

Table of Contents

1.	Eurosif Update	1
2.	EU Update	1
3.	Spotlight of the month: Developments in Spanish Market	2
4.	News from Eurosif members	2
5.	News from National and Regional SIFs	3
6.	News from other organisations	3
7.	SRI news in Europe	4
8.	Upcoming events	5

1. Eurosif Update

New Chair of Eurosif: We are happy to announce that the new Eurosif chairman is Davide Dal Maso, general secretary of the Forum per la Finanza Sostenibile (Italian Social Investment Forum). He takes over in this role from Emma Howard Boyd

Pan European Transparency Guidelines for the Retail Sector: The process continues to build momentum as many of the countries involved have provided input to help set the stage for a next iteration of Draft 1. By the next newsletter, a Draft 2 should have been prepared. Thank you to all members who have helped with their contributions to this important effort. The message is getting out there - the Consumer Division of the Financial Services Authority made a submission including the following sentence:

"Clear transparency guidelines for SRI funds which are voluntarily adhered to, *such as the ones drawn up by Eurosif*, can be a useful tool for consumers" (emphasis added).

Thought Leadership: Eurosif is to publish shortly two articles:

An article for the German research institute IOEW , already available on Eurosif website.

An article for Funds Europe, soon to be available on the Eurosif website

Eurosif in the news: An interview of Matt Christensen, Executive Director of Eurosif, appeared in issue 7 of ClearProfit (ethical finance).

Novethic, the premier media source for SRI in France, conducted an interview with Matt Christensen that was published in their hard copy newsletter last month. For copies, please email Eurosif at admin@eurosif.org

Future plans: Eurosif will be chairing a roundtable at the upcoming G8 Forum on the Future and the Environment to be held in Paris on March 27/28, in preparation for the Heads of States Summit on June 1-3. The Forum on the Future and the Environment will focus on Corporate Environmental Responsibility, with the roundtable discussing "Investor interest for corporate environmental responsibility strategies" chaired by Eurosif. The G8 is composed of 8 countries, Germany, Canada, United States of America, France, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom and Russia.

The Eurosif Board will meet on 4/5th April in Paris

The Eurosif Advisory Meeting will take place on April 9th in London (Eurosif members only)

2. EU Update

Multi-Stakeholder Forum

The discussions on CSR continue in Brussels. At the present time, the first meetings for three of the four sub-theme roundtables have been held. The four roundtable themes are as follows:

"Improving knowledge about CSR and facilitating the exchange of experience and good practice"

"Fostering CSR among SMEs"

"CSR Development aspects"

"Diversity, convergence and transparency of CSR practices and tools" (1st meeting to be held on April 7)

The initial meetings have consisted of practitioners/experts being invited to Brussels to speak to the Forum about their experiences related to the topic. The objective is that they are able to help the forum better understand key issues, lessons learned and ways to incorporate the thinking into the overall discussion. While meetings have been informative, there is still concern about how to use all the information that is being collected and digested by members of the forum.

The good news from Eurosif's view is that the investor view is being discussed by various participants—it is a part of the debate and will be part of any ongoing solutions to come out of the forum. Please feel free to contact Matt Christensen to discuss your particular views. The web site will continue to house any updated information that comes out of the forum. For minutes of the first Roundtable meetings and ongoing updates of the work of the Forum

Institutions of Retirement Provision (IORP):

The IORP continues to move through the European Parliament. The current status of the directive suggests that social issues will be left to member states rather than legislated from the top down.

For more, please see:

http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/360|0|RAPID&lg=EN

3. Spotlight of the month: Developments in Spanish Market

SRI in Spain shows signs of becoming more institutionalised

Ramón Pueyo (Ecodes Research Director) and Stéphanie Capdeville (SRI Consultant) share with us a quick overview of the Spanish market. Although in a different state from the Swedish market, Spain nevertheless looks poised to create a National Social Investment Forum within a few months.

4. News from Eurosif members

EIRIS, Ethibel and imug

Independent SRI research groups started to develop a voluntary quality standard (VQS). The project aims at creating a transparent framework for high quality SRI research. It has been developed by the three SRI research organisations Ethibel, Eiris and imug with the support of many others such as Avanzi (Italy), Fundación Ecología y Desarrollo (Spain), Observatoire de l'Ethique (France), Centre Info (Switzerland), Dutch Sustainability Research (Netherlands), and with the support of the European Commission.

