

ESG INTEGRATION FORUM – EUROPE

Thursday, March 2, 2023
Leonardo Royal Hotel Tower Bridge, London

HOW ESG PRIORITIES ARE CHANGING

As the momentum around ESG continues to grow, so does the challenge of **keeping up to date with increasing regulatory and market demands**. This year, in the context of global market volatility and continued supply chain disruption, European companies need to respond to these demands in a way that also meets their business's short- and medium-term financial needs.

[The ESG Integration Forum – Europe 2023](#) provides the tools and knowledge to ensure you're ready to meet investors' expectations and make ESG central to your business strategy.

AGENDA

All times are in GMT

8.00 am **Registration, breakfast and morning networking**

8.50 am **Welcome to the ESG Integration Forum – Europe**

9.00 am **Keynote address: ESG priorities in 2023**

Our opening panel will look at how ESG priorities are changing in the context of macroeconomic and geopolitical uncertainty. Have ESG commitments been put on the back burner whilst companies focus on the financial health of their businesses, or is the momentum behind ESG continuing to grow despite (or even because of) current crises?

- Understand the key ESG issues facing European companies this year
- Assess the impact of inflation, energy scarcity and the war in Ukraine on ESG priorities
- Align your ESG and financial strategies in the context of global uncertainty

9.45 am **Navigate Europe's changing regulatory environment and prepare for the year ahead**

Regulators worldwide are increasing pressure on public companies to disclose more ESG information. Still, they scrutinize the reliability and accuracy of what is already being reported. In Europe alone, the CSRD – finally published this year on January 5 – seeks to bring sustainability reporting on par with financial reporting, and the impact of the SFDR on investors continues to trickle down to issuers. Here we will discuss:

- Where are we now? Recap the current ESG regulatory environment and imminent developments
- Best practices for disclosing climate-related financial information in a way that aligns with investor needs
- How to be proactive and prepare for future reporting and disclosure requirements

10.15 am **Networking break and morning refreshments**

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10.45 am **Ensure the quality, reliability and accessibility of ESG data**

Regarding ESG, we are increasingly moving away from a 'tell me' environment to a 'show me' environment. Investors and other stakeholders want accurate, transparent and comparable data on an organization's carbon footprint, diversity and equity performance, executive compensation and more. As the expectations around what, how and where to disclose evolve, our panellists will examine the following:

- Different approaches to ESG data collection: how to identify and report on material issues
- Discuss the value of third-party verification and assurance concerning ESG data
- Understand what data investors are looking for and how it is integrated into investment decisions
- Reporting and communicating ESG information in an accessible and standardized way
- Future developments and trends in ESG data: estimating and reporting avoided emissions

11.30 am **Get the board on board: effective ESG leadership**

As with any transformational process, the culture, governance and incentives around ESG must be aligned to be successful. In this panel, we'll discuss the board's role in ensuring ESG is embedded across the business objectives, how governance teams can support the board in overseeing ESG processes properly and how IR teams can communicate these efforts to investors.

- Supporting your board to provide effective oversight and governance of ESG issues
- How to get the right people around the table: taking a specialist vs a generalist approach
- Asking the right questions: enabling your board to deal effectively with ESG risks

12.15 pm **Roundtables: Exchange ideas with your peers in group discussions**

How the roundtables work:

- Choose any of the following topics –the power is in your hands!
- Join the relevant roundtable and discuss with your peers
- At the end of the session, hear a quick roundup from each table

Topics:

- Communicating your ESG story to a range of stakeholders
- Leading and developing more effective ESG teams
- Preparing for ESG activism in 2023
- Prioritizing your efforts with ESG ratings agencies

1.00 pm **Lunch**

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Human capital management in 2023: Human rights, labour shortages and taking a stand

The 'S' of ESG is expected to play a significant role in 2023, with rising living costs, labour shortages, employee engagement and growing momentum behind DE&I issues shining a light on companies' social – as well as environmental – impact. Increasingly, we also see new scrutiny around companies' role in society.

Where does your organization stand on sensitive political issues? What are the risks of taking or not taking a stand, and how best to balance conflicting stakeholder pressures?

- Assess emerging human capital risks and opportunities in 2023
- Overcome the challenge of imperfect social data: measure and report progress effectively
- Understand investor expectations around the role of management on social issues
- Learn how to balance conflicting stakeholder demands on complex social issues

2.30 pm

Get ahead of the curve on natural capital and biodiversity

Last year's COP15 saw a historic commitment to protect biodiversity, with over 200 countries signed up. However, many believe this doesn't go far enough and continue to pressure public companies to develop their commitments to biodiversity and integrate nature into decision-making.

Market-led initiatives like the TNFD and nature-based targets help guide companies in the right direction, but things are still developing. In this panel, we will discuss the following:

- An update on the new pressures around biodiversity facing public companies in 2023 and how they relate to climate
- Understand the role and goals of the TNFD, its relationship with the TCFD, and what it means for your business
- Integrate nature into your decision-making and reporting on material issues

3.00 pm

Investor Q&A: Bridging the gap between public companies and investors

Our panel of investors will answer any questions you have about how investors are integrating ESG into their investment decisions in 2023. How are market conditions impacting their approach, and how can IROs leverage their company's ESG performance to better connect with existing and potential shareholders?

- Understand investor ESG priorities in 2023 and how they are changing
- Discuss the red and green flags investors have when it comes to ESG messaging and reporting
- Learn how investors engage with ratings agencies and how your score is integrated into their investment approach
- What's next? Hear investor forecasts on ESG trends beyond 2023

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Champagne roundtables: Exchange ideas with sector peers

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- At the end of the session, hear a quick roundup from each table on what was discussed
- Enjoy a glass of champagne or a non-alcoholic beverage

Topics:

- How to get started with your ESG journey
- Managing an accelerating transition towards a net zero economy
- Taking a proactive approach to data security and privacy
- Navigating and communicating supply chain pressures in the context of the war in Ukraine

4.15 pm

End of conference and networking drinks