

ESG INTEGRATION FORUM – EUROPE

Tuesday, November 19, 2024
Clifford Chance Offices, London

HOW ESG PRIORITIES ARE CHANGING

Explore how attitudes toward sustainability and expectations of listed companies are changing and discover ways IR, Legal and Sustainability teams can adapt

All times are in GMT

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

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

Steven Wade, head of content, IR Magazine & Corporate Secretary
Jeroen Ouwehand, partner, Clifford Chance

9.00 am **How to implement CSRD**

The deadline for implementing the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive is approaching, and preparing for implementation is a top priority for companies. Achieve compliance, increase investor confidence, attract investment and manage risks more effectively by learning how to successfully implement CSRD. This session will teach you about the new reporting requirements and provide examples of how early adopters have approached implementation.

- Explore what more is required in the areas of human rights, climate change mitigation, and natural capital
- Learn how to align CSRD with existing reporting frameworks and reduce fragmentation and data duplication
- Understand how to ensure your data is accurate and ready for independent assurance
- Hear guidance from early adopters on effective steps to implement CSRD reporting

Moderator: Steve Wade, head of content, IR Magazine and Governance Intelligence
Dr Michelle de Jongh, managing director, Inspired ESG

9.30 am **The future of ESG ratings: What it means for you**

The European Union, the UK government, the International Organization of Securities Commissions and the International Capital Markets Association are pushing for enhanced oversight of ESG ratings agencies via voluntary codes of conduct and regulation.

ESG ratings agencies are relied upon as a valuable source of information to inform investment and ownership activities. In this discussion you will hear how this will impact investment decision-making and learn about how to adapt your approach to engaging and disclosing sustainability information.

- Learn about the risks and opportunities resulting from ESG rating agency regulation
- Understand how the legislation will impact the dissemination and quality of ESG information

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- Hear how these structural changes will impact the way you engage with ESG ratings agencies and their users

Moderator: Laurie Havelock, editor, IR Magazine and Governance Intelligence
Aya Batyrbekova, vice president, head of sustainability advisory, EMEA & APAC, ISS-Corporate
Danielle Chigumira, director and head of European investor relations, LyondellBasell
Hannah Simons, head of sustainability, Lloyds Banking Group

10.30 am **Networking break and morning refreshments**

11.00 am **Sustainability in a changing system – how to implement change in your company**

As regulation, consumer behaviour, investor needs, new technologies and the macro-economic environment impact attitudes and expectations of companies and their ESG efforts, it is essential to orientate your business plan to set yourself up for the future. This session explores how to create, then embed your ESG strategy in a new era of ESG – particularly looking at going beyond compliance to implement change that benefits shareholders and stakeholders in the long-term.

- Strategic input: Learn how to structure meaningful and efficient approaches to sustainability
- Understand how to use sustainability reporting to identify opportunities for long-term growth
- Learn how to collaborate with employees across the business to achieve your business and sustainability goals

Moderator: Tim Human, events editor, IR Magazine and Governance Intelligence
Lindsay Davis, responsible investment manager, EMK Capital
Martha McPherson, sustainability director, Ever Sustainable
Müge Yücel, director of investor relations and sustainability, Galata Wind

11.45 am **Roundtables: Exchange ideas with your peers**

How the roundtables work:

- Join a table and write your biggest challenge, or a question you have about ESG on the paper in front of you
- Discuss your question or challenge with others on your table and get advice on how to address your challenges
- Share experiences, concerns and other learnings from your peers' questions

12.30 pm **Lunch**

1.30 pm **AI & Automation in sustainability – beyond reporting fatigue**

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GenAI and automation can transform many aspects of sustainability. With its ability to save time in data collection & analysis, information processing, templating documents and idea generation. Although not without its risks, understanding how entities can harness these rapidly evolving technologies and integrate into their efforts around sustainability is key to navigating the next few years. This session will discuss investor perspectives around issuers using AI in sustainability reporting, and their feelings about leveraging AI to supplement their analysis of companies and inform their engagement efforts.

- Understand investor perspectives about companies using AI and automation to reduce reporting and survey fatigue
- Learn about the impact AI can have on sustainability disclosures and analysis
- Discuss the likely ways AI can be utilized by actors across the ESG ecosystem

Moderator: Laurie Havelock, editor, IR Magazine and Governance Intelligence
Lucy Larner, engagement manager, Schroders
Danny Wall, ESG analyst, Pollen Street Capital

2.15 pm **Afternoon networking break**

2.45 pm **Developments in ESG activism and preparedness**

Activist shareholders are increasingly focusing on ESG issues, however the topic divides opinion. The majority of activists demanding more ambitious climate targets, progress on DE&I and action on human rights. On the other hand, an increasing minority of while some investors perceive a focus on ESG to be a distraction, or even destructive to value.

In the face of changing tactics and attitudes around ESG activism, this session will provide insight into the future trends for ESG activism and how you need to adapt to ensure you can deter activists and successfully navigate a campaign should it arise

- Learn how ESG activism has changed in recent years
- Debate the impact of 'Anti-Woke' activism
- Hear how to adapt your action plan to better defend your position against activists

Moderator: Steve Wade, head of content, IR Magazine and Governance Intelligence
Roger Leese, partner, Clifford Chance

3.30 pm **Know your investors: The intersection between targeting and responding to shareholder expectations**

Learn how investors analyze your performance against ESG factors. In our final session, we explore ways to understand the ESG issues that are a top priority for your shareholders and how to use ESG to target investors. You will learn which metrics impact investor decision making, how to inform

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them about your ESG story, and how to increase your chances of being included in sustainability indexes.

- Explore how to use shareholder ID and analysis to further your understanding of your shareholders' ESG priorities
- Learn about the metrics and disclosures are most helpful to active long-term investors
- Hear top tips on how to increase your chances of index inclusion
- Take it to the next level: Discover how to run a successful ESG roadshow

Moderator: Tim Human, events editor, IR Magazine and Governance Intelligence
Matthew Hodgkinson, co-founder and portfolio manager, Confluence Partners
Will Houston, head of financial sustainability, BAT

4.15 pm

Conference summary

Tim Human, events editor, IR Magazine and Governance Intelligence

4.30 pm

Networking drinks reception