EIRIS

EIRIS has received new mandates for the Ethical Portfolio Management service from Credit Agricole Asset Management (France), KBC Asset Management NV (Belgium), and West LB Panmure (Germany). In addition, EIRIS has also entered a new research partnership with Good Bankers, a Japanese research company.

Ethibel

Ethibel is launching an initiative to promote the Belgian social label, a label for products made with respect for the rights of employees; This initiative is supported by the European Social Fund. Under this initiative Ethibel is monitoring companies wishing to apply for the social label (for products for which one part of the production chain is in a developing country). *Companies interested in being monitored by Ethibel in the context of this project can contact Sophie Spillemaeckers sophie.spillemaeckers@ethibel.org*

Fédération des Experts Comptables Européens – FEE

The European Sustainability Reporting Awards will take place on April 11th in Amsterdam. Formerly known as the European Environmental Reporting Awards, it will be the seventh such ceremony. The awards are organised by FEE members. There are currently 15 participating countries in the award scheme.

For more information contact: Nancy Kamp, email: n.kamp@nivra.nl

Morley Fund Management

Morley have launched a Global Retail SRI Fund in Holland through Delta Lloyd. The fund is benchmarked to the MSCI World.

For more please contact Noel.Smyth@morleyfm.com

Morley have appointed Ronnie Lim as Senior Research Analyst on the SRI team. Ronnie was previously director of equity sales at Credit Lyonnais Securities Asia global emerging markets in Singapore. Mr Lim will concentrate on analysing the financial impacts of social and environmental factors.

5. News from National and Regional SIFs

Forum per la Finanza Sostenibile (Italian Social Investment Forum)

Italian Pension Fund industry shows a strong interest towards SRI: this is the outcome of a comprehensive research promoted by the Forum per la Finanza Sostenibile (the Italian SIF) and MEFOP (a State owned company created to develop pension market) and carried out by Avanzi SRI Research.

Report available to download (in Italian) from: www.finanzasostenibile.it, www.mefop.it, www.avanzi-sri.org

UKSIF (UK Social Investment Forum)

Eight UKSIF members are interested in funding practical support for the collaborative engagement activities they are involved in. This work will build on the support UKSIF is currently providing to the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC). UKSIF is expecting to hold a meeting with participating members this month to establish their priorities for the coming months. A press release will be written and distributed after this meeting.

VBDO (Dutch Social Investment Forum)

Recently the Dutch Association of Insurers presented a code of conduct on CSR. It explicitly states that its members strive for economic, social and environmental responsible business. This also includes socially responsible investment. From 2004 all members will report at least every two years on the activities that are taken following the code. VBDO is positive about this code and will track its progress in future.

The code is available only in Dutch on www.verzekeraars.nl

AsriA (Association for Sustainable and Responsible Investment in Asia)

Asria has just announced their programme for 2003, which will focus on three activities : events, awareness raising, and research.

For more, please see www.asria.org

6. News from other organisations

GRI (Global Reporting Initiative)

In an effort to elevate sustainability reporting to a level consistent with financial reporting, the Global Reporting Initiative has posted the Sustainability Reporting Guidelines and related documents on their website. The Guidelines reflect the contributions of numerous stakeholders from around the world, including companies, NGOs, labour, and the financial community.

For more please see www.globalreporting.org or contact Mark Brownlie brownlie@globalreporting.org

7. SRI news in Europe

Responsible investors representing over £600 billion in assets under management create investor statement on pharmaceutical companies and the public health crisis in emerging markets - 24 Mar 2003

In one of the biggest collaborative projects of investors in recent memory, a group of investors have come together to create a framework focused mainly on issues relating to access to patented medicines. All members of the group share a concern about the potential impact of the crisis on the long-term sustainability of the pharmaceutical sector and the importance, from an investment/governance perspective, of being as informed and as professional on this aspect of long-term shareholder value as they would on other more traditional/financial drivers of value.

Carbon Disclosure Project Releases Some Startling Findings - 19 Feb 2003

80% of survey respondents from the world's 500 largest companies acknowledge that climate change poses a direct risk to their business. The Financial sector is furthest behind with some respondents believing that they are entirely unaffected.

