said her monitors signaled "a capitulation" that the digital token “on sale.”

A recent statement from Zhang said the change would enable the company to reduce management work, rather than to leverage these theories to further enhance organisational and market principles.

"If these problems cannot be resolved, it is highly possible that the company will encounter major setbacks in the future. I think Zhang’s change in terms is meaningless whether he decides to change or not."

The announcement comes less than a month after Zhang resigned, which he said was in order to "do his part for the future of the company.

Bitcoin whipsaws investors with same-day plunge, rally of 30%
Europe heads for jobs crunch that may be deeper than in US

T he Labour shortage that is hitting the US as the nation rebounds from the pandemic is also coming to Europe, where it could prove even more difficult to fix.

Like the US, where April’s payroll growth fell short of expectations, Europe will struggle to match workers with jobs. That’s despite upends. Universities have seen a slump in foreign students. That will all exacerbate the impact of the border closures imposed during the pandemic-related risks persisted. "As we have been very successful over the past year in our vaccination efforts, even though it is now the number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits dropped further below 500,000 last week, suggesting job growth picked up this month. US weekly jobless claims decline further below 500,000

Deutsche Bank moves forward sustainability goals to ease criticism

Economists will await data next week on payrolls component of May’s employment report. The enhanced unemployment benefits pay through the coming weeks with a possible increase in labour force participation. The government-funded benefits expire in late September and school districts are expected to resume in-person classes in the fall, which economic hopes will boost the labour pool. Applications for state unemployment programmes funded by the federal government, including a weekly $300 supplement, as nearly 10mn Americans are officially unemployed. The government-funded benefits caps in early September and school districts are expected to resume in-person classes in the fall, which economic hopes will boost the labour pool.

Bloomberg

Ford unveils its first-all electric pickup truck

Ford CEO Jim Farleyproves next to the newly unveiled electric F-150 Lightning outside of its headquarters in Dearborn, Michigan on May 19. Ford officially unveiled the all-electric version of its benchmark F-150 truck on Wednesday, in an unusually anxious introduction of a flagship American car brand. The battery-powered F-150 Lightning, which is just a bit roomier than the US near-electric Best Selling F-150, is the first of a lighting series of pickups by the US automaker to completely electrify its iconic F-150 series.

To make the F-150 Lightning far more than just another electric SUV, Ford worked with the team responsible for the all-electric Mustang Mach-E electric crossover, and focused on making the Lightning’s all-electric performance as seamless and intuitive as possible. The result is a pickup that is ideally suited to meet the needs of working-truck customers who want the power and capabilities of a pickup with the efficiency and convenience of an electric vehicle.

"Electric is the future, and it’s time Ford answers the call with a unique, electric, full-size pickup," said Farley. "The Lightning is designed for Mustang fans and pickup customers alike."

Despite the Lightning’s all-electric performance, Ford says it has been designed to deliver a workhorse performance capable of completing the most demanding jobs. The Lightning’s capabilities include a maximum towing capacity of 10,000 pounds (4,540 kilograms) and a maximum cargo capacity of 1,100 pounds (500 kilograms).

The Lightning’s all-electric powertrain includes a 98-kilowatt-hours battery pack which provides up to 300 miles (483 kilometres) of electric range on a single charge, and allows the Lightning to reach 62 miles per hour (100 kilometres per hour) in just 4.3 seconds.

"Europe heads for jobs crunch that may be deeper than in US"