For more please see www.srimedia.com/artman/publish/article_390.shtml

Spain : Senate approves call for ethical investment criteria - 26 Feb 2003

Proposals put forward by ESADE's Institute for the Individual, Corporations and Society (IPES) to modify investment fund regulations in Spain have been approved by the Spanish Senate - requiring funds to state the ethical criteria applied when choosing their investments. ESADE is one of Europe's leading business schools.

First UK corporate responsibility index attracts 122 firms - 12 Mar 2003

The first UK Corporate Responsibility Index, launched by campaign group Business in the Community (BITC), has attracted 122 companies, including 53 FTSE 100 companies.

Declaration on financial institutions & sustainability released in Davos, Switzerland

At the Public Eye Conference in Davos, Switzerland, a coalition of over 100 NGOs launched the 'Collevocchio Declaration on Financial Institutions', which outlines the role and responsibility the financial sector has in advancing sustainability. The Declaration sets six principles that financial institutions should commit: 1) to sustainability; 2) to 'do no harm'; 3) to responsibility; 4) to accountability; 5) to transparency and 6) to sustainable markets and governance.

For more please see www.foe.org/new/releases/0103wef.html

NWF (National Wildlife Federation) and Amnesty International USA launch SRI funds with best in class approach.

NWF fund focused on environmental performance of companies, while Amnesty International USA favors social performance.

SRI Issues Will Impact Companies' Financial Performance, UK Pension Fund Trustees Say

A recent survey finds that pension fund trustees in the United Kingdom view socially responsible investing (SRI) issues as linked to companies' future financial performance.

Financial and social issues are no longer uneasy bedfellows - 28 Feb 28, 2003 - By Roger Cowe

Social responsibility and financial markets may make uneasy bedfellows because of the pressure for financial performance at almost any cost. But socially responsible investing (SRI) has been one of the few fund management growth areas over the past few dismal years in the markets and its adoption by their mainstream clients is forcing equity research houses to take it seriously.

FTSE drops seven companies from ethical index - 19 Mar 2003 - By Alistair Graham

Seven companies have been axed from the FTSE's ethical index because they have not met strengthened environmental criteria. The companies dropped from the FTSE4Good index are Elan Corporation, Hafslund, RoyalBlue Group, Goldshield Group, St Ives, Tenet Healthcare and Suntrust Banks. All the companies said they were not prepared to meet the enhanced criteria for admission.

8. Upcoming events

Reporting for Change - Improving Performance Through Effective Assurance - 25 March - London, EC1

For more, please see: www.accountability.org.uk

FEDERE, Forum Pour Le Developpement Durable et L'Entreprise Responsable 25-26 March - Paris

Alice Chatellier : +33 1 49 53 67 47

CERES 2003 Conference 1,2 April - New York

Advancing Sustainable Governance.

For more, please see: www.ceres.org/conference/2003_main.htm

CSR Roadshow 3 April - Brussels

European businesses present their reporting and discuss their sustainable policies with investors, funds and social rating agencies.

For more, please see: www.ecodurable.com

4th BASE International Investment Forum for Sustainable Energy 10 April - Mulhouse, France

For more, please see: www.energy-base.org/forum03

Ethical Corporation Europe Conference 2003 10-11 April - London

Corporate keynote speakers will address how companies should be assessing their impact in 2003 and what they can do to improve their management of corporate responsibility and sustainable development issues.

For more, please see: www.ethicalcorp.com/europe2003

Global Governance and the Search for Justice, International Conference April 29 - May 1 - Sheffield, UK

www.shef.ac.uk/law/conferences/globalisation/globe2003.htm

Canadian Social Investment Conference 2003 June 1-3 - Vancouver, Canada

www.socialinvestment.ca .

Three day international CSR/CS Seminar at EOQ-EFQM Convention, 4-6 June, the Hague

The Social Dimensions of Business Excellence

www.eoq2003.nl

Long-Term Fund Performance: 8-9 September - London



Eurosif Newsletter, March 2003

Defining the Financial Impacts of SRI on Institutional Portfolios, and Assessing the Demand and the Incentives to Factor SRI and Engagement Policies into Mainstream Investments

14th annual SRI in the Rockies October 19-22 - Lake Tahoe, USA

SRI in the Rockies is one of the major annual gathering of the socially responsible investment industry in the U.S.

www.sriintherockies.com

Triple Bottom Line Investing Conference 2003 November 6-7 - Amsterdam

www.tbli.org